

Minutes Of Meeting 7
Nairn Academy Stakeholder Group

Wednesday 28 June 2023 at 6:30 pm

Via Microsoft Teams

Attendees	Initials
Highland Council – Members	
Paul Oldham – Chair	PO
Barbara Jarvie	BJ
Laurie Fraser	LF
School Representatives	
Julie MacDonald, Head Teacher, Nairn Academy	JM
Sarah Abenheimer, Depute Head Teacher, Nairn Academy	SA
Parent Council Representatives	
Mark Gunn, Nairn Academy Parent Council	MG
Sally Gunn, Nairn Academy Parent Council	SG
Community Representatives	
Hamish Bain, Nairn River CC	HB
Alastair Noble, Nairn West & Suburban CC	AN
Ian Booth, Nairn Access Panel	IB
Highland Council – Officials	
Robert Campbell, Service Lead - Capital Planning & Estate Strategy	RC
David Walker, Estates Officer	DW
Apologies: Councillor Michael Green; Finlay MacDonald, Susannah Holmes, Sharon Barrie, Philip Shannon, Lewis Hannah, James Cook, Lisa Campbell, Sarah Bisland, Angela Selkirk, Fiona Shearer, Gordon Stewart, Simon Swanson, Grace Chisholm, Joanna Surtees, Mandy Lawson, David Harvey, Tom Brady	
Minute David Walker	

Item	Discussion and comment	Action
1.	Recording of the meeting	
1.1	PO noted that the meeting would be recorded to aid with the preparation of the minutes. There were no objections.	
2.	Introduction and apologies	
2.1	PO welcomed everyone to the meeting and attendees introduced themselves. Apologies as above.	
3.	Minutes of previous meeting	
3.1	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.	
4.	Project update – Highland Council	

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4.1	RC shared a presentation which covered the review of the Council's Capital Programme, a recap of the project design phases, an update on the design progress and key programme dates, and the next steps for the project.	
4.2	MG noted that the Pre-Planning Application Review scheduled for 6th September 2023 is close to the Planning submission date and raised concerns that any challenges raised could push the Planning submission date back which would cause programme slippage. MG noted that this was a high-risk scenario and asked about the risk budget. He also urged Members not to wait for an announcement on Phase 3 LEIP funding to review the Council's Capital Programme.	
4.3	RC confirmed that the public consultation event in September is a supplementary event as the original events still apply. There has not been a fundamental change to the building in Planning terms. RC confirmed that THC are happy with the current risk allowances in the budget. This covers a risk and inflation allowance and will continue to be monitored. In terms of the Council Capital Review, RC confirmed that design work is continuing. The next key milestone that requires additional approval would be contract award in around one year's time by which time the revised Capital Programme should be approved.	
4.4	PO noted that there is a Capital Programme meeting scheduled for 3rd August 2023 and welcomed the programme change of a summer migration as there were concerns over a migration in December time.	
4.5	PO asked which Planning Committee meeting date was being targeted. RC advised that the current target was the December Committee meeting.	
4.6	AN reiterated that the Nairn community is desperate to see the school built and the pressure will be kept up to see the project progress.	
4.7	IB raised a concern that the new building would not be big enough and questioned whether the possible relocation of the public library into the building was having an impact on the teaching areas. RC confirmed that the allocated area for the library is over and above what has been briefed for the education accommodation, so it is not having a detrimental effect on the educational spaces. It could possibly be a shared space between the school and public with managed shared access during the school day. The decision on the library still needs to be made but the design has been futureproofed to allow it to move in at some point if agreed.	
4.8	PO noted that all four of the Ward Members support the public library staying in its current location in Nairn town centre.	
4.9	RC shared images of the revised school floor plans as well as a site plan and explained to the group the design changes that have taken place which involve the removal of the link corridor at first and second storey with the wings of the building becoming deeper and wider. This has achieved a more efficient design. RC also shared a spreadsheet detailing the Capacity Modelling work that has taken place to calculate the classroom requirements for the school.	
4.10	PO asked about the bunding near the residential housing on the site plan. RC confirmed that this is being reviewed but having some screening through planting or bunding is one option. The drawings are indicative at this stage with further development to come.	

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	<p>RC also confirmed that there are Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) included to deal with surface water.</p> <p>PO noted that the current Academy is discharging water into the entry road and hopes this new scheme will improve this.</p> <p>RC advised that the new scheme should help with this.</p>	
4.11	<p>MG noted that the revised floor plans had significantly improved the building efficiency and asked whether the dining space would require a three-stage sitting to allow the school to dine.</p> <p>RC confirmed that seating plans have been requested and the intention is for as much of the school to be catered for as possible in the dining area.</p> <p>There are also options to explore externally such as shelters, break out space and the Hungry Hut.</p>	
4.12	<p>AN noted that a lot of work had been done by the Community Councils around the Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan and noted that there was an issue with what may be built between Inverness and Nairn and the impact that may have on Nairn given that Culloden Academy is at capacity.</p> <p>RC confirmed that there are no plans to change the catchment areas at present. The capacity at Culloden Academy has been increased by installing modular units while there is a masterplan for an extension at Culloden which is subject to the Capital Review. To futureproof the site plan, an area on site at Nairn has been reserved for future expansion if required.</p>	
4.13	<p>HB asked about the plans to show the revised plans to the community and raised a concern about the proximity of the new 7-a-side pitch to the neighbouring houses.</p> <p>RC confirmed that the intention is to hold a public event on 6th September 2023 to present the plans which are still being developed.</p>	
4.14	<p>BJ asked whether acoustic panelling will still be included in the new building as the dining area is smaller than the previous design, and asked if there would be outdoor covered areas to encourage pupils to eat externally.</p> <p>RC confirmed that a specialist consultant will be involved in the detailed design to specify the level of acoustic treatment required. The external spaces, including the courtyard, will be developed with input from the school as to how they will use the space and covered areas will be considered as part of this.</p>	
5.	AOCB	
5.1	<p>RC raised the issue of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in the existing school building and noted that Mark Rodgers (THC Executive Chief Officer, Housing and Property) has undertaken to keep JM informed of the survey results over the school summer holidays, and the Stakeholder group will be kept informed as required.</p> <p>PO noted that it would be good to have another stakeholder meeting in September when the results are known and to offer an update on the Planning submission.</p>	
5.2	As there was no further business, the meeting was concluded at 19:21.	