

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE- 12 SEPTEMBER 2006

BUILDING LEARNING COMMUNITIES – PROJECT UPDATE

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee in regard to the current status of the project.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 On 19 July the Emergency Powers Committee considered and approved a joint report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support and the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services regarding the conclusion of negotiations and the cost of additional ground works.
- 2.2 On 27 July 2006 contract negotiations were finalised with the PPP contractor, FCC (East Ayrshire) Ltd, and financial close was achieved.

3. PROGRESS

- 3.1 Construction – There are two main subcontractors appointed for construction and these are Barr Ltd (responsible for Grange and Mauchline) and McLaughlin Harvey (responsible for St Joseph's and Shortlees). These contractors are working to a programme which allows the various sites to commence operationally as follows:
- Mauchline – August 07
 - Shortlees - October 07
 - St Joseph's – April 08
 - Grange August 08

Work commenced on 31 July 06, and the Contractors are currently reporting progress on each site as 'On Programme'. This work is now highly visible on all four sites with heavy plant already in place. At Grange Academy and St Joseph's Academy, there have been extensive earth-works.

- 3.2 Employment – MITIE are confirmed as the current FM provider, and a programme of consultation meetings is proposed to ensure a smooth transition throughout the TUPE process and to ensure that affected staff are kept fully informed and consulted.

3.3 Council Procured Elements – The Council have appointed specialist Contractors for the Design, Supply and Installation of School Kitchen Equipment in each PPP School and the Climbing Wall at St Joseph's. These elements are being developed in liaison with the PPP Contractor's Design Team. The procurement of Loose Furniture is being managed by the Council and it is proposed to issue tender documents towards the end of September 06, with a tender acceptance early in 2007 to ensure a timeous delivery for each of the operational start dates.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Close was achieved on 27 July within the parameters previously approved by the Council.

5.0 POLICY / LEGAL

5.1 Note that the Council entered into the contracts comprising the Project Agreement, Direct Agreement and other project documents to which the Council is a party on 27th July 06.

6.0 TRADE UNIONS

6.1 Consultation with the Trade Unions will continue throughout the project.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The Education Committee is asked to :-

- (i) Note the contents of this report

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

GRS/JC

1 September 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Copy Minutes of Full Council dated 27 April 2006.

Anyone wishing further information should contact Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support, Tel :- (01563) 576090.

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