

# EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES

KILMARNOCK SOUTH LOCAL COMMITTEE – 25 JANUARY 2006

### ***BUILDING LEARNING COMMUNITIES – SCHOOLS PPP PROJECT***

#### **Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of progress in the ***Building Learning Communities*** PPP project.

## 2. PREFERRED BIDDER PRESENTATIONS

- 2.1 At its meeting of 19 October the Education Committee approved the appointment of First Class Consortium as the Preferred Bidder for the ***Building Learning Communities*** project.
- 2.2 On 29 November 2005 representatives from First Class Consortium (FCC) and officers from the Education Services attended Shortlees Primary School to display the designs and model of the school and Community Facilities to School Boards, school staff, parents and Community Association representatives.
- 2.3 Feedback from those attending was very positive and further information sharing will remain key to a successful delivery of the new facilities. The Council is committed to its on-going consultation with all interested parties and this will continue through officer attendance at Community Association meetings, distribution of regular newsletters and liaison with the Primary School staff.

## 3. PROGRESS TOWARDS FINANCIAL CLOSE

### 3.1 Legal

With much of the work having been concluded prior to appointment of preferred bidder there remain relatively few legal aspects to resolve.

### 3.2 Financial

Financial advisors have confirmed that the preferred funding route to pursue will be taken early in 2006.

### **3.3 Planning**

The responsibility for obtaining final planning consent rests with First Class. The Council has previously fulfilled its obligations in this respect by obtaining the outline consent.

The planning applications and neighbour notification for the PPP projects were submitted in November 2005 and will be considered by the Planning Committee in due course.

### **3.4 Personnel Issues**

The Council have agreed that janitation and cleaning staff will transfer to the Facilities Management company within FCC, under TUPE regulations.

Council officials and Trade Union representatives are committed to ensure that staff who transfer have their current conditions of service maintained to avoid a two tier workforce. To this end discussions have commenced with Mitie on the transfer of staff.

## **4. TIMESCALE**

4.1 There are no apparent obstacles to financial close being achieved by the revised timescale of late March.

4.2 FCC remain confident that the construction for the Shortlees project will commence in April / Mays 2006, with the buildings being handed over to the Council for use in August 2007.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Committee is recommended to :-

- (i) note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew  
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

EC/JBS  
9 January 2006

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NIL

Anyone wishing further information should contact Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support (Telephone 05163 576090), or Derek Mathieson, PPP Manager, (Telephone 01563 554957).

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER – EUAN COUPERWHITE**