



**EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**PROGRAMME FOR OFFICIAL OPENING CELEBRATIONS FOR NEW AND  
REFURBISHED SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF EDUCATION (DEVELOPMENT)**

**A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform the Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel about the:

- scope of the works at the 2 new and 3 refurbished secondary schools
- provisional completion dates of the contracts at the schools

and to suggest a programme for official opening ceremonies at the schools to celebrate the successful conclusion of the projects.

A suggested programme for official openings is outlined in Appendix 1: Secondary Schools Opening Celebrations.

**B. RECOMMENDATION**

- It is recommended that the Panel:
  - note the progress of the secondary school contracts
  - agree the programme and format of the suggested opening ceremonies
  - refer the report to the Education Executive for adoption

**C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

**I Council Values**

- focusing on our customers' needs
- being honest, open and accountable
- providing equality of opportunities
- developing employees
- making best use of our resources

- working in partnership

- II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)**
- Provisions of the School Premises (General Requirements and Standards) (Scotland) Regulations 1967 and Amendment 1973, Education (Scotland) Act 1980 and related regulations as amended, the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000, the School Education (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Education (Additional Support for Learning)(Scotland) Act 2004.
- The Disability Discrimination Act 2005.
- The Construction [ Design + Management ] Regulations 2007.
- The Project Agreement between West Lothian Council and HDM Schools Solutions Ltd, August 2007.
- III Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)**
- The projects have been funded through both PPP and traditional procurement routes. Hospitality for opening ceremonies is funded through Education Services.
- IV Consultations**
1. Refurbishment project consultation took place with Head Teachers, school staff and pupils.
  2. Information/consultation open evenings were run for the communities of the 3 schools being refurbished in advance of works commencing.
  3. PPP schools consulted through regular Client User Forums arranged by the Project Sponsor.
  4. Opening ceremony arrangements have been discussed with the Leader of the Council, the Education Executive Councillor for Education and Head Teachers.

## **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

### **1 Background**

By the end of November 2009 the following school building construction projects will be completed:

- New Armadale Academy
- New Deans Community High School
- Refurbishment of Inveralmond Community High School
- Refurbishment of The James Young High School
- Refurbishment of St Kentigern's Academy

These are major projects, cumulatively representing a investment of some £119 million by West Lothian Council and Scottish Government to radically improve the educational provision for 45% of our secondary pupils.

The scale of the refurbishment programme is likely to have been one of the largest nationally over the last few years.

### **2 The new schools**

Both Armadale Academy and Deans Community High School have been completely replaced by new schools within the existing school grounds through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) Project.

The new Armadale Academy is on the elevated part of the site above the old school giving good views over West Lothian. An all weather playing field will be provided on the site of the old building. The capacity of the school has been increased to 1210 pupils to support new housing in the catchment area.

The new Deans Community High School fronts the Deans East Road with a new entrance from Eastwood Park. Football pitches, including an all weather facility, will be provided on the site of the old school building. A double height "street" runs along the spine of the school building providing access to all main facilities and acts as a social space for the pupils. There are excellent community facilities at the new school with a "state of the art" 25m, six lane swimming pool. The capacity of the school is 1100 pupils.

The funding for the new schools came through a PPP procurement route and represent a capital investment of some £60 million.

The schools have excellent teaching facilities for pupils and each teaching space benefits from an interactive whiteboard.

The teaching spaces are aligned around central, focal courtyards placed at the heart of the schools. These landscaped courtyards will be pleasant, sheltered social spaces for pupils during lunch and break times, and facilitate easy access and movement to other areas of the schools.

Dedicated building management systems control the heating and ventilation processes, with a design based on maximising natural ventilation. Most rooms will have sensor activated lighting, supplemented by natural light which will flood the internal areas through a network of rooflights.

After the school buildings are occupied by staff and pupils, further phases of work will demolish the old buildings, landscape the areas and build new external sports facilities.

The priorities during the projects have been to maintain the quality education taking place at the schools and to ensure the safety of the pupils during the building works. We are working with the contractor to occupy the new Deans Community High School building at the earliest opportunity following the unfortunate flood.

### **3 The refurbished schools**

Inveralmond Community High School, The James Young High School and St Kentigern's Academy are being completely refurbished as part of a £59 million traditional procurement package. As well as the refurbishment works there are also new build areas at each school to bring the level of provision to a high standard. The internal works in all schools will be completed by November 2009 with the exception of external sports change facilities at The James Young High School and St Kentigern's Academy. These areas will be completed early in 2010.

Existing spaces will have new windows, ceilings, flooring, lighting and services. This will give a much improved learning environment for the pupils. All teaching rooms are fitted to take interactive whiteboard technology. Refurbishment includes new disabled toilets and lifts with improved social spaces for pupils.

New building has also taken place at each of the schools to improve general provision - in terms of the teaching spaces, social areas, and support and administration spaces. All three schools benefit from new, open and welcoming reception areas to give an initial positive impact for pupils, staff and visitors entering the building.

There will also be new external changing facilities to support the recent all-weather pitches at the schools. These, along with other improvements to the PE/recreation facilities, will give each school the potential to boost community use outwith core school hours.

The three projects will be completed in an average of 18 months and have been complex projects to manage. The key issues have been ensuring the health and safety of the pupils and the continuity of their education provision during the refurbishment of a "live" building. We have managed the decanting of departments into temporary units while areas have been refurbished or built. This has only been achieved by the co-operation and hard work of the staff and pupils at all three schools.

The scope of the works to the refurbished secondary schools is expanded in Appendix 2.

#### **4 Opening celebrations**

It was felt by the schools involved and Council officers, that the completion of the works merited official opening ceremonies that reflected the education achievement at each school.

The council would also be celebrating the:

- completion of the works
- hard work by all those involved in the processes
- new and improved educational provision for the pupils, and
- large capital investment by West Lothian Council and Scottish Government in the secondary school estate

A suggested programme for official openings is outlined in Appendix 1: Secondary Schools Opening Celebrations.

The official opening of the Simpson Primary School provides a suitable model for the ceremonies. The format of each celebration would be the responsibility of the schools, supported by Education Services. It is envisaged that the events would take place in one of the schools' high quality new spaces. There would be a programme of pupil events/displays as well as the opening celebration itself and a plaque would record the event.

Key stakeholders would be invited to the celebrations and Corporate Communications would manage press releases.

#### **E. CONCLUSION**

It is important to celebrate the successful completion of these major projects. In each case, there is a very large improvement in the level and quality of provision for pupils, staff and communities at the schools. Although the new schools are more obviously impressive, the achievement in maintaining a quality education whilst a building is being refurbished must also be acknowledged.

Opening celebrations at the schools would be spread over a period of months to give schools time to put suitable arrangements in place.

## **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

<i>7 February 2006</i>	Policy Planning & Resources - Public Private Partnership Schools Project (PPP2).
<i>11 April 2006</i>	Policy Planning & Resources - Site options for New Armadale Academy.
<i>6 June 2006</i>	Policy Planning & Resources – Education Public Private Partnership (PPP3)
<i>14 November 2006</i>	Policy Planning & Resources - – Education Public Private Partnership (PPP3)
<i>16 January 2007</i>	Policy Planning & Resources - Education Public Private Partnership (PPP3)
<i>26 June 2007</i>	West Lothian Council - Education Public Private Partnership (PPP3)
<i>15 January 2008</i>	Council Executive - Report on Tenders for the Refurbishment, Reconfiguration and Extension to St Kentigern's Academy, Blackburn and Inveralmond Community High School, Livingston.
<i>29 January 2008</i>	Education Executive - PPP3 Project update.

Appendices/Attachments: Two

Appendix 1 Draft Secondary school opening celebrations (draft).

Appendix 2 Scope of works for refurbished secondary schools.

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## **DRAFT SECONDARY SCHOOL OPENING CELEBRATIONS**

Suggested programme

### **Armadale Academy**

Occupation of the new school 18 August 2009.

Opening celebration Monday 28 September 2009 by Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning.

### **Deans Community High School**

Occupation of the new school anticipated during September 2009.

Opening celebration October 2009 by Councillor Andrew Miller, Executive Councillor for Education.

### **The James Young High School**

Refurbishment completed at end of September 2009.

Opening celebration in November 2009 by Angela Constance MSP Livingston.

### **St Kentigern's Academy**

Refurbishment completed at end of September 2009

Opening celebration in December 2009 – Politician to be advised.

### **Inveralmond Community High School**

Refurbishment completed at end of November 2009

Opening celebration in January 2010 by Councillor Peter Johnston, Leader of the Council.

## **SCOPE OF WORKS FOR REFURBISHED SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

### **Inveralmond Community High School**

Started March 2008, completion of project November 2009.

New build areas: assembly hall, community and visitor reception area, drama studio, pupil support areas, additional general purpose teaching rooms, external changing rooms for PE/recreation facilities.

The other all-weather pitch will be refurbished after the main project is completed.

Capacity – 1320 pupils.

### **James Young High School**

Started May 2008, completion of project September 2009.

New build areas: administration and pupil support block, dance studio, additional general purpose teaching rooms, improved PE/recreation facilities.

Work starts in September 2009 on external change facilities to support use of the all-weather pitch and refurbished tennis courts.

Capacity – 1210 pupils.

### **St Kentigern's Academy**

Started May 2008, completion of project September 2009.

New build areas: administration and pupil support block, dance studio, extra general purpose teaching rooms, internal pupil social space.

Work starts in September 2009 on external change facilities to support the use of the all-weather pitch.

The capacity will be increased to 1430 pupils to support new housing in the west sector of the authority.

Capacity – 1430 pupils.