

Elgin High School

Progress to date

- The New Project Request (NPR) was formally submitted to hubCo on 24th May 2013. This contained the requirements for the school with a basic outline and project brief / specifications.
- hubCo has requested some extra time to consider the project request in order to fully develop the design and construction costs. The overall programme is continuing with the development of the design detail so there is very little time being lost as a result. At present there is a significant affordability gap which requires a range of solutions in order to bring the project into scope.

Improvements so far have included:

- The site area included in the hard landscaping has been reduced
- The accommodation in some areas of the school is still being designed to optimise the available space
- The structural framework of the building has been changed from concrete to steel
- The affordability gap has been reduced as a result of these changes but there is a limit to how many changes to the accommodation can be made with this size of school.
- SFT has been informed and have recognised that significant progress has been made. Funding for Elgin High is still secure providing that there are no unnecessary delays and the anticipated start date for construction does not therefore have to be March 2013 as a result.
- SFT are being consulted on their standard metric of £1900 per sqm to see how applicable it is to a smaller school of 750 pupils compared to a larger school of 1200 pupils.

Consultation

The opportunity to show the outline proposal for the new school (which included the extension to Edgar Road) was taken at an early stage, by attending the three feeder primary schools' own gala days in June. Members of the project team were on hand to answer questions about the displays at New Elgin, Greenwards and Mosstowie Primary Schools and an additional two-day public exhibition at Moray College. Feedback to establish what the public thought about the proposal was gathered by questionnaire.

A major planning application notice (PAN) is a statutory requirement. Therefore, consultations / exhibitions are an ideal methodology to show the basic information about the location of the school site, proposed design in terms of size /facilities and

the routes to access before a full planning application is made. This was a straightforward simple exercise to engage with the community to give them a basic idea of the school project. The next stage of consultation is likely to be more complex, but this work has successfully prepared the participants well in advance.

Feedback was well received and the object of the engagement with the community was to achieve the following:

| The engagement should achieve these outcomes | Outcome indicators and sources of evidence |
|--|--|
| 1 Agreement of the basic road design and layout | No objections |
| 2 Agreement on the basic school design and layout | No objections |
| 3 A sense that the community feel that they have had an opportunity to see the proposals at an early stage in the process and have contributed wherever possible. | Evidence of suggestions for improvements that can be realistically implemented without adding extra cost or adversely affecting the project mandate. |

There were 56 responses in total from the questionnaires. Additionally, many attendees at the exhibitions gave positive verbal feedback. There were 34 questionnaires filled in from the Primary school gala days and 22 from the exhibitions at Moray College.

The exhibitions / were treated as a community engagement activity and recorded / evaluated using VOiCE (Visioning Outcomes in Community Engagement). VOiCe ensures that results are evaluated against the National Standards for Community Engagement.

The results from the questionnaires will be used to feedback, monitor and plan the next stage of the project as constructive / objective evidence to submit the full planning consent later in the year. We will use the feedback to engage further with the community to ensure that we continue to remain cohesive during the course of the project.

| Summary of responses | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| | individual | group | | | |
| Are you completing the questionnaire as an individual or on behalf of a group? | 51 | 5 | | | |
| | In person | on-line at council website | both | | |
| Where did you view the public consultation exhibition? | 53 | 1 | 2 | | |
| | Extremely useful | Very useful | Fairly useful | Not very useful | No use at all |
| How useful was this exhibition in terms of providing you with information about where the school and extension to Edgar road will be? | 28 | 23 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| | yes | no | comment | | |
| Do you feel you | 50 | 6 | 5* | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| have been given enough information at this early stage to understand what the basic development is about? | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|

*The majority of the comments received were queries about parking and transport to and from the school which will be addressed as part of the transportation development plan.