

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

KNOCKROON LEARNING AND ENTERPRISE CAMPUS

BRIEFING NOTE – SPACE PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

Report prepared by Senior Project Manager, Facilities & Property Management

1. PURPOSE

2. The purpose of this briefing note is to advise interviewees and members of the various workshops of the exercise being undertaken by Space Strategies in respect of the Knockroon Learning and Enterprise Campus.

3. BACKGROUND

4. In advance of the appointment of the main Design Team for the Knockroon Learning and Enterprise Campus, the Council has commissioned the services of a company called Space Strategies to assist with developing an accommodation model and space budget linked specifically to curriculum delivery; giving appropriate cognisance to appropriate SFT cost and area metrics.
5. Space Strategies have worked with a number of local authorities across Scotland on the Schools for the Future Programme, and have also developed close links with the Scottish Government and Scottish Futures Trust in an advisory capacity.
6. The main drivers for appointing Space Strategies were as follows :
 - To assist the Council with developing a strategic brief for accommodation based around the required curriculum, whilst also considering and challenging traditional models of education delivery.
 - To undertake a number of workshops with both internal and external stakeholder groups with the aim of establishing broad drivers to inform the development of spatial models and develop ideas around space typologies, spatial zoning, adjacencies and priorities.
 - To consolidate and translate the outcomes from the workshops into a space budget and accommodation model that can be delivered within the SFT area metrics set for this project.
 - To liaise with the appointed main Design Team at the very earliest stages of design development to ensure the associated space budget and accommodation model are appropriately translated into concept proposals.
7. The main focus of the work of Space Strategies is therefore to understand how learning works now and how it could work into the future. The process of space planning does not involve any design work in relation to how the final building will look, and is merely an exercise for creating more effective and efficient internal spaces which aims to not only maximise educational attainment but also community access and engagement.

8. PURPOSE OF INITIAL STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL INTERVIEWS

9. Space Strategies wish to meet with key strategic and operational stakeholders with the aim of understanding key drivers, visions and aspiration across the various service areas which will have a perspective on the learning and community benefits that can be exploited from the new campus.
10. The interviews will be semi-structured to allow for consistency; based on broad themes that have emerged elsewhere on other similar projects. These themes include :
 - Demands of curriculum for excellence and GIRFEC
 - The implications of the report on Developing Scotland's Young Workforce
 - A more personalised approach and opportunities for greater student involvement
 - The curriculum and moves from subject based learning to interdisciplinary learning and thematic opportunities
 - Modes of teaching delivery from solo, to subject based teams teaching and cross curricular teaching
 - Maximising community involvement
11. These themes are not exhaustive nor are they indicative of predetermined solutions and are merely used to act as a prompt to aid discussions.
12. The interview should take between 30 minutes and 1 hour.

13. PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP SESSIONS

14. Following the strategic and operational stakeholder's interviews and school visits the information gathered will be consolidated with the key outcomes, aspirations / drivers and aligned or polarised viewpoints used to form the content and focus of a number of workshops.
15. The various workshops will be used to test the appetite for change in relation to alternative learning environments and shared space models, to challenge these views with the aim of creating a fully agreed space budget which meets both strategic and operational stakeholder drivers.
16. The various workshops will include representation from each of the schools (head teachers), together with representatives from early years, additional support needs, sustainable communities, sports and leisure, facilities management and the project delivery team.
17. The workshops sessions will also include separate sessions specifically for community users and a Health and Wellbeing Group.

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