

HOPWOOD HALL COLLEGE

Notes of a progress meeting of the **Estates Development Working Group** held on Wednesday 29 April 2009

Present	Robert Clegg (Chairman)	James Gallagher	Derek O'Toole (Principal)
In Attendance	Sarfraz Arfan (AD Corp Svcs) (Project Sponsor)	Ralph Devereux (Clerk)	Mathew Hirst (AA Projects)
	John Spindler (Interim Exec Dir FP&HR)	Rob Trueblood (AA Projects)	

11/08 **APOLOGIES, ELIGIBILITY, QUORUM AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

No notice had been received of any member becoming ineligible to hold office. The meeting was quorate and no interests had been declared.

12/08 **PROJECT MANAGEMENT REPORT**

- a. An LSC letter detailing the way forward with the FE capital programme was circulated and discussed, £300m had been made available for the current CSR period and accordingly a limited number of projects would be approved in the near future. A further £1.2b would be provided by 20013/14 at £300m pa. The letter also detailed needs based criteria which would facilitate LSC determination of the most urgent and greatest need projects; work would start on these with the next 3 months. Those projects that showed planning flexibility and associated reductions in cost were expected to be favourably considered. A full management report on the current state of the project had been circulated, which was fully discussed and considered in the light of the LSC announcements.
- b. The LSC had expressed some concern regarding the temporary nature of the (Stakehill) decant scheme and this had led to the identification of an alternative site site in Dane Street close to the Rochdale campus and approval to proceed had been given at the last meeting. The site was also 300sqm larger, was available on more favourable terms and was considered preferable by the C Block staff who also felt that the site should be permanently available to facilitate growth, which would not be otherwise available, and to allow widening of the curriculum offer. It was felt that the site would be well suited to delivery of the construction curriculum and that space allocated at the main block would be reallocated to other use. Implications for the wider curriculum delivery were then discussed and it was agreed that there were some exiting possibilities and the opportunity should be enthusiastically taken. The LSC supported the scheme and heads of terms were drawn up which were considered and agreed. The local authority had given comfort that the planning permission for the change of use for the site should be straightforward. However, establishment of the additional facilities at Dane Street required resolution of several complications which could not be achieved in time to for the next national council meeting. The considerable potential savings on the overall accommodation strategy had been identified, which it was hoped would enhance the possibility of full approval for the project; the LLSC had now agreed to support the revised scheme conditionally, the required conditions were all discussed and risks associated with the project were fully considered individually including all financial implications. The property assignments for the Dane Street site would be conditional on receipt of LSC consent and planning permission. Also completion could be delayed if necessary. Also failure to progress with the permanent Dane Street option could well prejudice the master programme at Rochdale through delays in availability to the construction companies. It was unanimously agreed to proceed with the scheme for permanent establishment of the Dane Street site. Accordingly the scheme would be presented to the LSC national council on 3 June where, subject to planning, it should be approved for inclusion in the 09/10 spending round, with AiD in January 2010.

Adoption of the scheme to establish the Dane Street site as a permanent facility was approved.

13/08 URGENT BUSINESS

There had been no urgent business agreed.

14/08 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting would be notified.

Signed:

Dated: