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**REPORT TO: MORAY COUNCIL ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**SUBJECT: MORAY LEARNING ESTATE STRATEGY 2022-2032**

**BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 The report introduces a ten year Moray Learning Estate Strategy in accordance with Scotland's Learning Estates Strategy "Connecting People, Places and Learning".
- 1.2 This report is submitted to the Council in terms of Section III (D) (1) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to all the functions of the Council as Education Authority.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council consider and approve the Moray Learning Estate Strategy 2022-2032.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 A draft document setting out proposals for developing a strategic approach to the learning estate in Moray was presented to a special meeting of Moray Council on 9 October 2020. Members were updated on the planned reactivation of engagement work relating to the learning estate and it was agreed that the outcomes of initial engagement on the proposed strategic approach should be brought back to Council by the end of the year (paragraph 4 of the Minute refers).
- 3.2 Following engagement on the proposed strategic approach a further report to Moray Council on 16 December 2020 provided Members with information regarding the outcomes of engagement, with stakeholders indicating broad support for the approach with a particular focus on:
- Ensuring our learning environments support the wellbeing of all learners (and staff and community), and meet all needs to support inclusion/accessibility
  - Ensuring our learning estate is well managed and maintained in a good condition
  - Ensuring all our schools are equipped with the best digital technology.

The Council approved the 'Developing a Strategic Approach to the Learning Estate' document (para 5 of the minute refers).

- 3.3 The Learning Estate Strategy 2022 to 2032 takes account of the 'Developing a Strategic Approach to the Learning Estate' document, and of current and developing priorities, including the Climate Change targets, and sets out how the new Learning Estate Team will manage investment in our learning estate over the next 10 years to support the achievement of Excellence and Equity for our children and young people.

#### 4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

**(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))**

The Learning Estate Strategy will support the delivery of the LOIP outcome of building a better future for our children and young people in Moray and growing a diverse and sustainable economy, and will advance the Corporate Plan priority of reviewing and transforming the learning environment.

**(b) Policy and Legal**

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 sets out the legal requirements for consultation on relevant proposals affecting individual schools. Consultation activity focussing on options within Associated School Groups and for individual schools will follow the legal requirements as set out in the above Act.

**(c) Financial implications**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The Learning Estate Strategy will support a planned and prioritised approach to investment in our learning estate, and a realistic assessment of the costs of meeting the objectives set out in the national learning estate strategy.

**(d) Risk Implications**

There are significant risks with a programme of this scale and nature and these will be considered in detail as the Associated School Group (ASG) level investment plans and individual project business cases are developed.

The development of investment plans for our learning estate is likely to generate a high degree of public interest and speculation about the future of individual schools. It is important that there is a commitment to take this work forward in a planned way and in recognition of the difficult public relations aspects that may arise as a result.

**(e) Staffing Implications**

There no staffing implications arising directly from this report at this stage. Future reports will provide staffing implications updates as appropriate.

**(f) Property**

The Learning Estate Strategy sets out how the Learning Estate Team in the Education Resources and Communities Service, and the Property Service will work together to develop Asset Management and Preventative Maintenance Plans that take account of long-term investment plans for the learning estate within each ASG.

**(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

The quality of the learning environment can impact on learning and attainment by as much as 16%. The condition and suitability of our learning estate and capacity challenges associated with both growth and population decline in some areas give rise to unequal opportunity across Moray.

The Learning Estate Strategy seeks to address this by setting out a vision that all Learning Estate buildings in Moray meet minimum standards and are fit for purpose.

Equality impact assessments will be carried out as appropriate during the implementation of the strategy in order to ensure that the benefits are distributed fairly and impacts on groups protected under the Equality Act 2010 are identified and, where reasonably possible, mitigated.

**(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts**

The Learning Estate Strategy highlights the net zero targets as a key factor in the development of ASG level investment plans and individual project business cases.

**(i) Consultations**

The Head of Education (Chief Education Officer), Head of Environmental and Commercial Services, Head of Housing and Property, Head of Development Services, Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer, Paul Connor, Principal Accountant, Human Resources Manager, Equal Opportunities Officer, members of the Learning Estate Programme Board and members of the Asset Management Working Group have been consulted and the comments received have been incorporated into the report.

**5. CONCLUSION**

**5.1 The Learning Estate Strategy sets out how the Learning Estate Team will work with teams across the Council to support a planned and prioritised approach to investment in the Council's learning estate. Learning Estate Strategy update reports will be brought to Committee for consideration on an annual basis.**

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Background Papers:  
Ref:

SPMAN-9425411-43  
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