

# **PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**

## **Lifelong Learning Committee**

**20 January 2021**

### **HIGHLAND PERTSHIRE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP – UPDATE REPORT**

**Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)**

**(Report No. 21/7)**

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Lifelong Learning Committee (LLC) with a progress update on the work of the Highland Perthshire Learning Partnership (HPLP).

#### **1. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

- 1.1 The development of the Highland Perthshire Learning Partnership (HPLP) emerged from the School Estate Transformation Programme and the HPLP is an approach designed to enhance the educational experience of young people in secondary education in the Highland Perthshire area.
- 1.2 A report to Lifelong Learning Committee on 21 January 2020 ([Report No. 20/17 refers](#)) agreed that the focus for the HPLP would be based on the following key principles and commitments:
  - Improved collaboration and partnership between Pitlochry High School and Breadalbane Academy;
  - Perth College UHI Highland Perthshire Learning Hub, possibly located in Pitlochry High School;
  - Digital Learning; and
  - Wider Community Partnership.
- 1.3 The report detailed an action plan to be taken forward by an HPLP Learning Group for short, medium and long term actions on a range of areas for development for the agreed and preferred model of delivery of senior phase education in Highland Perthshire.
- 1.4 The report detailed an action plan to be taken forward by the Property Group that focused on the development of:
  - A Perth College Learning Hub in Pitlochry High School by August 2020;
  - A plan for the improvement of the Pitlochry High School building; and
  - A plan for an increase in the community use of the Pitlochry High School building.

## **2. PROGRESS OF ACTION PLANS**

- 2.1 The following key actions have been progressed through the learning and property sub groups. There are clear links between both sub groups. More detailed action plans are provided in Appendices A and B.

### **Learning sub group**

#### **The Vision**

- 2.2 The vision to develop, share and sustain a dynamic and innovative learning offer in Highland Perthshire is a commitment to work in partnership and in collaboration to achieve this.

#### **Improved Collaboration and Partnership**

- 2.3 All pupils in S4, in both schools in session 2019-20, took part in an HPLP Curriculum Option Choice programme with equity of opportunity provided to pupils in each individual school. In January 2020, a successful HPLP Careers Event was held and this is planned as a virtual offer for January 2021.
- 2.4 The S4-5 transition process between the two schools was planned involving pupils from both schools and was a mixture of face to face involvement prior to March 2020 and virtual transition thereafter. The virtual transition programme included all Pitlochry pupils joining their new classes virtually, accompanied by their Pitlochry teachers. This allowed new relationships to be made but in a secure environment with all staff having the opportunity to contribute to the programme. The planning for transition in session 2021-2022 is well advanced. Last session, Breadalbane S5/6, who are former pupils from Pitlochry, led the S4 parents' session at the Pitlochry High School parents' event. This will happen annually. Plans were underway to create an additional transition day for S5 pupils in term one. However, this will now be a more extended virtual offer as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.
- 2.5 Plans around combined activities for S4 pupils who did not have full Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) exam leave were negated by the cancellation of the examination diet in 2020 and the cancellation in 2021 but remain "live" for future examination diets.
- 2.6 The Depute Headteachers for both schools are planning joint Inset and Career Long Professional Learning events in the coming calendar year and individual departments have been planning and moderating jointly. These staff are also leading on the sharing and collation of self-evaluative feedback from parents and pupils. During lockdown, Higher Physics pupils at Breadalbane Academy were taught remotely by both Breadalbane and Pitlochry staff.
- 2.7 Parent Council-led social activities in both schools have been adversely affected by the pandemic but both Parent Councils continue to meet and there are plans to convene a joint meeting to review progress of the plan in Spring 2021. The learning sub-group has used technology to meet to review plan progress with all partners represented.

- 2.8 In January 2021, the Senior Leadership Teams of both schools will begin engagement with their respective school communities on the collaborative journey to create a distinct identity for the HPLP. This will be in partnership with Education and Children's Services (ECS) and Perth College UHI.

### **Perth College UHI Highland Perthshire Learning Hub**

- 2.9 Four S5 Pupils are currently enrolled and successfully completing the Foundation Apprenticeship in Social Services and Healthcare. This course is being delivered virtually as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic but some face to face interaction is now planned and transport has been arranged. This course will be offered again next session when the current pupils move onto year two of the qualification.
- 2.10 A full time New Opportunities course, that develops skills and acts as a bridge for young people at risk of not entering a positive destination to gain access to employment, training or further education, is now fully developed and ready to be offered to our first group of learners in January 2021. There were no suitable candidates for the course in June 2020 but there is expected to be demand moving ahead. The course will be delivered on a blended basis. Students will have the opportunity to engage virtually with other course participants throughout Perth and Kinross, blended with face to face interaction in Pitlochry.
- 2.11 As Perth College (UHI) promote their schools partnership offer for session 2021-2022, HPLP staff will seek other opportunities for fully online digital courses appropriate for their pupils. Some of these opportunities have been accelerated by the response from education to the need to deliver virtually as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

### **Digital Learning**

- 2.12 Breadalbane Academy are well advanced in accreditation for their Digital Schools Award. The Education Support Officer (Digital Learning) has registered Pitlochry High School and Breadalbane Academy, and their associated primary schools, under the Highland Perthshire Local Management Group for the Digital Schools award and is supporting the Local Management Group to achieve group accreditation.
- 2.13 HPLP staff have identified National 5 Business Management as a potential curricular gap which at the moment is not offered at Pitlochry High School thus restricting curricular pathways for young people. Next session, both schools will co-construct their timetables to allow this course to be delivered virtually to pupils in both schools. The Education Support Officer (Digital Learning) will support staff at Breadalbane Academy in this virtual delivery which will include live interaction.
- 2.14 HPLP will benefit from other virtual learning opportunities in Higher and Advanced Higher courses that are being planned for offer in session 2021-2022. Some of these will be led by HPLP staff.

## **Property sub group**

- 2.15 In March 2020, construction activity stopped across all construction projects as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Key internal professional resources remain focused on COVID-19 recovery priorities which will continue to impact on the progress of some capital projects. Furthermore, due to COVID-19 mitigation measures, non-essential works and surveys within operational schools were put on hold when pupils returned in August 2020 which has, and will continue to, impact on the progress of some projects.

### **To develop a Perth College UHI Learning Hub in Pitlochry High School by August 2020**

- 2.16 A dedicated area with its own access was identified and agreed as an appropriate environment for the Perth College UHI Learning Hub for August 2020. This area was not used due to COVID-19 restrictions. An alternative base for the Learning Hub is being taken forward as part of the feasibility study. The high level requirements for this area include:
- A dedicated classroom, with a minimum capacity for 20 students, which is equipped to provide blended learning provision;
  - A separate digital pod that will allow a virtual and digital learning provision for small groups of up to 10 students;
  - Access to a quiet room, staff facilities and toilets; and
  - Consideration of additional support needs/accessibility and security.

### **To develop a plan for the improvement of Pitlochry High School building**

- 2.17 A brief was developed on the basis of high level requirements identified through meetings with the school, Perth College UHI and pupil focus groups. The brief was agreed with the HPLP Property sub group at a meeting in January 2020. The key requirements of the brief are as follows:
- Increased dining capacity to meet requirements for secondary and primary pupils;
  - Improved social space provision for secondary pupils, ideally allowing for new social spaces to be utilised for other purposes during the day;
  - Provision of a new dining space for nursery children;
  - Learning support - explore opportunities to increase the space available in line with requirements;
  - Additional Support Needs - identify what level of 'pop-up' provision we could offer within the school;
  - Improved external space for secondary pupils;
  - Improved parking provision on grounds including disabled parking provision and electric charging points; and
  - Opportunities for improvement should take into consideration how/whether the community could also utilise the spaces.
- 2.18 The objective of the feasibility is to achieve a design output that will provide sufficient information regarding costs, options and associated dependencies to enable decisions to be effectively made on priorities and funding.

- 2.19 Work on the feasibility study for the HPLP was stopped in April 2020, due to the retasking of Property Services staff to support the pandemic response. The project recommenced in early December 2020 and the options will be presented to the Property sub group as soon as possible.

**To develop a plan for an increase in the community use of Pitlochry High School building**

- 2.20 Consideration has been given to how community requirements can be accommodated in the development of the feasibility.
- 2.21 It was planned that consideration would be given to how the building could be marketed more effectively to increase awareness and utilisation of the building as part of the current lets process. This is on hold until restrictions related to the pandemic are relaxed.

**3. RESOURCES**

- 3.1 A key consideration of the HPLP action plans was to determine the resource requirements in progressing these plans. These are set out below:

**Learning Sub Group**

- 3.2 The development of the HPLP is being funded through the investment of a non-recurring £100,000 (revenue funding) which was allocated towards enhancing the senior phase and wider learning opportunities in Highland Perthshire. This non-recurring funding is profiled to support the initial costs associated with the establishment of the HPLP, including digital hardware and infrastructure, initial associated costs in enhancing transition and collaboration, transport and necessary officer support for the HPLP.
- 3.3 To ensure enhancement of the senior phase experience in Highland Perthshire, and to achieve elements of S5/6 being delivered from Pitlochry High School whilst maintaining a principle of no detriment to the current offer at Breadalbane Academy, further costs will be incurred over time.
- 3.4 Costs particularly relate to transporting young people across Highland Perthshire, including transitional elements, but also access to, for example, the Foundation Apprenticeship currently being delivered virtually and will soon be accessed by young people at the Perth College UHI Hub in Pitlochry High School.
- 3.5 In the short term, costs related to the key principle of enhanced transition and collaboration are being met from existing transport budgets. In the longer term, if required, an expenditure pressure will be submitted to a future revenue budget setting process of the Council.

**Property Sub Group**

- 3.6 In June 2016 funding of £2.8m was allocated to improve the accommodation at Pitlochry High School. To date, a total of £1.13m has been spent on improvements to the fabric of the building, heating, lighting and wiring upgrades.

In addition, works have begun to improve the digital technology at the school with Wi-Fi and audio visual upgrades taking place. Remaining funding is available for upgrades to practical subject classrooms, although these works have still to be programmed.

- 3.7 Feasibility studies are being developed based on the requirements identified by key stakeholders. It should be noted that within the approved budget there are no further resources available for these works and the £2.8m is fully committed to the works identified in section 3.6. Any additional funding will have to be considered through an allocation from the Investment in the Learning Estate Programme and therefore works will have to be prioritised considering the overall Learning Estate priorities.

#### **4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 The Learning and Property Sub-groups have worked proactively and positively and are beginning to deliver a new model for senior phase education and a new learning partnership in Highland Perthshire.
- 4.2 Significant work has taken place to explore alternative models for the delivery of senior phase education in Highland Perthshire, including engaging with staff, pupils and parents.
- 4.3 The Senior Leadership Teams and representatives of the Parent Councils of both schools have provided strong leadership in progressing the action plans, ensuring that consultation with staff, young people and the wider parent body has taken place. Both school communities are supporting a more collaborative approach to learning across Highland Perthshire.
- 4.4 It is recommended that the Committee:
- (i) Requests that the Lifelong Learning Committee notes the progress of the Learning and Property Sub-groups of the HPLP.
  - (ii) Notes that future progress on the work of the Learning Sub Group will be incorporated in the annual ECS Business Management Improvement Plan.
  - (iii) Notes that future progress on the work of the Property Sub Group will be reported to Property Sub Committee.

**Author**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>
Donald MacLeod	Acting Service Manager (Secondary)	<a href="mailto:ECSCCommittee@pkc.gov.uk">ECSCCommittee@pkc.gov.uk</a>  01738 475000

**Approved**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Date</b>
Sheena Devlin	<b>Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)</b>	<b>11 January 2021</b>

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion, only a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting the Customer Service Centre on 01738 475000.

You can also send us a text message on 07824 498145.

All Council Services can offer a telephone translation facility.

## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes / None</b>
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	Yes
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	Yes
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	Yes
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	Yes
Legal and Governance	Yes
Risk	Yes
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	Yes

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement in terms of the following priorities:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to all of these objectives.

#### Corporate Plan

- 1.2 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan Objectives.

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to all of these Objectives.



- 1.3 The report also links to the Education & Children's Services Policy Framework in respect of the following key policy area:

- Maximising Resources

## **2. Resource Implications**

### Financial

- 2.1 There are no other direct financial implications arising from this report other than those reported within the body of the main report.

### Workforce

- 2.2 As a result of this report, there will be workforce/resource implications for various ECS teams and the Senior Leadership Teams of Breadalbane Academy and Pitlochry High School, who will carry out the actions detailed in the Appendices.
- 2.3 The asset management detail of this report relates to the School Estate Transformation Programme which aims to manage assets more efficiently and effectively. The programme is monitored as part of the Council's wider transformation programme.

## **3. Assessments**

### Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.
- 3.1.1 The information contained within this report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome and has been assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its Proposals. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report. This is because the Committee are requested to note the contents of the report only and the Committee are not being requested to approve, adopt or agree to an action or to set the framework for future decisions.

### Sustainability

- 3.3 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. Under the Climate Change

(Scotland) Act 2009 the Council also has a duty relating to climate change and, in exercising its functions must act:

- In the way best calculated to delivery of the Act's emissions reduction targets.
- In the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaption programmes.
- In a way that it considers most sustainable.

The information contained within this report has been considered under the Act. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report.

#### Legal and Governance

3.4 The Head of Legal and Governance Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

3.5 N/A

#### Risk

3.6 A risk log is being maintained for the School Estate Transformation Programme.

### **4. Consultation**

#### Internal

4.1 The Head of Finance, Head of Legal and Governance Services and Head of Property Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

#### External

4.2 Extensive consultation has taken place with the school communities of Pitlochry High School and Breadalbane Academy to prepare this report and associated action plans.

### **5. Communication**

5.1 A communication plan has been prepared which will support effective communication and engagement with stakeholders, and to promote the anticipated benefits of this action plan. A range of methods will be used to consult with internal and external stakeholders as identified in the draft communication plan, such as meetings, briefings, community consultation and focus groups.

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

### **3. APPENDICES**

Appendix A – HPLP Learning Sub-group Action Plan Progress Update

Appendix B – HPLP Property Sub-group Action Plan Progress Update