

REPORT TO: Education Committee

MEETING DATE: 22 November 2016

BY: Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)

SUBJECT: East Lothian Construction and Technology Centre

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide update on East Lothian Construction and Technology Centre.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the significant progress made to date and acknowledge plans moving forwards.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The need for a resource to enable young people to better access relevant vocational learning opportunities within construction and related skills has long been evident. Previously there was no delivery of construction qualifications within East Lothian with candidates required to travel to the Institute of Construction and Building Crafts at Edinburgh College's Granton campus. Skills shortages in this area are anticipated to become more acute with significant capital investment in key infrastructure projects ('Edinburgh 20') and house building, 10,000 new homes in East Lothian over the next 10 years.
- 3.2 Over the course of the summer holiday period works have been underway to refurbish a vacant Council owned building in Mansfield Road in the town centre area of Musselburgh to establish the new East Lothian Construction and Technology Centre, a partnership initiative with the Council, Edinburgh College and key sector industry interest.
- 3.3 The project builds on the success of other 'academies models' in partnership with Queen Margaret University and Edinburgh College where students can, as part of their Senior Phase options, study for qualifications e.g. Hospitality and Tourism, Creative Industries, Food Science and Nutrition and Health and Social Care. The new centre provides an additional local option for East Lothian pupils in their Senior

Phase and offers qualification opportunities in relation to future technologies and skills in construction and traditional crafts, alongside development and enhancement of core skills and attitudes for employability.

- 3.4 The project was officially launched at a business breakfast earlier this year with over 80 representative and industry leaders attending. Modern apprentices from East Lothian Council were actively involved in championing the project and engagement with small to medium construction industry business has also taken place over the summer holiday period. Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers Federation (SNIPEF) are also actively involved and locating the project in Musselburgh provides a real opportunity to improve the outcomes of young people in East Lothian and links with a targeted approach by community planning partners to focus on prevention and early intervention in this area.
- 3.5 In this the first year of operation 5 groups (48 pupils) are undertaking SCQF level 4 Skills for Work Construction Skills courses. 6 pupils are undertaking SCQF level 5 SQA National Progression Award in Brickwork and 7 pupils are undertaking a pre-vocational course in construction skills (formerly delivered by Spark of Genius). Pupil representation is from across all 6 East Lothian secondary schools and key industry partners, in particular Morrison Construction and Hart Builders have been actively contributing to date. It is estimated the centre has capacity to accommodate 160 pupils.
- 3.6 As part of the initial programme it was also hoped to establish a foundation apprenticeship in Construction (Civil Engineering) at SCQF level 6 and targeting S5 pupils. Numbers of pupils registering in the first year unfortunately however have not made this viable. The procurement process for colleges to bid to Skills Development Scotland for delivery of Foundation Apprenticeships is currently underway and Edinburgh College are bidding to continue this offer again from August 2017. All local authority Education departments have indicated that Foundation Apprenticeships should be an option available to pupils and to support this, Skills Development Scotland Careers Advisers in schools, local developing the young Workforce groups, Edinburgh College and other partners are undertaking a range of promotional activity encouraging young people and their parents to consider Foundation Apprenticeships within their subject choices.
- 3.7 The new Construction and Technology Centre provides an ideal location to deliver Foundation Apprenticeships in Construction (Civil Engineering) to East Lothian pupils and to secure this additional resource the potential of opening this to all secondary schools across City of Edinburgh, East and Midlothian are currently being considered. Decisions about the campus location for delivery of the taught elements of each Foundation Apprenticeship will be taken on a case-by-case basis depending on availability of teaching resources and the home school locations of pupils attending.

- 3.8 Significant progress has been made across partners to establish the new East Lothian Construction and Technology Centre. The project was successful in securing an initial capital funding award of £300,000 from Scottish Futures Trust Inspiring Learning Spaces Fund to support initiatives that promote change and encourage ambition in the way individuals learn. Future revenue costs for the project will be met by the Council and college respectively with detailed arrangements included in a formal Service Level Agreement operating between the two partners.
- 3.9 The project addresses key recommendations made by the Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce encouraging integrated learning spaces between schools and further education enabling senior pupils to have early access to vocational qualifications. The development of East Lothian Construction and Technology Centre has featured regularly in the local media and officers from East Lothian Council and Edinburgh College are currently planning an Official Opening Day Event and series of open days to ensure the continuing success of the project and build on the numbers attending and achievements going forwards.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Scottish Government Economic Development Strategy
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Economy/EconomicStrategy>
- 4.2 East Lothian Community Planning Economic Development Strategy
http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/1831/east_lothian_economic_development_strategy_2012_-2022
- 4.3 Developing the Young Workforce – Scotland's Youth Employment Strategy - Implementing the recommendations of the Commission for Developing Scotland's young workforce
<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2014/12/7750/downloads>

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and no negative impacts have been identified.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – £300,000 capital costs offset with Scottish Government grant award. Ongoing revenue costs to be met from increase in Education department revenue budget.
- 6.2 Personnel - None

6.3 Other - None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None

AUTHOR'S NAME	Colin Forbes
DESIGNATION	Team Manager, Employability
CONTACT INFO	cforbes@eastlothian.gov.uk Tel 01620 827851
DATE	18 October 2016