

Item 12: Question Time

To the Chair of Corporate Resources Committee

“Now that there has been an announcement of £1bn for the Scottish Futures Trust, could the Chair of Corporate Resources, guarantee that the Council will progress the preparation of “shovel ready” projects timeously to enable us to bid into the new fund?”

Response to Mr D Louden

In March of this year, in agreeing the current 5 year capital programme, the Council agreed the following priorities for bid to Scottish Government for the next tranche of schools investment funding.

Years 1-5: Tain 3-18 campus; the Nairn and Fortrose secondaries; the schools in Invergordon; Beauly, Broadford, Dunvegan and Tarradale primaries; and the St. Clements special school.

Years 6-10: primaries in Alness and Kiltarn.

The Council also allocated budget for school investment which could provide Council funding, alongside Scottish Government funding, for successful bids.

Since that time, Senior Members and Officers have met with representatives of the Scottish Futures Trust, to discuss the Council’s priorities and take advice on any further action the Council should consider in advance of funding being available. Work has also progressed in relation to local consultation and engagement, and option and feasibility work. That work continues, with the aim of placing the Council in the best possible position when the opportunity to bid arises.