

Supplementary Public Question from Ms J Alexander

Given this is another delay and by then the roll will have risen to almost 1300 pupils, and with the Highland council having to develop Schools in Nairn academy and Skye will the size of the extension be reconsidered or enlarged and as all materials have substantially increased from 2018 how will the £7.5 million budget increase to reflect price increases?

I look forward to the next Culloden academy parent council where we will receive more information on the sequencing of the work and overall programme. We have many more questions to be answered and look forward to being part of the stakeholder group and working with the other members of this group.

Answer to Public Supplementary Question

The overall budget of £7.5m was increased to £7.718m in the recent report on the capital programme that was approved by Council on 7th January. The size of the extension at Culloden Academy which needs to be delivered from within the approved funding is part of the work currently being undertaken to establish how the budget will be allocated between the various elements.

These elements include the demolition of the vacant houses; a new synthetic playing field, pavilion and car parking on the additional land; an extension block mainly comprising new practical classrooms; and the refurbishment of the vacated accommodation in the existing main building.

The Council will be happy to provide an update at the Culloden Academy Parent Council's next meeting.

Supplementary Question from Councillor MacWilliam to the Leader of the Council

“The Inverness Community Planning Partnership last met on 26th February 2020. As it is now approaching one full year since this body met, are you aware of any guidance, directive or practical reason of any kind which could have so exempted this vital community-based network from fulfilling its community and legislative obligations?”

Answer to Councillor MacWilliam from the Leader

Whilst the main public meeting of the Inverness Community Partnership has not met since February, partnership work has continued throughout this period. During the period March to June the sole focus was on resilience and partnership meetings were held on a weekly basis through the Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey Emergency Liaison Group. The purpose of these meetings was to ensure a co-ordinated response to the pandemic and participants included public and third sector partners. This reflected the priority that Partners have to address the challenges of the Pandemic.

Since July, Emergency Liaison Groups have continued on a fortnightly basis, representing the continued focus on resilience activity. The core group of the Inverness Community Partnership has met twice, and the focus has been on reviewing priorities within the context of the pandemic. The focus for the partnership at this point in time – along with other partnerships across Highland – has been on mental health and wellbeing and poverty. Partnership outputs have reflected this with the Inverness Partnership’s Operation Respect targeting Mental Health and wellbeing through the Festive Period.

Community Planning is the statutory duty, not individual meetings, and partnership work has continued throughout the pandemic with the focus rightly on support for communities to cope with the effects of this pandemic.