Finance Committee

Scottish Futures Trust/ NPD Programme

Submission from Dumfries and Galloway Council

In the context that Dumfries and Galloway Council are engaged with SFT through the Schools for the Future programme in administering funding from Scottish Government for three school capital projects and in relation to SFT having set up the hub framework to deliver the programme.

- The SFT’s role in securing additional investment; SFT have sanctioned Government funding towards three capital projects which is a proportion of the overall capital budget which is provided by the Council.

- The SFT’s role in securing better value for money and improved public services; as part of the hub framework the development partner is required to demonstrate value for money in the project delivery. No projects have commenced on site yet so we are not able to say this was delivered. The issue with ESA10 funding has delayed the projects without any certainty on timescale to resolve or who will be responsible to cover the increased costs.

- The SFT’s role in fostering innovation to improve outcomes; SFT’s role with the funding for our projects has been to ensure that the projects deliver to the conditions of funding including space metrix, cost metrix and other key items such as sustainability. This sets the projects challenges, challenges the Council had already set in their Priorities for a more effective and efficient estate. Challenges have occurred in relation to delivering to SFT conditions in relation to delivering other Scottish Government policies such as extended early years provision.

- The SFT’s role in encouraging collaboration to improve efficiency; the Councils are encouraged through the framework to work together and joint procurement of advisers has been beneficial aswell as sharing lessons learnt across the territory.

- The SFT’s efficacy in securing better outcomes including job creation, training and apprenticeships, environmental sustainability, broader community benefits and digital connectivity. – this hub framework has community benefits inbuilt but these are for the whole territory and not focussing on our region. As a Council we target increased community benefits which focus on our region. Projects have not been delivered yet so unable to measure but early focus on creating educational opportunities has been successful.
- Any other comments you might have on the SFT's work towards achieving its key aims. None