Finance Committee
Scottish Futures Trust/ NPD Programme
Submission from North Lanarkshire Council

1. The SFT’s role in securing additional investment

The efficiencies detailed in the following two questions allow more projects to be taken forward at a national level. This is similar to North Lanarkshire Council’s approach whereby the Council seeks to bundle and/or utilise frameworks to procure collaboration across framework partners to secure efficiencies in order to fund the maximum number of projects that can be delivered.

2. The SFT’s role in securing better value for money and improved public services

The external advisors framework for schools DBFM projects and the funding competitions procured by SFT have provided opportunities for timescale efficiencies by reducing duplication of negotiation. For example, the collective call off from the framework by the local authorities with school DBFM projects was a single procurement rather than four separate procurements. This single procurement meant that lessons learnt could be built into the appointments so that the second, third and fourth projects benefited both in time and fee from the work undertaken with advisers on the first project. The same principles applied with the funders appointments.

Specifically on NLC’s Clyde Valley and Greenfaulds School projects, SFT strongly promote design collaboration within the South West Hub between the local authorities. The result of this collaboration led to a review of accommodation areas. Bringing this in line with benchmarked projects allowed savings to take place.

3. The SFT’s role in fostering innovation to improve outcomes

SFT has fostered innovation to improve outcomes on a number of aspects via outlining opportunities to aggregate funding allocations of revenue funded projects and promoting technical and design innovation from within Scotland and the UK.

4. The SFT’s role in encouraging collaboration to improve efficiency

SFT has engaged with Chief Executives of those authorities involved in the South West Hub to ensure commitment to collaboration and to collectively fund a collaboration role, with a local authority officer appointed to this role. This role involves securing consistency, agreeing a collective approach where appropriate to specification, technical and commercial matters and collating learning from early projects for adoption onto future projects. SFT continues to champion this approach and also assist in collaboration when required.

5. The SFT’s efficacy in securing better outcomes including job creation, training and apprenticeships, environmental sustainability, broader community benefits and digital connectivity

The Council has implemented/secured benefits of the aforementioned type. The Council has also welcomed the Territory and Project KPI contractual commitments for school hub
projects to help ensure similar benefits for projects. SFT regularly requests updates on indicators.

6. **Any other comments you might have on the SFT’s work towards achieving its key aims**

The Council works well with SFT in a collaborative manner and believes the sharing of experience and knowledge across organisations is of benefit for the Council and SFT.