

Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee

15 December 2008



Visit to Durham Johnston School Site

Report of Feisal Jassat, Head of Overview and Scrutiny

Purpose of Report

- 1 To advise the Committee of the visit to the Durham Johnston School Site on Friday 21 November 2008. The visit was attended by Councillors A Bainbridge, B Bainbridge, Holroyd, Martin (Local Member), Stradling, and Mr R Pye, and Mrs A Tallentire. Members were accompanied on the visit by Caroline Roberts, the Head Teacher, and Officers from BSF Team and from Gleeson, the Contractor.

Background

- 2 Caroline Roberts welcomed Members to the school. She explained how the school was located on a split site, with years 7 and 8 being located at Whinney Hill, and the remaining pupils based at Crossgate Moor. The new school site for all children was being built on the Crossgate Moor site. Those located on the Crossgate Moor site are to move into the new building in April, and those from Whinney Hill would move in September. With just over 1500 pupils it would be the largest secondary school in the county.
- 3 She advised that the school had received its best ever GCSE results in the summer, and the sixth form had for a number of years been in the top 10-20 schools in the country.
- 4 The school had at any one time up to 16 temporary classrooms on the site and each year Ofsted criticised the school on its building provision in that each year the condition of the buildings deteriorated further and was getting colder. With a new build of £23.6m the school can be managed more successfully on one site.
- 5 Members viewed the site and were very impressed by the new build and could see how it would be a better place to study and work for both pupils and teachers.
- 6 Members who had been present would be welcomed to comment at the meeting.

Recommendations

- 7 That the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee note the visit by Members of the Committee.

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