

## **Appendix 6**

### **Business justification**

This appendix describes the existing conditions at La Mare de Carteret (LMDC) schools and the needs and benefits which can be addressed by the Brief set by the Education Department following consultation with other States Departments and third sector agencies. The capital investment in this project will comply with the States strategic direction outlined earlier in this report.

The brief will meet the SED's educational drivers: curriculum and organisation, teaching and pedagogy, behaviour and pastoral care, special educational needs and disabilities and health and well-being.

The site is being designed to provide flexibility to allow for future expansion of the facilities and for curriculum, organisational and technology changes over the buildings' projected minimum life expectancy of 60 years. The design will meet the key principles set by the Education Department, not only of functionality and health and safety, but also of adopting a standardised approach informed by previously completed EDP1 projects, with future proofing of the design, a minimum building life expectancy of 60 years, sustainable design and construction and demonstrating value for money.

### **The Primary School and the High School**

**The project will deliver replacement High School facilities for up to 600 11-16 age pupils and replacement two-form entry Primary School facilities for up to 420 4-11 age pupils to enhance the opportunities for pupils in both schools to receive excellent teaching and learning.**

**The planned scope for the schools will meet the SED's educational drivers of curriculum and organisation, teaching and pedagogy, behaviour and pastoral care, special educational needs and disabilities and health and well-being.**

**At its most fundamental level, replacement is required because the condition of the present buildings renders them no longer fit for purpose and because there will be a continuing basic need for pupil places to be met.**

The schools need to provide secondary education for up to 600 pupils aged from 11 to 16 and primary education for up to 420 pupils aged from 4 to 11. Until the completion of this project, the cohort of school pupils who attend La Mare de Carteret Schools will continue to be seriously disadvantaged against their peers. The educational facilities and condition of the buildings in which they are educated are poor and have reached the end of their sustainable life. The premises are no longer of equal standard with the other schools maintained by the Education Department (ref also [\*Appendix 5\*](#)).

The schools are not able to provide the “equality of educational opportunity” which is a fundamental tenet of the Education Department’s Vision. Educational professionals and the wider community are aware that the current facilities are hindering the educational outcomes offered to these pupils.

Children and their parents are aware of the discrepancy in the standard of the accommodation in which their children are being educated when compared with other schools in the Bailiwick. This compounds their sense of disadvantage and adds to their concerns about the standards being achieved in the schools. It similarly affects staff recruitment to the schools and retention of the staff because of their awareness of the limitations of the conditions on their ability to teach.

All learners in the Bailiwick should expect to spend their formative years in buildings with resources that enhance their learning experience, provide and encourage excellence in teaching and provide a safe and secure learning environment for all. This business need was formally endorsed unanimously in the Education Board’s Vision Statement in the July 2013 States Meeting and will tangibly contribute to the achievement of objectives the States Strategic Plan and the Children and Young People’s Plan . It is also entirely consistent with the extant Resolutions of the States in 2002 and to the expectation of successive Assemblies that the Education Development Plan Programme 1 (EDP1) will be delivered in accordance with the 2002 instruction.

Secondly, the condition of the buildings is affecting the reputation of the schools, as demonstrated in problems with recruitment of staff, as being a contributory factor to poor staff morale and poor self-esteem of pupils, and as a reason for parents requesting out of catchment placements to other High Schools. Whilst recognising the pre-eminent importance of teaching and learning in the classroom, the improvement in educational standards and the development of well-rounded individuals will be enhanced through addressing these damaging conditions by replacement of the existing facilities.

### **Sports Facilities**

**The project will deliver:**

**Club competition level indoor Sports Hall facilities within the schools’ new sports facilities, focused on optimising efficient dual-use school/community provision for netball, basketball and volleyball, as advised by the Culture and Leisure Department and the Guernsey Sports Commission**

**The provision of competition level indoor sporting facilities with match play and spectator facilities will enhance the status of the LMDC schools in the absence of a school swimming pool, as provided at the other two high schools and the Grammar School (see note below). It will support the concept of local centres in the Island having multi-use community facilities as well as potentially generating income for**

**the sports tourism hospitality sector. The use of part of the Sports building to provide a community suite of rooms will align with the use of the schools and the provision of pre-school facilities to provide a site maximising its facilities for community use by families and the elderly, and this local centre concept has been supported by the Housing Department and the Health and Social Services Department (pending imminent meeting).**

The indoor sports facilities in the current High School are inadequate, relying on one gym with outdated ventilation, playing surface and equipment. The rebuilding of the two schools, and the availability of the external areas of the site to provide infrastructure support, provides the opportunity to address additionally the shortage of indoor competition standard sports facilities on the Island, particularly in relation to netball, basketball and volleyball. Indoor Sports facilities have to be provided in schools as an essential part of a school's curriculum. It is also expected that such facilities should be available for hirer use.

However, there is a view that the provision of indoor sports facility at LMDC with club level match play and spectator facilities could be a "luxury" too far and this has therefore been explored as a benefit which should fall into either an intermediate (a desirable requirement) or maximum (i.e. optional) scope. The Education Department had been asked to look at the provision of such facilities by the Sports Commission and the Culture and Leisure Department as potentially meeting a social need in the island, as well as providing economic benefits through the development of Sports tourism.

Several meetings have been held with representatives of the Sports Commission and the Culture and Leisure Department and with representatives of the local Netball, Basketball and Volleyball associations. The conclusion from their submissions is that the pressure on existing facilities and those facilities' difficulties in complying with club match play regulations present a persuasive case for the LMDC Sports Hall to be able to hold tournaments and to host inter -insular competitions. The most pressing need has been identified by the Guernsey Netball Association, whose participation levels are very high and who have no indoor home base in which to provide winter training or to host matches. Submissions from the three sports associations are appended as *Appendices 7a,b and c* and a letter of support from the Culture and Leisure Department as *Appendix 7d*.

The Education Board is firmly of the view that the provision of such competition level sports facilities should form part of the LMDC project brief and that this is consistent with the States' strategic commitment to maximise the use of States resources.

### **Swimming pool – clarification note**

The Education Board has given serious consideration as to whether or not the rebuild at La Mare de Carteret Schools should include the provision of a new swimming pool (estimated at an additional £4.05m on the project cost) similar to those at the remaining schools. It has decided that it would not be appropriate for a number of reasons:

- Guernsey has a surplus of swimming pools in the secondary phase and there is no need to build a new one at the new schools based on a supply and demand usage analysis;
- The existing pools are generally underused during school curriculum time;
- The Education Department has rationalised swimming pool use in the primary phase as there is a surplus of capacity;
- A modern fit for purpose swimming pool has significant annual operating costs which would need to be funded through general revenue, and the Department and the States more generally are limited by financial resources at the current time;
- The Guernsey Sports Commission has advised that there is limited demand for after-hours usage of an additional public swimming pool as the island is well served by public swimming pools and a new pool would simply cannibalise the existing market.

However, the Education Board is aware that the two School Committees have been very supportive of a new swimming pool being constructed, and as a result the Board has designed the other external sports facilities to allow for future consideration of provision of a pool at a time in the future should the States have the necessary funds.

### **Communication & Autism Service Unit**

#### **The Project will deliver:**

**improved efficiency and effectiveness for the operation of the service and improved facilities to enable better therapeutic and learning outcomes for the pupils by accommodating children with communication and autistic difficulties and their staff in an all-through co-located primary and secondary school environment. It will enable the creation of a centre of excellence within the context of a co-located schools environment. The ongoing running costs of the Communication and Autism Service are not anticipated to increase as a result of the co-location, but increases in productivity and better quality of service to Guernsey's young people are expected in this area. There may also be some benefits arising from the opportunity cost of vacating the current premises in the two schools**

The existing Communication and Autism Support Service Primary and Secondary facilities are inadequate for the numbers of children referred to them. Children supported by the service are located in a number of schools across the Island, and the bases are currently located at Amherst Primary and St Sampson's High. The current facilities are cramped and do not permit enough space for the individualised activities required to support the children.

The Service needs accommodation for up to approximately 18 children with communication and autistic spectrum difficulties in each of the primary and secondary sector bases and to provide a satellite base for its outreach service, which currently has over 150 children on its caseload. The unit will form a bridging link between the mainstream High School and Primary School buildings, so that the children in the Primary and Secondary bases, who are formally registered on the roll of the two LMDC schools, will be able to participate as fully as possible with other school pupils in the daily activities of the mainstream schools whilst still having access to specialised facilities and care.

### **Pre-school provision**

**The project will deliver:**

**a replacement co-provisioned pre-school unit closely adjacent to the LMDC Primary school for approximately 30 children aged 3-4 on a part-time attendance basis, allowing for groups of up to 16 children at any one time, as part of the strategic provision of pre-school services described in the Education Department's States report "The Introduction of a Universal Entitlement to Pre-school Education" May 2014**

The Education Department's report to the States in May 2014 was to support pre-school education by making available States funding for up to 15 hours per week of attendance for 3 and 4 year olds within a pre-school setting generally provided by the private sector or other agencies. A part of these proposals was to provide accommodation within two or three primary school sites for pre-school facilities for up to 30 children on a maximum 16 per session part time attendance in partnership with other agencies. LMDC Primary currently provides such facilities for the Happy Days Nursery on its site in association with Social Security and other agencies, and these new replacement facilities are intended to improve on this accommodation and to contribute to the development of the use of the LMDC facilities as an "all through" education environment .

## **Community and Social Facilities**

### **The project will deliver:**

**community facilities for families and the older generation within the schools and sports buildings through provision of a small suite of rooms which will occupy a corner of the Sports Building at the heart of the site and through the sharing of school facilities within the schools buildings and grounds, sometimes within school hours but also for evenings, weekends and school holiday use.**

There is a shortage of community meeting facilities in the local centre of Cobo. The great advantage of the LMDC site for its use by the local community - of families, the elderly, and those with disabilities - is its level access, the pedestrian only routes to the site, parking availability and its proximity to local housing estates, social housing, other local facilities and the “*local node*”, as outlined in the “*Analysis of Potential Local Centres*” document 2013 published by the Environment Department.

This document describes Cobo as a “...*well established compact centre with a variety of uses serving the surrounding area, including convenience shopping, petrol station, pub, café, takeaway and restaurant, bank, hairdressers and GP...flat terrain aids walkability of centre...good network of pedestrian only routes adds to the distinctive character of the centre and connects Cobo with Saumarez Park...adequately served by buses with connections to St. Peter Port and St. Sampson’s...(and the) presence of strong green wedge around the school providing access to open space.*”

The LMDC site design allows for a mixture of discrete and shared facilities within the schools and sports buildings for families and the elderly, so that access is securely provided without compromise to the security of staff and pupils, and so that schools facilities can be utilised, for example by access to libraries, ICT, workshops, and catering facilities, outside of school hours, as well by the provision of meeting spaces with basic refreshment facilities so that outreach services can have a secure base for meetings and activities. This may also generate some income revenue from hirers. A reference example is the shared community and HSSD facilities provided at St Martin’s Community Centre.

The Department has continued its discussions with Housing and HSSD and is looking at ways to transfer the Les Genats Kindred Centre facilities to the Community suite of rooms, thereby allowing the current Kindred Centre accommodation to revert to its original two houses designation. Initial talks have taken place with the Guille-Allès Library for community use of the libraries in both the Primary and High Schools and it is expected that other agencies will wish to use the community suite for occasional drop-in sessions and small meetings once the buildings open.