

# Leip 3 – A New Mull Campus

## Project Update #3

Welcome to the latest update on the Mull Campus Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP) Project

### Community Sounding Board

We had our first meeting of the Community Sounding Board in Craignure on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August, where community representatives gave the project team valuable feedback on their planned communication and engagement with the community. The group agreed terms of reference and membership, which will include representatives from parent councils, community councils, local development trusts, school staff, pupil voices and other constituted community groups (e.g. Home Start). Key points of discussion were:

- The site selection and call for sites process.
- Dates, times, and venues for community engagement drop-in sessions due to take place at a range of locations on Mull and Iona between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The sessions will ask communities what issues they think are important to consider when assessing potential sites for the new campus. More information about these sessions will be issued soon.
- Being clearer as to what a new 2-18 campus on Mull means in terms of education provision and for the existing 2-18 school at Tobermory. It was agreed to develop a short update to be shared with the communities. This is provided below, and a single-page version is attached. We would be grateful if this could be shared widely.

### New Mull Campus – what that means

The Community Sounding Board asked us to be clearer about what the new 2-18 campus on Mull means for education provision in the area.

- The funding is for a like for like replacement 2-18 campus; which is a combined early learning centre, primary and secondary school. The funding was awarded because the existing Tobermory campus continues to deteriorate and requires investment.
- Regardless of the location selected, when the new 2-18 campus opens, the existing Tobermory school buildings will no longer be used to provide education.
- If the location chosen is out with Tobermory this is likely to trigger a review of school catchment areas across the islands.
- There is no intention or plan to close any of the other primary schools across the islands.
- None of the above will impact on a parent's entitlement to make a placing request to a school of their choice.

### Call for Sites

We are asking people to come forward with possible sites for the new campus, with the following media release being issued this week:-

**Argyll and Bute Council are seeking suggestions from the community on sites that may be suitable for the new, replacement Mull 2-18 Education Campus.**

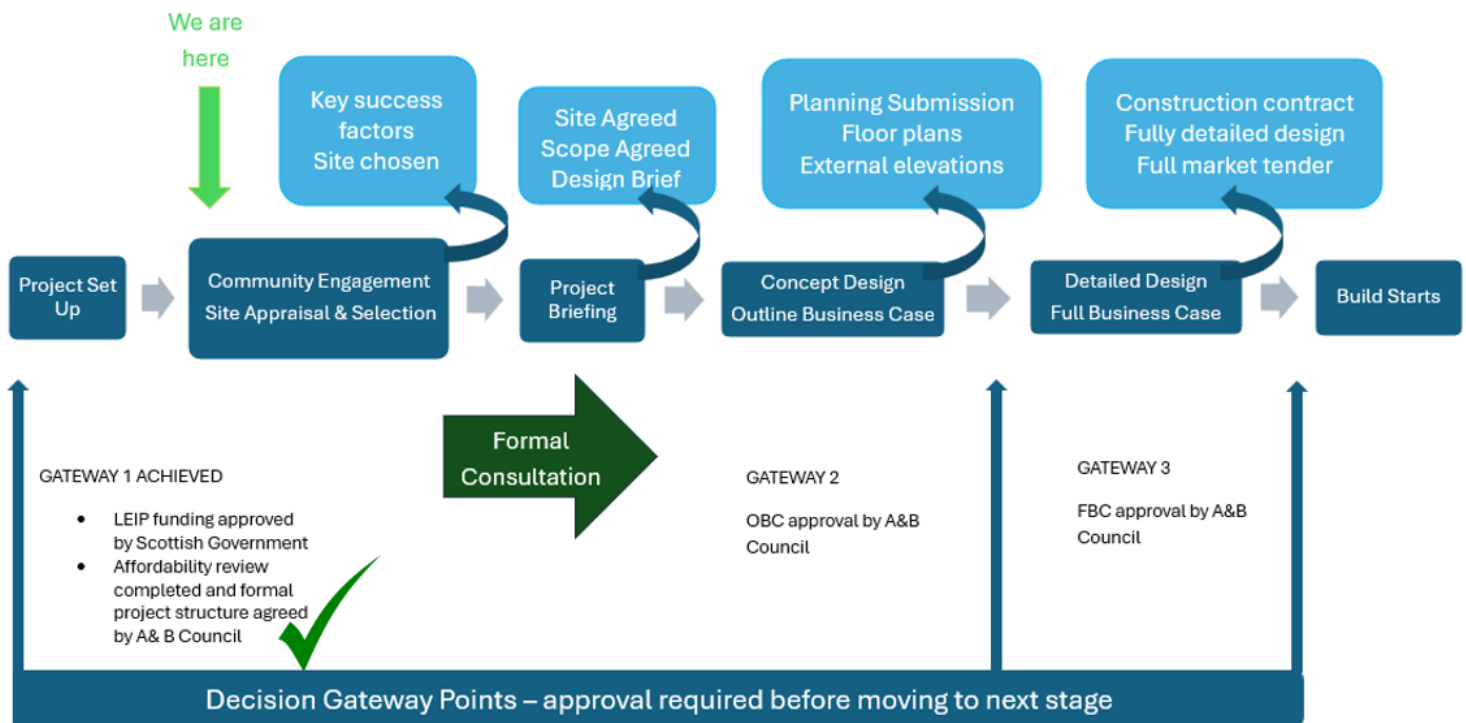
Members of the community are invited to come forward with suggestions of possible sites, which should be **at least 2.3 hectares** (roughly the size of the existing Tobermory High School site). As much detail as possible, including the site location, size and ownership (where known) should be e-mailed to [mull.campus@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:mull.campus@argyll-bute.gov.uk) no later than Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

## Project Process

The project set up is complete and we are about to start community engagement and site selection, which will run for the remainder of 2024.

The next project decision point is consideration of our Outline Business Case (OBC) at the end of 2025. If it is approved, it gives us permission to develop a detailed design and Full Business Case (FBC).

The purpose of these business cases is to demonstrate to the council that the project remains affordable and deliverable. Both Outline and Full Business Cases need to be approved by the council before we can start building.



\* Formal consultation (on school catchment areas) would be required if the site chosen is not in Tobermory

If you have any queries or questions in relation to the project, or the information contained in this update, please feel free to contact us at our dedicated project e-mail [mull.campus@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:mull.campus@argyll-bute.gov.uk) – we would love to hear from you.



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