



# Peebles High School Parent Council

## Our Journey To Excellence

March 2021

# Executive Summary

- On 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 a significant fire destroyed a large section of Peebles High School, requiring pupils to be educated at alternative premises during December and January. All pupils returned to site in early 2020, utilising areas of the school that were unaffected by the fire or able to be adapted as well as some temporary accommodation to allow education to continue on site until a permanent solution is achieved.
- Feasibility studies were then carried out on the site and the resulting recommendation was to proceed with a full new build option which was approved by SBC in February 2021 with a budget of £46m allocated over 5 financial years (2020-2025).
- The hope is for the design and planning stage to be completed by April 2022 followed by a building phase of up to 2 years with an expectation that the new building will be open for academic year 2024/25.
- The Parent Council created a property sub-group immediately after the fire to ensure that parents' views are heard throughout the project. The subgroup will work with the SBC project team and other stakeholders to secure the best solution possible for our young people.
- This document aims to share with the wider parent forum and community groups our medium and long-term vision for the site. We wish to work with SBC and other stakeholders with shared values of honesty, transparency, open communication and partnership working with mutual respect.
- We believe that the whole site should remain dedicated to education and services for young people:
  - Modern facilities for all curricular areas that allow us to continue to be the best performing secondary school in the Scottish Borders and enable best use of the new Inspire Learning Programme.
  - Facilities that deliver a complete educational journey linked to Developing Young Workforce (DYW) opportunities.
  - A role model for neurodiversity and promoting good mental health.
  - Sports facilities that meet SportScotland guidance for a school with our projected increased future roll.
  - A sustainable project built to modern environmental standards.
  - Tertiary education provision that allows access for cross curricular working in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Maths) and other sectors with vocational partners on site to provide a full range of learning opportunities and high value positive destinations for ALL pupils and the wider community.
  - Energising our local economy through education that facilitates the digital, environmental and new economies with high value learning and employment opportunities in Tweeddale for future generations.

# Our vision

- The interests of the current cohort of over 1300 pupils must be protected and continuously monitored to ensure they receive the learning and social experience that will support them to achieve their full potential.
- The new building and wider school site should be preserved for educational use, including links with Further & Higher Education providers, STEAM specific opportunities, learning support facilities and additional services for young people agreed to be in the interests of the school community. (STEAM is an approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue and critical thinking)
- Full Sports Scotland guidance sports facilities and the negotiation of additional land if necessary to achieve this.
- The future projected increase in the school roll MUST be factored into the project.
- A building that allows for delivery of a diverse curriculum (STEAM, English, languages, humanities, business, health and wellbeing).
- A building designed to promote an inclusive ethos - including spaces that meeting the needs of neurodiverse pupils and staff.
- A dedicated assembly/performing space and modern music teaching facilities.
- Flexible indoor & outdoor learning and social spaces, including areas that promote mindfulness.
- Dedicated study spaces for senior pupils.
- Teacher centric spaces respecting their professional needs.
- Improved catering design to reduce lunchtime queues.
- Modern changing and toilet facilities.
- Improved transport drop off/pick up areas and parking.
- Future ambition to have a Centre of Excellence for Sport.

# Provisional Timeline for Project

(to be confirmed by SBC)

## **Planning & Design (Spring 2020 to Spring 2022)**

- SBC initial community consultation - March 2020
- Feasibility studies commissioned - April 2020
- SBC submission to Scottish Government for funding approval - Autumn 2020
- Funding decision from Scottish Government - December 2020
- Feasibility studies completed - January 2021
- Architects create initial design proposal for approval – Winter 2020/21
- SBC approval to proceed with recommended option – February 2021
- Architects create full design proposal for formal consultation – TBC
- Parent council activities to seek views of parent forum and community – target Spring/Summer 2021
- Final design developed and planning application submitted – target by end of 2021
- Planning and tendering process completed – target for Spring 2022

## **Build Phase 1 (Spring 2022 to Summer 2024)**

- Construction of new education building
- Construction of construction of all weather pitch
- Move into new building – target for Autumn 2024

## **Build Phase 2 (Summer to Winter 2024)**

- Demolition of existing buildings and landscaping across site
- Completion of outdoor sports facilities

## **Build Phase 3 (no funding allocated, 2025+)**

- Creation of a range of tertiary and vocational education facilities on site
- Potential for additional facilities to support young people (eg supported accommodation for those support needs)
- Potential to become a Centre of Excellence for Sport