

Item 8b

Learning and Development
Policy Development Committee
19 September 2006

Olney Ousedale Campus Update Report

Members will be aware that significant delays to the construction programme were reported at the last meeting of the Policy Development Committee. At the time, information provided by the contractor and project management team demonstrated that the completion of the school building had been delayed to 9th October 2006 (Block A) and 3rd November 2006 (Block B).

Alternative arrangements at the Oakgrove temporary school and at the Newport Pagnell campus were put in hand to ensure that new pupils could be accommodated by the school, as planned, at the start of the new school year.

At the time of writing this report (1st September 2006) these contingency arrangements were in place.

Regrettably, in recent weeks it has become apparent that further slippage to the construction project has occurred and as such it will be necessary for pupils to remain in the alternative accommodation for a longer period.

The further slippage has been attributed to problems with labour supply and the requirement to take down significant areas of scaffolding. This is because the Health and Safety Executive visited the site and instructed the contractor to do so, as there were health and safety concerns about the scaffolds structural integrity. These delays have had detrimental knock on effects on other elements of the construction.

The contractor has indicated that the project will now be complete for early December 2006, but despite numerous requests has failed to table a programme to substantiate this.

Letters have been sent to the Managing Directors of both the contractor and architectural practice managing the scheme seeking categorical assurances that not further delays will be incurred. A meeting with the Managing Directors, senior officers from Milton Keynes Council and the member with portfolio (Cllr Euan Henderson) has also been arranged for Thursday 7th September 2006. A verbal report on the outcome of this meeting can therefore be given at the Policy Development Committee meeting.

Mark Dolling
Assistant Director (Planning & Development)