

## **Report for Site Recovery Group**

**Title:** Council actions following SRG meeting 1

### **Purpose of the report**

The purpose of this report is to update the Site Recovery Group (SRG) on actions taken by the council following the last meeting and to provide further updates on progress in a number of areas relating to the Buchanan and St Ambrose High Schools campus.

### **Recommendations**

The Site Recovery Group is asked to note the contents of this report

### **Background**

At the first meeting of the SRG, council officers presented the actions taken since the publication of the independent review and planned future actions. This report is structured under the same headings as the presentation given for continuity purposes. It is intended that this format will continue to be used to update the SRG in future.

### **Water quality**

Members of the group will recall that the campus is supplied with different systems for water. While these vary in complexity it is straightforward to categorise these as drinking water supply and non-drinking water supply.

As reported at the last SRG, drinking water quality continues to be monitored and continues to show that it meets drinking water standards.

Much of the council's focus has been on the non-drinking water supply. This has involved extensive ongoing sampling. As reported at the last SRG meeting, the independent review found some anomalies relating to the non-drinking water supply. During the council's extensive testing, anomalies have also been discovered.

During its sampling regime since the independent review, the council has used a drinking water standard for non-drinking water. This is unusual but is a response to the heightened concern around water quality.

The anomalies detected do not relate to testing for chemicals. Sporadic high levels of bacteria have been detected in some samples. Bacteria in water is expressed in total viable count (TVC). When a TVC above a certain level – using drinking water standards – is detected, there are three types of bacteria which are of concern from a health risk perspective: E-coli, pseudomonas and coliforms.

With one exception for coliforms which was likely to be caused by a dirty tap and which was clear when testing was repeated, none of these have been detected at any time. However, while high TVC levels are not considered a risk in themselves, they indicate that water conditions in respect of the potential for high bacteria are not ideal. That these high levels were sporadic and inconsistent formed part of the ongoing work of the water quality consultant engaged by the council.

In addition, these high TVC levels in the non-drinking water supply were only discovered in a limited area of St Ambrose High School:

- Art
- Science

- Home economics

The most significant factor identified by the water quality management consultants is an elevated cold water temperature to these areas. This is considered to be a consequence of long pipe runs in these areas and lack of frequent circulation of water, leading to ideal conditions for bacteria.

The council has already taken action in respect of switching non-drinking water outlets where possible from the boosted supply to the mains supply and this work will continue, along with the removal of dead legs in the pipework.

Remedial action in respect of water temperature has begun. This has included the completion of lagging of the pipework during the October school holiday. Drainage maintenance has also been carried out and continues.

The timeline for the action plan as set out by the water management consultants is appended to this report.

### **In-air testing**

The council had previously carried out testing to the in-air quality for methane, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. However, at the last meeting of the SRG, it was agreed that to provide further assurance as to the quality of the air within the buildings, further indoor air monitoring to test for the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) would be undertaken. This testing regime was agreed with Dr Christine Davidson, independent scientific advisor to the SRG.

The equipment for this testing has been commissioned in conjunction with Glasgow Scientific Services and testing will begin over the next two weeks, with results expected in time for the next meeting of the group.

### **Groundworks**

As reported at the last meeting of the SRG, all planned reinstatement work of the previous location identified by the independent review in connection with the presence of PCBs has been completed during the October school holiday. In addition, the removal of the lead hotspot identified at the last meeting of the SRG has been completed.

### **Development of website**

As agreed at the last meeting of the SRG, a digital expert from North Lanarkshire Council's Corporate Communications service attended at the schools to discuss with teachers the creation of a website for the SRG.

The discussion was positive and the council's digital expert has created templates which would be suitable for the purposes of the SRG.

Following a meeting held at St Ambrose High School with some members of the site recovery group, it was decided that the group website should be in a blog-style format. The website will consist of news posts that will be written and submitted by pupils and staff on the site recovery group. The posts will be laid out in chronological order with the most recent post appearing first, although there will be the possibility to make certain items "featured" which will promote them to the front of the site.

It was agreed that pupils could also produce content, such as interviews with site users, photography etc.

All posts that are submitted to the site will need to be approved by an administrator before they are published. Two teachers that sit on site recovery group (Angela Boyd and Frank Kelly from St Ambrose and Buchanan High Schools respectively) agreed to be the administrators for their pupils.

There was a discussion at the meeting that the website could be developed later as a vehicle to promote work of the schools, pupils and community centre.

Many blogs allow readers to leave comments on posts. As discussed at the last SRG, comments will not be allowed for this site due to the ages and sensitivities of the authors, and because the site is intended to disseminate information from the SRG, not to start discussions.

The website will require a domain name and identity. We intend to use a geographical “.scot” top level domain if possible.

It should be noted that the SRG website will not be the only method of communication in respect of the campus; the council will continue to post updates on its website and is also exploring an email newsletter which staff, parents and other interested parties can sign up to.

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**North Lanarkshire Council**

# Baseline Rectification Programme

