

#### **4 HARRIS ACADEMY (AN250-2009)**

The Scottish Government published in September 2009 the names of the first 14 secondary schools to benefit from funding from the Schools Investment Programme. Harris Academy was one of those 14 schools. This announcement has been warmly welcomed by Dundee City Council.

Scottish Futures Trust has been appointed to manage and co-ordinate the programme. In principle, SFT will commit two-thirds of the total cost of an agreed project, and will expect the local authority to provide the balance. Any authority wishing to go beyond the agreed scope of a project will have to fund that extended work in full. As a rough indicator of funding levels, for a school of this size, part funding could be made available for a project to the value of £27m.

Representatives of SFT made a brief preliminary visit to the school on 26 October 2009, and then met officers of the Council. Following that meeting it was agreed that, owing now to the involvement of SFT and the commitment to assisted funding, it would be prudent to re-visit the feasibility study on Harris Academy which reported in March 2009, and explore the possibility of extending the scope of the original proposed project.

Accordingly, the Education Capital Projects Director will convene a management group to review the original feasibility study and, if appropriate, make further recommendations. The review will be comprehensive, including a review of the options appraised.

In due course, the Director of Education will report on the outcome of the review, and, following the good practice established with the PPP project, seek approval to establish a Project Board for Harris Academy.

The Council's share of the capital costs of Harris Academy will require to be included in the next review of the Capital Plan in February 2010.