

Dalbeattie Shared Learning Campus, Dumfries & Galloway

# Investing in the future of education

**£26.5m**

/ Project value

**March 2016**

/ The build commenced

**November 2017**

/ The duration

The transformative Dalbeattie Learning Campus amalgamates Dalbeattie High School with both the Dalbeattie Primary School and Nursery School onto one shared, multi-purpose site. Our innovative passive design strategy helped reduce the overall building footprint by 10% (890m<sup>2</sup>) while saving approximately £1.8m in cost. The £26.5m state-of-the-art campus was officially handed over in November 2017 following a collaborative 18-month building programme that was recognised for our active community engagement throughout the consultation and construction process. Procured through the Hub SW Framework, this DBFO model project, demonstrated our experience in delivering ambitious PPP revenue funded schemes. It was named “Best Social Infrastructure Project” at the International Partnership Awards in London, 2018.

## The brief

As a trusted investor in the education sector, we were tasked with replacing Dalbeattie’s dispersed Nursery, Primary and Secondary Schools into one “whole of life” learning campus with the capacity to meet, and exceed, the educational requirements of the town’s children and young people. Making a positive difference to the wider community was also a key focus.



“Dalbeattie Learning Campus will deliver first class facilities and develop education in Dalbeattie, delivering learning facilities appropriate for the 21st century. We were all very impressed by the new campus.”

Councillor Jeff Leaver  
Chair of the Children, Young People and Lifelong Learning [CYPLL] committee

“The whole building is so spacious, bright and welcoming and a huge amount of thought, including a very large input from the pupils, has gone into the design of all aspects of the building. The setting is spectacular and the sports facilities and opportunities for outdoor learning are absolutely first class. I’m very envious of the young people and the staff who will be using this amazing facility.”

Councillor Jeff Leaver  
Chair of the Children, Young People and Lifelong Learning [CYPLL] committee.  
Scottish Borders Council

“The community engagement during the design process was the best I have ever seen.”

Professor Stephen Heppell

### The challenges

The shared campus vision of the Dumfries & Galloway Council, and the subsequent aspirations proposed by the three different schools, meant that reciprocal spaces were requested by all stakeholders. Similarly, as the new learning campus was projected to be a central hub for the wider Dalbeattie community, extensive consultation and subsequent buy-in from a broad range of stakeholders, each with their own unique priorities, was identified as critical from the outset.

### The solution

Our experienced team actively set the tone for the project by initiating a consultation and community engagement programme, incorporating design workshops, sample rooms and voting mechanisms, during the design process. A project first focus, and a commitment to problem solving, also led to the appointment of a dedicated Community Benefit Advisor to garner trust from the local community and ultimately guarantee that their views were reflected in the final building plans. Tangible outcomes emerging from this collaborative approach included a significant 10% reduction in building footprint (890m<sup>2</sup>), which saved approximately £1.8m in cost and served to maximise the outdoor learning space available to pupils. Incorporating the “whole of life” education ethos espoused by the Campus’s educators and 800 pupils into the new build’s passive design ensured a plethora of innovative features including a focus on natural daylighting and ventilation, flexible teaching spaces of optimum depth, and facilities built to make a sustainable, lasting impact.

### Outputs & Benefits

- / **Cost Saving Efficiencies:** Reduction of 10% in building footprint (890m<sup>2</sup>) resulting in approximate cost saving of £1.8m
- / **Innovative Design:** M&E design shaved circa 30% off the M&E costs
- / **Experienced Project Management:** Designed and delivered on time and within budget
- / **Investment in Local Community:** Mechanical Engineer Graduate recruited from Napier University and 9 job opportunities created, 7 of which were filled by Dumfries & Galloway residents
- / **Community Engagement:** Dalbeattie High School pupils received construction site experience through the CREST Scheme



For more information on how we’re delivering lasting impact:

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