

# SFT OUTCOMES

# 2023

## Outcomes based approach for new schools sees councils embrace Passivhaus to help meet energy targets and secure funding

PRIMARY OUTCOME

10

INFRASTRUCTURE-RELATED CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS ARE REDUCED

SECONDARY

03

05

06

07

OUR CORPORATE PRIORITIES



NET ZERO



SUSTAINABLE PLACES



INCLUSIVE GROWTH

When the Scottish Futures Trust was established in 2008, one of the very first infrastructure programmes we were asked to manage was the £1.8bn Scotland's Schools for the Future Programme. Working with all Scotland's 32 local authorities together with private sector businesses, that programme has delivered 117 schools which is benefitting many tens of thousands of pupils and teachers as well as local communities across all of Scotland.

Today, our Learning Estate team manages Scottish Government's £2bn 'outcomes based' Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP), an innovative funding approach which we developed on behalf of Scottish Government and COSLA.

LEIP is jointly funded by Scottish Government and local authorities through the use of the outcomes-based funding model, whereby schools must achieve positive outcomes in relation to:

- The ongoing good condition of their building
- Energy efficiency\*
- Digital connectivity
- Economic growth

Crucially, for a local authority not meeting any of the above criteria, LEIP funding is reduced based on any performance gap once the school is open.

The first phase of LEIP was announced in 2019 with 12 schools, with a second phase of 25 more announced in December 2020.

With the phrase 'net zero' front and centre for all new construction projects, Perth & Kinross Council took the decision to ensure its new LEIP-funded Riverside Primary School would be the first in Scotland to be Passivhaus-accredited as an approach to meeting a key LEIP outcome.

Passivhaus buildings are designed and constructed with materials that allow them to be heated or cooled using very little energy. Importantly, as the Passivhaus standard has a long track record across Europe of buildings that perform as designed, this should effectively eliminate any energy performance gap a building may have once operational.

By being more airtight and highly insulated than a traditionally built building, the new Riverside Primary School has reduced heat energy leakage, meaning for those inside their new school, they will be warm in winter and comfortably cool in summer.

In addition, Perth & Kinross Council has pushed the net zero agenda further by installing solar panels on the primary school roof meaning carbon emissions will be further reduced by using renewable energy sources.

The Learning Estate team is now witnessing more and more local authorities embracing Perth & Kinross Council's Passivhaus approach with many more projects being delivered or considered with a Passivhaus approach.

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Stephen Long who leads our Learning Estate team, said: *"In managing the new Learning Estate Investment Programme, our focus is on working with our partners to deliver high quality, well maintained, digitally-enabled buildings that achieve ambitious energy targets.*

*"Perth & Kinross Council has embraced that focus with the Riverside Primary School designed and built to achieve Passivhaus accreditation. As well as lowering energy consumption below even the level required by LEIP, the approach aims to provide excellent ventilation and comfortable temperatures all year round. This demonstrates Perth & Kinross Council's continued commitment to reducing building related carbon emissions for the benefit of the community while also creating healthier learning environments."*

Kevin Dickson, Regional Managing Director at Robertson Construction Tayside that built the school, said: *"Perth & Kinross Council has committed to building forward better by adopting Passivhaus standards for this new school. As the delivery partner of choice, we have been working closely with the local community whilst creating a facility that they can be proud of, and that will herald a change in the sustainable delivery and lifecycle of educational projects in Scotland."*