

# around the hub

Building better local services together

## RGU builds links with hub North Scotland



RGU's Rod McLennan and hub's Jill Adie.

Robert Gordon University (RGU) is linking up with hub North Scotland to give its students access to industry experts.

RGU's Scott Sutherland School of Architecture and Built Environment is working with the organisation in an effort to give students an exciting insight into the industry.

Students studying built environment courses at RGU will hear guest lectures delivered by a range of experts at the organisation, which deals with all aspects of the design and procurement process on projects to ensure best value is delivered.

The organisation has also committed to taking on placement students from the university in the future.

Rod McLennan, RGU course leader for the postgraduate diploma surveying course, said: "We are delighted to be building the university's relationship with hub North Scotland. This partnership will give our students a unique insight into some of the biggest public sector construction projects taking place in the North of Scotland and I have no doubt they will be inspired by what they hear."

Jill Adie, business development manager at hub North Scotland, said: "The next generation holds significant importance to the construction industry and the more advice and support that organisations such as hub North Scotland can pass on at an early stage, the better placed those individuals will be for when they eventually make the step into the working world."

## Work begins on new Elgin High School

The next chapter in the story of education in Moray is being written following a ceremony to mark the start of construction work on the new Elgin High School.

A turf cutting event took place as teachers, pupils and other key stakeholders in the project gathered at the site.

The £28.8million complex, which will cater for more than 1,000 pupils from a mix of town and rural catchment areas, will be delivered by hub North Scotland after it was appointed as development partner by The Moray Council. Balfour Beatty has been appointed as main contractor.

The ceremony was organised by senior pupils at the existing school, with anticipation building among students and staff as their new home begins to take shape in the grounds of the current campus. Primary pupils from the catchment area also took part as they look forward to benefiting from the facilities in future years.

Angus Macfarlane, chief executive of hub North Scotland, said: "The turf cutting is an important milestone for the new Elgin High School project and signals the start in construction of what will be a first-class educational facility that will bring a host of



Pupils lend a helping hand at the turf cutting for the new Elgin High School.

wider benefits to the people of Elgin and the surrounding area.

"hub North Scotland is delighted to be delivering the project on behalf of The Moray Council and we look forward to continuing to work with all key partners to ensure its successful completion. This is a major development for Elgin and we are committed to overseeing the delivery of a facility that the council, along with the children and young people it will serve, will be proud of."

## Alford and Noss projects achieve two CCS Awards

The development of the new Alford Community Campus and Noss Primary School has earned national recognition for raising the bar for considerate construction.

Both projects, which were delivered on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council and The Highland Council respectively by hub North Scotland, have achieved a Bronze and Silver placing at the recent Considerate Constructors Scheme's National Site Awards.

Both projects were praised for the measures put in place that allowed the sites to be more considerate towards local neighbourhoods, the public, the workforce and the environment.



## Oban, Campbeltown and Kirn schools projects progress



*Kirn Primary School - artist's impression.*

**Ambitious plans to build two new secondary schools and a new primary school in Argyll and Bute have taken a major step forward.**

hub North Scotland has been appointed as development partner for the new Oban High School, Campbeltown Grammar School and Kirn Primary School near Dunoon and will deliver all three projects on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council.

The new Oban and Campbeltown schools, which will jointly cost £54million, will be built next to the existing facilities, and will cater for 1300 and 500 pupils respectively. Sports provision as well as social spaces and car parking are part of both plans.

The new Kirn Primary School will eventually cater for 320 pupils including capacity for an early year's facility. The project itself will see the refurbishment of the original 1881 school building, the demolition of the later 1950s extensions as well as the construction of a new primary school building on site. The new building will include classroom accommodation, a library, dining facilities and a sports hall.

The Oban and Campbeltown projects recently reached financial close, with the Kirn Primary reaching contract close, paving the way for construction on all three sites to commence in earnest.

Angus Macfarlane, chief executive of hub North Scotland, said: "This is an important milestone for all three developments and hub North Scotland is delighted to be involved in helping drive this projects forward to fruition.

"hub North Scotland looks forward to developing a positive working relationship with Argyll and Bute Council and we are focused on working closely with the organisation to deliver first class educational facilities that its staff, pupils and wider communities will be proud of."

# Noss Primary School reaches practical completion

The new £15.4million Noss Primary School has reached a vital milestone with the practical completion of the facility.



*A bird's eye view of the new Noss Primary School in Wick.*

Replacing the existing North and Hillhead Primary Schools in Wick, work on the 4,620 sq m facility commenced in late 2014 and has been delivered by hub North Scotland on behalf of The Highland Council. The main contractor for the project was Morrison Construction.

With construction of the new school building now complete, work is set to begin on the demolition of the existing school, completion of landscaping works alongside the formation of the adjacent Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) pitch.

The school itself, which will welcome its first pupils on April 11, is a blend of educational and extra-curricular facilities and benefits from 14 classrooms in total, a library, two nursery rooms, two learning support rooms, a games hall, dining area, a medical room and a multi-use games area along with a grass pitch.

The construction project itself has also brought a number of benefits, with 90% of the total value of work for the new school awarded to SMEs alone. It also created four apprenticeships and two graduate positions.

Angus Macfarlane, chief executive of hub North Scotland, said: "hub North Scotland was appointed by The Highland Council to deliver the new Noss Primary School and we're delighted to have fulfilled this goal.

"The new school itself is a first class educational facility and will act as a modern learning environment that I'm sure both pupils and staff will be proud to attend and work within for many years to come. Enhancing the overall educational experience has been a key theme throughout this project and alongside the various classroom provision, the school also benefits from various extra-curricular facilities that I'm sure pupils will enjoy.

"hub North Scotland is proud to have played a part in this project and we look forward to welcoming pupils, staff and the wider community for a first-look of the new facility."

## Contact the hub

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## hub identified in London Stock Exchange report



**hub North Scotland has been identified as one of London Stock Exchange's 1000 Companies to Inspire Britain.**

The driving force behind a range of community-based developments across the north of Scotland has been included in the report which is a celebration of the UK's fastest-growing and most dynamic small and medium sized businesses. Included companies have shown consistent revenue growth over a minimum of three years.