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For Immediate Release

## **DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COUNCIL SIGNS UP TO OVER £100M OF SCHOOLS INVESTMENT**

The contract for the Dumfries and Galloway Schools' PPP Project with Education for Dumfries and Galloway (e4d&g) was signed on behalf of the Dumfries and Galloway Council earlier today (Tuesday, 8th January 2008), consistent with the decision of the Council at its meeting on 13th December 2007.

The Project will deliver over £100 million of investment in the region's schools' estate, providing nine new schools and one refurbishment and extension project. Construction is due to start early in 2008 with the first new school expected to be completed in 2009. The work will be carried out on a phased basis. Several schools will be constructed simultaneously.

E4d&g is led by Amey, one of the leading integrated support service providers in the UK, and includes Cyril Sweett, an international construction and property consultancy. Amey will deliver the Facilities Management when the schools are operating and FMP will deliver the construction contract. FMP brings together three well known contractors from Ireland: Farrans, H&J Martin and The Patton Group. All three companies are committed to using local contractors, suppliers and labour to carry out much of the construction work.

The schools will all be new build, with the exception of Stranraer Academy which will be extended and refurbished. The new schools are Wallace Hall Primary and Secondary in Thornhill; Castle Douglas Primary; Kirkcudbright Primary; Moffat All-Through School; Lockerbie Primary and Secondary; and two new Primaries in Dumfries: Heathhall and the replacement of St Andrew's RC.

Council Convener, Councillor Patsy Gilroy was delighted that the project has reached Financial Close. Councillor Gilroy said: "This is fantastic news for Dumfries and Galloway and I am delighted the Council will have the opportunity to work in partnership with e4d&g, to provide new schools across the region."

Council Leader, Councillor Ivor Hyslop stated: "The Smarter Schools Project is a significant step in the rejuvenation of Dumfries and Galloway's schools estate and I look forward to seeing construction commencing at all of the sites in the near future."

Council Chief Executive, Philip Jones commented: "Today's contract signing is an important milestone for Dumfries and Galloway Council and represents the culmination of complex and

detailed work over a number of years. Throughout this process Council Members have maintained a consistent focus on achieving a major improvement in school provision in Dumfries and Galloway and it is good news that this commitment has now been rewarded."

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