

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Strule Bulletin - your update on progress at Strule.

The competition to appoint a contractor to build the five post-primary schools and shared facilities was suspended earlier this year. The competition, although suspended, remains live.

In June the Secretary of State announced that the campus is more likely to be completed by 2022 or 2023, rather than 2021 as previously anticipated. This is due to the challenges encountered around the main works procurement and the need to align with the academic year.

The decision in relation to taking the construction programme forward is a significant one, given the scale of the works, the impact on timescales and value for money.

These processes are taking longer than originally anticipated, and we would like to take this opportunity to assure you that we are working hard to reach a positive conclusion as soon as possible. The Department of Education remains committed to completing the educationally and strategically significant Strule project.

Your patience and support throughout this process is invaluable and continues to underpin our determination to move forward.

## SECRETARY OF STATE ANNOUNCES £140M FUNDING



The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP, announced the allocation of £140m of UK Government funding to support the development of Strule during her visit to Omagh in June.

She took a tour of the campus where she heard about the scale and ambition of the programme from John Smith, Deputy Secretary at the Department of Education, and Jennifer Morgan, Strule Construction Director.



At Arvalee School and Resource Centre, she was greeted by the Principal, Jonathan Gray, and John Hall MBE, Chair of the School's Board of Governors, for a tour of the school and grounds. She also took the opportunity to meet the principals and pupils of all six schools involved in the project.

## SITE PREPARATION WORKS AND GORTIN ROAD UPDATE

Site Preparation Works in readiness for a Main Works contractor to build the five schools, other shared buildings and sports facilities are continuing at pace, with the aim of finishing this work over the coming months.

Recent drone footage of the site provides an amazing aerial perspective of this progress, you can view the footage [here](#).

A planning application for Gortin Road widening was submitted in July 2018.

Site visits are also ongoing with various stakeholder groups to provide an opportunity to view the progress on site and gain a sense of the size and scale of the programme.

