

Southlands Methodist Trust: Mount Clare Estate

Contact Name and Details	The Revd Dr David G Deeks, Chair of the Southlands Methodist Trust
Status of Paper	Final
Action Required	For decision
Draft Resolutions	<p>113/1 The Council receives the report</p> <p>113/2. The Council agrees that Southlands Methodist Trust should be authorised to proceed fully to explore all aspects of their proposal to develop student accommodation on the Mount Clare Estate.</p> <p>113/3. The Council commends continued conversations with representatives of the Southlands Methodist Trust and members of the Strategy and Resources Committee to consider issues of mutual commitment.</p>

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	To update the Council on the activities of the trust in respect of a proposed development of the Mount Clare Estate.
Main Points	Information on the proposed development Report of consideration by the SRC
Consultations	SRC, members of the Connexional Team including officers of the DMLN

Southlands Methodist Trust: Mount Clare Estate.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Southlands College (originally founded by the Wesleyan Methodist Church as a teacher training college for women in 1872) is now one of four constituent colleges of the University of Roehampton. The other foundation colleges are Whitelands (Church of England), Digby Stuart (Roman Catholic Sisters of the Sacred Heart) and Froebel. In 2010 the Methodist Council agreed with the university a 125-year lease of Southlands College to the university. The lease established an institutional stake for the Methodist Church in the Higher Education sector. Integral to the agreement are the Methodist chapel and chaplaincy based at Southlands and its contribution to the university-wide, multi-faith chaplaincy team; and the provision for Methodist representatives on the governing Council of the university.
- 1.2 The Southlands Methodist Trust (SMT) was established (with an earlier name) in 1997, when Southlands College moved from the site in Wimbledon it had occupied since 1930 to its present location on the University of Roehampton campus.
- 1.3 The Southlands Methodist Trust (SMT) is a charity of the Methodist Church in Britain (reporting annually on its activities to the Methodist Council) which has the following charitable purposes:
- *as part of the work carried out through the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network, to support in association with the College and University the development of Christian, and specifically Methodist, scholarship, research and innovation, of local, national and global significance and to facilitate the public dissemination of such developments.*
 - *to enable members of the Methodist community and wider public in Britain and internationally to benefit from the academic and other expertise and experience within the College and the University and the facilities available within them.*
 - *to enrich the community life of the College and the work of its Chaplaincy in ways that reflect its Methodist values and ethos.*
 - *to maintain and develop the relationship between the Methodist Church, the College and the University in the context of developing the contribution made to the work carried out through the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network.*
 - *to further the wider charitable purposes of the Methodist Church through close working with the other persons and bodies responsible for the work carried out through the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network.*
- 2.0 The Mount Clare Estate is adjacent to the university campus. It came into the ownership of the Methodist Church around 2000 as an act of goodwill to the university to provide student accommodation. By resolution of the Conference in 2010, the Mount Clare Estate became an asset of SMT. The estate borders on Richmond Park, in west London, and is otherwise surrounded by the Alton estate - a very large 1950s local authority high rise housing estate, now listed. The Mount Clare Estate itself comprises some listed buildings and some rather unattractive mid-20th century blocks of student accommodation that no longer meet present and future aspirations. The estate is leased to the university for student accommodation and some administrative offices, thus providing an income stream for SMT.

3.0 The SMT has:

- commissioned a survey by Spring4 of development possibilities for the Mount Clare Estate;
- resolved that the estate requires complete redevelopment, which would
 - preserve and enhance the listed buildings and recapture features of the original Capability Brown landscape,
 - double the number of units of student accommodation which would also meet contemporary needs, and
 - open up possibilities for nurturing the wider mission of the Methodist Church, locally, regionally and nationally;
- consulted Wandsworth Borough Council about the development possibilities of the Mount Clare Estate in the context of the Borough's Master Plan for the development of Roehampton;
- consulted representatives of the Church as potential partners in a future redeveloped Mount Clare Estate, including the local Methodist church and circuit, the London district, the DMLN region and connexional officers;
- presented its outline vision, with supportive broad-brush financial information, to the SRC.

[A copy of the full report presented to the SRC may be obtained by Council members from Dr Christopher Stephens, Head of Southlands College, at Christopher.Stephens@roehampton.ac.uk]

4.0 When the Southlands Methodist Trust presented its proposals for the development of the Mount Clare Estate to the Strategy and Resources Committee for scrutiny, the Committee noted that:

- The Local Authority fully supports the University, a major employer and flagship organisation in the Borough.
- The SMT wishes to start discussions with the planners, a number of potential partners, Roehampton University and the Methodist Church, in order to turn their broad brush vision into a concrete proposal to be submitted to the Strategy and Resources Committee and the Council for formal approval.
- The Strategy and Resources Committee agreed:

It was appropriate, and within the terms of the SMT, that the site be developed as student accommodation rather than as a purely commercial enterprise.

The SMT should be authorised to explore fully all aspects of their proposals, within the framework of this paper, reporting back to the Committee and the Council before any final decision to proceed is made.

The SRC would report to the Council with a summary paper and resolution, stating that the Committee is supportive of the major development of the student accommodation, subject to further discussions.

The Committee offered the suggestion that two or three of its members could meet with the SMT to have a fundamental discussion about mutual commitment over the next few years.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

113/1. The Council receives the report

113/2. The Council agrees that Southlands Methodist Trust should be authorised to proceed fully to explore all aspects of their proposal to develop student accommodation on the Mount Clare Estate.

113/3. The Council commends continued conversations with representatives of the Southlands Methodist Trust and members of the Strategy and Resources Committee to consider issues of mutual commitment.