

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held in Committee Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, on Wednesday, 11 September 2013 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Provost Douglas McAllister and Councillors George Black, Gail Casey, William Hendrie, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, John Millar, Ian Murray, Tommy Rainey, Martin Rooney, Kath Ryall, Hazel Sorrell and Michelle Stewart, and Mrs Barbara Barnes, Mrs Lorraine Bonnar, Mrs Gemma Doyle, Mr George Hill, Miss Ellen McBride, Ms Josephine McDaid and Miss Sheila Rennie.

Attending: Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services; Laura Mason, Head of Service, Educational Services; Craig Jardine, Corporate Asset Manager; Jackie Allison, Business Unit Finance Partner, Educational Services; Alan Douglas, Manager of Legal Services; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer, Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services.

Also Attending: Ms Janice McIntyre, Head of Centre, Auchnacraig Early Education and Childcare Centre; and Ms Catriona Robertson, Headteacher, Vale of Leven Academy.

Apology: An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor John Mooney.

Councillor Michelle Stewart in the Chair

ADJOURNMENT

After hearing the Chair, Councillor Stewart, the Committee agreed that, due to the large number of members of the public who wished to attend the meeting, the meeting should adjourn for a short period of time and reconvene in the Council Chambers.

The meeting reconvened in the Council Chambers at 2.07 p.m. with all Members shown on the sederunt in attendance.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held on 15 May 2013 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS

The Minutes of Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held on 4 June 2013 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

PROPOSAL PAPER AND LAUNCH OF STATUTORY CONSULTATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SCHOOLS AND EARLY EDUCATION CAMPUS IN BELLSMYRE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services seeking approval for the launch of the statutory consultation process, as required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, for the construction of co-located primary schools and an Early Education and Childcare Centre (EECC) within Bellsmyre to replace the current St Peter's Primary School, Aitkenbar Primary School, Andrew B Cameron EECC and St Peter's EECC.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director in explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the launch of statutory consultation by the Executive Director of Educational Services under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 on the proposal to construct co-located replacements for St Peter's Primary School and Aitkenbar Primary School, together with a new EECC to replace Andrew B Cameron and St Peter's EECCs, the new campus to be located on the site of the current St Peter's Primary School;
- (2) to approve a recommendation that the consultation period should run from Monday, 16 September 2013 to Wednesday, 13 November 2013, a total of 32 days when the schools are open for pupils;
- (3) that a report outlining the results of the consultation and making appropriate recommendations be presented to a future meeting of the Educational Services Committee; and
- (4) to thank all those who had been involved in progressing the project to its present stage.

Thereafter, the Manager of Legal Services advised all Members of the Committee that, in view of the Committee's decision to launch the statutory consultation and because the Members would in due course require to make a decision which is quasi-judicial in nature in respect of this matter, Members who wished to participate in the decision making should exercise caution when making any public comment, and in particular should avoid any comment which may permit members of the public to question their impartiality, until such time as a decision on the proposals is made. Members were further advised that they should refer to the Councillors' Code of Conduct "*Decisions on Planning Matters*" for guidance on a broadly similar situation.

Having heard the Manager of Legal Services in answer to Members' questions, the Committee noted that the above stipulation was effective immediately.

PROPOSAL PAPER AND LAUNCH OF STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON THE LOCATION OF THE NEW OUR LADY AND ST PATRICK'S HIGH SCHOOL

(a) Deputations

Having heard Councillor Stewart, Chair, the Committee noted that requests had been received from Silverton and Overtoun Community Council and Dumbarton East and Central Community Council to address the Committee in relation to the location of the new Our Lady and St Patrick's High School.

In accordance with Standing Order No. 17 (b), the Committee agreed to hear the deputations. Councillor Stewart then invited Mrs Rose Harvie, Silverton and Overtoun Community Council, to come forward and address the Committee.

Mrs Harvie was heard in relation to public opposition to the proposed construction of the new school on Posties Park and made particular reference to a number of planning and budgetary issues relating to the Posties Park site.

Mrs Harvie was then heard in answer to questions from a Member.

Councillor Stewart thanked Mrs Harvie for her contribution and Mrs Harvie returned to the public gallery.

Thereafter, Councillor Stewart invited Mrs Dorothy Heron, Dumbarton East and Central Community Council, to come forward and address the Committee.

Mrs Heron was heard in relation to public opposition to the proposed construction of the new school on Posties Park, making particular reference to planning and transportation issues relating to the Posties Park site and suggested that further consideration should be given to the construction of the school on its existing site.

Councillor Stewart thanked Mrs Heron for her contribution and Mrs Heron returned to the public gallery.

(b) Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services seeking approval for the launch of the statutory consultation process, as required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, on the location of a new Our Lady and St Patrick's High School (OLSP).

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director and the Corporate Asset Manager in explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee noted:-

- (1) that the Corporate Asset Manager would provide Councillor Murray with details of the methodology for the scoring of the various sites in the desk-top evaluation, outwith the meeting;
- (2) that while the design capacity of the new school would be for 1,000 pupils, it was considered that the school could accommodate in excess of 1,100 pupils should this ever be necessary;
- (3) that because Scottish Government funding was conditional on the project being developed in collaboration with East Renfrewshire Council, there was a financial risk to the project should a significant delay in the consultation timescale cause the project to be de-coupled from East Renfrewshire's new-build Barrhead High School; and
- (4) that it was considered that the school could be built according to the required timescale if it was constructed on either the Posties Park site or the existing site.

Thereafter, Councillor McBride moved:-

This Committee thanks the Executive Director of Education and all officers who have contributed to the report. Committee recognises that the selection of a site is a crucial decision for this Committee; the School community; and the wider community of Dumbarton.

The simple fact is that the current Our Lady & Saint Patrick's school building and campus does not comply with modern standards. And in 1975 when the current school was constructed; even with the solution of building a six storey high school, it was still recognised that the site was too small and there was still insufficient space to accommodate the required sporting facilities.

The challenge this time round is even greater as both expectations and modern standards suggest that an even larger site is required. This poses a real dilemma for this committee as there is a real potential that any new school built on the current site would struggle to provide adequate sports facilities and current planning considerations may have a negative impact on the extent of community use of any new sports facilities.

This Committee wants to achieve the best solution that provides our young people with the best possible school building and campus to meet modern requirements.

Committee therefore agrees the following:

- (a) the launch of the statutory consultation by the Executive Director of Educational Service under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 recommending that the new Our Lady and St Patrick's High School be constructed either on Posties Park or on the existing school site;
- (b) that the consultation period will run from Monday 16th September 2013 to Wednesday 13th November, a total of 32 days when the school is open for pupils;
- (c) that a report outlining the results of the consultation and making appropriate recommendations be presented to a special meeting of Educational Services Committee in January 2014; and
- (d) that Committee notes and agrees, due to the Scottish Government timescales which are in place for delivery of the new school, and because of the very different nature of the two sites that a decision to run a consultation on two sites will require an additional design to be created for the existing school site as well as the Posties Park site as recommended by the Executive Director of Education; that the cost of developing an additional design for the current school has been estimated at around £175,000 and that this can be funded from within the existing budget of £22.5m.

This Committee is required to take decisions in the best interests of pupils, parents, teachers and the school community and other stakeholders. The school building and the school campus must be fit for purpose and capable of supporting the full curriculum.

The dual consultation will allow the Executive Director to collate the widest range of views and opinions on two of the potential sites and allow for a reasoned evaluation and consideration by this Committee."

Councillor Murray asked if Councillor McBride would accept the following addendum to his motion:-

The Committee agrees to instruct officers to negotiate with the National Trust for Scotland on the use for sports purposes of the Cunninghame Graham Memorial Park and that further detailed discussions should take place with the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board on the possible use of the Dumbarton Joint Hospital site.

Councillor McBride agreed to accept the addendum to his motion which Councillor Murray then seconded.

As an amendment, Councillor Black, seconded by Councillor McColl, moved:-

That officers proceed with examining options to construct the school on its existing site and do not proceed with the option of Posties Park.

On a vote being taken, 1 Member voted for the amendment and 19 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

Thereafter, the Manager of Legal Services again advised all Members of the Committee that, in view of the Committee's decision to launch the statutory consultation and because the Members would in due course require to make a decision which is quasi-judicial in nature in respect of this matter, Members who wished to participate in the decision making should exercise caution when making any public comment, and in particular should avoid any comment which may permit members of the public to question their impartiality, until such time as a decision on the proposals is made. Members were further advised that they should refer to the Councillors' Code of Conduct "*Decisions on Planning Matters*" for guidance on a broadly similar situation.

ADJOURNMENT

After hearing the Chair, Councillor Stewart, the Committee agreed to adjourn at 4.40 p.m. for a short period of time.

The meeting reconvened at 4.55 p.m. with all Members shown on the sederunt in attendance with the exception of Councillor Tommy Rainey, Mrs Barbara Barnes, Mr George Hill, Miss Ellen McBride and Ms Josephine McDaid.

DEPARTMENTAL ACTION PLAN/STATEMENT OF IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES 2013/14

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services:-

- (a) informing of the Action Plan and Statement of Improvement Objectives for the reporting year 2013/14 prepared by Educational Services (a copy of which was provided as Appendix 1 to the report) which highlighted the objectives, actions, performance indicators and targets from the 2012-17 Action Plan which will be delivered by the Department over the next year; and
- (b) seeking comment on the content of the Plan.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and its Appendix.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP POLICY

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of changes and developments to Professional Learning and Leadership in Educational Services as a result of the 'Teaching Scotland's Future: Report of a Review of Teacher Education in Scotland' (2011).

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report and its appendices; and
- (2) to endorse the approaches outlined to enhance professional learning and leadership.

STRATEGY TO RAISE ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE – UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing an update on activity and progress with regard to implementing West Dunbartonshire's Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress made in the past three months with the Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement in West Dunbartonshire; and
- (2) to note that a further update would be submitted to the Committee at its December 2013 meeting.

CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – 2013/14

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing a copy of West Dunbartonshire's Implementation Plan for Curriculum for Excellence (Appendix 1 to the report) which detailed the actions planned to address priorities for Educational Services.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director and the Head of Service, Educational Services, in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the Executive Director would issue a briefing note to all Members of the Committee providing an update on the implementation of the new Secondary School Timetable, and that the note should include comments from both of the Joint Secretaries to the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Note: Councillor Rainey re-entered the meeting during consideration of this item.

LITERACY AND NUMERACY – BENCHMARKING

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services advising of the baseline performance of literacy and numeracy in West Dunbartonshire at P3, P5, P7 and S2.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director and the Head of Service, Educational Services, in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that a further report on the 2014 assessment results would be tabled to a future meeting of the Educational Services Committee; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BUDGETARY POSITION 2013/14 AS AT PERIOD 4, YEAR TO 31 JULY 2013

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services advising on the progress of both the Educational Services revenue budget and the approved capital programme.

Having heard the Business Unit Finance Partner, Educational Services, in answer to a Member's question, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the Business Unit Finance Partner would provide Councillor Murray with an update in respect of the Dining Room and Playground project at Kilbowie Primary School, outwith the meeting; and

(2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

The meeting closed at 5.10 p.m.