

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services

Children's Services Committee: 13 December 2006

Subject: Progress report on work relating to the closure of Braidfield High School and the transfer of pupils, staff and resources to Clydebank High School

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To provide Members with a final progress report on work relating to the closure of Braidfield High School in June 2006 and the transfer of pupils, staff and resources to Clydebank High School in August 2006.

2. Background

- 2.1** At the meeting of the Children's Services Committee on 15 March 2006, it was agreed that Braidfield High School should close at the end of school session 2005/06 and that, from August 2006, the delineated catchment area of Clydebank High School be redefined to include pupils previously zoned to attend Braidfield High School.
- 2.2** The Children's Services Committee further instructed the Director of Education and Cultural Services to provide future meetings of the Committee with detailed progress reports on work relating to the closure of Braidfield High School and the transfer of pupils, staff and resources to Clydebank High School.
- 2.3** In line with the instruction in 2.2 above, progress reports were provided by the Director of Education and Cultural Services for the meetings of the Children's Services Committee on 17 May 2006, 16 August 2006 and 11 October 2006.
- 2.4** At the meeting on 11 October, members of the Children's Services Committee agreed that the Director of Education and Cultural Services should provide a further progress report to the next meeting of the Committee on 13 December 2006. This report should focus on matters relating to pupil conduct and to road and traffic management issues in the vicinity of the school.

3. Main Issues

3.1 Pupil conduct

- 3.1.1** It was reported to the meeting of the Children's Services Committee on 11

October 2006 that some staff had expressed concern about disruptive behaviour by a small minority of pupils in Clydebank High School and that the school and the Department of Education and Cultural Services were working together to tackle this issue.

- 3.1.2** At a whole staff meeting during the in-service training day on 13 October, the Head Teacher launched a new school discipline policy. This new policy was subsequently explained to all parents and pupils.
- 3.1.3** A new set of school rules is now in place, together with a new system of rewards, merit points and sanctions. All staff are now operating the new systems and the new rules are displayed prominently throughout the school.
- 3.1.4** The next edition of the school newsletter will focus on pupil conduct and the new discipline policy.
- 3.1.5** The Authority has been successful in finding appropriate alternative educational placements for several pupils in S4 who were exhibiting particularly challenging and uncooperative behaviour. The Head Teacher has reported that the removal of these pupils from the school has had a positive impact on conduct within these pupils' classes.
- 3.1.6** While, as in all schools, the conduct of a small number of pupils in Clydebank High School continues to cause concern, the vast majority of pupils have responded positively and cooperatively to the new discipline procedures and visitors to the school have commented on the positive, hard working atmosphere which predominates within the school.

3.2 Roads and Traffic Management

- 3.2.1** It was reported to the meeting of the Children's Services Committee on 11 October 2006 that some parents were not using the new dropping off zones, thereby causing unnecessary congestion around the school at the start and end of the school day.
- 3.2.2** In the school's October newsletter, the Head Teacher reminded parents of the importance of safety on the roads around the school and asked for their cooperation in using the new dropping off zones.
- 3.2.3** Following advice from the police, it has also been suggested to parents that they operate a voluntary one-way system around the school, keeping the school always on the drivers' left hand side.
- 3.2.4** While traffic congestion remains an issue around Clydebank High School, it would appear that more parents are cooperating with the new arrangements and

there have been no complaints to the Authority from local residents about this issue during the last two months.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel issues arising from this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6. Conclusions

6.1 Over the last two months, the school has made good progress in addressing issues relating to pupil behaviour and traffic management.

7. Recommendations

7.1 Members of the Children's Services Committee are asked to note the contents of this report.

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Background Papers: Report submitted to the Children's Services Committee on 15 March 2006 recommending the closure of Braidfield High School
Reports and minutes from meetings of the Children's Services Committee of 17 May, 16 August and 11 October 2006 outlining progress on work relating to the closure of Braidfield High School

Wards Affected: Whitecrook, Dalmuir Central, Mountblow, Parkhall, Linnvale/Drumry, Kilbowie, Kilbowie West, Faifley, Hardgate, Duntocher, Bowling/Milton/Old Kilpatrick.