

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Special Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held in Committee Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Thursday, 26 June 2014 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Gail Casey, William Hendrie, David McBride, Michelle McGinty, Patrick McGlinchey, John Millar, Ian Murray, Tommy Rainey, Martin Rooney, Kath Ryall and Hazel Sorrell, and Mrs Barbara Barnes, Ms Lorraine Bonnar, Mrs Gemma Doyle, 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; Gill Graham, Manager of Libraries & Cultural Services; David Byars, Schools Estates Officer; Craig Jardine, Corporate Asset Manager; Ken Dee, Quantity Surveying Officer; Alan Douglas, Manager of Legal Services; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer, Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Provost Douglas McAllister, Councillor Jonathan McColl, Mr George Hill, and Ms Catriona Robertson, Headteacher, Vale of Leven Academy.

Councillor Michelle McGinty in the Chair

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Before commencing with the business of the meeting Councillor McGinty, Chair, welcomed all those in attendance and in particular Ms McDaid who, it was noted, was attending her last meeting of the Educational Services Committee in view of her retirement from Council Service.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

RESULTS OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO LOCATE THE NEW OUR LADY AND ST PATRICK'S HIGH SCHOOL ON THE SITE CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY THE HIGH FLATS IN BELLSMYRE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of the outcome of the statutory consultation process relating to the location of the new Our Lady and St Patrick's High School (OLSP).

The Executive Director gave a presentation which focussed on the layout and design of the proposed new school. He was thereafter heard in explanation of the report and officers were heard in answer to Members' questions.

Councillor McGinty, Chair, seconded by Councillor McBride, then moved:-

The Committee thanks the Executive Director of Educational Services and all other staff who have been involved in the 2 year process of identifying a suitable site for the new Our Lady and St Patrick's Secondary School.

Committee recognises its decision to extend consultation, add additional site investigations and the consideration of the communities views has resulted in the 2 year time span, which in turn results in additional costs.

However, the Committee decision to carry out the dual consultation on both the current site and Posties Park was the right decision. The consultation resulted in the current site being ruled out on numerous grounds and the Posties Park site being ruled out because it had very little community support. These again were the right decisions.

The Executive Director was then tasked with trying to find another suitable site, this included looking at sites that had previously been ruled out but had been named by stakeholders in the previous consultation. Following these further evaluations the Executive Director brought a report to the February 2014 meeting of the Committee recommending the Bellsmyre High Flats site, as this had become available because of the delays, and was deemed the most suitable site. This Committee therefore agreed to go out to consultation on this site.

After considering the report from the Executive Director, this Committee agrees the recommendations at 2.1 of the report:-

- (a) to note the responses to the statutory consultation by the Executive Director of Educational Services under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 on a proposal to re-locate OLSP High School to the site currently occupied by the Bellsmyre High Flats;
- (b) subject to obtaining all the statutory consents instruct the Executive Director of Educational Services and the Executive Director of Infrastructure and Regeneration to progress with the construction of the new OLSP High School on the Bellsmyre site, and, upon conclusion of the build, re-locate OLSP High School to the new location; and

- (c) instruct the Executive Director of Educational Services to inform the relevant Scottish Government Ministers of the decision to progress the project on the Bellsmyre site.

The report from the Executive Director has responded to all concerns of stakeholders and has taken appropriate steps to address the concerns.

This Committee accepts that there was a lot of concern from stakeholders around the traffic issues. We accept that many of these issues will be addressed after a full traffic management plan has been completed. They will also be taken into account during the planning and design stages of the new build.

In addition to the previous recommendations, the Committee agrees that ideally existing or enhanced sports facilities should be retained at the current OLSP site for community use.

Committee notes that the option to retain sports facilities at the current OLSP site may have an impact on the capital programme and asks the Executive Director of Infrastructure and Regeneration to review this issue and bring a report to a future meeting of the Infrastructure, Regeneration & Economic Development Committee.

After hearing Councillor Murray, Councillor McGinty and Councillor McBride informed the Committee that they were not prepared to accept a proposed addendum by Councillor Murray.

Councillor Murray, seconded by Councillor Hendrie, then moved as an amendment:-

Recognising that the current building housing Our Lady & St Patrick's High School is no longer fit for purpose and there is a need to provide an educational establishment fit for the 21st century this Committee:-

- (a) notes the responses to the statutory consultation by the Executive Director of Educational Services under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 on a proposal to relocate Our Lady & St Patrick's High School to the site currently occupied by the high flats in Bellsmyre;
- (b) notes the concerns raised by respondents to the consultation and instructs officers to continue to engage with all relevant stakeholders throughout the design and construction phases of the project, with a strong emphasis on effective communication with and engagement of stakeholders through the implementation of a communications plan, with particular reference to transport, traffic management and safety;

- (c) notes with grave concern that despite assurances given to the Bellsmyre Development Trust (BDT) that their building, the Cutty Sark Centre would be protected during the demolition process and could continue to be used, these assurances have yet to be delivered and accordingly instructs officers to guarantee to BDT that their building will be protected at all times during the construction period while at the same time giving the users continued access;
- (d) subject to obtaining all statutory consents and the implementation of the above noted communications plan, instructs the Executive Director of Educational Services and the Executive Director of Infrastructure and Regeneration to progress with the construction of a new Our Lady and St Patrick's High School on the Bellsmyre site and, upon conclusion, to relocate Our Lady and St Patrick's High School to the new location; and
- (e) instructs the Executive Director of Educational Services to inform the relevant Scottish Government Ministers of the decision to progress the project in Bellsmyre.

Having heard the Manager of Legal Services in answer to a Member's question, Ms McDaid, seconded by Mrs Doyle, moved as a second amendment:-

That the Committee agrees to reject the proposal to move Our Lady and St Patrick's High School to the Bellsmyre site.

The Manager of Legal Services was then heard in clarification of certain procedural matters and in answer to a Member's question.

ADJOURNMENT

Following discussion and having heard Councillor McGinty, Chair, the Committee agreed to adjourn at 10.45 a.m. for a short period of time to allow certain matters to be clarified.

The meeting reconvened at 11.00 a.m. with all Members shown on the sederunt in attendance.

Councillor McGinty intimated that with the consent of the Committee she wished to make an alteration to her motion which was restated in the following terms:-

The Committee thanks the Executive Director of Educational Services and all other staff who have been involved in the 2 year process of identifying a suitable site for the new Our Lady and St Patrick's Secondary School.

Committee recognises its decision to extend consultation, add additional site investigations and the consideration of the communities views has resulted in the 2 year time span, which in turn results in additional costs.

However, the Committee decision to carry out the dual consultation on both the current site and Posties Park was the right decision. The consultation resulted in the current site being ruled out on numerous grounds and the Posties Park site being ruled out because it had very little community support. These again were the right decisions.

The Executive Director was then tasked with trying to find another suitable site, this included looking at sites that had previously been ruled out but had been named by stakeholders in the previous consultation. Following these further evaluations the Executive Director brought a report to the February 2014 meeting of the Committee recommending the Bellsmyre High Flats site, as this had become available because of the delays, and was deemed the most suitable site. This Committee therefore agreed to go out to consultation on this site.

After considering the report from the Executive Director, this Committee agrees the recommendations at 2.1 of the report:-

- (a) to note the responses to the statutory consultation by the Executive Director of Educational Services under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 on a proposal to re-locate OLSP High School to the site currently occupied by the Bellsmyre High Flats;
- (b) subject to obtaining all the statutory consents instruct the Executive Director of Educational Services and the Executive Director of Infrastructure and Regeneration to progress with the construction of the new OLSP High School on the Bellsmyre site, and, upon conclusion of the build, re-locate OLSP High School to the new location; and
- (c) instruct the Executive Director of Educational Services to inform the relevant Scottish Government Ministers of the decision to progress the project on the Bellsmyre site.

That the Committee agrees additionally:-

- (d) to note the concerns raised by respondents to the consultation and instructs officers to continue to engage with all relevant stakeholders throughout the design and construction phases of the project, with a strong emphasis on effective communication with and engagement of stakeholders through the implementation of a communications plan, with particular reference to transport, traffic management and safety; and
- (e) to assure the Bellsmyre Development Trust (BDT) that their building will be protected at all times during the construction period while at the same time giving the users continued access.

The report from the Executive Director has responded to all concerns of stakeholders and has taken appropriate steps to address the concerns.

This Committee accepts that there was a lot of concern from stakeholders around the traffic issues. We accept that many of these issues will be addressed after a full traffic management plan has been completed. They will also be taken into account during the planning and design stages of the new build.

In addition to the previous recommendations, the Committee agrees that ideally existing or enhanced sports facilities should be retained at the current OLSP site for community use.

Committee notes that the option to retain sports facilities at the current OLSP site may have an impact on the capital programme and asks the Executive Director of Infrastructure and Regeneration to review this issue and bring a report to a future Infrastructure, Regeneration & Economic Development Committee.

Councillor McBride, the seconder of the original motion, intimated that he was willing to accept the terms of its alteration.

Thereafter, Councillor Murray stated that, with the consent of the Committee and his seconder, he would withdraw his amendment (the first amendment). Councillor Hendrie, who had seconded the amendment, confirmed his agreement to its withdrawal.

On a vote being taken between the remaining amendment (Ms McDaid) and the motion, as altered (Councillor McGinty), 3 Members voted for the amendment and 14 for the motion, as altered. The motion, as altered, was accordingly declared carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Having heard Councillor McGinty, Chair, the Committee agreed to adjourn for a period of 5 minutes.

The meeting reconvened at 11.45 a.m. with all those Members shown on the sederunt in attendance with the exception of Ms McDaid.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE GAELIC PLAN 2014-19

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services seeking approval of the draft West Dunbartonshire Gaelic Plan 2014-19 prior to its submission to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for approval nationally.

Having heard the Executive Director, the Head of Service, Educational Services, and the Manager of Libraries & Cultural Services in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report and the aims of West Dunbartonshire Gaelic Language Plan 2014-19; and

- (2) to ratify West Dunbartonshire Gaelic Language plan for submission to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for approval nationally.

The meeting closed at 11.55 a.m.