



West Dunbartonshire Council Education, Learning and Attainment Services

REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION RELATING TO THE PROPOSAL

To construct co-located replacements for St Joseph's Primary School, St Joseph's Rainbow Base and Edinbarnet Primary School, together with a new ELCC to replace Auchnacraig and Lennox ELCCs, and also provide a Community Library and Community space within the new campus to be located on the site of the current St Joseph's Primary School

Published 14 February 2022

This report has been published by West Dunbartonshire Council in response to the statutory consultation undertaken under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The report will be published on the Council's website for a period of no less than 3 weeks prior to final consideration by the Educational Services Committee on 16 March 2022.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This is a consultation response report prepared in compliance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 following consultation on the West Dunbartonshire Council (The Council) proposal to construct co-located replacements for St. Joseph's Primary School, St Joseph's Rainbow Base and Edinbarnet Primary School, together with a new ELCC to replace Auchnacraig and Lennox ELCCs, and also provide a Community Library and Community space within the new campus to be located on the site of the current St Joseph's Primary School.

1.2 The purpose of the response report is to:

- Provide a record of the total number of responses made during the Statutory Consultation period;
- Provide summary of the written responses;
- Provide details of oral representations made at the public meetings held on 5 October 2021;
- Provide a statement of the Council's response to those written and oral representations;
- Provide the full text of Education Scotland's report and a statement of the Council's response to this report;
- State how the Council reviewed the above proposal following the representations received during the Statutory Consultation period and the report from Education Scotland;
- Provide details of any omission from, or inaccuracy in, the Proposal Paper and state how the Council acted on it; and
- State how the Council has complied with Sections 11A to 13 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 when reviewing the above proposals.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 On 22 March 2021, Council approved a ten year capital plan which included an allocation of £28.86M for the Faifley Campus schools/ELCC project: £18.42M from the Scottish Government's enabling fund via the Scottish Futures Trust and £10.44M from the Council's Capital Programme.

2.2 On 9 June 2021 the Educational Services Committee considered a report detailing a range of options for suitable sites for the proposed campus. As a result of an Options Appraisal exercise, the Council identified the current St Joseph's Primary School site as the preferred site for the new campus, Community Library and Community space. Committee authorised the Chief Education Officer to progress with preparation for the Statutory Consultation process to be launched at a future Educational Services Committee.

2.3 The main reasons for the choice of this site were:

- the site is already within the Council's ownership;

- the suitable size, ground conditions, topography and the availability of utility services on the site;
- the site is located next to St Joseph's RC Church, with which St Joseph's Primary School has long-standing and strong connections;
- the other considered sites would attract significant additional costs to the development of the locations due to decant of children and staff, rental of modular buildings for any decant and disruption to education and learning, staff and children.
- The children and staff from St Joseph's Primary and St Joseph's Rainbow Base would remain in the existing building for the duration of the construction phase of the new campus, as will all of the Edinbarnet, Auchnacraig and Lennox children and staff and there would be no requirement to decant any of the establishments.

2.4 On 22 September 2021 the Educational Services Committee agreed to commence formal consultation on the proposal to construct co-located replacements for St Joseph's Primary School, St Joseph's Rainbow Base and Edinbarnet Primary School, together with a new ELCC to replace Auchnacraig and Lennox ELCCs, and also provide a Community Library and Community space within the new campus to be located on the site of the current St Joseph's Primary School.

2.5 The consultation process was carried out in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended, as outlined in the Act and the accompanying Statutory Guidance.

3. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

3.1 The statutory consultation process, which requires the Council to adopt a robust and transparent framework for consultations on school closures and other major changes to the schools estate, was undertaken in respect of the proposal. The consultation document developed for consideration included information on:

- the proposal;
- the consultation process;
- the arrangements for public meetings;
- details on how to participate in the consultation;
- the educational benefits of the proposal;
- site map of the proposed new build location; and
- consultation timeline

3.2 An electronic link to the Proposal Paper was issued by email to the stakeholders detailed within that document. The Proposal Paper and details of the consultation were made available on the consultation section of the Council's website: <https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/council/public-consultations/faifley-campus-consultation/>

3.3 The Act requires a consultation period of at least 6 weeks which must include

at least 30 school days. The consultation period ran from Thursday 30 September 2021 to midnight on Wednesday 17 November 2021 (extended to 42 days to allow for “clear days” rule and accommodate 6 days where schools were closed due to an in-service day and October week).

3.4 The requirements for consulting on a relevant proposal relating to schools are set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the following steps were taken to ensure compliance with the Act:

- Proposal Paper published on Thursday 30 September 2021.
- Statutory consultees were sent an email providing a link to the Proposal Paper and details of where, and how to obtain a paper copy free of charge. Schools distributed details of the consultation to staff and parents/carers.
- Proposal Paper published on the West Dunbartonshire Council website and available in paper copy upon request, and information on the consultation published on social media.
- Public notice in the ‘Dumbarton Report’ and ‘Clydebank Post’ newspapers advising of the consultation.
- Public consultation meetings were held on 5 October 2021 to facilitate involvement, discussion and sharing of information.
- Education Scotland’s involvement consisted of: Proposal Paper being sent to them, attendance at virtual public consultation meetings, follow up consultation meetings with Head Teachers, Pupils, Parent Council representatives, and Church representatives. Education Scotland were also provided with copies of online survey results/comments, written representations and minutes of the public meetings held which contained oral representations.

3.5 In accordance with statutory requirements and good practice, the following relevant stakeholders were consulted:

- Parents of the pupils and children attending St. Joseph’s and Edinbarnet Primary Schools, Auchnacraig and Lennox Early Learning & Childcare Centres;
- The Parent Council groups of St. Joseph and Edinbarnet Primary Schools;
- The Parent Councils of the 2 associated Secondary Schools (Clydebank High School and St. Peter the Apostle High School);
- Parents of children expected to attend either St. Joseph’s or Edinbarnet Primary Schools within 2 years of the date of publication of this proposal document including those pupils attending all private and voluntary pre-school nurseries in the Faifley area;
- The pupils attending St. Joseph’s and Edinbarnet Primary Schools (insofar as this is possible and taking cognizance of the age and maturity of the pupils);
- The teaching and support staff at St Joseph’s and Edinbarnet Primary Schools, Auchnacraig and Lennox Early Learning & Childcare Centres;
- Trade union representatives of the above staff;
- User groups or individuals who currently utilise the facilities at St.

- Joseph's and Edinbarnet Primary Schools;
- Faifley Community Council;
- Archdiocese of Glasgow;
- Neighbouring local authorities;
- The constituency MSP and constituency MP.

4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETINGS

- 4.1 An online public consultation meeting was held on 5 October (2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.) with 2 attendees. A social distanced public meeting was held in St. Joseph's Primary School (7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.) with 9 members of the public and 2 staff members attending. A full note of the meetings is contained within Appendix 1 and the meeting note also details the questions/comments raised at the meetings and the responses.

5. RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE

- 5.1 In total, 78 respondents registered with the online survey as detailed below.

Resident/Non Resident	Number of respondents
Resident within west Dunbartonshire	76
Non resident	1
Did not answer	1
TOTAL	78

- 5.2 A breakdown of category of interest from the respondent is detailed below.

Interest	Number of respondents
Parent/Carer	51
Pupil	1
Work at one of the establishments	5
Trade Union	1
Other	20
TOTAL	78

Note – other includes (residents within Faifley (15) / community council (1) / future parent (1) / relative/family members (3))

- 5.3 A summary of the completed online responses to the question “Are you in favour of the proposal to co-locate Edinbarnet Primary School, St Joseph's Primary School, St Joseph's Rainbow Base and a new Early Learning and Childcare Centre comprising Auchnacraig and Lennox ELCCs on the St Joseph's site” is detailed below. It should be noted 5 individuals did not answer the question and are therefore not included in the completed responses statistics.

Summary of responses to online consultation	Yes	%	No	%	Total completed responses
Number of respondents	41	56.16%	32	43.84%	73

6. SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED BY STAKEHOLDERS AND EDUCATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE

6.1 From the 73 completed consultation response forms, 33 respondents commented on the proposal. The main issues raised by participants in the survey have been grouped into headings below:-

- Introduction of campus model
- Site location, suitability and size
- Traffic congestion/volume of traffic
- Insufficient entrances
- Concerns about impact of ongoing building works on children’s learning.
- Impact on outdoor learning/Forest School
- Further travel for some pupils
- Impact on staffing levels
- There were also some positive comments related to investment within area and comments in favour of St. Joseph’s site

6.2 Education Services responses to each of the headings are outlined below.

Introduction of campus model

There were comments about the move from individual schools to a campus model.

Response

The Council has successfully introduced campus models at Bellsmyre, Balloch and most recently at Renton. There are educational benefits from the professional dialogue among the staff of the two schools and Early Learning & Childcare Centre being enhanced by the fact that they share the same campus. For example, teachers will be able to share ideas for learning and teaching approaches within the Campus and children will benefit through their continual learning from nursery stages to senior primary stages in a purpose built environment and in the outdoor spaces. Whilst the two schools will continue to operate as separate establishments, the fact that they will share a campus will facilitate the development of similar projects and embed collaborative working in the future.

The consultation process enables all interested parties to comment on the proposal and this is taken into consideration before any final decision is made by the Council.

Site location and size

A number of respondents raised concerns in relation to the location and size of the site, with some indicating a preference for Edinbarnet or Skypoint, or a site in a more central location.

Response

As a result of an Options Appraisal exercise, the Council identified and approved the current St. Joseph's site as the preferred site for the new campus. The main reasons for the choice of site was due to suitable size to accommodate the new buildings, ground conditions, topography, availability of utility services on the site and location next to St. Joseph's RC Church. The design stage of the development will ensure that the new build is suitable. We are aware that some individuals preferred one site over the other, and views were sought through an informal and formal consultation process and the recent statutory consultation exercise identified that 56% of those responding to the question were in agreement with the St. Joseph's site.

For accessibility to the schools it was important that the chosen site was on a bus route for those using public transport.

Traffic congestion/volume of traffic

Some respondents expressed concerns and asked questions about the volume of traffic, congestion and parking hazards around the school, and concern was also expressed about the lack of a school crossing patroller.

Response

The safety of children is paramount. Congestion can occur at schools at certain times and a full traffic management survey will be undertaken. There is funding available which will be used to upgrade paths and roadworks. Traffic management and parking will be taking into consideration as part of the design/development of the campus. Drop off sites within the school will be considered at the development stage to address safety concerns.

The concerns about a School Crossing Patroller will be reported back to the development/design group to take into consideration.

Insufficient entrances

Concern was raised that there was only one entrance at the St. Joseph's site whilst there were 3 at the Edinbarnet site and this will cause congestion.

Response

The site entrances in the new build will be looked at in the design stage and will take into consideration the appropriate number of entrances required.

Concerns about impact of ongoing building works on children's learning and transition to new buildings.

Some parents expressed concerns about the impact on their children's learning whilst the building working was ongoing, particularly in terms of noise and vibrations during the construction period, as some children within the Base may be sensitive to noise. There was also a comment in relation to transitioning to a new building.

Response

This was a similar concern from parents for the Renton Campus which also has a Base. We have strategies for this and will use the expertise gained from Renton on how they coped during the construction phase. We will also have discussions with parents on this and would want children to see what is happening with the build. We will work with parents to reassure them during this time and the Head Teachers will be available to talk to parents about the process.

We will work with parents/families during the transition to the new building and offer as much support as possible to ensure that this does not impact on children.

Impact on outdoor learning/Forest School

Concerns were expressed regarding impact on outdoor learning and Forest Schools currently at Auchnacraig Woods.

Response

Outdoor learning is a key element within education and the new campus will offer suitable outdoor learning experiences. The use of the outdoor areas will be taken into consideration as part of the development of the campus and ways in which the outdoor space, and surrounding forest can be used for learning will be fully considered. There will be further discussions with the establishments and parents on this and we will work together to consider how we can utilise the available outdoor space and surrounding forest areas to provide positive outdoor learning experiences.

Further travel for some pupils

There were concerns raised about the change of location which will cause further travel for some pupils. There was also a concern about the park at Skypoint being moved and this would make it harder to access.

Response

It is recognised that the move will result in further travel for some pupils. The St. Joseph's site is on a public bus route.

There has been engagement with the Leisure Trust to understand the current use of Skypoint and this will be built into the design, we want to make the campus fully accessible.

Impact on staffing levels

Questions were raised in relation to moving the ELCCs to one large ELCC and impact on service and impact on staffing levels within the schools and the ELCCs.

Response

The new campus model will provide a modern, fit-for-purpose building for children and young people within Faifley. There is a mix across the authority of 52 week early learning childcare centres, term time centres, and a mix of both. The new Early Learning and Childcare Centre will offer a service to meet the needs of the parents/children.

The leadership and staffing arrangements within an ELCC is determined by registration numbers, and staffing ratios in line with age of children. The staffing entitlement within schools is based on pupil roll and number of classes. If the proposal is approved, then the relevant staffing exercise will take place to ensure that we have appropriate staff to pupil ratios and the relevant expertise within all establishments. Staff currently employed in the existing establishments will as far as is possible within current staffing standards, be re-deployed to the new Campus provision. Those who cannot be accommodated within the new campus will be re-deployed as per the Council's Switch policy. This would always be undertaken in full consultation with the affected staff members as well as the recognised trade union

There were also a number of positive comments about the proposal including: investment within area, comments in favour of St. Joseph's site as long as it is fit for purpose, benefits of campus model, the benefits of not having to decant pupils during the process the community facilities which will be available and the opportunity for modernised facilities.

Response

The Council is committed to providing modern, fit-for purpose building for children and young people in Faifley. If the Edinbarnet and Skypoint sites are disposed for housing, there will be approximately 250 new houses built in the Faifley area, and the new building and if there are new houses developed at a later stage and this may bring investment into the area.

The Options Appraisal exercise identified that the site was suitable in terms of size and the design stage of the development will ensure that the new build is suitable. The children and staff from St Joseph's Primary and St Joseph's Rainbow Base will remain in the existing building for the duration of

the construction phase of the new campus, as will all of the Edinbarnet, Auchnacraig and Lennox children and staff; and this avoids the need to decant pupils during the development.

The community facility is really important and the Community team will be engaging with community councils on community facilities.

The campus model will bring a range of benefits in terms of location and shared learning approach. The new building will provide modern, fit-for-purpose educational facilities which are specifically designed to create a stimulating learning approach.

West Dunbartonshire has the commitment to ensure all of our children are educated in buildings that meet 'Category A or B' as described by the Scottish Government. Notwithstanding the vast improvements in the school estate, there remains, within the primary school estate, establishments that over time could find themselves with a condition rating of C (Poor). The suitability of older educational establishments for a modern curriculum is also challenging, and therefore it is clear that, for both educational and financial reasons, it is beneficial for the Council to consolidate and modernise its learning estate by a process of co-location, new build and closure. The existing Primary Schools and ELCC buildings in Faifley were identified as one of the priorities for replacement buildings. An allocation of £28.86M has been approved for the Faifley Campus schools/ELCC project and the new building will provide modern, fit-for-purpose educational facilities.

6.3 In addition to the online responses, one written submission was received from the Archdiocese of Glasgow. A summary of the main points from the submission is outlined below:

- Awareness of financial challenges faced by Councils and need to manage resources effectively and efficiently to meet the needs of communities that the Council serves.
- Need to ensure a fair distribution of denominational education across the Archdiocese.
- Aware St. Joseph's Primary school building is very traditional in nature and because of inflexible design is less than ideal for delivery of modern curriculum and teaching methods.
- Awareness Rainbow Base is housed in spare capacity within St. Joseph's.
- Noted that the proposal for consultation is that of a shared campus, and to provide community library and community space.
- Acknowledged that in a small number of exceptional circumstances, the provision of a Catholic school, co-located on a campus with a non-denominational school and other services may be accepted by the Archdiocese as a viable context for the provision of Catholic education in that area. Accept the provision of a Catholic school in Faifley falls into this category.
- In the present circumstances the Archdiocese accepts the proposal, and appreciates the placing of the propose site next to St. Joseph's RC Church

which will facilitate the ongoing strong liaisons between the school and the Church to the benefit of the Catholic community.

- Realise the educational benefits will be immense.
- Expect the Council to engage at an early stage with advisers from the Archdiocese regarding the design of the building and throughout the design process, and advisers meet regularly with the Council on this matter, and honour the document “Shared Campus Arrangements”.

6.4 Education Services responded to the written submission on 15 November 2021 and welcomed the response from the Archdiocese and noted the views within the submission. The Council has worked effectively with the Archdiocese regarding similar new builds on a co-located campus and will continue to engage with the Archdiocese and will make arrangements to meet with advisors on a regular basis.

7. EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT AND EDUCATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE

7.1 In accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, a report was produced by Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal. Education Scotland confirmed the Council had set out a reasonable case to support the proposal and that there were a number of potential educational benefits for children and staff should the proposal go ahead.

7.2 The Education Scotland report can be read in full in Appendix 2, and the summary conclusions from the report were as follows:

- West Dunbartonshire Council’s proposals to establish a new educational campus on the current St Joseph’s Primary School site comprising co-located new-build replacements for Edinbarnet and St Joseph’s Primary Schools, St Joseph’s Rainbow Base and a new ELCC to replace Auchnacraig and Lennox ELCCs and to also include a community library and community space is well considered and has clear educational benefits. The council’s proposal, if it goes ahead will provide children with new buildings that supports learning and teaching styles of the 21st century.
- For children attending the St Joseph’s Rainbow Base the proposal would provide them with purpose built accommodation to better meet their needs.
- The larger professional community created will promote opportunities for joint professional learning and increased collaboration.
- Parents from both schools and the ELCCs expressed traffic management concerns.
- Stakeholders in Edinbarnet Primary School, Auchnacraig and Lennox ELCC were unclear about the benefits of locating the campus of the site of St Joseph’s Primary School.
- Staff in both ELCCs sought clarification on their future employment and on the leadership of the new larger ELCC.

- In taking forward the proposal, the council should continue to consult and communicate effectively with children, parents, staff and the wider community to engage them fully in the future planning and design stages of this proposal. This includes sharing information from the options paper presented to committee about the preferred use of the St Joseph's site over Edinbarnet.

7.3 The Council welcomes the report from Education Scotland and accepts its response to the Council's proposal. The report raised a small number of issues that the Council should consider if the proposal is taken forward and these are addressed below:

Traffic Management Concerns

Concerns in relation to traffic management were raised through the online survey and also at the public meetings. If the proposal goes ahead, a full traffic management survey will be undertaken for the new campus. There is funding available within the budget for the new campus which will be used to upgrade paths and roadworks.

Benefits of Locating the Campus on the St. Joseph's site

The options paper submitted to Education Committee on 9 June 2021 outlined the advantages/disadvantages of available sites. The options appraisal exercise concluded that the most favourable option in this exercise would be the St Joseph's site. The benefits of St. Joseph's site include tandem build opportunities eliminating the need to decant schools, direct access from Faifley Road, good public transport links, good links to footpath, opportunity for pupils and parents to walk to school and proximity to Religious Centre.

Future employment/leadership model in new larger ELCC

Until the consultation has ended and the outcome of the proposal is known we are unable to define workforce arrangements. The leadership and staffing arrangements within an ELCC is determined by registration numbers, and staffing ratios in line with age of children. If the proposal is approved, then the relevant staffing exercise will take place to ensure that we have appropriate staff to pupil ratios and the relevant expertise. Staff currently employed in the existing establishments will as far as is possible within current staffing standards, be re-deployed to the new Campus provision. Those who cannot be accommodated within the new campus will be re-deployed as per the Council's Switch policy. This would always be undertaken in full consultation with the affected staff members as well as the recognised trade unions

Consultation/communication with children, parents, staff and wider community

If the proposal goes ahead the Council is fully committed to including all stakeholders in the planning and design stage, and will continue to use

effective communication strategies to ensure continued engagement with all stakeholders throughout the development.

Sharing information from the options paper presented to Committee

The report and appendices submitted to Educational Services Committee on 9 June 2021 informing members of the outcome of the site options appraisal to identify a site to accommodate the proposed Faifley Campus was available from the Council's website via the link to the consultation page. The report and appendices can still be accessed via this link <https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/council/public-consultations/faifley-campus-consultation/> Or a copy can be requested by email: educationconsultation@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

8. ALLEGED OMISSIONS OR INACCURACIES

- 8.1 Section (10) (3) of the 2010 Act also places a requirement on the Council to provide details of any inaccuracy or omission within the Proposal Paper which has either been identified by the Council or raised by consultees. This section of the 2010 Act also requires the Council to provide a statement on the action taken in respect of the inaccuracy or omission, or, if no action was taken, to state that fact and why.
- 8.2 In the course of the consultation exercise, there were no areas identified by respondents as being inaccurate or omitted from the Proposal Paper during the consultation period.

9. COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 9(1) OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

- 9.1 Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 states that: After the Education Authority has received Education Scotland's report, the Authority is to review the relevant proposal having regard (in particular) to:
- (i) written representations received by the Authority (from any person) during the consultation period;
 - (ii) oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public Meeting; and
 - (iii) Education Scotland's report.
- 9.2 Following receipt of the Education Scotland report, the Council has reviewed the proposal, having regard to the written and oral representations made and to Education Scotland's report.
- 9.3 The feedback from the consultation was considered by officers where all the questions and comments raised were considered in detail. This ensured that the Council met the requirements to review the proposal under section 9(1) and 13(5) of the 2010 Act.
- 9.4 Officers of the Education Authority have listened carefully to the points made

at the public meeting and have considered equally carefully the Education Scotland report, online representations and written submission. The proposal was reviewed to consider whether any of the representations led to the Council to reconsider/ any other reasonable alternatives to the proposal. There were no factors which led to reconsidering the proposal and it was also noted that 56% of those who responded to the question about the proposed site were in agreement.

- 9.5 The educational benefits were reviewed in respect of the Education Scotland report and representations made. There were no factors included in the Education Scotland report or representations made requiring any aspect of the educational benefits to be reconsidered.

10. LEGAL ISSUES/NEXT STEPS

- 10.1 The Council has complied in full with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 throughout this statutory consultation.
- 10.2 Under the terms of the Schools (Scotland) (Consultation) Act 2010, it is a legal requirement that the Council should not reach any formal decision without waiting until a period of three weeks starting on the day on which this Consultation Report is published in electronic and printed form has expired.
- 10.3 This Consultation Report will be published, both electronically and available in written form, if required, on 14 February 2022, this meets the statutory requirement to publish this report for more than three weeks before the report on the consultation is considered by Educational Service Committee on Wednesday 16 March 2022 for final decision. If approved the Council will ensure continued engagement with all stakeholders throughout the development.

