

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Consultation paper on options for
Bellsmyre, Faifley and Jamestown primaries28 August 2008

1 Purpose

1.1 To consider all options for the regeneration of primary schools in Bellsmyre, Faifley and Jamestown/Haldane.

1.2 The primary schools covered within this paper are as follows:-

- Bellsmyre - St. Peter's and Aitkenbar Primaries.
- Faifley - St. Joseph's and Edinbarnet Primaries.
- Jamestown/Haldane - St. Kessog's, Jamestown and Haldane Primaries.

2 Background

2.1 On 28 May 2008 the Member/Officer Working Group for the Regeneration of the Schools' Estate, Phase 2 instructed that a consultation paper be prepared for consideration at the meeting scheduled for 28 August 2008 in relation to options for the future of primary school education in Bellsmyre, Faifley and Jamestown/Haldane.

3 Main Issues

3.1 **Locale** - The schools in each of the areas under consideration in this paper are located very close to each other – in Bellsmyre and Jamestown/Haldane there is only a fraction of a mile separating the properties and in Faifley the schools are approximately 0.45 miles apart.

3.2 **Over capacity** (see appendix 1) - School rolls continue to fall in all of the primary schools in Bellsmyre, Faifley and Jamestown/Haldane.

3.3 **Suitability** (see appendix 1) - The buildings do not lend themselves to modern education and would require vary large sums to adapt and refurbish in order to meet current educational needs.

3.4 **Condition** (see appendix 1) - In general the buildings are old and use excessive amounts of energy. The fabric is in poor condition and the cost of maintenance to simply try to keep them in wind and watertight condition is very high.

- 3.5 Value for money** – Generally it would be uneconomic to simply rebuild any school that has a roll of less than around 200 children. However each primary school must be considered on its own merit and this could therefore be over-ruled e.g. rural schools.
- 3.6 Affordability** - Based upon current levels of funding, affordability to carry out major adaptations and refurbishments in each of the schools would be difficult, if not impossible, to achieve, bearing in mind that around 75% of the current primary school stock across the Council area requires either major adaptation/refurbishment or indeed renewal. For this particular reason it is considered worthwhile to look into the possibility of co-locating schools in the areas named within this paper.
- 3.7 Co-location** – For the purpose of this report, the term “co-location” refers to the co-location of denominational and non-denominational schools. Schools which are co-located would have separate curricular areas such as classrooms, but would share facilities such as dining areas, gymnasias, assembly halls and sports fields. Each school would have its own name, Head Teacher, teaching staff, uniform and ethos. A protocol to protect the individual ethos of denominational and non-denominational schools would be agreed with all interested parties, including the Archdiocese of Glasgow, at the planning stage for the new schools.
- 3.8 Sites** – Could be on existing primary school sites or on other appropriate local sites (still to be identified) within the area.
- 3.9 General** - The above list is not exhaustive. The consultations may bring out other issues for consideration.

4 Other facilities

- 4.1** Dependant upon the site where any new school may be located, there may be opportunities to consider adding other community facilities to the proposed new school, e.g. community centre, Early Education & Childcare Centre, library, sports fields, fitness suite, etc.

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Appendices: Appendix 1 – Schools Data

Background Papers: Council Report of 28 May 2008 – Member/Officer
Working Group: Regeneration of the Schools' Estate:
- Phase 2: Progress Report

Wards Affected: 1, 3 and 4