

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**Report by the Chief Education Officer****Educational Services Committee: 22 September 2021**

Subject: Proposal Paper and launch of statutory consultation for the construction of a new campus in Faifley.

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek Committee's approval for the launch of the statutory consultation document by the Chief Education Officer under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 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 a new campus to be located on the site of the current St Joseph's Primary School.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that Committee:

- a) approves the launch of the statutory consultation document by the Chief Education Officer under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 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 a new campus to be located on the site of the current St Joseph's Primary School;
- b) agrees that the consultation period should run from Thursday 30th September 2021 to Wednesday 17th November 2021, a total of 32 days when the schools are open for pupils; and
- c) agrees that a report outlining the results of the consultation and making appropriate recommendations be presented to the meeting of the Educational Services Committee provisionally scheduled to be held on 16th March 2022.

3. Background

- 3.1** On 22nd March 2021, Council approved a ten year capital plan which included an allocation of £28.86M for the Faifley Campus schools/EECC project: £18.42M from the Scottish Government's enabling fund via the Scottish Futures Trust and £10.44M from the Council's Capital Programme.
- 3.2** On 9th June 2021, the Educational Services Committee:

- a) Agreed that the St Joseph's Primary site be taken forward as the potential campus provision and authorised the Chief Education Officer to progress with preparation for the Statutory Consultation process to be launched at a future Educational Services Committee;
- b) Agreed that a report outlining the results of the consultation and making appropriate recommendations be presented to a future meeting of the Educational Services Committee.
- c) Noted that the Learning Estate Board 30th March 2021, agreed to progress with adopting hub West Scotland as the preferred route to market;
- d) Noted that the present St Joseph's site has been identified as the most appropriate site following an Options Appraisal exercise;
- e) Authorised the Chief Education Officer to develop the design and thereafter tender the same through hub West Scotland procurement route with a report being brought to a future Tendering Committee to allow the contract to be placed following the conclusion of both the Statutory Consultation process and the Council obtaining suitable offer of grant funding from the Scottish Government;
- f) Authorised that further site investigations be undertaken on the St Joseph's site;
- g) Noted that, following completion of the further site investigations, a further report will be tabled at a future Educational Services Committee detailing the results of the site investigations and seeking authority to commence statutory consultation under terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010; and
- h) Authorised the Chief Education Officer, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and the Manager of Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services to procure the necessary technical, legal and financial support through the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) Framework Agreement.

4. Main Issues

Consultation

- 4.1** Because this proposal, if enacted, would involve the re-location of Edinbarnet Primary School to the St Joseph's site, the Council is required to carry out a consultation process as detailed in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
 - 4.1.1** The 2010 Act requires the education authority to publish a "proposal paper" which sets out the details of the relevant proposal. The Proposal Paper for this project is provided as Appendix 1 to this report.

- 4.1.2** The 2010 Act also requires the education authority to publish an “educational benefits statement” in relation to any proposal which falls under the terms of the act. The Educational Benefits Statement in relation to the Faifley proposal is included in the Proposal Paper which forms Appendix 1 to this report.
- 4.1.3** The Act defines the statutory consultees for a proposed relocation. All these groups will be invited to respond to this consultation, as would the Archdiocese of Glasgow of the Catholic Church. The questionnaire provided as Appendix 1 to this report will form the basis of the written consultation and may be submitted by hand, by post or electronically to the council.
- 4.1.4** The Act requires a consultation period of at least 6 weeks which must include at least 30 school days. It is proposed that the consultation period for this project should run from 30th September 2021 to 17th November 2021 (extended to 42 days to allow for “clear days” rule and accommodate 6 days where schools are closed due to an in-service day and October week).
- 4.1.5** The education authority is required, as part of the consultation process, to hold public meetings to discuss the relevant proposal. The public meetings for this proposal will be held on Tuesday 5th October 2021 - online at 4pm, and in-person at St. Joseph’s Primary school at 7pm.
- 4.1.6** The 2010 Act requires the involvement of Education Scotland in the process. Education Scotland must be provided with the Proposal Paper, the Educational Benefits Statement and the submissions made to the education authority during the consultation period (or, by agreement, a summary of these submissions). Education Scotland then prepares a report on the educational aspects of the proposal.
- 4.1.7** The education authority is then required to publish a “Consultation Report” containing a record of the total number of submissions received, a summary of those submissions and of any oral representations made during the public meeting, a copy of the Education Scotland report and a statement of the authority’s response to the written and oral submissions and to the Education Scotland report. Providing all necessary procedures can be undertaken in timescale outlined in section 4.3 below, it is planned to present the Consultation Report on the Faifley project to the meeting of the Educational Services Committee provisionally scheduled to be held on 16th March 2022.

Community Campus and Co-location of schools

- 4.2** If this proposal is accepted, it will be the first time that West Dunbartonshire Council has constructed a dedicated community campus housing education and community facilities, although such projects have been successfully undertaken in other local authorities. Learning from other local authorities has been a key task undertaken by our project team in the planning for this development.

- 4.2.1** Co-locating schools is not new for West Dunbartonshire Council, having successfully collocated St. Peter's Primary and Aitkenbar Primary schools in the Bellsmyre campus in 2013, and St. Kessog's Primary and Balloch Primary schools in the Balloch campus in 2018. It is important to stress that like our previous collocated schools, the new St Joseph's Primary School and Edinbarnet Primary School will continue to be separate establishments, with their own learning spaces, staff and head teachers, although some internal and external facilities will be shared.
- 4.2.2** The Archdiocese of Glasgow has developed a protocol for campuses which are shared between denominational and non-denominational schools. This document formed the basis of design work for our previous collocated campuses. The protocol will continue to inform on-going discussions between the Council and the Catholic Church's representative on the Educational Services Committee.
- 4.2.3** There is already a very strong tradition of joint working between St. Joseph's Primary and Edinbarnet Primary school. Over recent years, there have been several excellent examples of the schools working together on anti-sectarian, sports and community projects. The co-location will facilitate the further development of such work, while allowing the two schools to retain their individual identities.
- 4.2.4** The new Early Learning and Childcare Centre will be managed separately from the two schools and will have its own entrance, although it will share some facilities with the schools.

Tandem Build

- 4.3** In order to construct the new campus, a tandem build approach will be taken. Following this approach, each establishment will remain in their current building during the construction of the new campus building, and then on completion, move into the new building, preparing the way for the existing buildings to be demolished and cleared – in the case of the St. Joseph's site for new grounds for learning, and in the case of the Lennox and Edinbarnet campus sites for disposal. The sites for disposal would generate a capital receipt for the Council.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** If the proposals are accepted, there will be some effect on staffing levels within the new campus, particularly within cleaning and facilities management services and as two ELC will be merged to form one ELC, the leadership will be reviewed to ensure that it meets service needs. Any changes would be managed via the Council's policies for managing such changes. The timescales involved mean that any reduction in staffing levels will be managed in a planned way.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1** There are no associated costs for undertaking the statutory consultation. Time to complete the activities would be covered by central officers.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** Failure to continue to regenerate the schools estate would mean that the condition of the school buildings would continue to deteriorate, leading to increased inequalities for young people and reputational damage for the Council.
- 7.2** The risks of failing to complete the project on time and within budget will be controlled via robust project management based on the Council's substantial and successful recent experience in delivering schools projects. The expertise of Hub West Co and the Scottish Futures Trust will also help to control this risk.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken for this proposal (Appendix 2). This project will improve the quality of educational experience for young people in Faifley and there are therefore no negative impacts relating to equality issues.

9. Consultation

- 9.1** This project has been the subject of extensive discussion by the Strategic Asset Management Group and the Corporate Management Team as well as by Council and the Educational Services Committee.
- 9.2** Legal Services and the Section 95 Officer have been consulted on the content of this report.
- 9.3** As detailed in section 4.2 of this report and in appendix 1, consultation with all statutory consultees will be conducted on the proposals in this report in accordance with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

10. Strategic Assessment

- 10.1** The improvements in the learning environments in the new builds and other educational establishments promotes and encourages imaginative and innovative learning and teaching thereby increasing attainment and achievement. This in turn leads to the strategic objective of a strong local economy and increased employment opportunities.

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Chief Education Officer
Date: 13 August 2021

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Appendices: Appendix 1: Proposal Paper, incorporating Educational Benefits Statement
Appendix 2: Equalities Impact Assessment

Background Papers: Educational Services Committee Report 11 March 2020 – Learning Estate Strategy 2020-2030
Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Wards Affected: Ward 4 - Kilpatrick