

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services

Children's Services Committee: 11 October 2006

Subject: Results of the Statutory Consultation on the Proposed Relocation of Bonhill Primary School

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To report to members of the Children's Services Committee the results of the statutory consultation on a proposal for the construction of a new Bonhill Primary School on a Council-owned, green field site on Main Street, Bonhill, opposite the school's present site.

2. Background

- 2.1** At the meeting of Council on 22 February 2006, the allocation of Schools Fund monies to a number of capital projects was approved. Among these projects was the construction of a new Bonhill Primary School as a direct replacement for the present school building.
- 2.2** The launch of a formal consultation process proposing the relocation of the school was approved by the Children's Services Committee at its meeting on 16 August 2006.
- 2.3** Consultation papers were issued to all statutory consultees during week beginning Monday 21 August 2006 and consultation meetings were held on Tuesday 12 September 2006 with school staff, the School Board and interested members of the public.

3. Main Issues

Consultation meetings

- 3.1** At the staff meeting on 12 September, the staff of the school expressed support for the proposal to relocate the school as outlined in the consultation paper.
- 3.2** At the School Board meeting, held later the same evening, there was similar support for the proposal contained in the consultation paper.
- 3.3** The public consultation meeting, which followed the Board meeting, was attended by approximately 25 people who expressed unanimous support for the proposal.

- 3.4** At all three meetings, the hope was expressed that there might be some possibility that the new school might be ready to open earlier than the target date of late 2009.
- 3.5** At all three meetings, a range of issues were raised concerning the design of the new school. The meetings were informed that this consultation process was purely to determine the location of the new school and assurances were given that stakeholders would be consulted on possible designs and on other issues at a later date.

Written Responses

- 3.6** A response was submitted representing the views of the pupils of Bonhill Primary School. This submission supported the proposed relocation of the school and made a number of points relating to design and accommodation within the new school.
- 3.7** The Head Teacher of the school made a submission on behalf of the staff of the school expressing support for the proposal, the site, the outline design and the standards described in the consultation paper, while expressing a desire that the new school might be ready earlier than the end of 2009.
- 3.8** The school's Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) representative made a submission on behalf of her members supporting the proposed relocation.
- 3.9** The School Chaplain, who is also a member of the School Board, made a written submission supporting the proposed relocation.
- 3.10** A single written submission was received from a parent of pupils in the school expressing support for the proposal and expressing the hope that the new school would be constructed as soon as possible.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues arising from these proposals. Existing school staff would transfer to the new building.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** The financial implications of the proposal are outlined in the paper presented to the Children's Services Committee on 16 August 2006.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1** The formal consultation process has elicited overwhelming support for the proposal to relocate Bonhill Primary School on a Council-owned, green field site on Main Street, Bonhill, opposite the school's present site. It is worthy of

note that no individual or group has expressed opposition to the proposal either in writing or orally during the consultation meetings.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1** Members of the Children's Services Committee are asked to note the positive response to the proposal to relocate Bonhill Primary School.
- 7.2** Members of the Children's Services Committee are further asked to approve the proposal that Bonhill Primary School be relocated in a new, purpose built building on a Council-owned, green field site on Main Street, Bonhill, opposite the school's present site.
- 7.3** Members of the Committee are also asked to instruct Council Officers to set in motion the processes required to achieve the goal described in 7.2, including all tasks relating to planning, tendering, design and construction.

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Background Papers: Minutes of Council meeting of 22 February 2006

Paper submitted to the meeting of the Children's Services Committee held on 16 August 2006

Consultation paper approved by the Children's Services Committee on 16 August 2006

Wards Affected: Ward 22: Riverside