

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

Member/Officer Working Group Phase 2 – Schools Regeneration

19 February 2009

Subject: Regeneration of the Schools' Estate Phase 2 – Update**1 Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Working Group with an update on progress and the proposals for the ongoing development of the consultation process for Phase 2 of the Regeneration of the Schools' Estate.

2 Background

Since the meeting of the Member/Officer Working Group of 24 November 2009 initial informal consultations have been conducted for the Alexandria, Dumbarton and Clydebank areas.

3 Main Issues

- 3.1** Initial informal consultations with respect to schools and Early Education & Childcare Centres in Alexandria, Dumbarton and Clydebank were conducted during December 2008 and January 2009. Consultees were Head Teachers/Senior staff, Parent Council Chairpersons, Early Education & Childcare Centre (EECC) Heads of Centres and church representatives. A general presentation of possible options for local education was followed by an open debate at each of the venues and questionnaires were completed and returned for the Working Group's consideration. Copies of the presentations are annexed to this report (Appendices 1 to 3).

Alexandria

- 3.2** The initial meeting for those establishments not previously consulted in the Alexandria area was held in Christie Park Primary on the evening of 3 December 2008. Around 70 people attended.
- 3.3** The contributions were mixed in that, while some felt that there was a variety of possibilities, there were a few who felt that they would have preferred to have been offered various options to consider and debate. Several suggestions were offered and these are detailed below.

- 3.3.1** Extend Christie Park PS across the side road (close off the road to the public) and build into the park. This would allow a merger with Levenvale PS. External play areas would be very limited.
- 3.3.2** Build a new school behind the Vale Baths to allow a merger of Christie Park PS and Levenvale PS.
- 3.3.3** Close St Martin's PS and co-locate with Renton PS.
- 3.3.4** Move St Martin's PS pupils to St Mary's PS.
- 3.3.5** Could St Ronan's PS, St Mary's PS and St Martin's PS be merged into one new school?
- 3.3.6** Merge Ladyton PS into Highdykes PS, together with the library.
- 3.3.7** If St. Ronan's close, Highdykes and Ladyton Primaries could move into the St Ronan's building.
- 3.3.8** Move St Ronan's PS to the existing Ladyton PS building. Highdykes and Ladyton Primaries merge into St Ronan's existing building.
- 3.3.9** Merge Dalmonach EECC and Ladyton EECC.
- 3.3.10** Merge Renton EECC and Vale of Leven EECC into Renton.
- 3.4** Questionnaire responses showed a mixed response on the level of how satisfied they were with the existing condition of their schools. Most returns made comment that there was a desire to improve their schools by either building a new extension or providing additional sports facilities. The majority stated a preference to major refurbishment rather than new build. A large majority also stated a desire that community facilities be added in the event of any new build or refurbishment, on the understanding that community would only gain access after school hours.

Dumbarton

- 3.5** The initial meeting for those establishments not previously consulted in the Dumbarton area was held in Dumbarton Academy on the evening of 19 January 2008. Around 25 people attended.
- 3.6** Contributions to the public debate were positive. Suggestions were:-
 - 3.6.1** Merge Castlehill EECC with Dalreoch PS on ground to the rear of St Michael's PS. The existing Dalreoch PS building could be used as an Educational Resource Centre.
 - 3.6.2** There was general agreement that St Patrick's PS, St Michael's PS and Knoxland PS were good buildings that only need to be refurbished. It was

also felt that Braehead PS could be retained if refurbished and access improved.

3.6.3 With the exception of Castlehill EECC (see 3.6.1), there was agreement that the other EECCs in the area could remain in their existing locale.

3.7 Questionnaire responses showed a mixed response on the level of how satisfied they were with the existing condition of their schools. The majority stated a preference to major refurbishment rather than new build. A large majority also stated a desire that community facilities be added in the event of any new build or refurbishment, on the understanding that community would only gain access after school hours. Wherever co-located schools were to be provided the responses insisted that there be good sports facilities for use by pupils and, again assuming adequate security from school children, the community.

Clydebank

3.8 The initial meeting for those establishments not previously consulted in the Clydebank area was held in Clydebank Town Hall on the evening of 26 January 2009. Around 60 people attended.

3.9 As with the Dumbarton meeting, contributions to the public debate were positive. Several suggestions were offered and these are detailed below.

3.9.1 Whitecrook PS should not be merged with Linnvale PS due to the canal between the sites.

3.9.2 Co-locate Our Holy Redeemer PS and Whitecrook PS, preferably on a site closer to the centre of Whitecrook rather than being on one of the existing school sites.

3.9.3 Merge Clydebank EECC with Whitecrook EECC.

3.9.4 Relocate Cunard School to allow space for a larger Whitecrook/Clydebank EECC.

3.9.5 Relocate Psychological Services, currently in Carleith PS, thus freeing up space for St Mary's EECC to move into the school. This would create more room for St Mary's PS, which needs more space.

3.9.6 The proposed new build of Goldenhill PS could be relocated to a more central site within the area. Add an EECC to the school for the St Mary's EECC if Carleith PS was not to be a favourable option.

3.9.7 St Stephen's PS and Kilbowie PS require only minor refurbishment. Our Lady of Loretto PS is in need of improved access and refurbishment.

3.10 Questionnaire responses showed a mixed response on the level of how satisfied they were with the existing condition of their schools. Most

returns made comment that there was a desire to improve their schools by either building a new extension or providing additional sports facilities. The majority stated a preference to major refurbishment rather than new build. A large majority also stated a desire that community facilities be added in the event of any new build or refurbishment, on the understanding that community would only gain access after school hours.

Future Consultation Meetings

- 3.11 Informal public consultation meetings for schools and EECCs in Alexandria, Dumbarton and Clydebank have to be arranged, and suggested groupings are listed in Appendix 4. It is envisaged that these should be targeted for completion prior to June 2009.
- 3.12 It is the intention to carry out consultations for the Special School provision in West Dunbartonshire following completion of the process described above.
- 3.13 The process map showing the programme to delivery of the Schools' Estate Management Plan (SEMP) is attached as Appendix 5. The SEMP will include the outline business case for the regeneration of the schools' estate, phase 2.

4 Personnel Issues

- 4.1 There are no personnel issues at this moment in time.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no substantial financial implications at this moment in time.

6 Risk Analysis

- 6.1 There is a potential financial risk to the Council if a failure to develop a strategic plan for the schools' estate within a reasonable timescale leaves the Council unable to take advantage of new funding streams as they become available.

7 Conclusions

- 7.1 Informal initial consultation meetings for Alexandria, Dumbarton and Clydebank have been successfully completed and the results are summarised in 3 above.
- 7.2 Public meetings Alexandria, Dumbarton and Clydebank have still to be arranged.

7.3 Consultations on Special School provision will be arranged following completion of the mainstream consultations described above.

8 Recommendations

8.1 The Member/Officer Working Group is asked to note this Report.

8.2 The Member/Officer Working Group is further asked to consider how best to proceed with the public consultation process with regard to consultation groups and locations.

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Appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Presentation to Alexandria
- Appendix 2 – Presentation to Dumbarton
- Appendix 3 – Presentation to Clydebank
- Appendix 4 – Suggested group meetings
- Appendix 5 – Process Map - programme to delivery of the Schools' Estate Management Plan

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All Wards