

# **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services**

**Council: 25 March 2009**

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**Subject: Member/Officer working group for phase 2 of the regeneration of the schools' estate – Update Report**

### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on progress of the Member/Officer working group for phase 2 of the regeneration of the schools' estate.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1** Council of 30 January 2008 instructed the formation of a Member/Officer Working Group, whose overriding remit should be the strategic development of the Schools' Regeneration - Phase 2.
- 2.2** Council instructed that each school and Early Education and Childcare Centre (EECC) outwith the PPP project should be consulted in order to collate stakeholders' views on the future of the schools estate.
- 2.3** The Working Group was formed, comprising four Members from the Administration, three Members from the Opposition, one Independent Member, two Church Representatives, two Parent Council representatives (one each from Dumbarton and Alexandria), two trade union representatives and appropriate officers. The working group is currently in the process of enlisting one more Parent Council Representative from the Clydebank area. The Working Group is chaired by the Convener of Education and Lifelong Learning. The three Opposition Group Members resigned from the working group on 20 May 2008.

### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** Preliminary informal consultation meetings were held in "cluster groupings". For each "cluster", there was an initial meeting between members of the Member/Officer working Group and an invited group comprising representatives of staff and parents of each school. This was followed by public meetings for "sub clusters" open to anyone who wished to attend. This series of meetings commenced in August 2008 and is programmed to be completed in June 2009. Cluster and sub-cluster groupings are listed in Appendix 1.

### **3.2** The agenda for each consultation meeting is:-

- i) Introduction explaining the rationale behind the Council's instruction to the working group and the proposed consultation process.
- ii) Report of current condition, suitability and running costs pertaining to those establishments appropriate to the meeting.
- iii) Presentation of various generic options for schools, i.e. new builds, refurbishments, mergers, co-location of denominational/ non-denominational schools.
- iv) Formation of separate break-out groups to discuss specific desires for each individual establishment.
- v) Submission of Response Forms which are completed by consultees and returned at the end of the meeting.

### **3.3** Discussions and responses have proven to be very productive with varied comments relating to each establishment group's desire for replacement, refurbishment, merger or co-location as well as providing opinions on what level of community facilities could be included. Summaries of the various meetings were reported to Council on 24 September 2008 and the Working Group meeting of 19 February 2009. The working group report is attached as Appendix 2.

### **3.4** A process map detailing steps to delivery of the Schools Estate Management Plan and Outline Business Case is attached as Appendix 3.

### **3.5** A Scoping Workshop has been arranged for 16 June 2009. The group will establish draft options and priorities for phase 2 of the regeneration of the schools' estate, taking into consideration the results of all the consultations which will have taken place between August 2008 and June 2009. Costed proposals for phase 2 will be reported to Members in September 2009 and, subject to Members' approval, formal consultations will commence shortly thereafter.

## **4. Personnel Issues**

### **4.1** Officers continue to be heavily involved in evening consultation meetings. However, the Director is confident that there will continue to be sufficient personnel to resource the meetings appropriately.

## **5. Financial Implications**

### **5.1** There are no financial issues associated with this report. The financial implications of any proposals emerging from the consultations will require to be carefully examined.

## **6. Risk Analysis**

### **6.1** Full risk analyses will be required for any options or proposals which may emerge from the consultations.

## **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1** Informal consultations will be complete by June 2009.
- 7.2** A scoping workshop has been arranged for the 16 June 2009 for the group to establish options for costing and reporting to Members' in September 2009. Subject to Members' approval, formal consultations for phase 2 of the regeneration of the schools' estate will commence shortly thereafter.

## **8. Recommendation**

- 8.1** It is recommended that Members note this report and the informal consultation process carried out to date.
- 8.2** It is also recommended that Members approve the proposed ongoing process and programme as detailed in the Programme to Delivery of the Schools Estate Management Plan/ Outline Business Case (Appendix 3).

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**Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Cluster Groupings.  
Appendix 2 - Report: Member/Officer Working Group  
meeting: 19 February 2009:  
"Regeneration of the Schools' Estate  
Phase 2 – Update"  
Appendix 3 – Programme to delivery of Schools  
Estate Management Plan/Outline  
Business Case

**Background Papers:** Council Minute: 30 January 2008: "Regeneration of  
West Dunbartonshire Schools' Estate: Phase 2"

Council Report 24 September 2008: "Member/Officer  
working group for phase 2 of the regeneration of the  
schools' estate – Update Report"

**Wards Affected:** All wards