

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

Council: 24 September 2008

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** At the May Council meeting, Members requested that a report on progress of the Member/Officer working group for phase 2 of the regeneration of the schools' estate be submitted to September Council.

3. Main Issues

Schools' Regeneration "Phase 2"

- 3.1** A preliminary informal consultation meeting was held on 28 August 2008 with parent councils, schools and church representatives from all schools within the Bellsmyre, Faifley and Haldane/Jamestown areas. The purpose of the meeting was to gather views on the possibility of co-location of denominational and non-denominational primary schools in the area.
- 3.2** Discussions proved to be very productive with varied responses relating to the pros and cons of co-located schools, a possible amalgamation, refurbishments and new build schools. Questionnaires were completed by attendees and these were reported to the Schools' Regeneration Phase 2 Member/Officer Working Group on 8 September.
- 3.3** The working group agreed that public consultation meetings should now be held for the school communities of Faifley, Bellsmyre and Haldane/Jamestown to gauge wider public opinion on these issues.
- 3.4** At the meeting of 8 September the group also instructed the Executive Director of Educational Services to draft a timetable of informal public consultation meetings to be carried out during October and November 2008. The meetings will use a similar format to the consultation meeting

noted in 3.1 and 3.2 above and will consider all Primaries and Early Education and Childcare Centres which will be affected by phase 2.

- 3.5 The notes and associated papers of the Member/Officer Working Group meeting held on 5 September are attached as appendices 1 and 2.
- 3.6 It was agreed to invite two nominated church representatives to attend all future meetings of the group.

Dumbarton Academy

- 3.7 A meeting with the Parent Council took place on 30 June where options were presented for potential sites for the new Dumbarton Academy building. It was generally felt by the Parent Council that the most suitable sites were either at Postie's Park or on the existing school site on Crosslet Road.
- 3.8 Members and Senior officers of the Council will meet with Fiona Hyslop (Cabinet Secretary for Education & Lifelong Learning) on 19 September to discuss possible funding options for delivery of the new school.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1 Officers will be heavily involved in evening consultation meetings throughout much of October and November. However, the Director is confident that there will 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 The preliminary informal consultation meeting with various groups from Bellsmyre, Faifley and Haldane/Jamestown provided a useful template for future public informal meetings. A timetable is being drafted to carry out public meetings during October and November 2008.
- 7.2 Members and Senior officers of the Council will meet with Fiona Hyslop (Cabinet Secretary for Education & Lifelong Learning) on 19 September to

discuss possible funding options for delivery of a new Dumbarton Academy.

8. Recommendation

8.1 It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.

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Appendices **Appendix 1** – Notes of Meeting held on 5 September
of the Member/Officer Working Group.
Appendix 2 – Consultation paper
Appendix 3 – Query sheet template

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All wards