

# **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services**

**Children's Services Committee: 16 August 2006**

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**Subject: Progress report on work relating to the closure of Braidfield High School**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** To provide members with a progress report on work relating to the closure of Braidfield High School in June 2006 and the transfer of pupils, staff and resources to Clydebank High School in August 2006.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1** At the meeting of the Children's Services Committee on 15 March 2006, it was agreed that Braidfield High School should close at the end of school session 2005/06 and that, from August 2006, the delineated catchment area of Clydebank High School be redefined to include pupils previously zoned to attend Braidfield High School.
- 2.2** The Children's Services Committee further instructed the Director of Education and Cultural Services to provide future meetings of the Committee with detailed progress reports on work relating to the closure of Braidfield High School and the transfer of pupils, staff and resources to Clydebank High School.
- 2.3** In line with the instruction in 2.2 above, a progress report was provided by the Director of Education and Cultural Services for the meeting of the Children's Services Committee on 17 May 2006. Members of the Directorate answered questions from members of the Committee arising from the report and Elected Members reiterated the instruction that a further progress report be provided for consideration by the meeting of the Children's Services Committee in August 2006.

### **3. Main Issues**

#### **3.1 General**

- 3.1.1** Braidfield High School closed for pupils on Tuesday 27 June 2006 and for teaching staff on Thursday 29 June 2006. The process of closure was carried out in an orderly, measured and planned manner.

- 3.1.2** Successful social events were held for present and former staff and pupils of Braidfield High to mark the closure of the school.

**3.2** Staffing

- 3.2.1** All staffing issues relating to the closure of Braidfield have been resolved through either the acceptance of early retirement packages, the transfer of staff to Clydebank High School, the redeployment of staff to suitable posts in other establishments, or, for a small number of cleaning and janitorial staff, through their retention in the Braidfield High School building to provide a service to groups and agencies which will continue to be housed in Braidfield for the foreseeable future.
- 3.2.2** All necessary appointments of staff to Clydebank High School have been made, with the exception of a small number of temporary posts which will be filled at the start of the new session in August.

**3.3** Curriculum

- 3.3.1** The timetable for Clydebank High School for session 2006/07 has been completed.
- 3.3.2** Planning for the delivery of the curriculum was ongoing throughout the summer term to ensure that all courses can be delivered to all year groups from 22 August 2006.

**3.4** Resources

- 3.4.1** By mid-July, all of Braidfield's resources which were required for use in Clydebank High School had been moved there. Those resources which were not required were offered to other establishments or, if not considered of any use, were disposed of via the standard procedures.

**3.5** Accommodation

- 3.5.1** Alterations to the physical accommodation at Clydebank High School continued throughout the summer holiday period. A more detailed and up-to-date oral report on accommodation will be provided by the Director of Education and Cultural Services at the meeting of the Children's Services Committee on 16 August.
- 3.5.2** Immediately following the closure of Braidfield High School, measures were taken to make the building more secure from vandalism or malicious damage. Other agencies which use the Braidfield premises were redistributed throughout the building so that all aspects of the building are at least partially occupied. Potentially vulnerable windows were boarded

up and barriers were constructed to block off access to areas of the school on the upper floors which will not be in use.

### **3.6 Roads and Traffic Management**

**3.6.1** Work began in July on adaptations in and around Clydebank High School to improve traffic circulation, provide additional dropping off points and install additional staff parking spaces. An oral update on this work will be provided at the Children's Services Committee meeting itself.

**3.6.2** All necessary transport arrangements for pupils are in place for the start of the new session. In session 2005/06 a total of 219 pupils qualified for free transport to either Braidfield or Clydebank High; 199 pupils will qualify for free transport to and from Clydebank High School at the start of session 2006/07.

### **3.8 Integration Activities**

**3.8.1** A higher than anticipated number of Braidfield pupils in S4 and S5 returned to school at the end of their examination leave and started their National Qualifications courses at Clydebank High School.

**3.8.2** All pupil induction days were considered very successful.

**3.8.3** Joint field trips and sporting activities by pupils from both schools were also a great success.

**3.8.4** A new school tie has been chosen and will be distributed to all pupils at the start of the new session.

## **4. Personnel Issues**

**4.1** All personnel issues are dealt with in section 3.2 of this report.

## **5. Financial Implications**

**5.1** The final cost of building adaptations is not yet known. It should be noted, however, that many of the additional costs involved will be offset by savings which will accrue from the closure of Braidfield High School.

## **6. Conclusions**

**6.1** Since the last meeting of the Children's Services Committee, good progress has been made on all fronts to effect the closure of Braidfield High School and to prepare for the integration of staff, pupils and resources into Clydebank High School.

**6.2** Because of the deadline for the submission of this report, it is not possible to provide members of the Children's Services Committee with a full up-to-date written account of all aspects of the process. Instead, this report will be supplemented by an oral report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services at the meeting of the Committee on 16 August. This will provide members of the Committee with the most current picture available.

## **7. Recommendations**

**7.1** Members of the Children's Services Committee are asked to note:

- (i) the contents of this report; and
- (ii) the fact that a further progress report will be provided to the next meeting of the Committee on 11 October 2006 by which time the enlarged Clydebank High School will have been in operation for some seven weeks.

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Liz McGinlay  
Director of Education and Cultural Services

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**Background Papers:** Paper submitted to the Children's Services Committee on 15 March 2006 recommending the closure of Braidfield High School

Minutes of the Children's Services Committees of 15 March 2006 and 17 May 2006

Report Submitted to the Children's Services Committee of 17 May 2006 outlining progress on work relating to the closure of Braidfield High School

**Wards Affected:** Whitecrook, Dalmuir Central, Mountblow, Parkhall, Linnvale/Drumry, Kilbowie, Kilbowie West, Faifley, Hardgate, Duntocher, Bowling/Milton/Old Kilpatrick.