

**MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP: REGENERATION OF THE WEST
DUNBARTONSHIRE SCHOOLS' ESTATE – PHASE 2**

Note of Meeting of the Member/Officer Working Group: Regeneration of the West Dunbartonshire Schools' Estate – Phase 2 held in Meeting Room 2, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Monday, 8 September 2008 at 9.30 a.m.

Present: Councillor May Smillie (Chair)
Councillor George Black
Councillor Jim Brown
Councillor Ronnie McColl
Councillor Jim McElhill
Stewart Paterson, Teachers' Convener, E.I.S
Iain Ellis, Chairperson, Dumbarton Academy Parent Council
Billy Peil, Chairperson, St. Ronan's Parent Council
Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services
Dave Clarke, Head of Service (Resources), Educational Services
Craig Jardine, Manager of Educational Estates, Educational Services
John Corcoran, Section Head, Architectural Services, Housing, Environmental and Economic Services
Lorraine Beveridge, Committee Officer

Apology: An apology was received from Angela Nicolson, UNISON.

Councillor May Smillie in the Chair

NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Note of Meeting of the Member/Officer Working Group: Regeneration of the West Dunbartonshire Schools' Estate – Phase 2 held on 24 June 2008 was submitted and noted.

**REVIEW OF CONSULTATION EVENING HELD ON 28 AUGUST 2008 WITH
STAKEHOLDERS FROM FAIFLEY, BELLSMYRE AND
HALDANE/JAMESTOWN**

There were submitted responses from representatives who had been invited to attend an initial consultation meeting held on 28 August 2008 in connection

with primary schools involved in the Regeneration of the Schools' Estate: Phase 2, from Faifley, Bellsmyre, Haldane and Jamestown areas.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed that the initial consultations had been successful. In light of the questions raised at the meetings, in an effort to assist members of the community, it was agreed that a Weblet containing answers on frequently asked questions on the Regeneration of the Schools' Estate, should be posted on the West Dunbartonshire Council's Website.

In relation to responses received from the aforementioned areas, it was noted that the Faifley area had unanimously voted against a co-located school, whereas other areas had responded positively to this question.

After hearing the Head of Service (Resources), the Working Group noted that internally both primary schools in Faifley were in good order. However, it was noted that they were inefficient and there were plans to close some parts of the schools in the future. In addition, some refurbishment was still required, particularly in relation to the heating system in Edinbarnet Primary School.

After discussion the Working Group agreed that in order to assist members of the Faifley community to make an informed choice at a future consultation meeting, they should be made aware of any future plans regarding the closure of certain areas within Faifley primary schools.

In relation to the Regeneration of the Schools' Estate – Phase 2, it was agreed that Ellen McBride and Barbara Barnes, non-elected members of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee, would be invited to attend future meetings of the Working Group.

After hearing Mr Peil, Chairperson of St. Ronan's Parent Council in explanation of his role within the Parent Council and on its response to the consultation, it was agreed that the school's response would be attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

NEXT STEPS WITH REGARD TO FAIFLEY, BELLSMYRE AND HALDANE/JAMESTOWN COMMUNITIES

After discussion the Working Group agreed that following the initial consultations, public consultation meetings in relation to schools in Faifley, Bellsmyre, Haldane and Jamestown areas would be held and information on future financing of the Regeneration of the Schools' Estate – Phase 2 would be made available. However, the Working Group noted that before this could be achieved a financially viable plan for funding would have to be submitted to the Scottish Government.

In this respect the Working Group noted that the Leader of the Council, the Spokesperson for Educational Services, the Shadow Spokesperson for Educational Services, the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Educational Services were due to meet with Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning on 19 September 2008 to discuss a range

of issues, including funding for the Regeneration of the Schools' Estate, co-location schools and the new Dumbarton Academy.
The Working Group agreed that a report on the meeting with Ms Hyslop would be submitted to the next meeting of the Working Group.

In relation to securing additional funding after discussion, the Working Group noted that Councillor Black, the Head of Service (Resources) and the Manager of Educational Estates would attend a Seminar being held by Scottish Future Trusts in November 2008 and agreed that Mr Ellis, Chairperson, Dumbarton Academy Parent Council would also attend. It was agreed that feedback on the Seminar would be made at a future meeting of the Working Group.

After hearing the Head of Service (Resources), the Working Group agreed that the community would need to be made aware of timescales and priorities in relation to future plans for the Regeneration of the Schools' Estate – Phase 2, at public consultation meetings.

After discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services in connection with responses received from the areas included in the initial consultation, it was agreed that the informal public consultations would now be held in the following order:-

- (1) Bellsmyre (venue, Dumbarton Academy);
- (2) Haldane and Jamestown (venue, Vale of Leven Academy); and
- (3) Faifley (venue, Clydebank High School).

The Working Group agreed:-

- (a) that at the public consultations for (1) and (2) above, as there had been initial acceptance of the proposal to have co-location schools, the design and the likely costs of such schools and the results of the consultations would be made available at the public meetings;
- (b) that with regard to (3) above, it was agreed that the design and the likely costs of a co-location school and the costs of future refurbishments of the local schools over the next 5 years would also be submitted at the public meeting;
- (c) that it would be beneficial if a working model of a co-location school could be made available at the public meetings;
- (d) that the Executive Director of Educational Services, the Head of Service (Resources) and the Manager of Educational Estates would submit proposal on the format of the public meetings to the Working Group before the public meetings were held;
- (e) that, to ensure public consultation meetings were well attended, the advertisement for the meetings would emphasise that the proposal for the Regeneration of the Schools' Estate Phase 2 would not only affect

those children attending school over the next 5 years, but in future years;

- (f) that dates for the public consultation meetings would be submitted to the next meeting of the Working Group for approval; and
- (g) that a report giving an update on the Regeneration Of the West Dunbartonshire Schools' Estate – Phase 2 would submitted to the next meeting of Council.

FUTURE PLANS FOR CONSULTATION WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES

After discussion it was agreed:-

- (1) that the existing consultation documentation would be used as a template for future consultations with other communities;
- (2) that proposals for future consultations with other communities would be submitted to the next meeting of the Working Group;
- (3) that the Group would agree, at its next meeting, which schools would take part in the next consultations; and
- (4) that the next round of the initial consultation meetings would be held by the end of November 2008.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

The Executive Director of Educational Services gave an update on a future site for Dumbarton Academy.

In so doing, he informed the Working Group that after looking at all possible suitable sites within Dumbarton, it had been proposed that the re-build of Dumbarton Academy should be on the existing site, which would entail submitting a new design for the school.

He confirmed that further discussions with the Brock Bowling Club had taken place and that the Bowling Club had indicated that they were receptive to the idea of moving site.

The Working Group noted the position and the proposals for the site, costs etc. would be submitted to Ms Hyslop at the meeting to be held on 19 September 2008.

After hearing Mr Ellis, the Working Group noted that he intended to meet with members of the Dumbarton Academy Parent Council to discuss the proposals in connection with Dumbarton Academy and that he would circulate plans

which has been produced by Inverclyde Council to members of the Working Group for information.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Working Group would be held on Monday 6 October 2008 in Meeting Room 2, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton at 6.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 10.50 a.m.