

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Special Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held in the Denny Civic Theatre, St. Mary's Way, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 8 January 2014 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Provost Douglas McAllister and Councillors George Black, Gail Casey, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Michelle McGinty, John Millar, John Mooney, Ian Murray, Tommy Rainey, Gail Robertson, Martin Rooney, Kath Ryall and Hazel Sorrell, and Mrs Barbara Barnes, Mrs Gemma Doyle, Mr George Hill, Miss Ellen McBride, Ms Josephine McDaid and Miss Sheila Rennie.

Attending: Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services; Angela Wilson, Executive Director of Corporate Services; Craig Jardine, Corporate Asset Manager; Alan Douglas, Manager of Legal Services; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer, Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services.

Councillor Michelle McGinty in the Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

RESULTS OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON THE LOCATION OF THE NEW OUR LADY AND ST PATRICK'S HIGH SCHOOL

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of the outcome of the statutory consultation process relating to the location of the new Our Lady and St Patrick's High School (OLSP).

The Executive Director was heard in explanation of the report.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor McGinty, Chair, requested order from the public gallery and in particular that members of the public should refrain from using abusive language.

The Executive Director then continued with his explanation of the report and the Committee noted:-

- (a) that the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) had confirmed to the Executive Director that the proposed site of the new school in Posties Park was on an area of land which was above the flood plain;

- (b) that while SEPA was not opposed in principal to the construction of the school on the Posties Park site, it had intimated that additional flood prevention measures would be required on the access road to the proposed site; and
- (c) the financial risks associated with any delay to the project.

Thereafter, Councillor McBride, seconded by Councillor Murray, moved:-

The Committee thanks the Executive Director of Educational Services and all other staff involved, for all the work they have done in bringing together this report for our consideration.

This Committee reaffirms its determination to build a new Secondary School, during this administration, for the benefit of current and future pupils of Our Lady and Saint Patrick's High School.

Committee accepts that Posties Park has been identified as the best site for the new Our Lady and Saint Patrick's High School on both educational and construction grounds. The Committee has also taken into account the lack of support for the building of the new school on Posties Park; and the strong public desire to retain the open space.

The decision to include the current school site in the consultation allowed for a full exploration of the advantages and disadvantages of both these sites.

However, the current school site is extremely restrictive and would be difficult to develop safely without major disruption to pupils educational experience. A completed school on this site would also be an inferior establishment relative to the other new build secondary schools in West Dunbartonshire.

Given the above, the Committee rejects both options as outlined in the report and requests that Council Officers revisit all potential sites in our ownership and also explores options for purchasing a suitable site, should this be required.

This Committee will continue to work with all stakeholders to identify a suitable site for the new Our Lady and Saint Patrick's High School, and ensure that we maximise the funding opportunity provided by the Scottish Future Trust.

Following discussion, and having heard the Manager of Legal Services, the Committee agreed to approve the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Having heard Councillor McGinty, Chair, the Committee agreed to adjourn for a period of 10 minutes.

The meeting reconvened at 11.15 a.m. with all those Members shown on the sederunt in attendance.

RESULTS OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO CONSTRUCT A NEW SCHOOLS AND EARLY EDUCATION CAMPUS IN BELLSMYRE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of the outcome of the statutory consultation process relating to the construction of a new campus in Bellsmyre, comprising co-located primary schools to replace Aitkenbar and St Peter's Primary Schools and a new Early Education and Childcare Centre (EECC) to replace St Peter's and Andrew B Cameron EECCs.

Having heard the Executive Director in explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the report constituted the consultation report required in terms of Section 9 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010;
- (2) to note the responses to the statutory consultation by the Executive Director of Educational Services under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 on the proposal to construct a new campus in Bellsmyre, comprising co-located primary schools to replace Aitkenbar and St Peter's Primary Schools and a new Early Education and Childcare Centre (EECC) to replace St Peter's and Andrew B Cameron EECCs;
- (3) that the Council should proceed with the design, procurement and construction of a new campus in Bellsmyre, as detailed in (2) above;
- (4) that Council should proceed with plans to decant staff and pupils temporarily from St Peter's Primary School into spare accommodation in Aitkenbar Primary School and from St Peter's EECC into temporary accommodation within the Aitkenbar campus during the period of construction of the new campus;
- (5) that, following completion of the new campus, education should cease at Aitkenbar Primary School with new provision for the young people from all four affected establishments commencing on the new campus early in 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- (6) that the Executive Director of Educational Services should inform the relevant Scottish Government Ministers of the decision to progress the project; and
- (7) to note the assurance given by the Executive Director that Miss McBride, the Catholic Church's representative on the Committee, would be consulted on the design and progress of the new schools.

**GARTOCHARN PRIMARY SCHOOL, ROSS LOAN, GARTOCHARN G83 8NE –
MATCH FUNDING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ALL-WEATHER MULTI-USE
GAMES AREA (MUGA)**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services seeking approval for the installation of an All-Weather Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and seeking approval for match funding of £55,000.00.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services in explanation of the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the match funding to allow the installation of an All-Weather Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA);
- (2) to approve the commencement of a tender process for the installation of the MUGA; and
- (3) to approve the delegation of authority to the Executive Director of Educational Services to award the tender to the tenderer submitting the lowest / most economically advantageous tender.

The meeting closed at 11.25 a.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chair.