

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 22 MAY 2008

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

Thursday 22 May 2008 at 4.00 pm

Present: Provost McCormick, Councillors Blair, Brooks, Clocherty, Dorrian, Grieve, Loughran, McCabe, MacLeod (for Osborne), White and Wilson, Rev W Hamilton, Rev C McGranaghan and Father M McMahon, Church Representatives, Mr G Miller, Parent Representative and Mr T Tracey, Teacher Representative.

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance: Corporate Director Education & Social Care, Head of Schools, Head of Lifelong Learning & Educational Support, Head of School Estate Projects, School Estate Manager, Chief Financial Officer, Mr H McNeilly (for Head of Legal & Administration) and Head of Corporate Communications & Public Affairs.

The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Committee.

405 HMIe Report on Overton Primary School

405

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care advising the Committee of the results of the HMIe external evaluation of Overton Primary School. The report advised that the external evaluation included within the Indicators of Quality, 6 Indicators (Learners' Experiences; Care, Welfare and Development; Expectations and Promoting Achievement; Developing People and Partnerships; Leadership of Improvement and Change (of the Head Teacher); and Improvement through Self-Evaluation) which had been judged to be "excellent" together with a further 9 indicators which had been judged to be "very good".

Ms Liz Ruddy, Head Teacher of Overton Primary School was present together with 2 P7 pupils, Stephanie Stewart and Sophie Binnie, to give their reaction to the findings of the HMIe report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee endorse the comments made in the HMIe external evaluation of Overton Primary School; and
- (2) that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to the Head Teacher, staff and pupils of the school as well as staff within Education Services Headquarters for the work undertaken to achieve the evaluation.

406 Education & Social Care Directorate Plan 2008 - 2011

406

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care appending the Education & Social Care Directorate Plan for 2008 - 2011.

Decided: that the Education & Social Care Directorate Plan for 2008 - 2011 as set out in the appendix to the report be adopted.

407 Results of the Consultation on the Primary Catchment Areas

407

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care (1) providing information on the statutory consultation exercise on primary catchment areas carried out between 11 January and 29 February 2008, (2) highlighting the issues raised during the consultation and the implications which these have for the proposals and (3)

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 22 MAY 2008

seeking Members' approval of the recommendations contained in the report. Councillor Rebecchi was present as a Ward Member and with consent spoke on the item.

Decided:

(1) that action be taken in relation to the proposals for alterations to catchment areas as contained in the consultation document as follows:

(a) that proposals 1 - 4 as set out below be supported:

Proposal 1

The houses which are being built in the previous Kingston Shipyard, which is currently associated with St Kenneth's and Highholm Primary Schools, should become part of the catchment area of Highholm Primary School (subsequently Newark Primary School) and St John's Primary School.

Proposal 2

The houses to the east of Gibshill Road, Bell Street, Cedar Crescent, Cobham Street, East Street, Fir Street, Gibshill Road, Gibson Street, Irwin Street, Keir Hardie Street, Laburnum Street, Lansbury Street, Mitchell Street, Ardmore View (Poplar Street), Shankland Road, Smillie Street, Thomas Muir Street, Whitelees Road, which are part of the catchment area of St Kenneth's Primary School should become part of the catchment area of St John's Primary School.

Proposal 3

The houses along Robert Street, Wilson Street, Bruce Street, Caledonia Street, Clune Park Street, Maxwell Street, Montgomerie Street, Wallace Street and Ashgrove Lane in lower Port Glasgow, which are currently in the catchment area of St John's Primary School should become part of the catchment area of St Michael's Primary School.

Proposal 4

Dougliehill Terrace, Place and Road which are currently in the catchment area of St John's and Highholm Primary Schools should become part of the catchment area of St Michael's Primary School.

(b) that proposals 7 and 8 as set out below be supported:

Proposal 7

The area known as and including Mallard Crescent, Mallard Lane, Falcon Lane, Falcon Crescent, Merlin Lane, Merlin Avenue, Partridge Road which are associated with Lady Alice Primary School should be part of the catchment area of Ardgowan Primary School and thereafter the new non-denominational school in Bayhill.

Proposal 8

The area which is formed by the boundary wall of the cemetery including Tweed Street, Ness Road, Tay Street, Don Street, Davey Street and Tasker Street which are currently associated with Highlanders Academy should become part of the catchment area of Lady Alice Primary School.

(c) that proposals 5 and 6 as set out below be not supported:

Proposal 5

The area known as Pennyfern including Pennyfern Road, Pennyfern Drive and Maple Road and currently associated with St Joseph's Primary School should be associated with St Patrick's Primary School and thereafter with Notre Dame High School.

Proposal 6

The area known as Branchton Road and Neil Street including Branchton Road, Cupar Drive, Dingwall Drive, Forfar Road, Huntly Drive, Kirkwall Road, Rothesay Road, Stonehaven Road, Neil Street area, Gleninver Road, Inverkip Road (certain Nos), Neil Street and Sutherland Road should no longer be associated with Sacred Heart Primary School but be associated with St Patrick's Primary School and thereafter Notre Dame High School; and

(2) that the changes to the catchment areas take effect from 1 December 2008.

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 22 MAY 2008

408 Results of the Consultation on the Future of Sacred Heart Primary School and St Gabriel's Primary School and the Possibility of Amalgamation of the Two Schools

408

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care (1) providing information on the statutory consultation exercise on the future of Sacred Heart and St Gabriel's Primary Schools carried out between 15 February and 25 April 2008, (2) highlighting the issues raised during the consultation and implications these have on the proposals and (3) seeking Members' approval for the recommendations contained in the report.

Councillor Rebecchi was present as a Ward Member and with consent spoke on the item. Following discussion, Councillor White moved that Option 3 (refurbishment of St Gabriel's Primary School to provide accommodation for both schools) be approved. As an amendment, Councillor Brooks moved that Option 1 (both schools remaining at their existing locations and not receiving any significant refurbishment work on the buildings) be approved. As a further amendment, Councillor McCabe moved that Option 4 (the refurbishment of the Earnhill building, available in 2010, to provide accommodation for both schools) be approved. On a vote between the two amendments, 9 Members voted for the amendment by Councillor McCabe and 3 for the amendment by Councillor Brooks which, accordingly, fell. On a vote between Councillor White's motion and Councillor McCabe's amendment, 2 Members voted for the motion and 9 for the amendment which was declared carried.

Decided: that the Committee adopt Option 4 as detailed in the report involving the refurbishment of the Earnhill building, available in 2010, to provide accommodation for both St Gabriel's and Sacred Heart Primary Schools.

It was agreed in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the respective paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act as are set opposite each item.

Item	Paragraph(s)
School Estate Team Budget	1, 6, 8 & 9
PPP Preferred Bidder - Possible Additional Items	6 & 8
Disability Discrimination Act Compliance	3

409 School Estate Team Budget

409

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care (1) on the current position with regard to the School Estate Team Budget, (2) providing an explanation for the current budgetary deficit and (3) advising of the way in which the budget for decants will be managed in the future.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be noted;
- (2) that the one-off costs of £473,800 be remitted to the Policy & Resources Committee for consideration; and
- (3) that a briefing paper be provided for Members on the benefits to the Council as the result of the engagement of legal and other advisers for the PPP project.

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 22 MAY 2008

410 PPP Preferred Bidder - Possible Additional Items**410**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care providing details of additional items which had been suggested by the preferred bidder for inclusion in the Council's PPP project.

Decided: that the Committee approve the actions recommended in the report.

411 Disability Discrimination Act Compliance**411**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care providing information on compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act in Inverclyde Schools.

Councillor McCabe declared a personal interest in this matter and formed the view that the nature of his interest and the item of business precluded his continued presence in the Chamber and his participation in the decision-making process. He therefore left the Chamber prior to consideration of the item and the Chair was assumed by Councillor Loughran.

Decided: that £150,000 be allocated for Disability Discrimination Act compliance works at St Ninian's Primary School, St Columba's High School and Gourock High School and that proposals in this regard be incorporated in the report on the School Estate Management Plan to be submitted to a special meeting of the Committee in June 2008.