

Education, Children & Families Committee
12 December 2017
Item 7/1 – Schools & Lifelong Learning Estate Strategic
Review – Update on Informal Consultation

Decision

- 1) To note that further work on transport and travel access to a new school, explanation of expected pupil numbers across West Edinburgh and discussions on the site opportunities for a new school within the proposed catchment area will be progressed.
- 2) To note the proposals for the informal consultation on the future of Gaelic Medium Education and that a draft statutory consultation paper will be prepared for consideration by Committee in March 2018.
- 3) To note the update on the Wave 4 Trinity Academy feasibility study and the options appraisal for additional accommodation at Boroughmuir High School.
- 4) To acknowledge that the proposal for a new combined school in the South West of the city is not signalled in the Local Development Action Programme (December 2016) or the Education Appraisal (March 2017).
- 5) To note that since those two reports, information has come to light via estate surveys which highlights the need to replace Currie High School; and that this new information has prompted further reflection on how best to meet the twin demands of rising secondary rolls and a fit-for-purpose school estate.
- 6) To note that the scope of and timescale for informal consultation outlined in the report to EC&F in October 2017 has evolved from those set out in the report.
- 7) To recognise that the current informal consultation, with a specific proposal on a combined school in South West Edinburgh, on three possible identified sites, has prompted significant reaction from school communities, elected members, other elected representatives and stakeholders.
- 8) To note that a number of other possibilities have already been raised and will continue to be raised as to how best to meet the twin demands outlined in 5) above.
- 9) To request that, in advance of further consultation, officers provide the following additional information outlined below in order to enhance shared understanding on:

- a. The educational opportunities including curriculum choice provided by schools with different capacities and rolls.
 - b. The number of pupils attending each primary school in the area
 - c. Existing cross catchment pupil placement numbers for schools in the area
 - d. Additional information on travel to school routes and distances
 - e. Opportunities for the retention and improvement of community facilities in the area covered by the review.
 - f. School condition issues
 - g. Steps being taken to investigate a range of alternative sites for a new Currie High school and a new school in the West, including, for the latter, sites in and around Kirkliston. This information will be made available to all affected parents.
- 10) To instruct officers to proceed with, but amend, the informal consultation in the following ways:
- To make clear that the combined school option issued on 24 November has no special status and is a provisional option put forward by officers rather than a preferred proposal;
 - To clarify that all practicable options will be treated equally and the consequences of each explored.
- 11) To agree that the instructions in 9) and 10) above should be reflected in a revised online consultation form; any current dialogue with school communities; and planned consultation in January and February.
- 12) To agree that before any decision is taken by the Education, Children, and Families Committee at the March Committee or subsequent Committees, the Convenor calls a meeting prior to that date to discuss all the evidence and invite community groups to express their views.
- 13) To agree to review the process with a view to informing future consultation and approves the setting up of a Member Officer Working Group, on strategic estate review, to support and guide further engagement on estate proposals throughout the city.
- 14) To agree to present to committee as part of updated report, and following results of informal consultation, information on the extent to which rationale for larger secondary schools with wider catchment areas, and the advantages and disadvantages thereof, are part of any citywide strategic review, to include:
- analysis of attainment (and closure of attainment gap) based on size of school roll

- availability of range of subjects and qualifications on offer based on size of school roll
 - availability of sporting and extra curricular activities
 - any Impact of increased travel times/distance from school on pupil attainment and attendance
 - considered impact on pupil support, school ethos and community links
 - cost analysis of refurbishment of existing schools versus rationalisation and replacement
- 15) To note that any policy change must be made with the agreement of elected members and remitted to Full Council.
- 16) To note:
- (a) the outcomes of the informal consultation carried out on the future feeder status of Kirkliston Primary School,
 - (b) the ongoing uncertainty over the projected pupil numbers at Kirkliston Primary School as detailed in 3.7 of the report, with the current projection showing a larger school roll than 8 of Edinburgh's current high schools by the time Queensferry High School capacity becomes an issue (2023) and,
 - (c) that such uncertainty means it not possible to rule out the feasibility of Kirkliston supporting a new high school in its own right.