

Education, Children and Families Committee

21 June 2018

Combined Amendment

Item 4.1 – Update on the informal consultation in west / south west schools

Committee:

1. notes the report and welcomes the additional information provided since the last meeting on 22 May 2018 for the different options presented on the south west schools
2. is encouraged by the strong connections that have now been forged between schools in the South West and welcomes their intentions to continue with that collaborative relationship moving forward
3. recognises the work involved by Council Officials in the progress towards securing a site for a new west Edinburgh school on the outskirts of Kirkliston which has been welcomed by the community
4. recognises the extensive period of consultation that has now taken place and the desire of those involved to come to a resolution for all the communities involved

And replaces 1.3 with:

- 1.3) Committee agrees to progress with the negotiations for the new west Edinburgh high school off Burnshot Road to the north east of Kirkliston and to report back to the next Education, Communities and Families Committee meeting in August 2018.
- 1.4) Committee agrees to progress with statutory consultation on the new west Edinburgh site option when practical.
- 1.5) Notes that Option 1 emerged with significant support from the informal consultation and offers the clearest pathway to delivery, being based on existing sites.
- 1.6) Notes that Option 1 is the second most cost-effective option.
- 1.7) Recognises the impact of the cross-community effort from the Save Our Schools Action Group, the way they have conducted their campaign and their inclusive approach throughout.
- 1.8) Recommends that Option 1 be taken forward to statutory consultation.

- 1.9) Notes only Option 1 addresses the issues raised by Woodlands, in particular the needs of children attending Woodlands School and the strong preference expressed by learners, parents and staff to retain the school in its current site and the significant impact any move and a significantly larger school roll could have on the health and wellbeing of these vulnerable young people. Option 1 also provides Woodlands children with complex learning needs and autism to access an inclusive educational setting due to the very strong links with Currie Community High School and the local community.
- 1.10) Notes that EIS has supported Option 1 as the best option, stating that “These schools have spent decades developing their educational offer, and building relationships with pupils, families and the communities – relationships that are at the heart of challenging the equity gap and raising attainment.” and has further stated “members of the EIS believe these can best be achieved by developing and evolving the existing provision, rather than by undertaking a radical reorganisation. Key to this is the desire to retain both Currie Community High School (CCHS) and Wester Hailes Educational Centre (WHEC) at the heart of their respective communities, and to keep the strong links between CCHS and Woodlands School.”
- 1.11) Recognises the views expressed by some staff and parents and staff within WHEC feeder primaries about the importance of maximising the educational and other opportunities for young people in the Wester Hailes area.
- 1.12) Therefore, requests that a working group is set up to take account of the views expressed in point 1.11 above and to develop a long-term plan for education in the Wester Hailes community, including but not limited to:
- Research to understand the decisions parents and young people make about placing choices
 - Dealing with reputation and communication issues
 - Strengthening the curriculum offer
 - Strengthening the partnership with feeder primaries and nearby high schools
 - Consideration of options for a ‘re-brand’ of WHEC in response to concerns raised by some of the parents at the feeder schools, and to explore the feasibility of introducing a specialism in its curriculum such as a focus on Digital & IT skills and/or vocational skills, encouraging placement requests to come in, for those wishing to develop these skills for employment or further education
- 1.13) Requests an update on and full remit for setting up the working group to be reported to the committee in August 2018.