

10.00am, Thursday 1 February 2018

South West Schools Review – Motion by Councillor Webber - referral from Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership

Item number	8.6
Report number	
Wards	All

Executive summary

At its meeting on 23 January 2018, Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership considered a motion submitted by Councillor Webber in terms of Standing Order 16.1 on proposals for the Edinburgh South West Schools Review.

The motion (as adjusted) has been referred to the Council for information.

Terms of Referral

South West Schools Review – Motion by Councillor Webber

Terms of referral

- 1.1 The following motion by Councillor Webber was submitted, in terms of Standing Order 16, to the meeting of the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership held on 23 January 2018:

“To recognise the significant public reaction in opposition to the Edinburgh South West Schools Review and agree that the proposals demonstrate:

- a lack of understanding of the extraordinary characteristics of this area compared to other parts of the city
- no thought or consideration to the significant importance that the High Schools have within their respective communities (Balerno, Currie and Wester Hailes/Sighthill) and fails to recognise the mutually beneficial link that CCHS has with Woodlands School
- a lack of awareness that all 3 options presented to the communities face significant issues in terms of the impact on the transport and environmental issues that are already stretched beyond capacity

Agrees to refer this motion to the next full meeting of City of Edinburgh Council for information as to the local community’s concerns.”

- 1.2 The following amendment was submitted by Councillor Arthur:

“Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership:

Acknowledges the valuable place Balerno High, Currie Community High School and WHEC hold within the local community and the value of the education they provide.

Recognises the significant public reaction in opposition to the Edinburgh South West Schools Review proposals and note that an informal consultation process is currently underway.

Acknowledges that significant concerns have been raised by local residents, the most prominent of which include –

- the impact on community facilities which are currently well used across Balerno High, Currie Community High School and WHEC
- the potential impact on Woodlands High School which has a close and positive working relationship with Currie Community High School
- the need to undertake a full educational impact assessment of the proposals
- the need to work with the wider community not just those with children at the schools
- that all 3 options presented as potential sites for a new school face significant issues in terms of the impact on transport and greenspace.

Agrees that all issues raised throughout the consultation will need to be adequately addressed if any proposals are to be developed further.

Agrees to refer this motion to the next full meeting of the City of Edinburgh Council for information as to the local community's concerns."

1.3 In accordance with Standing Order 20(7), the amendment was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

1.4 The Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership agreed the following adjusted motion:

"To recognise the significant public reaction in opposition to the Edinburgh South West Schools Review and agree that the proposals demonstrate:

- a lack of understanding of the extraordinary characteristics of this area compared to other parts of the city
- no thought or consideration to the significant importance that the High Schools have within their respective communities (Balerno, Currie and Wester Hailes/Sighthill) and fails to recognise the mutually beneficial link that CCHS has with Woodlands School
- a lack of awareness that all 3 options presented to the communities face significant issues in terms of the impact on the transport and environmental issues that are already stretched beyond capacity

To acknowledge the valuable place Balerno High, Currie Community High School and WHEC hold within the local community and the value of the education they provide.

To note there have been serious shortcomings and concerns with the process of the informal consultation currently underway.

To acknowledge that significant concerns have been raised by local residents, the most prominent of which include:

- The need to undertake a full educational impact assessment of the proposals.
- The need to work with the wider community not just those with children at the schools.

Agrees to refer this motion to the next full meeting of City of Edinburgh Council for information as to the local community's concerns."

For Decision/Action

2.1 The Council is asked to consider the terms of the adjusted motion.

Background reading / external references

Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership 23 January 2018

Laurence Rockey

Head of Strategy and Insight

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Links

Appendices	None
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