

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 10 October 2017

Schools and Lifelong Learning Estate Strategic Review – Update on Informal Consultation in West and South West Edinburgh

Item number	7.3
Report number	
Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	All

Executive summary

A [report](#) to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 15 August 2017 approved that informal consultation could be progressed with local elected members, school communities and other key stakeholders in west and south west Edinburgh to inform a detailed statutory consultation paper which would be submitted to Committee for consideration in December 2017.

It was also requested that an update on the informal consultation process was submitted to Committee in October and this report therefore provides the latest information on the informal consultation process.

Report

Schools and Lifelong Learning Estate Strategic Review – Update on Informal Consultation in West and South West Edinburgh

Recommendations

- 1.1 Note the update on the informal consultation process with local elected members, school communities and other key stakeholders in west and south west Edinburgh which will inform a detailed statutory consultation paper (or multiple papers if required) expected to be submitted to Committee for consideration in December 2017.
- 1.2 Note that if, as a result of the informal consultation process, it is necessary for further engagement to be progressed before the preferred strategic options can be established, then the submission of draft statutory consultation papers for consideration by Committee may be delayed to future Committee meetings during 2018.

Background

- 2.1 A replacement secondary school for Queensferry is being progressed with construction of the new school to be completed by March 2020. The new school is part funded by the Scottish Government through the Schools for the Future Programme and is being delivered by hub South East Scotland Ltd through a DBFM (Design, Build, Finance and Maintain) revenue funding arrangement.
- 2.2 Projections show that, in the future, the new school will not be able to accommodate all the expected pupils from the current Queensferry High School catchment area. A [report](#) to Council on 24 November 2016 highlighted this will result in a catchment review proposal being brought forward for Kirkliston Primary School feeding into a different secondary school.
- 2.3 At the last Education, Children and Families Committee on 15 August 2017 two further issues which affect the strategic approach to new infrastructure in this area of the city were highlighted as follows.
- 2.4 In west Edinburgh, the LDP Action Programme identifies a requirement for a new West Edinburgh High School to support the significant housing

development within this area. The Council's proposed Local Development Plan Supplementary Guidance on Developer Contributions and Infrastructure Delivery identifies that the proposed site for this new school is within the International Business Gateway (IBG).

- 2.5 On 3 July 2017 the City of Edinburgh Council received a letter from the Scottish Government directing the Council not to adopt the Supplementary Guidance. The Scottish Ministers' reason for this direction relates solely to the supplementary guidance identifying the new secondary school within the IBG site. While the direction does not rule out a new high school ultimately being delivered in this location, it is a significant enough intervention that alternative options for a new high school in West Edinburgh require to be explored.
- 2.6 The report also highlighted that the ongoing survey of the condition of the Council estate has identified that it will be necessary to replace the Currie High School building in the long term.
- 2.7 These issues require to be considered alongside the inclusion of Wester Hailes Education Centre and Balerno High School in the Wave 4 feasibility studies and all the other new education infrastructure requirements identified for west and south west Edinburgh through rising rolls, the LDP and early years 2020. It was therefore proposed and approved by Committee on 15 August 2017 that the strategic approach to the future schools and lifelong learning estate in west and south west Edinburgh requires further consideration through informal consultation before any formal statutory consultations are progressed.

Main report

- 3.1 The process established for the informal consultation is as follows:
 - Development of strategic options by the school estate planning team
 - Elected member briefing sessions on the emerging options
 - Workshops with the affected school communities
- 3.2 Following the informal consultation, a detailed statutory consultation paper (or multiple papers if necessary) with the preferred options for the future of schools and catchment areas in west and south west Edinburgh will be submitted to the Education, Children and Families Committee in December 2017 for consideration. If, as a result of the informal consultation process it is necessary for further engagement to be progressed before the preferred strategic options can be established, then the submission of draft statutory consultation papers for consideration by Committee may be delayed to future Committee meetings during 2018.

Update on Queensferry High School

- 3.3 As the strategic options to address the projected shortfall in capacity at Queensferry High School have already been publicised the informal consultation with school communities on this issue has already been

progressed through rising rolls working groups at Queensferry High School and Kirkliston Primary School. The working groups involve senior management from the school, parent representatives and officers from the school estate planning team.

- 3.4 The two options for resolving the capacity issues which are projected to affect Queensferry High School in the future are that Kirkliston Primary School feeds into a new Winchburgh High School or a new West of Edinburgh High School and these options have been discussed at the working groups. The next stage of the informal consultation is to hold workshops after the October school holiday with larger groups of parents from the Kirkliston school community. The purpose of the workshops will be to establish if there is a preference emerging between the two options for future secondary school provision.
- 3.5 As noted in paragraph 2.5 above it is necessary to explore alternative site options for a new West of Edinburgh High School. Since the report to Committee on 15 August 2017, a review of potential sites in the proposed school catchment area has been carried out and there are opportunities which require further investigation. It is expected that the different alternatives for sites will be shared during the workshops to be arranged with the Kirkliston School Community following the October holidays.

Update on the South West

- 3.6 The school estate planning team have been developing options for the future of the schools and lifelong learning estate in south west Edinburgh. These options are currently being checked and refined in relation to their feasibility and deliverability.
- 3.7 The final options will be presented for consideration during the elected member briefing sessions which have been organised as part of the informal consultation process. These sessions are scheduled to take place between this Committee and the end of the October school holidays. Following the elected member briefing sessions, workshops with the affected school communities will be arranged.

Measures of success

- 4.1 A schools and lifelong learning estate which is fully integrated with the requirements, objectives and aspirations of the whole Council and other key partners.

Financial impact

- 5.1 The financial implications on future capital and revenue budgets associated with the potential infrastructure projects arising from the strategic review will be considered in detail with colleagues in finance. Business cases will be developed through the Communities and Families Asset Investment Group and presented to the Corporate Property Board for consideration. Following this process the identification and approval of the required additional capital and

revenue funding would require to be established by Council as part of future budget setting processes.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 Any future project led by Communities and Families will be aligned to all the necessary Council risk, policy, compliance and governance requirements.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 Equalities impact assessments will be carried out for any statutory consultation or capital infrastructure project which emerges from the strategic review.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 An approach to the provision of Communities and Families assets which is fully integrated with the wider asset priorities of the Council and its partners will ensure a sustainable approach to future asset provision.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Engagement with all key stakeholders, including elected members and school communities will be undertaken through both informal and statutory consultation. All statutory consultations will be conducted in line with the procedures set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Background reading/external references

- 10.1 Education, Children and Families Committee – [Schools and Lifelong Learning Strategic Review](#) - 15 December 2017

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Appendices
