

Motion by the Coalition

Education, Children and Families Committee

21 June 2018

Item 4.1 - Update on the Informal Consultation in West/South West Schools

Committee:

- 1) Agree recommendation 1.2.
- 2) Agree, in relation to recommendation 1.3, that option 4 will be progressed for statutory consultation.

Moved by Councillor Ian Perry

Seconded by Councillor Alison Dickie

Amendment by the Conservative Group

Education, Children & Families Committee

21 June 2018

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Replace 1.3 with

- 1) Recognises that the overwhelming feedback to the informal consultation has been to move forward with Option 1: Retain, refurbish, and invest in the existing schools within their communities at their current sites.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Recommends that Option 1 be taken forward to statutory consultation
- 4) Notes that the majority view of the community councils and parent councils was to express a preference for Option 1.
- 5) 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 CCHS and the local community.
- 6) Notes that Option 1 has also been noted as the preferred option by the EIS which has 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.”
- 7) Notes that Option 1 is the second most cost-effective option.

Moved by Councillor Webber

Seconded by Councillor Smith

Amendment by the Green Group

Education, Children & Families Committee

21 June 2018

Item 4.1 – Update on Informal Consultation on West/South West Schools

Replace 1.3 with:

1. Committee supports option 1.
2. Notes that option 1 will largely retain existing schools within their communities.
3. Notes that option 1 emerged with significant support from the informal consultation and offers the clearest pathway to delivery, being based on existing sites.
4. Notes the strong views expressed by Woodlands School that the needs of their young people will be best met by retaining the school on its current site next to Currie Community High School.
5. 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.”
6. Notes that Option 1 is the second most cost-effective option.
7. Recognises the views expressed by some staff and parents within WHEC feeder primaries about the important of maximising the educational and other opportunities for young people in the Wester Hailes area.
8. Therefore requests that a working group is set up to take account of the views expressed in point 7 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
9. Requests an update on and full remit for setting up the working group to be reported to the committee in August 2018.

Moved by Councillor Mary Campbell

Seconded by Councillor Gavin Corbett

Amendment by the Liberal Democrat Group

Education, Children & Families Committee

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Committee:

- (i) notes the report and welcomes the additional information provided since the last meeting on 22nd May for the different options presented on the South West Schools.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) 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.
- (iv) 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:

Committee agrees to:

- 1.3) Progress with the negotiations for the new West Edinburgh HS off Burnshot Road to the north-east of Kirkliston and to report back to the next Education Committee meeting in August 2018.
- 1.4) Progress with statutory consultation on the new West Edinburgh site option when practical.
- 1.5) Take Option 1 forward to statutory consultation, as a result of the informal consultation with schools in the South West area, and the extensive support shown for Option 1 (retain, refurbish, and invest in the existing schools) by the majority of the affected school parent groups.
- 1.6) Work closely with WHEC and its feeder primary schools to explore a more aspirational strategy to strengthen its position in the community and secure its longer-term future.
- 1.7) To consider 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.

Moved by Councillor Neil Ross

Seconded by Councillor Joanna Mowat

Motion by the Coalition

Education, Children and Families Committee

21 June 2018

Item 6.1 - Wave 4 Education Infrastructure Prioritisation

Committee:

Approves the recommendations in the report by Executive Director for Communities and Families.

Acknowledges the response from John Swinney, of 15 June 2018 and welcomes the announcement for future funding for schools which will be made later this year.

However, in the meantime and in addition to the verbal confirmation already received, the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee will seek written assurance that the Council will be able to bid for Scottish Government funding retrospectively for the work undertaken on Castlebrae and Trinity.

Moved by Councillor Ian Perry

Seconded by Councillor Alison Dickie