

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thursday 11 June 2015

Report by Director of Education

FAITH SCHOOLS' JOINT CAMPUS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update members on the progress that has been made in designing the new faith schools' joint campus and of proposed management arrangements for the nursery provision at the campus.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Education Committee:
- i. note the very good progress that has been made in taking forward the new faith schools' joint campus; and
 - ii. approve the proposed management arrangements for the nursery provision at the campus.

BACKGROUND

3. Following an education consultation exercise, in February 2015 the Education Committee approved the proposal to establish a faith schools' joint campus at Waterfoot Road, Newton Mearns comprising a new Catholic primary school and non-denominational nursery and relocating Calderwood Lodge Primary School and Nursery Class.

4. In adopting this proposal officers were tasked to take forward the design process.

REPORT

Design Consultation

5. It is stated in the consultation report for the new campus that any new built environment would be designed in full consultation with parents/carers, pupils, key groups / leaders of the faith communities and the local community to ensure all facilities best meet the needs of children, staff, parents and communities. The specific design brief would be agreed with key stakeholders and would take account of the points already established and consider those expressed during the consultation.

6. BDP (Building Design Partnership) were appointed to act as Architects for the project working in partnership with officers in the Education and Environment departments.

7. Fourteen user groups were established to represent different stakeholder groups of both faiths. These groups were arranged into 7 workshop sessions and there were separate sessions with the respective faith leaders, namely Father Boyle and Rabbi Rubin. As the campus will include a new Catholic primary school, the children, staff and parents of St Cadoc's Primary School represented the Catholic community. Calderwood Lodge Primary School's children, staff, parents and the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council (GJRC)

represented the Jewish community. A number of community groups were also asked to represent the Newton Mearns Community where the new campus will be situated.

8. To date there have been 3 formal stakeholder consultation periods:

Stage 1 Workshops : March 2015

- Explore Vision, Values and Ideas during the information gathering period with each community.

Stage 2 Workshops : March 2015

- Investigate conceptual approaches for key aspects of the campus design with each community.

Stage 3 Workshops : April 2015

- Presentation and discussion of the developed design with both communities together.

9. Following workshop 3, a further refinement of the design was made and presented to the representatives from parents, the GJRC, the community, Father Boyle and Rabbi Rubin on 21 May 2015.

10. The design has received very positive feedback and has been developed to recognise the importance to both the Catholic and Jewish communities to maintain their own ethos and school's identity whilst respecting each other's faith in the faith schools' joint campus.

11. All feedback has informed the design of the new campus and its facilities. There will be a presentation at committee to show the design that has been developed based on the stakeholder engagement.

Nursery Provision

12. Provision for a site in Newton Mearns for a new Catholic primary school with non-denominational nursery was originally included in the proposed Local Development Plan (LDP) to increase Catholic primary places and provide more prefive places. During the modification process of the proposed LDP, an alternative site for a school at Waterfoot Road was put forward which afforded the possibility of relocating Calderwood Lodge Primary School and the establishment a faith schools' joint campus with the new Catholic primary school. The LDP modification was approved as was the establishment of the campus proposal.

13. Calderwood Lodge already has an established nursery class. Consequently there were 2 nursery classes included in the original campus, one in each primary school.

14. It had been agreed that the faith schools' joint campus would comprise one building, but two schools each having their own head teacher, nursery classes and Parent Councils.

15. During the design process consideration of the operation and management of the nursery on the campus site has crystallised. During the design workshops consultees were comfortable with aspects of the campus being shared including nursery provision with some caveats recognising that such provision is in essence non-denominational.

16. It is now proposed that there would be one nursery at the campus under the management and leadership of the head teacher of Calderwood Lodge. The head teacher would ensure that the Jewish experience currently provided to those Jewish children at Calderwood Lodge nursery class is maintained and developed with links with Calderwood Lodge Primary School.

17. The Director of Education has discussed the principle of this with representatives from both St Cadoc's and Calderwood Lodge Parent Councils, the GJRC, the faith leaders and the

head teachers. They are supportive of the one nursery facility under the management and leadership of the head teacher of Calderwood Lodge. The Director made it clear that this would be taken to Education Committee for consideration.

FINANCIAL AND EFFICIENCY IMPLICATIONS

18. According to practice, the department undertakes job sizing of promoted posts in schools. The management and leadership of a nursery class are reflected in the job sized salary. With one nursery there will be minor salary savings compared to the impact of the two nursery model.

19. The capital cost of this project will be reported as part of capital plan monitoring.

20. There are no other specific finance and efficiency implications related to this report.

CONCLUSION

21. The design process of the new faith schools' joint campus has been positive.

22. Based on developments it is proposed that the campus has one nursery class under the management and leadership of the head teacher of Calderwood Lodge.

RECOMMENDATIONS

23. It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- i. note the very good progress that has been made in taking forward the new faith schools' joint campus; and
- ii. approve the proposed management arrangements for the nursery provision at the campus.

Mhairi Shaw
Director of Education
11 June 2015

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Background Papers

1. Consultation Report on the Consultative Proposal: Future Denominational (Catholic) Primary School with Non-Denominational Prefive Provision in Newton Mearns; and Relocation of Calderwood Lodge Primary School and Nursery Class to Waterfoot Road, Newton Mearns: From Session 2017-18 and Beyond, 5 February 2015
2. Paper to Education Committee, Future Denominational (Catholic) Primary School with Non-Denominational Prefive Provision in Newton Mearns; and Relocation of Calderwood Lodge Primary School and Nursery Class to Waterfoot Road, Newton Mearns: From Session 2017-18 and Beyond, 30 September 2014
3. Report on the Exploration of a Joint Faith School Campus, Education Committee, 23 January 2014
4. Report on Prefive Provision in Newton Mearns and Busby/Clarkston, 14 November 2013
5. Exploration of a Joint Faith School Campus, Education Committee, 3 October 2013
6. Proposed Modifications to the Local Development Plan, East Renfrewshire Council, 11 September 2013

Key Words

Update on the design development of the new faith schools' joint campus including management arrangements for nursery provision.

Key Words include: Faith Schools' Joint Campus, Catholic and Jewish communities, denominational primary school, prefive provision, nursery, Calderwood Lodge, St Cadoc's, Waterfoot Road.