

ITEM No ...6...

REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES COMMITTEE –
28 JANUARY 2019

REPORT ON: COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO LEARNING ESTATE TRANSFORMATION
ACROSS TAYSIDE

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

REPORT NO: 47-2019

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report details opportunities for Perth and Kinross Council, Dundee City Council and Angus Council to work in collaboration in the development of the combined learning/school estate. The appropriate committees of Perth and Kinross, Dundee City and Angus are asked to agree that the respective Executive/Strategic Directors commence informal consultation with stakeholders in conjunction with one another to determine the level of support for a new 3-18 joint integrated community learning campus which would accommodate pupils from all three Local Authorities.
- 1.2 This report also details opportunities for Dundee City Council and Angus Council to collaborate in relation to learning/school estate matters pertaining to the West Broughty Ferry/Monifieth area. The appropriate committees of Dundee City and Angus are asked to agree that the respective Executive/Strategic Directors commence informal consultation with stakeholders in conjunction with one another on related matters.
- 1.3 The report also details options for the future of Braeview Academy in light of the recent fire and possible options for Craigie High School.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 In order to progress further with this potential project, it is recommended that the Committee:
- (i) approves that Dundee City Council explores in more detail, working in collaboration with Perth and Kinross Council and Angus Council on the practicalities of developing a new joint community learning campus;
 - (ii) approves that Dundee and Angus Councils work in collaboration regarding school estate matters in the West Broughty Ferry/Monifieth areas;
 - (iii) approves that Dundee consider options for secondary education in the east of the city;
 - (iv) approves that an informal consultation proceeds with the relevant communities in the potentially affected areas across Tayside; and
 - (v) instructs the respective Executive/Strategic Directors to prepare a report on the results of the informal consultation and report back to their Committee on the outcome of the consultation at a future meeting. Depending on the outcome of this informal consultation the respective Committees may be asked to instruct the relevant Executive/Strategic Director to consult formally under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no other direct financial implications arising from this report.

4.0 BACKGROUND

Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative (TRIC)

- 4.1 In December 2016 a common report, *Strategic Collaboration and Enhanced Partnership Working (Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross Councils – Education and Children's Services)*, was

approved at the respective Full Council/Executive Board meetings of Angus, Dundee, Perth and Kinross Councils and NHS Tayside (Article II of the minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 12 December 2016, Report 410-2016 refers). The report set out the potential for extended collaborative approaches between the above named organisations working in close partnership with the Third Sector and private enterprise as appropriate.

- 4.2 The report identified that working together would contribute to addressing the national agenda in terms of raising attainment, tackling poverty, closing equity gaps, and improving the health and wellbeing of all children, young people, families and communities.
- 4.3 In addition to the work underway to help achieve excellence and equity for all, elected members from all three councils have asked the respective Executive/Strategic Directors to discuss opportunities for collaboration around the broader learning/school estate, related challenges and shared solutions.
- 4.4 Early Tri-Council discussions indicate a shared aspiration to provide the best possible learning environment for delivering relevant twenty first century learning for Tayside's children and young people. This aspiration is consistent with the shared vision and priorities outlined within the Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2017-2020. It is envisaged that learning from the Scottish Schools for the Future Programme to date will inform the creation of a modern, vibrant, flexible, 3-18 joint integrated community learning campus. The creation of a Tri-Council 3-18 school will be instrumental in effectively delivering the pupil entitlements outlined within the Curriculum for Excellence to raise attainment and achievement and better meet the needs of all learners.
- 4.5 Also of significance is the Scottish Government Programme (Delivering for Today Investing for Tomorrow) and the evolving Schools for the Future Programme/Learning Strategy. This proposal for collaboration is in line with the aspirations identified by Scottish Government.
- 4.6 Angus Council adopted a School Investment Strategy which set out the aspirations for their learning estate and a prioritisation for the next 30 years. This is called the Angus Schools for the Future Programme. It aims to ensure learning environments are the best they can be to support children, young people and communities in their learning.

The strategy's current priority is to undertake an options appraisal exercise for Monifieth High School and all Monifieth cluster primary schools to include leisure facilities in the Monifieth area. 8 options were identified, including the option of working in partnership with Perth and Kinross and Dundee City Councils to create a joint integrated community learning campus serving the south Angus area.

- 4.7 The transformation programme 'Securing the Future of the School Estate' is currently underway in Perth and Kinross. In addition, the Council has a significant capital programme of £178m investment between 2018 and 2028. The capital programme will deliver a new Perth High School on the existing Perth High School site. In addition, Bertha Park High School will accommodate major housebuilding to the North West of Perth and will open in August 2019.
- 4.8 Through early discussions it has been agreed that it would be beneficial for all three Councils to consider collaboration on a new Tri-Council school in West Dundee/South Angus/East Carse. A shared aspiration exists that in fulfilling the legislative duty to provide an adequate and efficient education service, schools should be an integral part of the community they serve. The creation of a shared 3-18 learning campus will be instrumental in the provision of education services for children, young people and families across all three Councils closer to their local communities. Importantly, reducing secondary pupils' current travel requirements.
- 4.9 The location and development of any Tri-Council school will be dependent on suitable land being identified. It should also be noted that Perth and Kinross Council are not seeking nursery or primary school accommodation within the proposed Tri-Council school and that their interest is in the secondary school element only for the benefit of pupils in the carse area. Further information in relation to Perth and Kinross is available within Appendix 1.
- 4.10 The existence of a Tri-Council school within the context of the evolving Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative and Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families offers rich and imaginative possibilities for augmented partnership approaches. The Tayside Children's

Services Collaborative have agreed 5 priorities: pre-birth and early years; learning and attainment; mental health and wellbeing; looked after children, care leavers and young carers; and, safeguarding and child protection. Within priority two (learning and attainment) good progress is currently being made across the Tayside Collaborative in taking forward key work streams including: improved approaches to learning and teaching, leadership, school improvement, numeracy, curriculum architecture, and the use of research and evidence to inform practice. The establishment of a Tri – Council school will provide a natural location for all three Councils to implement ‘tests of change’ in the aforementioned priority areas prior to roll out across Tayside schools.

5.0 Progress to Date

- 5.1 An initial working group has been set up involving officers from the three councils which is chaired by the Executive Director of Children and Families Service, Dundee City Council.
- 5.2 Forward planning on a new school in West Dundee/South Angus/East Carse has determined that the secondary school size would be approximately 1100 pupils collectively for all three Councils.
- 5.3 Early discussions are ongoing between officers and the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) with a view to seeking funding from the Scottish Government for the Tayside learning estate.
- 5.4 Dundee City Council and Angus Council have also initiated discussions on collaboration to the east of the city, however this is dependent on the West Dundee/South Angus/East Carse development going ahead. Appendix 3 outlines possibilities in relation to reinitiating the relationship for secondary education provision for Barnhill Primary School pupils to Monifieth High School providing an additional option in closer proximity to family homes than Grove Academy. In addition, a number of options are outlined for improved secondary educational provision in the East of Dundee which could involve a review of some of the primary catchment arrangements for the east of the city.
- 5.5 Angus Council has undertaken initial engagement on the original eight options for the Monifieth Cluster including the possibility of a joint learning campus with Dundee City and Perth and Kinross Council (see Appendix 2 for further details). Angus has aspirations for an all-through campus in this area. The level of response to the initial engagement was very good, with 684 responses to an on-line survey along with engagement with learner representatives and community organisations in the area.
- 5.6 The response to the on-line survey identified that there was general support for Angus Council to work in partnership with Perth and Kinross and Dundee City Councils to create a joint integrated community learning campus (tri-school) serving the south Angus area.
- 5.7 All three councils have been in discussion with Hubco and have developed a proposal for Hubco to engage consultants to look into the legal, financial and planning aspects, including school-site location, of a possible joint tri-school.

6.0 PROPOSALS

Collaboration – Regarding 3-18 Tri-Council Joint Integrated Learning Campus – Next Steps

- 6.1 The governance of the consultation, overall project and build would be shared equally across the 3 councils.
- 6.2 Any substantive changes to educational provision will be the subject of formal consultation under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 6.3 Continued discussions will take place with the Scottish Futures Trust in relation to funding opportunities. If the project is not fully funded by the Scottish Government agreement would need to be reached on the division of the remainder of the funding.

- 6.4 Financial arrangements and resourcing of the new school are currently being established by a Tri-Council sub-group working closely with their respective corporate finance colleagues.
- 6.5 It is important that all three Local Authorities progress the collaborative process together and in particular that the communications are co-ordinated.
- 6.6 The first requirement for all three Local Authorities would be to conduct an informal consultation with communities to assess the level of support for the proposal. It is anticipated that this would take place in early 2019 and be concluded by the end of June 2019. An agreed and consistent approach to such consultation will take place across all three Councils, including:
- engagement with children, young people, staff and other stakeholders,
 - meetings with parents/carers and communities, and
 - informal consultation via digital engagement strategies.
- 6.7 In Angus, this will build upon the initial engagement carried out in relation to the Monifieth Cluster Options Appraisal.
- 6.8 Scenario planning in relation to pupil projections has begun and would continue to be carried out in parallel with the informal consultation in order to determine the impact on the wider learning/school estate in all three Council areas. Initial estimates suggest there could be demand for a secondary school capable of accommodating 1,100 pupils to serve this area. In addition, Dundee has identified the possibility that their Western Gateway developments could lead to up to 500 primary aged pupils living in the area by 2030. Angus will explore the potential to include early learning and primary provision within the campus. Further development of financial implications would also be progressed.
- 6.10 All three Councils would report to their relevant committee on the outcome of the informal consultation. Depending on the outcomes of this work, there may be a requirement to undertake Statutory Consultations to progress the recommendations.

Collaboration Regarding Learning/School Estate Matters in the West Broughty Ferry/Monifieth

- 6.11 The initial engagement carried out by Angus Council did not include the possible amendment of the learning estate matters pertaining to the West Broughty Ferry/Monifieth area. It is proposed to look at possibilities in relation to reinitiating the relationship for secondary education provision for Barnhill Primary School pupils to Monifieth High School as an additional option for parents. This is dependent on the West Dundee/South Angus/East Carse development going ahead. The Dundee and Angus Committees are asked to agree that the respective Executive/Strategic Directors commence informal consultation with stakeholders in conjunction with one another on related matters.
- 6.12 It is important that Dundee and Angus Councils progress the collaborative process in this regard together and in particular that communications are co-ordinated.

Options for Consideration for Secondary Education in the East of the City

- 6.13 Dundee currently has two secondary schools in the east of the city that are category C in the School Estate Management Plan (SEMP) return to Scottish Government. Craigie High School and Braeview Academy. Braeview Academy has recently has lost approximately 50% of the current building through a significant fire. Options here would include looking at reinstating Braeview on its present site, or looking at the possibility of a new shared building for a combined Craigie/Braeview school on a new site. These details are set out in Appendix 3.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 Early inter-Council discussions and discussions with officers in the city indicate that it would be mutually beneficial for:

- all three Councils to collaborate on the development of a new 3-18 joint integrated community learning campus which would accommodate pupils from all three Local Authorities in West Dundee/South Angus/East Carse;
- Dundee and Angus Councils to collaborate on learning/school estate matters in the West Broughty Ferry/Monifieth areas;
- wider consideration to be given to the secondary estate in the east of the city; and
- informal consultation to take place with all stakeholders (outline of the timescale for this is included in paragraph 6.6).

8.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainable Development, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

9.0 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 The Council Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None.

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Executive Director
December 2018

Danny Webster
Education Officer

Perth and Kinross

The building of a Tri-Council school would allow Perth and Kinross to potentially consider opportunities to better balance the capacities of the secondary school estate in Perth and revise the capital programme to deliver more improvement within the secondary school estate across Perth and Kinross.

Significantly for Perth and Kinross Council, the majority of pupils (approximately 100) from Invergowrie already attend Harris Academy for secondary education as they are entitled to attend in terms of Dundee City Council's current admission arrangements. The construction of a new Tri-Council school would provide opportunities to explore revised school catchment boundaries in the west of Dundee including the possible realignment of Invergowrie Primary School pupils to any new Tri-Council school.

Angus

Within the context of Angus Schools for the Future, Angus is currently reviewing its learning estate from Montrose, the Re-imagining Montrose project, through Arbroath, including the possibility of an integrated campus with Dundee and Angus College, and into the Monifieth Cluster Options appraisal. By including the proposed collaboration with Dundee City and Perth and Kinross Councils, this will provide a strategic approach to the learning estate from Montrose to Perth.

The proposed engagement would allow consideration of catchment areas for schools in the Monifieth cluster and neighbouring schools in Angus as well as the adjoining schools in Dundee City and Perth and Kinross. This will include looking at the possibility of re-instating previous dual catchment areas to secure best value from existing resources.

These proposals are not currently reflected in the Angus Financial Plan. In order to deliver on these aspirations, the financial plan would require to be amended and financial support would be required from the Scottish Government/SFT.

Dundee

The Council's recent Capital Investment Strategy was approved by Committee on 11 December 2017, Article VII of the Minute of the Policy and Resources Committee, Report number 419-2017 refers which sets out the medium and long term school estate needs in the city. A new Tri-Council secondary school within reach of the Western Gateway would allow closer access to secondary education for families in the Western Gateway in addition to addressing revised school estate aspirations and improvements within both Angus and Perth and Kinross Councils.

Currently, Grove Academy experiences high levels of placing requests coming from West Ferry and Douglas whose pupils attending Craigiebarns and Claypotts Castle Primary Schools largely reside within the catchment of Craigie High School. Opportunities to address such capacity issues may exist in partnership with Angus Council. One possible solution centres on the secondary educational provision of pupils residing in West Broughty Ferry attending Barnhill Primary School. Whilst the majority of pupils live within the catchment of and attend Grove Academy, a significant percentage of its pupil catchment live closer to Monifieth High School. It is therefore suggested to explore the possibility of reinitiating the option of secondary education for such Dundee pupils within their nearest secondary school – Monifieth High School. Such a move, if enacted, would have implications for the size of Monifieth High School as well as the learning estate provision in the east of Dundee.

The East of the city has two very old secondary schools - Braeview Academy and Craigie High School that require significant refurbishment or replacement on current or alternative sites. Recently, the position at Braeview Academy has been tragically exacerbated following the demise of around half the school building following a fire. The establishment of improved educational/learning provision within East Dundee is of paramount importance. Possible options include:

- reinstate Braeview on existing site and continue with the maintenance programme to Craigie High School with the potential in the future for refurbishment of both Craigie High School and Braeview Academy on their existing sites depending on future capital programme and Scottish Government Funding; or
- the closure of both Craigie High School and Braeview Academy in conjunction with the creation of a new combined secondary school on the site opposite Drumgeith Park (formerly St Saviour's RC High School) subject to Scottish Government funding.

Both Braeview Academy and Craigie High school currently have small pupil populations with their combined roll under 1200. The creation of a new combined secondary school on the site opposite Drumgeith Park is, therefore, an option worthy of consideration. If taken forward any changes to the associated primary school catchments of both schools would require to be the subject of formal consultation under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

