

ANGUS COUNCIL

ANGUS COUNCIL – 14 JUNE 2018

**ANGUS SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE
MONIFIETH CLUSTER SCHOOLS OPTIONS APPRAISAL- UPDATE**

REPORT BY MARK ARMSTRONG, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – PEOPLE

ABSTRACT

This report recommends that, following a material change in circumstances, the option to work in partnership with Perth and Kinross and Dundee City Councils to create a joint integrated community campus serving the south Angus area is considered as part of the stakeholder engagement on the Monifieth Cluster Schools Options Appraisal.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Angus Council:

- i agrees that a material change of circumstances has occurred since Council considered Report 130/18 on 19 April 2018; and consequently.
- ii agrees that the scope of the options appraisal be expanded as detailed in paragraph 4.6
- iii notes that the timescale to undertake the options appraisal may need to be adjusted to take account of the inclusion of this expansion of the scope.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN (LOIP) AND COUNCIL PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022:

We want to maximise inclusion and reduce inequalities;

We want our communities to be strong, resilient and led by citizens.

We want Angus Council to be efficient and effective

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 19 April 2018 Children and Learning Committee and Angus Council approved Report 130/18 Monifieth Cluster Schools Options Appraisal.
- 3.2 Report 130/18 details that at present there are approximately 300 children and young people travelling from the Birkhill area to Monifieth High School but advised that a secondary school of 300 pupils would not be large enough to deliver a full curriculum through broad general education to the senior phase. A larger shared campus with neighbouring authorities would be required to achieve the desired curriculum breadth and depth.
- 3.3 Report 130/18 therefore recommended that the option to create an Angus all-through school in the Birkhill area to incorporate Auchterhouse, Birkhill, Liff and Strathmartine Primary Schools should not be considered as part of the Monifieth Cluster Schools Options Appraisal as it was not a shared priority of all three local councils.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 A material change to the background detailed above has occurred since Council considered report 130/18 and consequently, in terms of Standing Order 26(2)(i) it is now competent for the Council to revisit that decision.
- 4.2 Perth and Kinross Council is currently setting its Capital Budget and, in addition, has also started planning of the next stage of its school estate review strategy.
- 4.3 Within this context of long-term strategic infrastructure planning, Perth and Kinross Council has expressed an appetite to explore with Angus and Dundee City Councils the opportunity to work as partners in building and running a new joint school in the Dundee, south Angus, eastern Perthshire area.
- 4.4 Dundee City Council has subsequently confirmed at senior officer level their interest in exploring the potential for a shared campus.
- 4.5 These recent developments significantly change the viability and benefits of a new campus serving the community of south Angus. This option, as a shared project with our neighbouring councils, warrants serious consideration.
- 4.6 It is therefore recommended that the scope of the current Monifieth Cluster Schools Options Appraisal project is extended to include the option of working in partnership with Perth and Kinross and Dundee City Councils to create a joint integrated community campus serving the south Angus area.
- 4.7 Report 130/18 agreed that the outcome of the consultation and prioritised proposals be brought back to Children and Learning Committee and Special Council on 06 November 2018. Extending the scope of the Monifieth Cluster Schools Options Appraisal project as recommended within this report may require this timescale to be adjusted to take account of the additional work involved and the necessity to explore this option in partnership with Dundee City and Perth and Kinross Councils.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is difficult to quantify the financial implications at this stage. A project of the scale of creating a new campus will require funding support from the Scottish Government's Schools for the Future programme. At the time of writing there is no indication that such funding will be available.

6. RISK

A strategic approach to the School Estate is required to ensure there is scope for improving educational outcomes for all children and young people across Angus. We must ensure we have a sustainable estates plan which maximises educational benefits for all children and young people or the Council could face significant risks such as poor condition school buildings and unmanageable building maintenance issues.

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Report 130/18 Monifieth Cluster Schools Options Appraisal

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