

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 29 JANUARY 2019**

**COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO LEARNING ESTATE TRANSFORMATION ACROSS TAYSIDE**

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**ABSTRACT**

This report details opportunities for Perth and Kinross Council, Dundee City Council and Angus Council to work in collaboration in the development of a combined school/learning estate. The appropriate committees of Perth and Kinross, Dundee City and Angus Councils 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 could accommodate pupils from all three Local Authorities.

This report also details opportunities for Dundee City Council and Angus Council to collaborate in relation to learning estate matters pertaining to the West Broughty Ferry/Monifieth area. The appropriate committees of Dundee City and Angus Councils are asked to agree that the respective Executive/Strategic Directors commence informal consultation with stakeholders in conjunction with one another on related matters.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 In order to progress further with these two potential projects, it is recommended that the Committee:
- (i) Approves that Angus Council explores in more detail, working in collaboration with Dundee City Council and Perth & Kinross Council, the practicalities of developing a joint integrated community learning campus
  - (ii) Approves that Dundee and Angus Councils work in collaboration regarding learning estate matters in the West Broughty Ferry/Monifieth areas;
  - (iii) Approves that an informal consultation proceeds with the relevant communities in the potentially effected areas across Tayside;
  - (ii) Instructs the respective Executive/Strategic Directors to prepare a report on the results of the informal consultation and report back to their appropriate Committee on the outcome of the consultation at a future meeting. Depending on the outcome of this informal consultation the respective Committees may at this stage be asked to instruct the relevant Executive/Strategic Director to consult formally under the terms of the Schools ( Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 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 (report [354/17](#) 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.

- 2.2 The report identified that working together would contribute to addressing the national agenda in terms of tackling poverty, closing equity gaps, raising attainment and improving the health and wellbeing of all children, young people, families and communities.
- 2.3 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 school/learning estate, related challenges and shared solutions (Committee Report [189/18](#) refers).
- 2.4 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 potential creation of a modern, vibrant, flexible, Tri-Council 3-18 joint integrated community learning campus. The creation of this school may 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.
- 2.5 Also of significance is the Scottish Government Programme (Delivering for Today Investing for Tomorrow) and the evolving Schools For the Future Programme and associated Learning Estates Strategy. This proposal for collaboration is in line with the aspirations identified by Scottish Government.
- 2.6 Dundee City Council's recent Capital Investment Strategy has determined that there will be a secondary capacity issue in the west of the city in the medium term. This area is currently served by Baldrac Academy and Harris Academy.
- 2.7 Angus Council adopted a School Investment Strategy which set out the aspirations for our 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, with the potential to include leisure facilities in the Monifieth area. Eight possible options were identified, including 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.

- 2.8 The transformation programme 'Securing the Future of the School Estate' is currently underway in Perth and Kinross. 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.
- 2.9 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 may potentially 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.
- 2.10 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 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.

- 2.11 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 workstreams 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 could potentially 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.

### **3. PROGRESS TO DATE**

- 3.1 An initial working group has been set up involving officers from the three councils and which is chaired by the Executive Director of Children & Families Service, Dundee City Council.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 Discussions have taken place between officers and the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) with a view to seeking funding from the Scottish Government for the Tayside learning estate.
- 3.4 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 1 Section 3.3 outlines possibilities in relation to reinitiating the relationship for secondary education provision for Barnhill Primary School pupils to Monifieth High School. In addition, a number of options are outlined for improved secondary educational provision in the East of Dundee and the relocation of Mill of Mains Primary school to the Baldrigon Academy catchment.
- 3.5 Angus Council has undertaken initial engagement on the original eight options for the Monifieth Cluster including the possibility of a joint campus with Dundee City and Perth & Kinross Council (see Appendix 1 for further details). The level of response to our 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.
- 3.6 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 campus serving the south Angus area.
- 3.7 All three councils have been in discussion with Hubco – a partnership between public and private organisations, focused on delivering and developing better local services. A proposal has been developed for Hubco to engage consultants to look into the legal, financial and planning aspects, including school-site location of a possible joint school. It should be noted that Hubco involvement does not pre-suppose the potential procurement route for this project, which will be subject to a further report.

### **4. PROPOSALS**

#### **Collaboration – Key Points for Consideration**

- 4.1 The governance of the consultation, overall project and build would be shared equally across the three councils.
- 4.2 Any substantive changes to educational provision will be the subject of formal consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 4.3 Continued discussions will take place with the Scottish Futures Trust in relation to funding opportunities. Agreement would need to be reached on the division of the remainder of the funding.

- 4.4 Potential financial arrangements and resourcing of the new school are currently being established by a Tri-Council sub-group working closely with their respective corporate financial colleagues.

#### **Collaboration Regarding 3-18 Joint Integrated Community Learning Campus - Next Steps**

- 4.5 It is important that all three Local Authorities progress the collaborative process together and in particular that the communications are co-ordinated.
- 4.6 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 and other stakeholders
  - meetings with parents/carers and communities, and
  - informal consultation via digital engagement strategies
- 4.7 In Angus, this will build upon the initial engagement carried out in relation to the Monifieth Cluster Options Appraisal.
- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 All three Councils would report to their relevant committees 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 School/Learning Estate Matters in the West Broughty Ferry/Monifieth Areas – Next Steps**

- 4.10 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 the possibilities in relation to reinitiating the relationship for secondary education provision for Barnhill Primary School pupils to Monifieth High School. This is dependent on the West Dundee/South Angus/East Carse development going ahead. The Dundee and Angus Councils' Committees are asked to agree that the respective Executive/Strategic Directors commence informal consultation with stakeholders in conjunction with one another on related matters.
- 4.11 It is important that Dundee and Angus Councils progress the collaborative process in this regard together and in particular that communications are coordinated.
- 4.12 It is proposed, therefore, that Dundee City and Angus Councils conduct joint informal consultation with communities to assess the level of support for possible developments. 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 places, including:
- engagement with children, young people and other stakeholders
  - meetings with parents/carers and communities, and
  - informal consultation via digital engagement strategies.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **6. CONCLUSION**

6.1 Early inter-Council discussions indicate that it would be mutually beneficial for:

- all three Councils to explore potential 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; and
- for Dundee and Angus Councils to collaborate on school/learning estate matters in the West Broughty Ferry/Monifieth areas.

**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 354/17 The Tayside Children's Services Improvement Collaborative  
Report 189/18 - Angus Schools For The Future - Monifieth Cluster Schools Options Appraisal-  
Update.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Perth and Kinross

- 1.0 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. If Harris Academy nears capacity, Dundee City Council will have to revise the catchment area for Harris Academy.
- 1.1 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

### Angus

- 2.0 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 Council, this will provide a strategic approach to the learning estate from Montrose to Perth.
- 2.1 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 & Kinross. This will include looking at the possibility of re-instating previous dual catchment areas to secure best value from existing resources.
- 2.2 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

- 3.0 The Council's recent Capital Investment Strategy sets out that, as a result of an increasing secondary pupil population, there will be a secondary pupil roll capacity issue in the west of the city with pressure on Harris Academy in the medium term. If Harris Academy continued to accept all priority 1 pupils, including pupils living in Invergowrie and attending Invergowrie Primary School, its projected roll by 2024 would be 1,388: some 80 pupils over capacity. A new Tri-Council secondary school within reach of the Western Gateway would be instrumental in alleviating this pressure in addition to addressing revised school estate aspirations and improvements within both Angus and Perth and Kinross Councils.
- 3.1 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
  - (a) The refurbishment of both Craigie High School and Braeview Academy on their existing sites;
  - (b) 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 Secondary School).
- 3.2 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.

- 3.3 Capacity pressures also exist in relation to Grove Academy partly due to significant 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 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 Barnhill PS pupils live within the catchment of and attend Grove Academy, a significant percentage of its pupil catchment live closer to Monifieth HS. 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 should, therefore, be considered. Pupils would retain priority 1 status for Grove Academy. 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. If enacted, such a move could allow for the realignment of Craigiebarns Primary school pupils to Grove Academy on transition to secondary school. At present a significant number of pupils from Craigiebarns PS make placing requests to Grove, particularly those residing in West Broughty Ferry area of the Craigiebarns PS catchment.