

# PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

## Lifelong Learning Committee

4 September 2019

### COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO SCHOOL/LEARNING ESTATE TRANSFORMATION - UPDATE ON JOINT 2-18 COMMUNITY LEARNING CAMPUS

Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)  
(Report No. 19/241)

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

Perth and Kinross Council has been exploring the potential development of a new 2-18 joint community learning campus with Dundee City Council and Angus Council. This report provides an update on a number of key areas which have been considered in terms of the potential feasibility of a joint 2-18 community learning campus. Similar update reports will be considered at the respective committees of Angus Council and Dundee City Council.

#### 1. BACKGROUND

##### Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative (TRIC)

- 1.1 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 No. 16/563 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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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. These discussions indicated there was a collective appetite for working together to enhance the respective school/learning estates.

- 1.4 On 30 January 2019, Lifelong Learning Committee ([Report No. 19/33 refers](#)) approved that Perth and Kinross Council would explore in more detail, working in collaboration with Dundee City Council and Angus Council on the practicalities of developing a new joint 2-18 community learning campus. It should be noted that Perth and Kinross are interested only in the secondary element of the joint 2-18 community learning campus.

## **2. KEY AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION – UPDATE**

- 2.1 The report to this Committee in January 2019 detailed a number of key areas which would need to be addressed in order to pursue in more detail the aspiration for a joint 2-18 community learning campus. The initial focus of the Project Board and Project Team, which consists of representatives from all three Councils, has been on: informal engagement with communities; land/location of campus; finance; and impact on the learning estate.

### **Informal Engagement with Communities**

- 2.2 The development of the informal consultation exercise was undertaken collaboratively with Dundee City Council and Angus Council. In addition, the governance of the consultation was shared across the three councils with a shared strategy and communication plan developed.
- 2.3 As the potential location of the joint 2-18 community learning campus is South Angus/West Dundee/East Carse, communities from the catchments of the following schools in Perth and Kinross were invited to take part in the informal consultation exercise:
- Abernyte Primary School;
  - Errol Primary School;
  - Inchtute Primary School;
  - Invergowrie Primary School;
  - Longforgan Primary School; and
  - St Madoes Primary School.
- 2.4 Seven informal community drop-in sessions, on the joint 2-18 learning community campus, were held between 23 April 2019 and 9 May 2019. The sessions took place in schools, halls and a hotel within Perth and Kinross, Dundee City and Angus Council areas.
- 2.5 There were representatives from Perth and Kinross, Dundee City and Angus Councils at each of the informal drop-in sessions.
- 2.6 Approximately 130 people attended across the seven events. There was a mix of parents/carers of current pupils, families with young children not yet of school age and some residents who did not have school age children.
- 2.7 Feedback was also sought via an online survey available through the “Perth and Kinross Council Consultation Hub” site. The survey was also available on

Angus Council and Dundee City Council websites. The survey was available for completion from 23 April 2019 until 7 June 2019.

2.8 The response rate, across the 3 local authorities, was 560 completed surveys. Another 190 responses were incomplete.

2.9 Key messages from the responses were:

- 407 people out of 556 responded that they were in support of the proposal for the joint 2-18 community learning campus;
- There was concern over the lack of certainty of the timing of the project and therefore which children would be affected;
- Home to school transport was a key consideration for families;
- Transition to the new joint 2-18 community learning campus would be key, particularly where there are siblings;
- For Angus Council, there were concerns over the potential closures of rural primaries; and
- For Dundee City Council, 26% of parents were in favour of a primary school at the Western Gateway being given precedence over a 2-18 joint community learning campus, however 59% of respondees favoured the campus being built first.

2.10 There were 243 completed responses received from Perth and Kinross Council residents to the proposal. Table 1 below provides further information on respondents:

<b>Number of responses received</b>	<b>Response from parents/carers</b>	<b>Response from pupils currently attending PKC schools</b>	<b>Response from PKC staff</b>	<b>Response from "other"</b>
243	208 <sup>1</sup>	15	8	12

Table 1: Response to proposal

2.11 It is estimated that the parents of approximately 15% of pupils who attend schools in the Carse of Gowrie responded to the questionnaire. The response rate was consistent across all catchment areas.

2.12 Fifty eight parents/carers of younger children, not currently attending school, also responded to the questionnaire.

2.13 Of the 243 Perth and Kinross responses, 194 (80%) were supportive of the proposal, 30 (12%) were unsure and 19 (8%) were against the proposal.

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<sup>1</sup> Includes parents/carers of children currently attending PKC schools and parents/carers of children who are not yet attending school.

- 2.14 Of the 194 responses in favour of the proposal 85% of parents/carers said they would send their children to the joint 2-18 community learning campus if the proposal was to proceed.
- 2.15 Further details on the feedback are contained in Appendix A.

### **Land/Location of Campus**

- 2.16 The location and development of the joint 2-18 community learning campus is dependent on suitable land being identified. The Project Board has engaged consultants through East Central Hub (Hubco) to look into the legal, financial and planning aspects of a possible joint 2-18 learning community campus.
- 2.17 An initial assessment of site options was carried out by the consultants and 12 possible site options were identified. Nine of the sites were ruled out after further assessment.

### **Finance**

- 2.18 A sub-group of the Project Board was established to consider financial arrangements and resourcing of the new joint 2-18 community learning campus.
- 2.19 There have been discussions with colleagues from Scottish Future's Trust (SFT) who have indicated that they consider there is the potential for funding through the Scottish Government Programme (Delivering for Today Investing for Tomorrow) and the evolving Schools For the Future Programme/Learning Strategy. This proposal for collaboration on the learning estate is in line with the aspirations for such funding as identified by the Scottish Government.
- 2.20 The Scottish Government is still developing the funding model for the new Learning Estate Strategy and it has not yet been agreed by CoSLA. The information which is known currently is as follows:
- There will be £2bn investment in the Scottish learning estate over the next six years. This will comprise £1bn from Scottish Government and £1bn match funding from local authorities; and
  - Funding is moving to a fully revenue based model. This means Local Government must fund the upfront £2bn capital investment required to build and improve schools. The Scottish Government will provide revenue funding of up to £1bn to local authorities over the following 25 years to meet facilities management and life cycle maintenance costs. Other revenue costs of supporting the school will be met by the local authority without funding support, eg teachers and non-domestic rates.
- 2.21 The capital cost of delivering a joint 2-18 community learning campus has been estimated at £55.5m, to be met by the 3 authorities. Perth and Kinross would anticipate a share of the secondary element of the joint 2-18 community learning campus only, at an approximate cost of £14m, based on a high level

m<sup>2</sup> cost estimate. This would have to be funded through increased loan charges or reprioritising the existing capital programme.

- 2.22 In addition to the capital cost of the building, there would be new revenue costs associated with running the joint 2-18 community learning campus including staffing and property. This is currently estimated at approximately £2m per annum for Perth and Kinross.

### Impact on the Learning Estate

- 2.23 The impact on the Perth and Kinross Secondary Learning Estate with the establishment of a joint 2-18 community learning campus has been considered on the basis of the following criteria, which were previously used in the development of a catchment area for Bertha Park High School:

Criteria	Overview	Outcome
Quality educational environment	The new building will provide a quality learning environment, however the pupils destined for the new campus will already have a new build school at Perth High School.	Neutral
Cost Effective	The campus would require additional revenue funding of approximately £7m a year between the three Councils when the campus is fully occupied.	Negative
Maintains geographic/community links	The campus would maintain existing links with Dundee for Invergowrie and reinstate links with Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan.	Positive
Minimises travel	Although the location of the school has not yet been determined, travel distances for pupils from Abernyte, Inchtute, Invergowrie and Longforgan would be less than distances to Perth.	Positive
Uses assets effectively	Bertha Park High School has recently opened and has provided additional capacity for 1100 pupils in Perth City to accommodate additional house building. There is currently no requirement for the additional capacity that the campus would provide.	Negative

Table 2: Summary of impact of joint community learning campus

## 3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 All three local authorities have considered the outcomes of this initial exploratory phase and, like Perth and Kinross, are reporting to their respective committees on 5 September 2019 (Angus Council) and 9 September 2019 (Dundee City Council). The outcomes are detailed below:

## **Angus Council**

- 3.2 Recommendations to Angus Council's Children & Learning Committee will include that involvement in a potential joint campus should cease on the basis of feedback and engagement, including opinions about school closures, as well as consideration of financial and educational implications.

## **Dundee Council**

- 3.3 The feedback from Dundee citizens taking part in the consultation supported the idea of a Joint Community Learning Campus. Whilst the consultation response supported the idea of a Tri-council 2-18 Joint Community Learning Campus, progress towards this is only possible where the proposal is deemed viable by all three councils.

## **Perth and Kinross Council**

- 3.4 In considering all of the information available, including the position of our partner local authorities, it is proposed that Perth and Kinross Council maintain our focus on the improvement of the existing learning estate rather than progress further with the joint 2-18 community learning campus at this time.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 Since January 2019, work has taken place to determine the feasibility of a 2-18 joint community learning campus between Angus Council, Dundee City Council and Perth and Kinross Council.
- 4.2 This collaborative work has been a very positive experience for all three Councils. It has also been a learning experience, with the respective Councils bringing different areas of expertise to the project.
- 4.3 The outcome of this work is summarised as follows:
- There are options for land in each of the three local authority areas, however further detailed work would have to take place to confirm any of them as a suitable site;
  - The financial situation is challenging, with Councils being required to commit to the capital funding of the building and land, but more importantly there are likely to be significant revenue costs associated with staffing and running a new establishment;
  - The response to the consultation from Carse of Gowrie communities was positive, however only approximately 15% of families engaged; and
  - Perth and Kinross does not require a new secondary school in terms of capacity at this time, however there are benefits to the children in East of the Carse of Gowrie in terms of travel, if a secondary school was built close to their homes.

4.4 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Notes the progress that has been made through collaboration between the three local authorities;
- (ii) Notes that, the exploratory work that has been undertaken has clarified that the joint 2-18 community learning campus is not the right solution for each local authority at this time; and
- (iii) Approves that the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) ceases involvement in the exploration of a joint 2-18 community learning campus at this time and focuses on the improvement of the existing learning estate.

**Author(s)**

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**Approved**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Sheena Devlin</b>	<b>Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)</b>	<b>29 August 2019</b>

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes / None</b>
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	<b>Yes</b>
Corporate Plan	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	<b>None</b>
Workforce	<b>None</b>
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	<b>None</b>
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	<b>n/a</b>
Strategic Environmental Assessment	<b>n/a</b>
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	<b>n/a</b>
Legal and Governance	<b>Yes</b>
Risk	
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	<b>Yes</b>
External	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	<b>Yes</b>

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 The proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement in terms of the following priorities:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to all of these objectives.

#### Corporate Plan

1.2 The Perth and Kinross Council Corporate Plan set out five strategic objectives:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to all of these Objectives.



1.3 The report also links to the Education & Children's Services Policy Framework in respect of the following key policy area:

- Maximising Resources

## 2. Resource Implications

### Financial

2.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report other than those reported within the body of the main report.

### Workforce

2.2 There are no direct workforce implications arising from this report.

### Asset Management (land, property, IT)

2.3 There are no direct asset management implications arising from this report at this point.

## 3. Assessments

### Equality Impact Assessment

3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

3.1.1 The information contained within this report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome and has been assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment.

3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

3.2.1 However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report. This is because these matters relate to the School Estate Strategy which is being considered under the Act as part of The Council's Asset Management Plan.

### Sustainability

3.3 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to

sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.

The information contained within this report has been considered under the Act. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report.

#### Legal and Governance

- 3.4 The Head of Legal and Governance Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

#### Risk

- 3.5 A joint risk log is being developed as part of the project planning process.

### **4. Consultation**

#### Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Finance, Head of Legal and Governance, Head of Property Services and Corporate Asset Management Team Leader have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

#### External

- 4.2 The report provides outcomes on the consultation with communities in Perth and Kinross.

### **5. Communication**

- 5.1 A joint communication plan has been developed by the Communications Teams of the three councils. The plan will support effective communication and engagement with stakeholders. A range of methods will be used to consult with internal and external stakeholders such as meetings, briefings, community consultation and focus groups. A separate communications plan will be developed for any Statutory Consultation process.

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 2.1 No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

## **3. APPENDICES**

Appendix A – A collaborative Approach to Learning Estate Transformation Across Tayside