



**Perth & Kinross Council  
Education and Children's Services  
Statutory Consultation Public Meeting**

**Minute of meeting held on Thursday 2 October 2014**

**At 7 pm in Perth Academy, Perth**

**Present**

Councillor Bob Band	Convener, Lifelong Learning Committee
Audrey May	Strategic Lead – Change & Improvement
Karen Robertson	Service Manager - Business Services
Carol Taylor	Service Manager – Resources

**In Attendance**

Councillor Barbara Vaughan	Perth and Kinross Council
Johnny Lothian	Headteacher, Perth Academy
Carolyn Noble – Minutes	Perth and Kinross Council

4 members of the public.

**WHO**

- Welcome and Introductions**  
Councillor Band opened the meeting and welcomed the members of public in attendance to the Statutory Consultation Public Meeting. Councillor Band introduced himself and the panel to the members of the public and thanked them for attending.
- Format of meeting**  
Councillor Band explained the format the meeting would follow.
- The proposal**  
Councillor Band explained the consultation proposal to the attendees:  
  
The Council proposes to:
  - establish a new secondary school at Berth Park with effect from March 2018;
  - vary the existing admission arrangements to alter the catchment areas for Perth Grammar school, Perth High School and Perth Academy to establish a catchment area for the proposed new secondary school, and establish temporary admission arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new school; and
  - vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school by altering the designated secondary school for the directly affected primary schools and establish temporary transfer arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new secondary school.

#### 4. Presentations

Audrey May and Karen Robertson gave presentations explaining the proposal in further detail.

Audrey May gave a presentation on the background to the proposal and the reasons a new secondary school is required. The presentation outlined the proposed site for the new secondary school and the proposed catchment area. Information was provided on the proposed first cohort of pupils expected to attend the new secondary school along with the transition arrangements, the educational benefits of the proposal and leadership and staffing arrangements for the new secondary school. Audrey also explained the project timeline to 2018.

Karen Robertson gave a presentation on the statutory consultation process including the legal framework, consideration by Lifelong Learning Committee, the content of the proposal including the Educational Benefits statement, statutory consultation period and representation from interested parties as the first part of the consultation process. Karen Robertson then went on to explain the next stages of the process which includes the involvement of Education Scotland, the preparation and publication of the consultation report and the decision made by the Lifelong Learning Committee.

Councillor Band then opened up the meeting to any questions or observations from the floor.

#### 5. Questions

**Q. Will the teaching staff at Bertha Park, teach the children from S1-S6?**

**A.** This has yet to be confirmed. The Transitional Leadership Team will look at the staffing required one year at a time. A larger amount of teachers will be required as each new year group attends the new school.

**Q. A concern was raised regarding the Bertha Park S1 pupils attending Perth Grammar School for a short period of time then moving these pupils to the new secondary school. At this point the pupils will have made close relationships with their teachers and other pupils. Will there be additional support in place?**

**A.** Yes. The Transitional Leadership Team will keep the Bertha Park cohort together for S1 in August 2017 to enable the pupils to become friends and then they will move together into the new school in March 2018.

**Q. Will the Bertha Park S1 pupils be taught the same subjects as other fellow S1 pupils?**

**A.** Yes. All areas of the curriculum will be provided ensuring consistency is in place. The Transitional Leadership Team will be in place to provide pastoral support.

**Q. A concern was raised regarding the S1 Bertha Park pupils standing out at Perth Grammar School i.e. different uniform etc. How will this be managed?**

**A.** The management team at Perth Grammar School are currently looking at ways to ensure, at all times, the pupils will be made to feel part of Perth Grammar School and not seen as outsiders. The school's main focus is to ensure all pupils attending the school have a happy and valuable learning experience.

KR explained the process which will be in place to support families who may choose to keep their children together at the same secondary school if their older child already attends a secondary school.

**Q. For pupils who live in Ruthvenfield, will there be free transport provided considering it is 3 miles away from the potential new build?**

**A.** As the specific site for the location of the new school has not yet been confirmed, it cannot be specified if school transport will be provided. The normal rules for transport entitlement will apply where any secondary pupils living more than 3 miles from their catchment school will receive free home to school transport on distance grounds. However, it is a high priority to provide safe walking routes to school wherever possible. A school ravel plan will be developed to ensure this.

**Q. At Ruthvenfield Primary School there are a lot of placing requests that come from the Western Edge part of Perth. What arrangements are in place for this?**

**A.** All arrangements for placing requests will remain the same. Parents living outwith the new catchment area for the new secondary school with children in S1 and S2 will have the right to make a placing request for their child to attend the new school if they so wish. This, however, will not be possible for senior pupils until the school has S1-S6 stages operational.

**Q. Will the new S1 and S2 pupils have the same experience of prefects and school captains?**

**A.** Perth City Campus pupils will be based in the school for part of the week for particular subjects and will deliver the usual experience of having senior pupils within the school. They will play a key role in ensuring S1 and S2 pupils have a happy start to secondary school.

Councillor Band thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.