



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

Minute of meeting held on Tuesday 30 September 2014

at 7.00pm in Perth Grammar School

Present

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

In Attendance

Councillor Barbara Vaughan	Perth and Kinross Council
John Devine	Quality Improvement Officer, Perth and Kinross Council
Barry Millar	Headteacher, Perth Grammar School
Pamela Biccocchi – Minute	Perth and Kinross Council

4 members of the public

1. 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.

2. Format of meeting

Councillor Band explained the format the meeting would follow.

3. 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 How realistic is the build timescale?

A The timescale is challenging. It is anticipated that the school plans will be submitted for planning permission by this time next year. The new housing development plans will be submitted for planning permission by January. The road may be an issue but access can be gained to build the school. We will know by February if the timescale is achievable.

Q Has the school been designed yet?

A No. There has been some work done on a basic model school so there is a position to start from.

Q What does it mean for parents if Perth and Kinross Council do not meet the date?

A We will know long before the Bertha Park S1 cohort are brought together if timescales will be an issue. If timescales cannot be met, the Council must re-consult with parents at the earliest opportunity if there is a fundamental change to the proposal.

Q Children start to think about transition around P5. If the timescales are not met and the current P5 will no longer be the cohort commencing S1 in August 2017, this is very concerning.

A It is important that the Council understands parents have an issue with this. We understand parents are concerned about the hosting of children in Perth Grammar School for 9 months and whether there may be an extension to this. The school must be operational by March 2018 to secure funding from the Scottish Government.

Q Will there be teachers for all subjects from the start?

A Yes. The young people will be able to access a full curriculum from the start. There is a rolling programme of recruitment and selection but permanent staff will be employed – the school will not be staffed with supply teachers. There are locally and nationally agreed staffing standards which will be met as the school roll increases.

Q Younger pupils look to senior pupils as role models in secondary schools, for example they may aspire to be prefects. What can children in the new school aspire to?

A The population of the new secondary school will require careful management. We acknowledge it will be a different experience for pupils. Moving older pupils in to the new school was discounted early on as there were concerns about disrupting pupils, particularly in exam years. Consideration will be given to doing things with other schools. There will be further involvement at a later stage with user groups.

Perth City Campus is a way of enabling small numbers of senior pupils from different schools to come together to study a subject which may not be offered in one school. It was initially anticipated that around 40 senior pupils would access Perth City Campus; there are currently 190 pupils accessing Perth City Campus. The new secondary school will teach Perth City Campus pupils from the start. The senior pupils will be role models and mentors for the younger pupils.

Q The new school will eventually be surrounded by houses. What about pupils moving in to the new houses who are older than S1?

A The proposal is the school will be populated on a phased basis, i.e. one year group at a time. If older children move in to the area but their year group is not yet operational, they will be allocated to the current, existing secondary school catchment area.

If pupils allocated to the new secondary school have older siblings attending a current, existing catchment secondary school, the younger siblings will be offered the choice of which school they wish to attend. Transport will be provided for both options (based on current entitlement policy). The Council is committed to supporting families until the school is fully operational. We acknowledge this is an issue for parents and we will support them to decide what is best for their children.

Q Why have children to the west of the A9 being chosen for the new school but not those to the east of the A9?

A Consideration has been given to balancing numbers across the secondary schools in Perth City. Perth High School is reaching capacity and therefore the inclusion of Dunbarney, Oudenarde, Forgandenny and Forteviot in the new school will alleviate capacity problems in Perth High School. If Luncarty, Stanley and Murthly were included, this would mean Perth Grammar School would have very low numbers as well as an imbalance in rural and city pupils. The proposal will provide a good balance of pupils as well as a balance of rural and city pupils in all schools.

Q What facilities will the new school have?

A The new school will have all the facilities required in a secondary school (classrooms, assembly hall, PE facilities, etc) but will not be a Community Campus, e.g. there will not be a community library or swimming pool.

Q Will the new school design be future proofed?

A Yes. However, there will not be a two tier school system. Existing schools are being and will continue to be invested in. The school estate is under constant review. The new house building between now and 2035/2040 also includes long term plans for the building of new primary schools.

Councillor Band thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.