



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

Minute of meeting held on Wednesday 1 October 2014

at 7.00pm in Perth High School

Present

Councillor Bob Band
Audrey May
Karen Robertson
Carol Taylor

Convener, Lifelong Learning Committee
Strategic Lead – Change and Improvement
Service Manager – Business Services
Service Manager – Resources

In Attendance

Councillor Barbara Vaughan
Susan Davidson – Minute

Perth and Kinross Council
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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. Will the catchment areas stay the same for the other areas not included in the new school?

A. Yes, they will stay the same. We are legally required to also write to parents of children not directly involved in the new catchment areas although it will not affect the majority of families other than reducing the catchment area and school rolls at the current secondary schools.

Q. Are there any other reasons apart from being within the financial year for moving in March 2018 and not in August?

A. We also wanted to bring the children together as a cohort for a few months before they moved into the new school. Otherwise, they would be spread out over a number of schools. The new school has to be opened in March 2018 within financial year 2017-18. It is unlikely but if there is any chance of moving pupils any earlier then we will consider that.

Q. If you are not within the proposed new catchment area can you put in a placing request for the new school?

A. Yes, for the current P5 stage and younger. Parents cannot make placing requests for older children as there will not be senior stages in the school when it first opens. We consider a phased entry best for the children rather than moving older children when they are already attending a secondary school. We recognise this may cause some difficulties for families with older children but we will support these families as best we can by offering choices for parents to keep siblings together or to have the younger child attend the new school with their friends and peers.

Councillor Band thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.