



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

Minute of meeting held on Tuesday 23 September 2014

at 7.00pm in Pitcairngreen Village Hall

Present

Councillor Bob Band
Audrey May
Karen Robertson
Carol Taylor

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

In Attendance

Councillor Barbara Vaughan	Perth and Kinross Council
Pamela Bicocchi – Minute	Perth and Kinross Council

3 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 children who will be of age to access Perth City Campus educational opportunities by March 2018 be able to use the new school?

A. Yes. It is anticipated that the new school will form part of Perth City Campus. When Perth City Campus began, it was expected around 40 pupils would access this opportunity. There are now approximately 140 pupils accessing Perth City Campus. It is carefully managed.

Q. Will siblings be separated?

A. Parents whose children have been designated to different catchment secondary schools following the opening of the new school will have the choice to send younger children to the same catchment school as older siblings or to send them to the new school.

Q. Will transport be provided?

A. Normal transport rules will apply, i.e. children living more than three miles from their catchment secondary school by the shortest walking route will be entitled to free home to school transport. It is anticipated the Planning Application for the new secondary school will consider safe walking paths and cycle routes.

Q. Will staff numbers decrease in existing schools if staff are moved to the new school?

A. The new school will have capacity for 1100 pupils and will be staffed in line with local and national staffing standards. If staff leave an existing school to take up a position in the new school, they will be replaced as it is expected rolls will increase in existing schools as new housing developments are built in their catchment areas.

Q. We have heard about the benefits of the new school. What about the children who will be left in existing schools? Will there be investment in these schools?

A. The Modernising Secondary Schools Programme has resulted in significant expenditure in recent times, for example £3.5 million has been invested in Perth Grammar School. Further funding has been bid for. This is to ensure the buildings are suitable for modern learning and teaching.

Perth Grammar School, Perth High School and Perth Academy all have fairly new Headteachers who are very keen to develop their own schools. The new secondary school will not prevent existing schools from flourishing.

Q. There is a good balance of rural and city pupils in Perth Grammar School. How will this be affected if Pitcairn, Methven, Ruthvenfield, Logiealmond and Auchtergaven pupils no longer attend?

A. As Luncarty and Stanley are developed, it is anticipated that an increase in the number of pupils coming from those areas will compensate for the loss of the above schools.

Councillor Band thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.20pm.