

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Lifelong Learning Committee

30 January 2019

COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO SCHOOL/LEARNING ESTATE TRANSFORMATION

Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)
(Report No. 19/33)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report details opportunities for Perth and Kinross Council to collaborate with Dundee City Council and Angus Council in the development of the combined school/learning estate. In particular the report seeks approval to explore the potential for a 3-18 community learning campus which would accommodate pupils from all three Local Authorities. It should be noted that Perth and Kinross Council would not seek nursery or primary accommodation in the proposed campus.

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 indicate there is a collective appetite for working together to enhance our respective school/learning estates.
- 1.4 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.

Learning Estate Strategies

- 1.5 The transformation programme 'Securing the Future of the School Estate' is currently underway in Perth and Kinross. In addition the Council has a significant capital programme of £175m investment for the primary and secondary school estate between 2018 and 2028. This programme will deliver a replacement Perth High School. In addition, a new secondary school, Bertha Park High School will accommodate pupils from major housebuilding to the North West of Perth and will open in August 2019.
- 1.6 The building of a joint community learning campus would allow Perth and Kinross to consider other opportunities to better balance the capacities of the secondary school estate in Perth. Following on from any such considerations, it would then be possible to revise the capital programme enabling more improvements within the secondary school estate across Perth and Kinross to be delivered.
- 1.7 Significantly for Perth and Kinross Council, the majority of pupils (approximately 100) from Invergowrie already attend Harris Academy for secondary education as they are entitled to attend in terms of Dundee City Council's current admission arrangements. Given the projected medium term capacity issues likely to be faced by Harris Academy, opportunities exist to explore revised school catchment boundaries in the west of Dundee including the possible realignment of Invergowrie Primary School pupils to any new community learning campus.
- 1.8 It should be noted that Perth and Kinross Council would not seek nursery or primary school accommodation within the proposed community learning campus.
- 1.9 Dundee City Council's recent Capital Investment Strategy has determined that there will be a secondary capacity issue in the west of the city in the medium term. This area is currently served by Baldragon Academy and Harris Academy.
- 1.10 Angus Council adopted a School Investment Strategy which set out the aspirations for their learning estate and a prioritisation for the next 30 years. This is called the Angus Schools for the Future Programme. It aims to ensure learning environments are the best they can be to support children, young people and communities in their learning.
- 1.11 The strategy's second priority is to undertake an options appraisal exercise for Monifieth High School and all Monifieth cluster primary schools to include leisure facilities in the Monifieth area. Eight options were identified, including the option of working in partnership with Perth and Kinross and Dundee City

Councils to create a joint community learning campus serving the south Angus area.

Collaboration on the Learning Estate

- 1.12 It has previously been identified that it could be beneficial for all three Councils to consider collaboration on a new joint 3-18 community learning campus in West Dundee/South Angus/East Carse, supporting the provision of learning facilities close to the communities within which the pupils and their families live. Initial estimates suggest there could be demand for a secondary school capable of accommodating 1100 pupils to serve this area. In addition Dundee City Council has identified the possibility that their Western Gateway developments could lead to up to 500 primary aged pupils living in the area by 2030.
- 1.13 A working group has been set up involving officers from the three councils which is chaired by the Executive Director of Children & Families Service, Dundee City Council.
- 1.14 Discussions have taken place between officers and the SFT with a view to seeking funding from the Scottish Government for the learning estate of all three councils.
- 1.15 Dundee City Council and Angus Council are also progressing discussions on collaboration to the east of the city; however this is dependent on the West Dundee/South Angus/East Carse development going ahead.
- 1.16 Angus Council has undertaken initial engagement on the original eight options for the Monifieth Cluster including the possibility of a joint campus with Dundee City and Perth & Kinross Council. Angus has aspirations for an all-through campus in this area.
- 1.17 The response to this engagement identified that there was general support for Angus Council to work in partnership with Perth and Kinross and Dundee City Councils to create a joint learning community campus serving the south Angus area.

2. PROPOSALS

Collaboration – Key Areas for Consideration/Action

- 2.1 There are a number of key areas which need to be addressed in order to pursue in more detail the aspiration for a joint community learning campus accommodating pupils from all three councils.
- 2.2 One of the key areas to be considered in the first instance is informal consultation with communities to determine the level of support for the proposal for a joint community learning campus.

- 2.3 Initial discussions have determined that the governance of any consultation with communities would be shared across the 3 councils. It is likely that there would also be shared governance around the building project. Governance arrangements for the establishment and operation of the campus would also have to be determined.
- 2.4 The location and development of the joint community learning campus is dependent on suitable land being identified. The working group has engaged consultants through East Central Hub (Hubco) to look into the legal, financial and planning aspects of a possible joint learning community campus.
- 2.5 A sub-group of the working group is being established to consider financial arrangements and resourcing of the new school. This group would contribute towards discussions with the Scottish Futures Trust in relation to the funding of the building. In particular this group will need to determine any financial commitment from the three local authorities towards the building. This group will also consider how the running costs of the school will be funded on an ongoing basis.
- 2.6 Any substantive changes to educational provision would be the subject of formal consultation under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The process and timing of any statutory consultation would have to accommodate the collaborative nature of the proposals. Consideration would also need to be given to any impact on the wider secondary estate in the three council areas. Specifically other consultations may need to take place based on the outcome of any scenario planning and informal consultation.

Collaboration Regarding 3-18 Joint Community Learning Campus - Next Steps

- 2.7 Given the need for all three Local Authorities to progress the collaborative process simultaneously it is important to ensure that any communications are co-ordinated.
- 2.8 It is anticipated that any informal consultation on the proposal would be concluded by the end of June 2019. An agreed and consistent approach to such consultation will take place across all three Councils, including:
- meetings with parents/carers and communities;
 - meetings with children, young people and other stakeholders; and
 - informal consultation via digital engagement strategies.
- 2.9 All three Councils would report to their relevant committee on the outcome of any informal consultation. Depending on the outcomes of both exercises, there may be a requirement to undertake Statutory Consultations to progress the recommendations.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Early inter-Council discussions indicate that it would be mutually beneficial for the three councils to explore the potential for collaboration on the development of a new 3-18 joint community learning campus which would accommodate pupils from all three local authorities in West Dundee/South Angus/East Carse.
- 3.2 In order to progress further with this potential project, it is recommended that the Committee:
- (i) Approves that Perth and Kinross Council explores in more detail, working in collaboration with Dundee City Council and Angus Council on the practicalities of developing a new joint community learning campus;
 - (ii) Instructs the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to update Committee on progress in relation to the key points detailed in paragraphs 2.2 to 2.6 of this report at a future meeting;
 - (iii) Approves that an informal consultation proceeds as appropriate; and
 - (iv) Instructs the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to prepare a report on the results of the informal consultation and report back to Committee on the outcome of the consultation at a future meeting.

Author(s)

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

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

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 Community Plan 2013-2023 and Perth and Kinross Council Corporate Plan 2013/2018 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.

Workforce

- 2.2 As a result of this report there are resource implications for several teams across Council Services including Education and Children's Services (ECS) Business Services, ECS Finance and Property Services. This resource will be required to progress the workstreams detailed in sections 2.2 to 2.6 of the 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 proposes consultation with communities in Perth and Kinross, Dundee and Angus Council areas.

5. Communication

- 5.1 A joint communication plan is being 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

N/A