

The Highland Council
Education, Children and Adult Services Committee
1 March 2017

Agenda Item	7.
Report No	ECAS 15/17

Statutory Consultation – Relocation of Dunvegan Primary School

Report by Director of Care and Learning

Summary

Following conclusion of the statutory consultation process, this report and accompanying information sets out a recommendation to relocate Dunvegan Primary School to a new site at Lonmore.

1. Background

- 1.1 On 26 October 2016 this Committee agreed to commence a statutory consultation, per the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, to relocate Dunvegan Primary School, to permit the construction of a new primary school that would address accommodation problems at the current building and location.
- 1.2 The final proposal for decision, following conclusion of the statutory consultation process, is circulated separately as Booklet A.
- 1.3 The legislation requires that any proposal for decision must be published at least 3 weeks in advance of the meeting at which any decision may be made, to allow time for further representations. The Consultation Report was published on 7 February 2017. As of the date of printing, no further representations had been received. Any representations received prior to the Committee meeting will be tabled on the day for Members' attention.

2. The Proposal

- 2.1 The proposal for decision, the original proposal issued for consultation, and relevant appendices for consideration by the Committee are circulated separately in Booklet A. They provide details of all consultation comments received, the note of the public meeting, the report from Education Scotland, and the Council's response to comments arising from the consultation.
- 2.2 There were a total of 71 written responses received from parents and other stakeholders during the consultation period, plus 36 responses from pupils, which came in the form of age adapted questionnaires completed by the pupils in school. Of the 71 written responses, 70 expressed support for a new school in Dunvegan. In slightly over half of these the author either did not offer an opinion on where the school should be located, or specifically indicated they had no preference as to location. There were 32 responses that indicated a clear preference for the new site at Lonmore. One letter was submitted in opposition

to the Proposal.

- 2.3 Of the 36 pupil responses, 29 expressed support for the proposal, although one of these stated that the new school should be built on the current site and not a new site. 7 pupils expressed opposition.
- 2.4 In their report, Education Scotland recognised that the proposal offers the prospect of clear educational benefits due to the poor condition of the current buildings, the lack of facilities such as adequate toilet provision, and the health and safety hazards arising from traffic driving through the car park to access the car park or make deliveries. The proposal has the potential to deliver Curriculum for Excellence within modern, purpose-built accommodation creating a more positive environment with more flexible learning spaces. Additionally, the proposal includes wider community access, including enhanced sporting facilities.
- 2.5 The proposal within the booklets sets out the rationale for the recommendation, and relevant supporting information, which includes:
- The educational benefits of the proposal;
 - The current school buildings condition and suitability scores;
 - The community impact of the proposal;
 - The school transport and travel time implications of the proposal.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 Following consideration by the Committee, if the recommendation is agreed it will be considered by the full Highland Council.

4. Implications

- 4.1 **Resources** – Funding for the new school has been identified in the Council's Capital Plan.
- 4.2 **Legal** – the statutory consultation has been taken forward as per the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 4.3 **Equalities** – are as detailed within **Appendix D** of the Proposal Paper.
- 4.4 **Climate Change/Carbon Clever** – the new school accommodation would be constructed to modern, energy efficient, standards of design and build.
- 4.5 **Risk** – the main risks associated with the recommendation relate to the acquisition of land to allow the proposals to be implemented. The local landowner has however indicated his support for the proposal.
- 4.6 **Gaelic** – Dunvegan Primary School offers Gaelic Medium education. The provision of new school accommodation would bring educational benefits and as such offer have a positive impact on Gaelic.

4.7 **Rural** – The proposal could offer both educational and community benefits to this very rural area.

5. Recommendation

5.1 Members are asked to consider the proposal set out within the Consultation Report and associated appendices and, having given consideration to further representations received, agree to recommend:

- That the Council agree to the relocation of Dunvegan Primary School to a new site at Lonmore.

Designation: Director of Care and Learning

Date: 20 February 2017

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