

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES

THE RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATION THAT PRIMARY SCHOOL AGED PUPILS OF MAUCLINE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THEIR ASSOCIATED STAFF BE DECANTED FROM CURRENT BUILDINGS AND RELOCATED WITHIN ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION AT AUCHINLECK ACADEMY, AUCHINLECK PRIMARY AND GREENMILL PRIMARY SCHOOL DURING THE REFURBISHMENT AND EXTENSION WORK TO EXISTING SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION UNDER THE *BUILDING LEARNING COMMUNITIES* – SCHOOLS PPP PROJECT AND THAT DURING THIS PERIOD THE NURSERY CLASS PUPILS BE DECANTED TO CATRINE NURSERY SCHOOL.

**APPENDIX A - THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT
APPENDIX B - SUMMARY OF RESPONSES**

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS FROM INTERESTED PARTIES ON THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION IN THE MEMBERS LOUNGE.

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES

THE RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL THAT

- PRIMARY SCHOOL AGED PUPILS OF MAUCHLINE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THEIR ASSOCIATED STAFF BE DECANTED FROM CURRENT BUILDINGS AND RELOCATED WITHIN ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION AT AUCHINLECK ACADEMY, AUCHINLECK PRIMARY AND GREENMILL PRIMARY SCHOOL DURING THE REFURBISHMENT AND EXTENSION WORK TO EXISTING SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION UNDER THE *BUILDING LEARNING COMMUNITIES* – SCHOOLS PPP PROJECT; AND
- THAT DURING THIS PERIOD THE NURSERY CLASS PUPILS BE DECANTED TO CATRINE NURSERY SCHOOL.

Report by the Executive Director (Educational and Social Services)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 8 November 2005, East Ayrshire Council's Education Committee approved the issuing of a consultative document which proposed that during the refurbishment and extension of Mauchline Primary School as part of the Council's Schools PPP project pre school and school aged children would be temporarily accommodated within surplus space in nearby schools.

A copy of the consultative document is attached as Appendix A.

- 1.2 The main issues identified in the consultation document were as follows :-

- Spare capacity was identified within Auchinleck Primary, Greenmill Primary and Auchinleck Academy;
- Alternatives were considered but were discounted on a value for money basis;
- Under the proposals the school could be located in appropriate age groupings across a minimum of locations; and
- Administrative and transport arrangements can be delivered effectively.

2. THE CONSULTATION

- 2.1 Written representations on the Committees proposals were sought from interested parties in terms of the Education (Publications and Consultation etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 and Amendment Regulations 1987, 1988 and 1989.

- 2.2 In accordance with normal practice copies of the consultation documents were distributed to the staff and parents of all educational establishments affected by the proposals. Copies were also distributed to the Chairs of School Boards, local elected members, and Members of the Scottish Parliament.
- 2.3 The existence of the document was publicised in the local press and copies were made widely available in the Education Offices and affected schools, in the local community and to local interest groups.
- 2.4 Evening meetings were organised by the School Boards of Auchinleck Primary, Mauchline Primary and Greenmill Primary on 5 December, 7 December and 14 December respectively.

The Auchinleck meeting was attended by 7 parents, over 120 attended the Mauchline meeting and 37 attended the Greenmill evening.

- 2.5 A specific e-mail address was created to facilitate the consultation by electronic means. A total of 19 respondents took advantage of this means of communicating their views.

3. VIEWS EXPRESSED

- 3.1 A total of 34 written submissions were received, including those made by e-mail. These submissions included those from :-
- Greenmill Primary School Board;
 - Mauchline Primary School Board;
 - Auchinleck Primary School Board;
 - Greenmill Primary School staff;
 - Auchinleck Primary School staff; and
 - Parents and other relatives.

A full summary of respondents is included at Appendix B.

One MSP took the opportunity to discuss the consultation proposals by telephone.

In addition to the written submissions, the meetings referred to in sections 2.4 (above) enabled a number of significant issues to be raised. The following paragraphs attempt to summarise the issues raised at the meetings and in written responses to the consultative document.

- 3.2 The issue of pupil transportation to and from the proposed schools was the principal concern for parents from Mauchline Primary. In addition many parents expressed the preference to keep the school within Mauchline during the school's refurbishment.

It was agreed that should the proposals be accepted by Education Committee further discussion with parents would be required.

3.3 Parents at Auchinleck Primary, although understanding of the issue facing Mauchline Primary, expressed a desire not to have the primary 1-3 children located within their establishment. They believe that the proposals would affect the educational attainment of all children currently at the school and the pupils from Mauchline.

3.4 At Greenmill the Board and 37 parents in attendance expressed strong disagreement with the proposals. The Chair of the School Board led the view that schools within the Kilmarnock area should have been considered for the decant proposals.

Parents commented forcefully on the condition of the school building at Greenmill and the impact of a further 160 children being located within the accommodation. Comments were also made about not progressed new build proposals for the school as it had featured in the original PPP considerations.

Concerns regarding the loss of educational facilities were also raised. Views were expressed that the loss of ICT, library and PE areas would seriously impact on the learning experience for all children at the school and the pupils decanted there from Mauchline.

3.5 The 3 primary school boards submitted written comment on the proposals. Both the Auchinleck and Greenmill School Boards restated their objections to the proposals as stated at the public meetings.

The Mauchline Primary Board supported the proposals, as long as issues such as transport could be satisfactorily explained to parents.

3.6 A number of parents from Greenmill Primary also submitted standard written responses to the proposal. In general this correspondence confirmed the objections raised at the public meetings, and included comments on the condition of Greenmill Primary and the educational impact of a further 160 children attending the school.

3.7 During the consultation the Head Teachers of the Auchinleck and Greenmill Primary schools confirmed that they were able to accommodate pupils from Mauchline Primary, providing certain property related matters could be overcome. These issues included packing and moving, storage and minor property adaptations.

4. COMMENTS ON THE VIEWS EXPRESSED

4.1 Views expressed from Mauchline parents related primarily to transport issues. It is agreed that, if the proposal is accepted by Committee, further discussion with parents on establishing suitable transport arrangements would be required. Detailed arrangements will be developed with health and safety arrangements for pupils as a top priority.

4.2 The Boards and parents of Auchinleck Primary and Greenmill Primary were concerned about the impact of the decant on the educational experience of

their children. Support will be provide to Head Teachers to ensure that the decant arrangements progress efficiently. If the proposal is accepted by Committee it will be necessary to make some minor investment in terms of property to facilitate arrangement.

- 4.3 The support of all Head Teachers of the receiving schools has been warmly received. The Department acknowledges this support and will continue to work in partnership with the staff and School Boards to take forward this proposal and will ensure that the appropriate mechanisms exist to ensure that a positive outcome is achieved for staff, parents and pupils.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Negotiations with First Class Consortium, the PPP contractor, are progressing as planned. Financial close has to be reached, hopefully towards the end of March. Early and clear indication of the date for implementation of these arrangements will be made.
- 5.2 The proposals mean that the youngest children have the shortest distance to travel. Further the schools chosen are within the shortest travelling distance which will ease communication between the Head Teacher and her staff and pupils.
- 5.3 As indicated in paragraph 3.4 of the consultation document a clear route map will be implemented and discussed with staff and parents. It is hoped that that will lessen the concerns raised during the consultation process.
- 5.4 The decant is necessary to allow building work at Mauchline Primary School to proceed. The comments expressed are acknowledged however the proposals submitted represent the best package of arrangements. Through co-operation, consultation, sharing of information and effective communication it is recommended that the arrangements are agreed for implementation when required.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee agree:
- (i) that primary school aged pupils of Mauchline Primary School and their associated staff be decanted from current buildings and relocated within alternative accommodation at Auchinleck Academy, Auchinleck Primary and Greenmill Primary School during the refurbishment and extension work to existing school accommodation under the *Building Learning Communities – Schools PPP Project*;
 - (ii) that during this period the Nursery Class pupils be decanted to Catrine Nursery School;
 - (iii) that the Executive Director make the necessary property and transport arrangements and advise staff and parents of these works; and

(iv) to otherwise note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director (Educational and Social Services)

EC/JBS
17 January 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Written responses from consultation document

Members wishing further information should contact Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support, Tel (01563) 576090.



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL SERVICES

BUILDING LEARNING COMMUNITIES – SCHOOLS PPP PROJECT

A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT

The proposals in this consultation document have implications for:

- **Mauchline Primary School, including Pre School Provision**

This document has been issued by East Ayrshire Council Education Committee for consultation in terms of the Education (Publications and Consultation etc) (Scotland) Regulation 1981 and Amendment Regulation 1987, 1988 and 1989.

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL SERVICES**

THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT

Proposal

- That primary school aged pupils of Mauchline Primary School and their associated staff be decanted from current buildings and relocated within alternative accommodation at Auchinleck Academy, Auchinleck Primary and Greenmill Primary School during the refurbishment and extension work to existing school accommodation under the *Building Learning Communities – Schools PPP Project*.
- That during this period the Nursery Class pupils be decanted to Catrine Nursery School.

Report by Director of Educational & Social Services

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 In December 2001 East Ayrshire Council submitted its outline proposal for the *Building Learning Communities – School PPP Project* to the Scottish Executive.

1.2 The proposals for Mauchline Primary School are as stated in 2001.

“It is proposed that Mauchline Primary School be refurbished and extended to take into account a 2 stage primary school intake and an integrated pre-school provision.

The Pre School provision will be provided within the refurbished and extended building with clearly identifiable facilities including a separate play area.”

1.3 Since this time much preparatory work has been undertaken to progress the Council’s proposals for the PPP schools. The Council has completed the evaluation of the two high quality bids which were submitted by the bidding organisations. The Education Committee approved First Class Consortium be appointed as the Preferred Bidder, at its meeting of 19 October 2005, and negotiations towards financial close and contract completion have now commenced.

2. PRESENT POSITION

2.1 First Class Consortium have indicated that when contract negotiations reached conclusion a prompt start will be made to the construction phase. It is anticipated that work will commence during Easter 2006 with a construction period of **approximately 12 months**. During the refurbishment and extension of the existing school accommodation it will be necessary therefore to relocate the pupils and staff into alternative accommodation.

2.2 The pupil roll for the school, at the September 2005 census date is 364, broken down as follows :-

- Primary 1 36
- Primary 2 46
- Primary 3 56
- Primary 4 53
- Primary 5 49
- Primary 6 60
- Primary 7 64,

2.3 The current class structure, for the Primary School aged pupils, requires the use of 14 classrooms.

3. CONSIDERED OPTIONS

3.1 The following options have been considered as alternatives to the school during the construction period :-

- Prefabricated modular buildings located elsewhere within Mauchline or
- Decant into a number of other educational establishments in the surrounding area.

3.2 The prefabricated option would be cost prohibitive, requires planning consent and connection to service utilities. It is therefore not considered to be value for money to pursue this option.

3.3 Decanting the school into a number of other educational establishments will create some operational issues which will require considered management by the Education Authority and the Head Teacher and her senior staff.

3.4 To ensure that there is no adverse impact on the learning and teaching process or administration processes a clear route map will be developed in the coming months prior to the start of the construction phase.

4. PROPOSED OPTION

4.1 All surplus accommodation in nearby schools has been determined in conjunction with the Head Teacher of Mauchline Primary School and her colleagues in these establishments.

4.2 It is therefore proposed that during the construction period Primary 1, 2 and 3 classes be relocated within Auchinleck Primary. Primary 4, 5 and 6 classes are to be situated within Greenmill Primary and the Primary 7 pupils are located within Auchinleck Academy.

4.3 It is proposed that for Pre School provision be provided within Catrine Nursery School.

5. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROPOSAL AND THE PROPOSED SITES

5.1 The surplus capacities within the two Primary schools and the Academy mean that it will be possible to relocate the 5-11 year old pupils from Mauchline Primary School and their class teachers.

5.2 Surplus accommodation at Catrine Nursery School will be utilised for the nursery pupils and staff.

5.3 The benefits of placing the school within these locations can be clearly demonstrated :-

- Travel distances will be kept to a minimum, with special recognition of the impact travel may have on younger pupils;
- Teaching staff of the upper and lower school will be located together and can interact with colleagues with relative ease;
- Management of the school is more efficient when the number of locations is kept to a minimum and the geographic distances are minimised;
- Transport arrangements to these locations will be simpler to administer and more cost effective; and
- Administration procedures will continue to operate effectively.

5.4 Preliminary discussions have taken place with the Head Teachers of these schools. All have responded positively to the request for accommodation and as stated in section 3.4 (above) if this proposal is accepted a clear route map will be developed in conjunction with all relevant parties.

6. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECANT ARRANGEMENT

6.1 Travel to School

Arrangements will be made for pupils travelling from Mauchline to the preferred locations in Auchinleck and Cumnock. The Council is committed to meet these costs in full.

6.2 Construction Period

It is anticipated that work on the refurbishment and extension will commence around the Easter period of 2006 and will take approximately 12 months to complete. Precise details will be made known as soon as they become available.

- 6.3** The final arrangements will be notified when determined, with adequate time given to make necessary arrangements. What is being suggested in this document is agreement, at this stage, to the proposed arrangement for decanting.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** During the period of decant the school budget will continued to be calculated using the roll related formulas operating within the education service. Additional financial support will be provided to the school, if required during the decant period, to ensure its continued smooth operation.
- 7.2** The Council is committed to meet the costs of pupil transport to and from the chosen locations.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1** It is recommended that the Education Committee agree to adopt the proposal that:

- i) During the refurbishment and extension of Mauchline Primary School pupils and staff are decanted to surplus accommodation within Auchinleck Academy, Auchinleck Primary and Greenmill Primary School;
- ii) During the construction period the Nursery Class is relocated within Catrine Nursery School; and
- iii) All pupils and staff will return to the new accommodation as soon as possible after construction work has been completed.

- 8.2** It is also recommended that:

- i) all interested parties be invited to make written or electronic submissions on the proposal to the Executive Director of Educational & Social Services, East Ayrshire Council, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7BU, E-mail: education.consultation@east-ayrshire.gov.uk no later than **Friday 23 December 2005**.
- ii) the Executive Director of Educational & Social Services prepare a report on the results of the consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

24 October 2005

APPENDIX B

**LIST OF RESPONSES TO MAUCLINE PRIMARY SCHOOL
CONSULTATION 2005**

Ref No.	Date Received	Name	Date Responded
1.	17.11.05 & 21.12.05 via e-mail	Mr John Terry	21.12.05
2.	26.11.05 via e-mail	Christopher Ross, 1 Robbiesland Drive, CUMNOCK	21.12.05
3.	27.11.05 via e-mail	Janet McKechnie	21.12.05
4.	8.12.05 via e-mail	Julie Hutchison	21.12.05
5.	14.12.05 via e-mail	Dorothy Scott, Snr Clerical Asst, Auchinleck Primary School, Dalsalloch Road, AUCHINLECK	21.12.05
6.	15.12.05 via e-mail	Mr Thomson	21.12.05
7.	19.12.05 via e-mail	Mr Harry Reilly, 18 Hoyle Crescent, CUMNOCK	21.12.05
8.	18.12.05 via e-mail	A Neil Wilson, South Lodge, Ayr Road, MAUCLINE	21.12.05
9.	20.12.05 via e-mail	Annette Milton, Craginair, 51 Hamilton Avenue, MAUCLINE	21.12.05
10.	20.12.05 via e-mail	Jason and Viviane Boyd, The Manse, 2 Auchinleck Road, CUMNOCK	21.12.05
11.	20.12.05 via e-mail & post	Sharon Bell, 19 Mossgiel Avenue, MAUCLINE	21.12.05
12.	20.12.05 via e-mail	Mr and Mrs Kevan Aitken, 39 Hoyle Crescent, CUMNOCK	21.12.05
13.	21.12.05 via e-mail	Jane Dunlop, Dixton Farm, Rigg Road, CUMNOCK	21.12.05
14.	14.12.05	Jackie Monaghan, 41 Mossgiel Avenue, MAUCLINE	21.12.05
15.	21.12.05 via e-mail	Rosalind N Smith, EIS Representative, Greenmill Primary School, 2 Barrhill Road, CUMNOCK	21.12.05
16.	21.12.05	M Farrow, 71 Oakbank Drive, CUMNOCK	21.12.05
17.	21.12.05	L McBeth, 4 Oakbank Drive, CUMNOCK	22.12.05
18.	21.12.05	Mrs E Bain, 38 Oakbank Drive, CUMNOCK	22.12.05
19.	21.12.05 via e-mail	Mr Jamieson Wilson, 23 Holmhead Road, CUMNOCK	22.12.05
20.	22.12.05 via e-mail	Moira Crocker, Head Teacher, Mauchline Primary School, The Loan, MAUCLINE	22.12.05

21.	23.12.05 via e-mail	Cerys Reid, Chairperson of Auchinleck Primary School Board, Auchinleck PS, Dalsalloch Road, AUCHINLECK	23.12.05
22.	23.12.05 via e-mail	Mr Mark Hillan, Chairperson of Mauchline Primary School Board, 12 Nether Walk, MAUCHLINE	9.1.06
23.	22.12.06 via e-mail	Sally Harkiss, Teacher, Mauchline Primary School, The Loan, MAUCHLINE	9.1.06
24.	19.12.05	Mr William Milligan, Director, Milligans Coach Travel Ltd, Loan Garage, MAUCHLINE	9.1.06
25.	19.12.05	Rev John Paterson, Chairperson, Greenmill PS Board, 33 Barrhill Road, CUMNOCK	9.1.06
26.	19.12.05	Scott Alexander, 12 Oakbank Drive, CUMNOCK	9.1.06
27.	20.12.05	Mrs Jane Malone, 1 Cairn Road, CUMNOCK	10.1.06
28.	20.12.05	Mary Kelso, Ryderston, Loganhill Road, CUMNOCK	9.1.06
29.	20.12.05	Mr and Mrs R D Laird, East Polquhirter Farm, NEW CUMNOCK	10.1.06
30.	21.12.05	S Mitchell, Woodville, 59 Ayr Road, CUMNOCK	10.1.06
31.	21.12.05	Mr Derek Harrison, 18 Robbiesland Drive, CUMNOCK	11.1.06
32.	23.12.05	Ms Barbara Ward, 39 Beechwood Road, MAUCHLINE	11.1.06
33.	23.12.05	Ms Suzanne McPhee, 44 Oakbank Drive, CUMNOCK	11.1.06
34.	22.12.05	Teaching Staff, Auchinleck Primary School, Dalsalloch Road, AUCHINLECK	11.1.06