



**East Ayrshire**  
COUNCIL

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL SERVICES**

**ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY**

**A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT**

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

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**Proposal :**

- **That the approved rationalisation of the Cumnock Campus into the Kilmarnock Campus of St Joseph's Academy will take place in August 2004 or as soon as possible thereafter as an alternative to the existing agreement of August 2006 or as soon as possible thereafter.**

**Report by Director of Educational & Social Services**

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 East Ayrshire Council submitted its PPP project for Schools "***Building Learning Communities***" to the Scottish Executive in December 2001.
- 1.2 Approval for this Outline Business Case for PPP was granted in June 2002. Following this East Ayrshire Council undertook a public consultation exercise, from 21 November 2002 to 13 January 2003, which included public meetings at all the school sites concerned.
- 1.3 The outcome of the consultation exercise was presented to a meeting of the Education Committee on 12 February 2003. With respect to future arrangements for St Joseph's Academy, the meeting agreed to the following:

*"St Joseph's Academy be rebuilt on ground at the present campus on Grassyards Road, Kilmarnock.*

*The buildings at the Kilmarnock Campus will be closed with effect from the end of the school session June 2006. Pupils will transfer to the new buildings on the Kilmarnock site from August 2006 or as soon as possible thereafter.*

*The buildings at the Cumnock campus will be closed with effect from the end of the school session June 2006. Pupils will transfer to the new buildings on the Kilmarnock site from August 2006 or as soon as possible thereafter.*

*There will be no change to the current delineated area of St Joseph's Academy."*

- 1.5 The decision to merge the Cumnock and Kilmarnock campuses from August 2006, or as soon as possible thereafter, was then referred to the Scottish

Executive in April 2003 on the grounds that it related to denominational education and that pupils would be required to travel in excess of ten miles to attend school.

- 1.6 Following detailed consideration, the Scottish Executive formally responded to the Director of Educational and Social Services agreeing to the decision to merge the two campuses. The date which had been the subject of consultation was August 2006, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Notification of this was presented to Education Committee at its meeting of 4 February 2004.

## **2. PRESENT POSITION**

- 2.1 St Joseph's Academy provides denominational secondary education to the whole of East Ayrshire. Following the merger with St Conval's High School in 1998 pupils from S1 – 4 in the Cumnock area attend St Joseph's Academy's Cumnock campus with all S5 – 6 pupils attending the Kilmarnock campus.
- 2.2 The total school roll is 782, with 122 pupils attending the Cumnock campus. At present 22 senior pupils travel from the Cumnock area to attend school at Kilmarnock.

## **3. PROPOSAL**

- 3.1 In recent weeks a number of communications have been received regarding the timing for the closure of the Cumnock Campus.

Written correspondence has been received from the Chair of the School Board, the Head Teacher and senior management team and all Principal Teachers. They request that the Council consider merging the twin campuses from August 2004, and that all pupils at St. Joseph's Academy attend school at the Kilmarnock campus from that date.

- 3.2 It is now proposed to consult on this proposal, to ensure that in the transition phase to the new school, the highest quality of education is maintained for all pupils of St Joseph's Academy. Particular regard is being made to the educational needs of the pupils presently in attendance at the Cumnock Campus and those who will attend there between now and August 2006 or as soon as possible thereafter.
- 3.3 **It is essential to clarify that what is being consulted on in this document relates exclusively to the timing of the merger at St Joseph's Academy. Views are being sought on when best to proceed.**

## **4. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROPOSAL**

### **4.1 Learning and Teaching**

Since 1998 East Ayrshire Council, and the senior management and staff at St. Joseph's Academy have worked tirelessly to ensure that the operation of the split campus is successful. The attainment levels achieved at the school continue to improve year upon year and this reflects the dedication and hardwork of all staff and pupils.

However in recent correspondence it is submitted that these achievements are being delivered in the face of increasing pressures :

- The timetable in both campuses has been skewed to ensure that subjects taught by staff who travel are arranged either first thing in the morning or last thing in the afternoon. The effect of this is exacerbated by reduction in the teaching complement due to falling pupil rolls;
- A number of teaching staff at the Cumnock campus work part time and are unable to liaise with their Departmental Principals operating primarily from Kilmarnock, as both are class committed. This adversely affects quality management and degrees of support that Principal Teachers can provide;
- A number of subject areas continue to be adversely affected by a shortage in teaching staff. This impact is felt greatest in the Cumnock campus due to the low pupil roll;
- A single site school would allow greater support to classes, due to the concentration of teaching staff within one site. At present efficient and effective pupil setting into ability groups cannot take place in Cumnock due to the small pupil roll;
- Pupils from Cumnock would begin their secondary education with their peer group in S1, instead of S5. This will reduce the number of transitions that pupils would require to undertake.

### **4.2 Building Conditions**

The fabric of the Cumnock campus remains poor. However the Council continues to place the Health and Safety of all staff and pupils as its highest priority.

### **4.3 Pupil Roll**

St Joseph's Academy's pupil roll is well below the operating capacity of the 2 sites. Currently there are 449 surplus spaces within the 2 sites which represents 36.47% of the available capacity. Projected rolls and the capacity of the Kilmarnock campus are detailed in the attached Appendix.

The capacity of the Kilmarnock campus is 1,028 and therefore can accommodate the increased numbers of pupils transferring from the Cumnock campus.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The proposal as outlined in Section 3 would have implications for teaching and support staff in the schools affected. All members of staff will be fully consulted about their future as will the appropriate trade unions. The particular wishes of each member of staff will be taken into consideration.

5.2 Implications for other stakeholders who currently benefit from the existing facilities or who deliver services in the existing facilities will be consulted.

### **5.3 Management of Proposals**

In terms of timescale, it is anticipated that there will be sufficient time prior to August 2004 for the Council to conduct the necessary consultation in accordance with the relevant statutory framework; for the Education Committee to thereafter receive and consider a further report in respect of the responses received and, in the event that the Education Committee should then decide to proceed with this proposal, to make the necessary referral to the Scottish Executive for their approval.

It is acknowledged that should the proposal be implemented, time constraints will require forward planning from the Education Authority and school senior staff for the 2004/05 academic session, as a matter of good management practice. This planning is necessary in respect of curriculum delivery, staff management and transportation issues, and will incorporate appropriate provision for either contingency.

### **5.4 Health and Safety**

It can be clearly demonstrated that the existing Kilmarnock Campus can accommodate the increased numbers of pupils, should the decision be taken to bring forward the proposed merger of the twin campuses.

Further, it is not considered that this proposal would result in any additional health and safety risks in respect of the existing buildings or the construction of any new buildings. The contractor will be legally and contractually obliged to carry out development work in strict compliance with all necessary Health and Safety requirements.

### **5.5 Travel to School**

With the Kilmarnock campus being located towards the north of the catchment area there would be an increasing number of pupils who would require to be transported by bus from the Cumnock area to school. Therefore transport will be provided to the school at Grassyards Road, Kilmarnock for those pupils from the Cumnock campus, which is in line with Council policy outlined above.

## 5.5 Future Use of Buildings

When rationalisation takes place, and pupils transfer to the Kilmarnock campus, the buildings will be declared surplus to educational needs.

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The school budgets for St Joseph's Academy will continue to be calculated using the roll related formulas operating within the education service.
- 6.2 Any revenue savings which may be realised will be partially offset by the increase cost of pupil transportation from the Cumnock area to Kilmarnock. The Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive have indicated that transport costs will increase by £55,000.

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee agree to adopt for the purpose of consultation the proposal that:
- i) The approved rationalisation of the Cumnock Campus in to the Kilmarnock Campus of St Joseph's Academy take place in August 2004 or as soon as possible thereafter as an alternative to the existing agreement of August 2006 or as soon as possible thereafter
- 7.2 It is also recommended that:
- i) interested parties be invited to make written or electronic submissions on the proposal to the Director of Educational & Social Services, East Ayrshire Council, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7BU, E-mail: [educationppp@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:educationppp@east-ayrshire.gov.uk) no later than **Thursday 10 June 2004.**
  - ii) the 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.

EC/JBS  
24 April 2004

### LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

As referred to within the body of the report.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : EUAN COUPERWHITE

## APPENDIX

### ROLL PROJECTIONS – ST JOSEPH’S ACADEMY

<b><u>ST JOSEPHS ACADEMY : ROLL PROJECTION</u></b>							
	<b>ROLLS BY STAGE</b>						<b>TOTAL ROLL</b>
<b>SESSION</b>	<b>S1</b>	<b>S2</b>	<b>S3</b>	<b>S4</b>	<b>S5</b>	<b>S6</b>	<b>S1-S6</b>
<b>2003/04</b>	150	144	163	146	107	72	782
<b>2004/05</b>	160	150	144	163	108	65	790
<b>2005/06</b>	145	160	150	144	120	65	784
<b>2006/07</b>	145	145	160	150	106	73	779
<b>2007/08</b>	138	145	145	160	111	64	763
<b>2008/09</b>	109	138	145	145	118	67	722
<b>2009/10</b>	134	109	138	145	107	71	704
<b>2010/11</b>	126	134	109	138	107	65	679
<b>2011/12</b>	119	126	134	109	102	65	655

**THE PRESENT KILMARNOCK CAMPUS CAPACITY IS 1,028 PUPILS.**