



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**

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**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](mailto: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