

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 12 FEBRUARY 2003**

**THE RESULT ON THE CONSULTATION OF THE PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE A  
NEW BUILD ON THE PRESENT SITE OF GRANGE ACADEMY  
INCORPORATING:**

- **A NEW BUILD FOR GRANGE ACADEMY, INCLUDING THE NEW GAELIC  
MEDIUM UNIT, THE HEARING IMPAIRMENT UNIT AND THE VISUAL  
IMPAIRMENT BASE**
- **A NEW BUILD FOR ANNANHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**
- **A RELOCATED AND NEW BUILD PARK SCHOOL, AND**
- **COMMUNITY LEARNING FACILITIES**

**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 RESULT ON THE CONSULTATION OF THE PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE A NEW BUILD ON THE PRESENT SITE OF GRANGE ACADEMY INCORPORATING:**

- **A NEW BUILD FOR GRANGE ACADEMY, INCLUDING THE NEW GAELIC MEDIUM UNIT, THE HEARING IMPAIRMENT UNIT AND THE VISUAL IMPAIRMENT BASE**
- **A NEW BUILD FOR ANNANHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**
- **A RELOCATED AND NEW BUILD PARK SCHOOL, AND**
- **COMMUNITY LEARNING FACILITIES**

#### **Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

**1.1** On 21 November 2002 East Ayrshire Council's Education Committee approved the issuing of a consultative document which proposed a new build for Grange Academy, including the new Gaelic Medium Unit, the Hearing Impairment Unit and the Visual Impairment Base; a new build for Annanhill Primary School; a relocated and new build Park School, and Community learning facilities. A copy of the consultative document is attached as Appendix A.

**1.2** The main issues raised in the consultative document were:

- A key factor for the Council is the need to ensure that the best possible educational environment is available through the provision of a safe, secure and up-to-date environment
- The Council's vision for the school's estate and the need to:
  - Ensure that all aspects of the modern curriculum can be delivered to children of all abilities.
  - Provide the most up to date Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in all schools.
  - Provide maximum access for pupils, staff and parents.
  - The development of the Arts, Culture and Sports and Health education and the creation of Centres of Excellence to deliver an agenda of continuous improvement.
  - Provide a secure environment for all who are educated and work in the school.
  - Provide access to the community having regards to those with particular need.
  - Provide catering and dining facilities of the highest standard in a modern environment.
  - Provide appropriate social area provision for parents and pupils.
  - Make a commitment to the environment and environmental issues.

- Develop Learning Partnerships through the New Community Schools model and forming strong partnerships with local/national organisations committed to offering support.
- The recognised need for a significant investment in the school estate.
- The availability of national funding under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiative.
- The submission of an outline business case to the Scottish Executive according to guiding principles, which are:
  - (i) Rationalisation of school provision
  - (ii) A commitment to social inclusion and a presumption in favour of mainstream education
  - (iii) Provision of pre-school provision
  - (iv) Access to lifelong learning through an integrated community learning provision
  - (v) Partnership with other agencies supporting community development and better neighbourhoods
  - (vi) Development of Centres of Excellence in secondary schools to provide enhanced and specialist support in a range of academic, sporting and cultural pursuits.

### **1.3 In relation to Grange Academy:**

The projected future maintenance of the building is in the order of £3,274,000. Such costs coupled with the age of the building and the fragmented layout of the current building do not reflect efficient use of the Council's resources.

### **1.4 In relation to Annanhill Primary School:**

The projected future maintenance of the building is in the order of £1,383,000. Such costs do not reflect efficient use of the Council's capital resources which could be reinvested in resources for learning for the benefit of the pupils.

### **1.5 In relation to Park School:**

The projected future maintenance costs of the building are in the order of £2,661,000. Such costs do not reflect efficient use of the Council's capital resources which could be reinvested in resources for learning for the benefit of the pupils.

### **1.6 In relation to Community Learning:**

The present campus of Grange Academy is well used in support of community learning activities. This involves the use of a separate Further Education wing attached to F block and the main buildings including the sports facilities.

- 1.7** The Council is committed to a policy of inclusion. A number of changes in legislation bring obligations to ensure that all have equal access to facilities. Through the facilities for hearing impairment and visual impairment there is already much good practice. The possibilities offered under this proposal would address a number of issues related to equal access, while simultaneously offering the pupils of Park School access to modern, attractive premises on an equal basis to their peers.

## **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 statutory requirements parents of affected schools and the appropriate school boards have been consulted. Copies of the consultation document were also made available to the staff of Grange Academy (including the hearing impairment, visual impairment and Gaelic bases), Annanhill Primary School, Park School, Community Learning representatives of teacher and staff unions the appropriate members of the Scottish Parliament and the appropriate Member of Parliament.
- 2.3** The existence of the document was publicised in the 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** A number of meetings including four public meetings were arranged by the school boards of the establishments affected. These were attended by parents, staff and members of the community. The meetings offered the opportunity for discussion and clarification of the proposals as well as a forum for people to express their views of the proposal. These events and in particular the one organised for members of the community by the school board were significantly well attended and gave the opportunity for views to be expressed.
- 2.5** A specific e-mail address was created to facilitate the consultation. A number of respondents took advantage of this means of communicating their views.

## **3. VIEWS EXPRESSED**

- 3.1** A total of 73 written submissions were received, including those made by e-mail . One submission from the Grange Academy School Board included 43 proforma returns while a second provided an appendix of 180 identical but individually signed letters from parents, making a grand total of 291 separate communications on this issue . In addition there were submissions from:

- Grange Academy School Board
- Annanhill Primary School Board
- Park School Board
- Constituency Member of Parliament
- List Member of the Scottish Parliament
- Constituency Local Elected Member
- Parents
- Director of Community Services
- Local Community Council
- Local residents

- Unison
- Head Teachers Association of Scotland

A full summary of respondents is included at Appendix B to this document.

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

- 3.2** This consultation exercise generated significant interest amongst parents, teachers and members of the community. Of the 291 submissions, 266 or 91% were in favour of the proposal. 14 or 5% specifically objected to the proposal. A further 11 or 4% used the opportunity to raise concerns or issues but did not state whether they were for or against the proposal.
- 3.3** The Grange Academy School Board made two submissions. The first of these welcomed the proposal and appended the results of an exercise to consult parents. The board took this opportunity to emphasise that the build should give prominent consideration to school design, security, the health and safety of children during construction and traffic congestion in the area. In its second submission the school board provided 180 separate but identical letters from parents. These letters uniformly endorsed the proposal but also made reference to the hope that priority would be given to school security and improved traffic management.
- 3.4** The Annanhill School Board submission was formulated as a series of questions in relation to the new build. This covered a range of issues including the range of facilities to be offered by the new campus. Coverage was given of the local concerns, pupil safety and traffic management. The school board also questioned why pre-school provision was not included in the proposal.
- 3.5** The Park School Board recorded enthusiastic and full support for the proposal. The prospects of the provision of modern accommodation was welcomed together with the opportunities for joint working with other establishments and services. Reassurance was sought on issues related to pupil safety, and traffic management.
- 3.6** The head teacher and staff of Grange Academy welcomed the proposal. The submission by the head teacher recognised that the new build was an opportunity to improve the quality of accommodation, together with the possibilities to share resources with other establishments. Upgrading of facilities for children and staff was seen as a positive advantage together with the ability to make provision for children and adults with disabilities. It was the view of the head teacher that the development also gave the opportunity to address many of the issues that are problematic in the present site. A number of staff made individual submissions. These were almost unanimous in their positive support for the proposal and recognised the opportunities for the improvement of learning and teaching in a new build.

- 3.7** The head teacher of Park School responded on behalf of the senior management welcoming the proposal and endorsing the comments of the school board.
- 3.8** Elected Members, Members of the Scottish Parliament offered opinions . Margaret Jamieson MSP welcomed the proposal and commended the integrated approach being taken. She expressed the wish that pre-school provision should be included in the proposal. The matter of how the project would be staffed was raised. Lyndsay McIntosh MSP welcomed the proposals and particularly the inclusion of Park School. Traffic management and the concerns of local residents were raised as issues.
- 3.9** Councillor Iain Linton also welcomed the proposal. The opportunity to provide a state of the art educational facility was recognised. He also expressed the wish that community concerns relating to the environment, traffic congestion and litter could be addressed by effective planning of the project.
- 3.10** The Community Council supported the proposal subject to a number of provisos. These related to traffic management, building design to limit truancy, litter, trying to limit the adverse effects of construction.
- 3.11** A total of 31 residents responded. Of these 14 recorded objections to the proposal, while 8 supported it. Another 14 expressed concerns over matters that were not related to the principle of a new build for the campus, but which did focus on general issues. Of the residents supporting the proposal a number offered this as qualified support – welcoming the idea of upgraded educational facilities, but also seeking reassurance on associated issues such as traffic management, planning matters, litter control, youth issues and the environment. A small number of responses stated that they believed the opportunity should be taken to relocate Grange Academy elsewhere in Kilmarnock. Some of the views expressed were very strong on these issues.
- 3.12** The Director of Community Services welcomed the proposal as an opportunity to facilitate inter-departmental working and as a means of addressing issues on the community..
- 3.13** Responses were received from the Headteachers' Association of Scotland (HAS) and UNISON. The HAS submission welcomed the opportunity to upgrade educational facilities. UNISON recorded opposition to any transfer of staff under the proposal.
- 3.14** The 14 individual parental responses together with the 218 provided by the Grange Academy school board were unanimously in favour of the proposal.

#### **4. COMMENTS ON THE VIEWS EXPRESSED**

- 4.1** The issue of the consultative document raised considerable interest amongst staff, parents, school boards, community groups and other interested parties. The number of written responses and the level of attendance and questioning

at meetings confirms the importance that schools have in the community, the real interest that parents and others have in the quality of education that their children receive and particularly the concerns that parents and others have over proposals for change to the existing arrangements.

- 4.2** The expressions of support which were made by a number of respondents in respect of the proposal are welcome.
- 4.3** Anxieties which have been expressed in respect of the possible effects of this development within its community setting have been noted carefully. Traffic congestion and road safety, the design of the building and site congestion, litter problems, the impact of large numbers of young people travelling through a residential area and security were all raised as issues by respondents. Already very positive measures have been taken by the head teacher and staff. This project has the potential to further deal with the issues that are presently of concern to the groups consulted and these can be addressed through more detailed plans as they emerge.
- 4.4** A major commitment exists to continuing to work in partnership with the head teachers and staff of the schools involved, the School Boards, young people and community representatives in the development of this new campus. The director and his colleagues involved in taking the project forward will ensure that the appropriate mechanisms exist to take this forward. Planning for the move for Park school will require to be put in place. At all stages consultation with interested parties will be a priority.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1** Having carefully considered the responses made during the consultation period, it is concluded that there is considerable support for the proposal.
- 5.2** It is important to note that the detailed points of clarification and objection have been considered. These concerns require to be addressed through the emerging plans. A partnership and communication with all of the stakeholders in the development will be of importance.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1** Taking account of all the points raised, it is recommended that the Education Committee agree:
- (i) a new build Grange Academy be provided on an identified site on the existing campus of Grange Academy and incorporating a new build Annanhill Primary School and new build Park School including purpose built facilities for the new Gaelic Medium Unit, the Hearing Impairment Unit and the Visual Impairment Base and Community Learning and a greater opportunity for the integration of pupils with special educational needs;

- (ii) the existing Grange Academy building be closed with effect from the end of the school session June 2006 subject to the satisfactory progress of the project. Pupils transfer to the new build Grange Academy in August 2006 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- (iii) the existing Annanhill Primary School building be closed with effect from the end of the school session June 2006. Pupils will transfer to the new build Annanhill Primary School within the new build education centre at the present Grange Academy campus in August 2006 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- (iv) the existing Park School building be closed with effect from the end of the school session June 2006. Pupils will transfer to the new build Park School within the new build education centre at the present Grange Academy campus in August 2006 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- (v) enhanced Community Learning facilities be incorporated in the new build;
- (vi) in terms of the Education (Publication, Consultation etc) (Scotland) Regulations, the implementation of the proposal regarding the relocation of Park School requires referral to the Scottish Executive for their consideration; and
- (vii) the Education Committee will be advised of the outcome of this referral in due course.

John Mulgrew  
Director of Educational and Social Services

GRS/GRS  
14 January 2003

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Written responses from consultation document

Members wishing further information should contact John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services, Tel (01563) 576017 or Graham Short, Head of Schools, Tel (01563) 576089.

**SUMMARY OF RESPONDENTS****APPENDIX B**

Ref	Respondent	Status	Raising Concerns	Objecting to Proposals	Supporting Proposals
1	Ms Jamieson	MSP			1
2	Mr McGregor	HAS			1
3	Mrs McGarvie	Resident		1	
4	Ms Maxwell	Parent			1
5	Mr Jamieson	Parent			1
6	Ms Anderson	Parent			1
7	Ms Biggar	Resident	1		
8	Mr Adam	Resident		1	
9	Ms Bowie	Resident		1	
10	Mr Irvine	Parent			1
11	Ms Mason	Resident		1	
12	Mr Mason	Resident		1	
13	Ms Gordon	Resident		1	
14	Mr Gordon	Resident		1	
15	Mr Strachan	Not stated			1
16	Mr Porter	Resident			1
17	Mr McConnell	Resident		1	
18	Mr & Mrs Milligan	Resident		1	
19	Mr Anderson	Teacher			1
20	Mr West	UNISON	1		
21	Ms Gill	Resident	1		
22	Mr T Cook <sup>1</sup>	Grange Acad School Board			1
23	Mr McCall	Resident			1
24	Mr Walls	Resident	1		
25	Ms Skillen	Resident	1		
26	Ms Burns	Parent			1
27	Mr R Cook	Not stated			1
28	Mrs Cook	Not stated			1
29	Ms Patterson	Parent & teacher			1
30	Mr Stewart	Annanhill School Board	1		
31	Ms Murphy	Teacher			1
32	Mr Spankie	Parent			1
33	Mr Ashbridge	Community Council			1
34	Ms Gilmour	Resident			1
35	Mr & Mrs McQuiston	Resident	1		
36	Mr Mair	Teacher			1
37	Ms Caldwell	Resident			1

<sup>1</sup> This submission included 38 separate proforma returns that clearly indicated support for the proposal plus an additional 5 that did not indicate any preference from the 2 options provided.

Ref	Respondent	Status	Raising Concerns	Objecting to Proposals	Supporting Proposals
38	Mr Churchill	Resident			1
39	Mrs Churchill	Resident			1
40	Ms Allan	Teacher			1
41	Ms McKenzie	Teacher			1
42	Mr Hollywood	Parent			1
43	Mr Brice	Resident			1
44	Ms Armstrong	Resident	1		
45	Ms Allardyce	Resident		1	
46	Ms Ward	Parent			1
47	Mr Boyd	Park School Board			1
48	Mr Jess	Resident & Parent	1		
49	Cllr Linton	Local Elected Member			1
50	Ms J Cook	Resident			1
51	Ms Carlo	Teacher			1
52	Mr I Wilson	Teacher			1
53	Mr Wildridge	Headteacher			1
54	Mr T Cook <sup>2</sup>	Chair of Grange Acad School Board			1
55	Ms Doherty	Resident		1	
56	Mr Moffat	Parent			1
57	Mr Fitzpatrick	Teacher & Resident		1	
58	Ms Hepburn	Teacher			1
59	Ms Young	Teacher			1
60	AM Harman	Resident		1	
61	Margraet Dean	Parent			1
62	Bill Stafford	Director Community Services			1
63	Anne Wilson	Headteacher Park School			1
64	Ms Mitchell	Not stated			1
65	Ms Murray	Parent			1
66	Ms Reid	School Librarian			1
67	Ms Harman	Resident		1	
68	Mr & Mrs McWhirter	Parents			1
69	Ms Richardson	Parent			1
70	Mr McVake	Teacher			1

<sup>2</sup> Letter included 180 separate responses from parents in favour of the proposal

Ref	Respondent	Status	Raising Concerns	Objecting to Proposals	Supporting Proposals
71	Lyndsay McIntosh	MSP			1
72	Ms Johnston	Resident & Parent	1		
73	Mr Frew	Resident & Parent	1		
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>48</b>
Responses under footnote 1					38
Responses under footnote 2					180
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>266</b>

## SUMMARY

	Raising Concerns	Objecting to Proposals	Supporting Proposals
Parents			232
Residents	9	14	8
Teachers and librarians			11
Others	2		15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>266</b>