

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET: 20 MAY 2015**

### **KNOCKROON LEARNING AND ENTERPRISE CAMPUS: DEPUTATIONS**

#### **Report by the Chief Governance Officer**

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To (i) inform Cabinet of a request on behalf of the Save Broomfield Campaign to present their views to Cabinet following the conclusion of the formal consultation process in respect of the Knockroon Learning and Enterprise Campus proposals; and (ii) to present for Cabinet's consideration, a proposal to invite deputations from Parent School Councils for Auchinleck Academy, Cumnock Academy, Barshare Primary School, Greenmill Primary School and Hillside School to present their views to Cabinet.

#### **BACKGROUND**

2. The Council's Standing Orders make provision for the Council, Cabinet, committees or panels to receive deputations. In terms of the Standing Orders it would be at the discretion of Cabinet to decide whether to accept or decline any application for a deputation. The Standing Orders also govern how a deputation shall be received.
3. Previously the Cabinet have, at its meeting on 19 March 2008, when considering the Better Schools: Better Learning: A Strategy for Developing the School Estate proposals, provided the opportunity for the Parent Councils of schools affected by these proposals, to present their views to Cabinet.

#### **KNOCKROON LEARNING AND ENTERPRISE CAMPUS: PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

4. In respect of the present statutory consultation exercise, a petition has been submitted by the Save Broomfield Campaign, which proposes "Stop plans to develop a new super school on Broomfield Playing Fields and preserve it as recreational facility to be used by all". In addition, as previously intimated, there has been a request from the Save Broomfield Campaign for an opportunity to speak briefly at the Cabinet meeting that will decide the outcome of the consultation process.
5. In terms of the request from the Save Broomfield Campaign and the proposals under consideration, the Council as education authority is consulting on proposals which it considers promotes ongoing improvements in the quality of school education and educational benefits for the communities that the new development would serve. In such cases, it is appropriate that the Council consults with local representative populations of parents in respect of such proposals. The Council does this by carrying out a related statutory public consultation exercise, which amongst other things, provides the opportunity for parents, both individually and through parent school councils, to comment and

raise any issues that parents and parent school councils may have with regard to the proposals.

6. The Cabinet will be presented with the outcome of the public consultation exercise in respect of the Knockroon Learning and Enterprise Campus proposals and will require to make a decision thereon. If the Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposals on the basis of securing educational improvements within the community that the new initiative will serve, it is suggested that with regards to any comments on the related development proposal in respect of the Broomfield Playing Field, that such comments submitted are more relevant to the planning process, both in terms of the Local Development Plan and consideration of any related planning application for the site. The relevant planning consultation and notification processes would apply. Such processes will provide opportunities for any objectors in terms of the planning process, to submit their objections for consideration either to the Planning Reporter in terms of the Local Development Plan process or to the Council as planning authority in respect of any planning application.
7. Conversely, given the specific representative role that parent school councils have in terms of educational provision, it may be appropriate to provide for deputations from the respective Parent Councils for their respective schools to present their views to Cabinet. Such a proposal would follow previous arrangements as referred to earlier within this report.
8. Accordingly given that the specific considerations Cabinet will be making in relation to the Knockroon Learning and Enterprise Campus proposal, relate to securing educational improvements and not specifically to planning and development matters, which would be the subject of a separate process, that it may not be appropriate for Cabinet to accede to the request from Save Broomfield Campaign. However given the subject matter to be discussed and considered, and the role parent school councils have in such matters, and taking cognisance that during the public consultation meetings, associated with the present consultation exercise, enquiries were made from representatives from a number of affected Parent School Councils to officers regarding the possibility of presenting their views to Cabinet, that the Cabinet may wish to receive deputations from the parent councils of the undernoted schools:
  - Auchinleck Academy
  - Cumnock Academy
  - Barshare Primary School
  - Greenmill Primary School
  - Hillside School

## **ARRANGEMENTS**

9. Whilst the Standing Orders provide that the members of any deputation shall not exceed 5 persons, it is suggested that, if the Cabinet were so minded, and given past practice, that the Chair of each related Parent School Council or their nominee be invited to make a presentation to Cabinet. In addition, it is suggested that each presentation be restricted to 10 minutes. A recommended

procedure is attached under Appendix 1 for Cabinet's consideration and approval.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10. The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended, and associated statutory guidance informs the consultation process. The Council's Standing Orders provide for requests for deputations to be made to Council, Cabinet, Committees or its Panels.

## **POLICY, COMMUNITY PLANNING, FINANCIAL, RISK AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

11. None arising directly from this report.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

12. It is recommended to Cabinet:
  - (i) that taking cognisance of paragraphs 6, 7, and 8 above, Cabinet invite a representative from each of the Parent School Councils of the above mentioned schools affected by the Knockroon Learning and Enterprise Campus to present their views at the Cabinet meeting when the Knockroon Learning and Enterprise Campus Consultation Report will be considered;
  - (ii) that taking cognisance of paragraphs 6, 7, and 8 above, and in recognition that the issue raised by the Save Broomfield Campaign, outlined at paragraph 4 above, would be more appropriately addressed in terms of the separate planning and development process, that Cabinet do not accede to the request from the Save Broomfield Campaign to present their views at the Cabinet meeting when the Knockroon Learning and Enterprise Campus Consultation Report will be considered;
  - (iii) that in the event Cabinet do agree to invite deputations, the procedure presented under Appendix 1 be approved;
  - (iv) that any deputation arrangements be remitted to the Chief Governance Officer; and
  - (v) to otherwise note the contents of the report.

**David Mitchell**  
**Chief Governance Officer**  
11 May 2015  
BW/LR

**List of Background Papers** – email and petition from Save Broomfield Campaign  
If you require any other information on this report, please contact Bill Walkinshaw,  
Head of Democratic Services: 01563 576135

**Implementation Officer: Bill Walkinshaw**

## APPENDIX 1

### **PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED AT THE CABINET MEETING TO BE HELD ON XXXX**

**1. THE DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, ECONOMY AND SKILLS, AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER WILL PRESENT HIS REPORT.**

**2. SPOKESPERSON FOR THE DEPUTATION SHALL GIVE HIS/HER PRESENTATION (MAXIMUM 10 MINUTES)**

*There will be no questioning of the Spokesperson.*

**3. SPOKESPERSON WILL RETURN TO THE PUBLIC GALLERY**

**4. IF REQUIRED THE DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, ECONOMY AND SKILLS, AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER WILL GIVE APPROPRIATE CLARIFICATION ON ANY ISSUES RAISED.**

**5. CABINET MEMBERS WILL THEN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS TO OFFICERS AND DEBATE REPORT.**

**6. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DEBATE/DISCUSSION MOVE TO DECISION.**