

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
ECONOMY AND SKILLS
EDUCATION**



**Report on the Responses to the Public Consultation on
the Proposed Future Education Provision for Pupils at
Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy and
Supported Learning Centre**

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Depute Chief Executive & Chief Financial Officer
Economy and Skills**

This document has been issued by East Ayrshire Council in terms
of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
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EDUCATION**

**CONSULTATION REPORT ON THE PROPOSED FUTURE EDUCATION
PROVISION FOR PUPILS AT AUCHINLECK ACADEMY AND CUMNOCK
ACADEMY AND SUPPORTED LEARNING CENTRE**

In November 2014, preliminary informal consultations were opened with the Parent Councils of both Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy and Supported Learning Centre. This was additional to discussions which took place with the Parent Councils, staff and young people of Greenmill Primary School and Early Childhood Centre, Barshare Primary School, Supported Learning Centre and Early Childhood Centre and Hillside School.

In coming forward with this new proposal, the Council has taken regard of these views.

PROPOSAL

That subject to the outcome of this consultation exercise:

- Education provision at Auchinleck Academy be discontinued with effect from June 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter.
- Education provision at Cumnock Academy and Supported Learning Centre be discontinued with effect from June 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter.
- The children and young people attending these establishments transfer to a new merged secondary school with effect from August 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- The site of that school will be in the area of Cumnock presently occupied by Broomfield Playing Fields.
- That the delineated area of the new secondary school be created from August 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter, from the amalgamation of the delineated areas of the present Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy and Supported Learning Centre.
- Views are also sought that the newly merged Secondary School and Supported Learning Centre should be co-located with a newly merged Primary School, Early Childhood Centre and Supported Learning Centre resulting from the amalgamation of Greenmill Primary School and Early Childhood Centre and Barshare Primary School, Supported Learning Centre and Early Childhood Centre, and a new build Hillside School on the Broomfield site.

This proposal also has implications for:

- Hillside School
- Greenmill Primary School and Early Childhood Centre
- Barshare Primary School and Supported Learning Centre and Early Childhood Centre

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Report by the Depute Chief Executive & Chief Financial Officer
Economy and Skills

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1 The purpose of this report is to:-

- Set out a record of the total number of written representations made to the Council by any person during the period of the public consultation exercise;
- Set out a summary of those written representations;
- Set out a summary of the oral representations made to the Council at the public meetings held at:
 - Cumnock Academy and Supported Learning Centre on March 4, 2015
 - Auchinleck Academy on March 5, 2015;
- Set out a summary of the oral representations made to the Council at other public meetings held at:
 - Netherthird Primary School and early Childhood Centre on March 9, 2015;
 - New Cumnock Primary School and Early Childhood Centre on March 9, 2015;
 - Logan Primary School and Early Childhood Centre on March 10, 2015
 - Muirkirk Primary School and Early Childhood Centre on March 10, 2015
 - Sorn Primary School on March 11, 2015
 - Mauchline Primary School and Early Childhood Centre on March 11, 2015
 - Auchinleck Primary School and Early Childhood Centre on March 12, 2015
 - Ochiltree Primary School on March 12, 2015
 - Catrine Primary School and Early Childhood Centre on March 16, 2015
 - Drongan Primary School and Early Childhood Centre on March 16, 2015
 - Barshare Primary School, Supported Learning Centre and Early Childhood Centre on 2 March, 2015
 - Greenmill Primary School and Early Childhood Centre on 3 March, 2015
- Set out a statement of the Council's response to:
 - Those written and oral representations; and
 - Education Scotland's report.

- Provide a copy of Education Scotland's report;
- Set out a statement explaining how the Council reviewed the above proposal in terms of Section 9(1) of the Schools (consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended having had regard (in particular) to :-
 - The relevant written representations received by the Council during the public consultation period;
 - Oral representations made to it at the public meetings detailed above; and
 - Education Scotland's report
- Provide details of any alleged omission from, or inaccuracy in, the Proposal Paper (including a statement of the Council's opinion on it);
- Provide a statement of the action taken in respect of the omission or inaccuracy, or if no action has been taken of that fact why this is the case; and
- An explanation of the opportunity that may arise for making representations to the Scottish Ministers in terms of Section 15(4) of The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.

SECTION 2: THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 2 East Ayrshire Council's Cabinet approved the recommendation to issue a Proposal Document (attached as Annex 1 of this report) on the future of education provision at Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy and Supported Learning Centre for public consultation at its meeting of Wednesday, 28 January, 2015. The formal consultation period ran from Thursday, 12 February, 2015 to Friday, 27 March 2015 and written representations on the Cabinet's proposals were sought from interested parties in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.
- 3 In accordance with statutory requirements, the following individuals and groups were consulted:

Statutory Consultees

- The Parent Councils of the affected schools;
- The parents of the pupils and children at the affected schools;
- Parents of children expected to attend an affected school within 2 years of the date of publication of this Proposal Document;
- The pupils at the affected schools;
- The teaching and ancillary Staff, at the affected schools;
- The trade union representatives of the above Staff;
- The relevant Community Councils;
- Relevant users of the affected schools;
- South Ayrshire Council;

- North Ayrshire Council;

Non statutory Consultees

- Relevant Community Associations;
 - The constituency MSP;
 - List MSPs for the area;
 - The Constituency MP;
 - Sub-Divisional Commander, Police Scotland;
 - Chief Executive, NHS Ayrshire and Arran;
 - Chief Executive Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT);
 - Area Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service;
 - Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services, East Ayrshire Council;
 - Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support, East Ayrshire Council;
 - Skills Development Scotland;
 - Community Planning Partnership Board;
 - Principal Designate of Ayrshire College
 - Principal of Kilmarnock College;
 - Principal of Ayr College;
- 4 The Proposal Document was also advertised in the press and copies were made widely available locally and to local interest groups. Additional copies of the document were obtainable from the Department of Educational and Social Services, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock, from the schools involved and through the Council Website at www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk. Copies were also available at public libraries and Council offices in the areas affected. A copy was also sent to Education Scotland, who under the 2010 Act are statutory consultees and a notice of the proposal was sent to all parents of pupils attending the schools directly affected and associated establishments.
- 5 It has always been the practice within East Ayrshire to consult directly with the young people and this good practice is now enshrined in the 2010 Act as amended, which includes the pupils as statutory consultees. The Council followed the Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People guidance on the processes to be adhered to when consulting with pupils and the task of obtaining the views of the young people at both secondary schools and their associated primary schools, was under taken by appropriate independent consultants, from Common Ground Mediation.
- 6 Two public meetings were arranged by the Council and advertised in the local press and on the Council website. Other public meetings were arranged and advertised by the council which considered this proposal. All schools were provided with letters from the Executive Director, Graham Short, reminding all concerned about the context of the meetings as well as dates, times and venues. Parents were also sent reminder messages by letter and via the Group Call system. The meetings took place as listed in paragraph 1.

- 7 Attendance varied at each of the meetings with a broad range of backgrounds and interests being covered representing parents, staff and local individuals and groups in addition to others with an interest in the consultation of the future of all of the schools involved, both directly and indirectly. Education Scotland were also represented at the various meetings and a number of interested stakeholders attended more than one meeting. The meetings offered an opportunity for discussion and clarification of the proposals as well as a forum for people to express their views on the consultation proposals. It included a presentation on the proposals and the consultative process. A written record of the meetings was kept, published on the Council's website and is included as part of the final consultative responses.

SECTION 3: THE TOTAL NUMBER OF WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD

- 8 A total of 203 responses (including a petition with 833 names) were received during the consultation process and these are detailed and analysed in section 6.

SECTION 4: FEEDBACK FROM THE PUBLIC MEETINGS

- 9 The following paragraphs summarise the issues raised at the meetings in response to the Proposal Document. Every effort has been made to summarise views as accurately as possible. A copy of the written submissions is available to be viewed at Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 7BU.
- 10 Education Scotland, in addition to attending public meetings, were also provided with the notes taken for each meeting and a copy of every submission received in response to the consultation proposals. On 13 May, 2015, a report was received from Education Scotland on the proposals. A full copy of the Education Scotland report can be found at Section 7 of this document.
- 11 The fifteen public meetings were chaired by either the then Executive Director of Educational and Social Services or the Head of Education along with senior officers from Corporate Infrastructure Services, Head Teachers of the schools affected, Head Teachers from schools which had been co-located in a campus setting and senior management from Kilmarnock College and where relevant representatives from Legal, Procurement and Regulatory services. Attendances at meetings varied with the range of non East Ayrshire attendees going from 2 to 60 over all the meetings. Education Scotland were also represented at various meetings.
- 12 At each meeting, officers from Educational and Social Services presented or spoke about a series of topics surrounding the current consultation process, including:
- The proposals;
 - Public Consultation – the process and timescale;
 - Consultation Report – the contents and timescale;
 - Consultation Process & Decision Making;

- Options which were being consulted upon;
- Factors considered in preparing the Proposal Document
- Educational Benefits and the impact for groups involved
- School statistics – the fall in pupil rolls at the schools, the level of under occupancy and running costs for each establishment.

13 Following the officer presentations members of the public were provided with an opportunity to raise issues or seek further information on the consultation. The paragraphs below summarise the main issues raised and statements made by those attending the various meetings.

Public Meeting at Auchinleck Academy – March 5 2015

14 Graham Short welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Council Officers and elected members.

Alan Ward introduced himself to everyone and advised that the public consultation was being held to discuss the following proposals:

- Education provision at Auchinleck Academy be discontinued with effect from June 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter.
- Education provision at Cumnock Academy and Supported Learning Centre be discontinued with effect from June 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter.
- The children and young people attending these establishments transfer to a new merged secondary school with effect from August 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- The site of that school will be in the area of Cumnock presently occupied by Broomfield Playing Fields.
- That the delineated area of the new secondary school be created from August 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter, from the amalgamation of the delineated areas of the present Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy and Supported Learning Centre.
- Views are also sought that the newly merged Secondary School and Supported Learning Centre should be co-located with a newly merged Primary School, Early Childhood Centre and Supported Learning Centre resulting from the amalgamation of Greenmill Primary School and Early Childhood Centre and Barshare Primary School, Supported Learning Centre and Early Childhood Centre, and a new build Hillside School on the Broomfield site.

15 Mr Ward further advised that this proposal also has implications for:

- Hillside School
- Greenmill Primary School and Early Childhood Centre
- Barshare Primary School and Supported Learning Centre and Early Childhood Centre

16 Mr Ward explained that the:

- Proposal document clearly indicates that this consultation is a merger between the two academies
- Proposal is based on agreed, mutual, educational benefit.
- The consultation process is subject to the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended.

17 Mr Ward then went on to explain changes to the legislation:

- Restriction on repeating a school merger proposal for 5 years.
- Requirement to provide financial information in closure proposals.
- New requirements regarding corrections to proposal papers.
- Revised arrangements for rural school closure proposals.
- Requirement for an education authority to publish a notice regarding representations to Scottish Ministers.
- Extension of the period for Ministers to consider call-in from 6 to 8 weeks.
- Duty for HMIE to provide advice to Scottish Ministers when they are considering call-in or determining a case which has been called in.
- Power to make regulations regarding the establishment of the School Closure Review panels.

18 Mr Ward then went on to explain the consultation process:

- Proposal document discussed and decided upon at Cabinet on 28 January 2015.
- Approval to open consultation is advertised in the media on 5 February with formal opening date 12 February.
- Consultation is open until 27 March, which allows more than 30 school-day minimum.
- Public meetings held within that period with all interested groups informed of dates and times.
- All comments, queries and questions will be recorded and responses provided at the meeting where possible, or with an assurance of a follow-up response. The record of the meeting is published on the East Ayrshire Council website.
- All responses to the consultation are recorded and are acknowledged.
- Queries about specific factual issues will get an individual response.
- Responses are available to elected members
- At the close of the consultation all comments and records are provided to Education Scotland officers to verify East Ayrshire Council's process. This includes visits to establishments to speak to parents and staff.
- Common Ground Mediation is an independent organisation which will be employed to speak with a broad sample of pupils about the proposals. The results are published as part of the process.
- Education Scotland will compile a response which comments on East Ayrshire Council's process and this too is included in the final consultation report.

- East Ayrshire Council produces a consultation report which includes information and feedback from all aspects of the process.
- The published report will be publically available online and in hard copy for a period of 3 weeks before going to Cabinet for a decision on the report's recommendations.
- If a merger or closure is involved the Executive Director writes to the Scottish Government Ministers for their consideration of East Ayrshire's decision. This stage can take up to 8 weeks and can lead to the whole process being called-in.

19 He advised that pre-consultation meetings had been mainly positive with some concerns raised as follows:

- Concerns about primary schools other than those directly affected by the proposals being able to access the facilities
- Placing Requests to the new schools
- Property maintenance during the transition phase
- Savings
- What about existing sports facilities on the Auchinleck site? Mr Ward advised that the school building would be demolished but the sports facilities would remain and be maintained.
- What recreation facilities will there be in school?
- Will there be a swimming pool? Pool will remain at the Auchinleck site and Visions pool will also be accessible.
- How does the public know that concerns are being listened to?
- Architecture
- Staffing issues
- Concern about the name of the site
- Will there be a separate Head Teacher?
- Temporary site arrangements
- Working with local groups
- Overall campus numbers
- College/Business facilities
- Campus management arrangements
- Inter-community relations – Mr Ward advised that inter-community relations are important and positive.....

20 Andrew Kennedy explained the following points:

- School Transport Policy
- Traffic Management Considerations
- Traffic Impact Assessment
- Investment in improved pedestrian routes

21 Mr Kennedy went on to explain the school transport policy which includes assessments with the road safety team and adherence to national guidelines. Problems highlighted around traffic management last year have been taken into account in the new proposals with site access routes being considered.

22 Mr Kennedy advised that a traffic impact assessment will be completed for the Broomfield site to identify if the area could cope with the volume of traffic expected. He also advised that the Council has committed an additional investment of £1m towards any necessary road and footway improvements

23 Mr Kennedy went on to explain:

Map 1 – showing proposed site and main walking routes. He advised that transport that is in place for pupils at the moment will remain, and ASN transport will remain.

Map 2 – from secondary school perspective, of all pupils going to school, approximately 1000 will receive transport. He advised that if pupils lived over 3 miles from the school they would receive free transport, if they live between 1.5 – 3 miles away will receive subsidised transport at a cost of £1.20 per day, for first child in family, 60p for 2nd child, no payment for any additional children. He also advised that pupils receiving free school meals who are entitled to subsidised transport would continue to receive free transport.

Map 3 – part of the outcome of the transport assessment identified a couple of areas, although meeting national guidelines, as areas that would benefit from improvement, which the council are willing to consider, eg by improving lighting, erecting barriers, widening pavements and improving school crossing areas.

24 Mr Ward explained the main focus of the proposal as:

- The opportunity for co-location on a fully inclusive learning campus for children and young people of all ages, irrespective of any additional support need, to serve the Cumnock and Auchinleck communities;
- The need to develop inspirational learning environments which raise the aspirations of children and young people, staff and the wider community;
- The need to have a state of the art, fit for purpose educational environment for children and young people of all learning abilities
- The need to address significant under occupancy in the school estate and create a sustainable school estate for future generations;
- The need to retain separate school stage identities
- Specialist facilities and equipment replicated
- Expertise of staff will transfer and be both retained and enhanced
- Partnership working will be improved

25 Mr Ward further advised that:

- Educational Benefits are as:
 - Raising Attainment
 - Equality, inclusion and diversity
 - Design which supports child-centred learning
 - Getting it Right For Every Child
- Disadvantage is acknowledged
- Balancing advantage and disadvantage

- 26 Mr Ward then highlighted the ways to respond to the proposal:

To the Executive Director in writing by letter to
Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7BU
by e-mail:
education.consultation@east-ayrshire.gov.uk .
or by response form attached as Appendix 12 of the proposal document.

- 27 Mr Short explained that this is a continuation of the consultation that began last year involving Barshare PS, SLC & ECC and Greenmill PS & ECC, there was uncertainty of the site to be built on and there was also concern of Hillside School being left isolated on their own. He stated that additional funding had been received from the Scottish Government which allowed the authority to consider a much bigger and better project to involve Auchinleck and Cumnock Academies and Hillside School with Barshare PS, SLC & ECC and Greenmill PS & ECC. He went on to explain that the proposal is based on three separate proposals and to get a full sense of what the proposal aims at he encouraged everyone to read all three documents. He also advised that consultees are more than welcome to respond to all three consultation proposals.

ISSUES RAISED:

- 28 **Experimentation**

Parent asked if anyone at the top table had children going to the new school because he felt like this was a scientific experiment. Mr Ward advised that the consultation is about the opportunity to envisage a fantastic new learning campus for young people and that a similar campus model had proved to be successful elsewhere.

- 29 **High Performing School**

Parent stated that Auchinleck Academy is one of the highest achieving schools in East Ayrshire and stated that children would not achieve any better in a new school.

Mr Ward advised that the quality of learning and teaching is down to the teacher in front of the class, but from personal experience children do thrive in modern up to date facilities that have more to offer them.

Mr Short advised that pupil rolls have diminished in both Cumnock Academy and Auchinleck Academy, and with that, comes the loss of teaching staff, which means the schools are unable to teach all courses on the curriculum. He further advised that a new school of the size being offered would be able to offer the broadest of curriculum choices.

Mr Gilchrist stated that Auchinleck Academy senior school do have challenges due to limitations in levels of staffing, and, by definition, there would be extra opportunities of option choices in a larger school with more teaching staff.

Mr Short also advised that the transition from early childhood centre, to primary, and then secondary school can be much better planned in a joint campus. He then advised that should any parent wish to visit either Grange Campus or St Joseph's Campus to see how a joint campus works on a daily basis, then they should let their head teacher know and this will be organised.

30 **Refurbishment V New Build**

Parent asked why the present schools can't be refurbished instead of merging. Mr Short stated that both Cumnock and Auchinleck Academy are excellent schools, but the authority want to provide the most modern educational facilities for children and community. He stated that nobody wants to reduce the identity of any particular community, but are trying to enhance provision available for the community and make sure there is continued investment in the area.

Mr Ward advised that he has been across the country speaking to people about rebuilds and refurbishments and the level of disruption involved in a refurbishment, it was noted that refurbishment was not as successful as a new build. He stated that the authority value staff and pupils and want to provide modern new facilities for them.

Parent stated that Auchinleck Academy is a high achieving school and couldn't understand why the present school couldn't be upgraded as it also has a swimming pool. Mr Ward advised that it would be difficult to provide the state of the art facilities that have been envisaged for the area in the present school. He advised that the swimming pool and leisure facilities would remain in Auchinleck. He also noted that there would be no need to build a pool in the new school when Visions Leisure Centre would be in close proximity.

Mr Kennedy advised that the Council has a limited amount of funds and has to prioritise where money is spent. Parts of Auchinleck Academy could be refurbished, but there are a number of others things as well as basic maintenance. He advised that the authority want to build a school with excellent facilities and advised that it would not be possible to change a huge amount of the structure of the building to accommodate this. He also noted that the building is not energy efficient, and as a balance the authority are looking to put money into a new build, use money efficiently.

Mr Short advised that at present both Secondary Schools are not acceptable in modern day standards for use by people who have a mobility problem, and that the new school would be completely compliant for disabled use.

31 **Location Concerns**

Parent expressed concern that the proposed new build is in Cumnock and not Auchinleck, and stated that local businesses who rely on income generated from schools pupils and their parents will lose money. Mr Ward advised that Broomfield was the site identified as big enough and available to build on at Cumnock.

32 **Campus Size**

Parent expressed concern of moving children to a bigger campus and questioned how the needs of the pupils could be met. Mr Ward advised that transition programmes would be put in place to introduce pupils before they are transferred so that pupils will have met their peers well in advance.

Mr Gilchrist advised that staff already meet with P7 pupils very early on, and pupils visit secondary school before they transfer ensuring that they are fairly familiar with staff and surroundings. He advised that young people generally look forward to going to secondary school, and that it's the job of guidance teachers to help make pupils comfortable in their new school.

33 **Continuity of Pastoral Support**

Parent asked if pupils would have the same guidance teachers during transition to a new build. Mr Gilchrist advised that this would be maintained as far as possible.

Mr Short advised that if the proposal went ahead, staff, young people and parents would have the opportunity to have an input in the design of the building. In the meantime, there are already joint clubs and activities between schools in Auchinleck and Cumnock.

34 **Local Economy**

Parent expressed concern that the economy of Cumnock would improve, while Auchinleck wouldn't. Concern was also expressed that pupils who do not have school transport would have to walk or pay for their bus travel, which is a disadvantage to Auchinleck pupils. Andrew Kennedy advised that primary pupils who live over 1.5 miles from the campus would receive free transport, and secondary pupils living over 3 miles from the campus would receive free transport. Secondary pupils who live between 1.5 and 3 miles from the campus would be entitled to subsidised transport.

David Mitchell, Chief Governance Officer, advised the meeting that the legal position is that Councils only have to provide free transport for pupils if they live further than 3 miles from their school, but East Ayrshire Council has provided a higher level of provision than required legally, by offering a subsidised option. He further advised that the Scottish parliament sets the law on transport provision and not the Council. He encouraged the meeting to submit responses formally to the Council to ensure that they are considered.

35 **Safe Walking Routes and Road Safety**

Parent advised that as a father he would not be happy about children walking along the road in the winter nights when its raining.

Kerr Chalmers advised that the Council have an established policy to complete safe walking route assessments, and has already identified some routes in the

area as unsuitable. He advised that detailed design work would need to be carried out if the proposal was agreed, e.g. erecting barriers, improving lighting etc, for which funds have been set aside to deliver these improvements. He also advised that traffic impact assessments have been done in the area to establish viability of roads etc. Parent asked about traffic calming areas. Mr Chalmers advised that this would all be considered as part of the review.

Parent expressed concern that there is a petrol garage and busy supermarket on route to the proposed site and would be concerned for the safety of pupils walking this area on a narrow pavement. Mr Chalmers advised that travel planning is a key part of the proposal looking at school travel plans to look at safe walking routes to schools. He also advised that pupils and parents would be surveyed to ask what their walking route would be and ask what they would perceive as a problem.

36 **Staffing**

Member of the community asked if staff would have to move to Glasgow, Ayr etc to get another job if the new campus was built. Mr Ward advised that if staff are surplus to the school, they would be redeployed within East Ayrshire Council. Mr Kennedy advised that he is responsible for catering and janitorial staff and would look at each individual's circumstances to look at ways to match in options available, he noted that within Auchinleck there will still be places that require staff and that there would be 4 years to plan if the proposal goes ahead.

Parent stated that she has been redeployed 3 times without any difficulties. She also stated that pupil's parents would have walked everywhere when they were young and maybe if pupils walked more they would be fit and healthy.

37 **Community Concerns**

Parent expressed concern that Cumnock and Auchinleck communities would not be able to merge without any difficulty.

Mr Short responded that in particular pupils had made a very positive response to the proposals and had stated clearly that they wished to see an end to the rivalries and that the new campus would be a major factor in achieving that.

Parent questioned what would happen to the area if the school was closed. They expressed concern that they would be left with waste ground and have nothing left in Auchinleck.

Mr Ward pointed out that the leisure facilities would remain in Auchinleck

Member of the community expressed concern about the state the ground has been left in where the old Auchinleck Primary was situated and would hope that this area would not be left in the same state, should the proposal go ahead.

Mr McPhee agreed that the state of the old primary school site is disappointing

and advised that the academy site would be left in a tidy state.

Parent stated that the panel mentioned transparency, but she expressed concern that she is a manager of Visions Leisure Centre and has heard nothing about a meeting to discuss any proposals for the centre. Mr Short advised that a meeting has been arranged to take place with the board of Visions for the following week.

Parent asked where police presence would be in the new school, given the perceived problems that may occur by the pupils from the two communities merging. Mr Short stated that the headline run recently by the Cumnock chronicle was unfortunate. He stated that he knows pupils of both Cumnock Academy and Auchinleck Academy work really well together and care very much for their community. Mr Gilchrist added that pupils have integrated well in local clubs, etc.

Reporter for Cumnock Chronicle stood up and stated that the headline was accurate and fair, it was a true headline sourced from Facebook.

Parent reminded everyone that it's not only pupils from Auchinleck who attend Auchinleck Academy, there are also a lot of pupils from other villages who also attend.

38 **Maintaining Sports Facilities**

Parent expressed concern about the possible loss of the running track and grounds at Broomfield that are used by clubs in the area.

Mr Ward pointed out that under national guidelines it would be necessary to replace any sports facilities which had to be removed to allow the building to go up. This was based on usage figures for those facilities.

39 **Working with Local Groups**

Parent stated that relations between Cumnock Academy and Visions broke down some time ago and expressed concern how the centre could be used amicably.

Mr Short advised that the authority have had discussions with the Rugby Club and some football clubs to discuss the proposal, Adverts had been put in the local press regarding the proposals and details of the public consultation meetings. He stated that the authority believe that they have the ability to provide facilities that will enhance sporting facilities in the area.

Member of the community expressed concern that, if the proposal goes ahead Auchinleck Academy site will become a derelict area. He also noted that there is a memorial plaque outside Auchinleck Academy dedicated to 3 children who lost their lives a few years ago and asked if any consideration had been given to what will happen to this. He also asked if any other sites had been considered for the proposed new build.

Mr Mitchell explained the statutory process of the proposal to the meeting. He went on to advise that it makes more sense to build new modern facilities as there are limitations to what can be done with a refurbishment. He advised that in relation to sporting facilities there would no diminution of what there is at the moment, facilities will remain for community use. He went on to state that views do count and urged everyone to write formally to the authority with their responses.

Mr Short advised that, with regard to preservation of the memorial plaque, the first port of call would be to discuss with the family if they want it to remain where it is or moved to proposed new school. It would be an important part of the planning process that the memorial is preserved in the way preferred by the families.

40 **Criteria for Site**

Mr Short went on to advise that the Broomfield site was identified as the only area that was big enough to accommodate a campus of the size proposed.

41 **Funding**

Parent asked that if the primary schools were merged and the secondary schools didn't, what would happen to the money. Mr McPhee advised that Cabinet would make the final decision and would look at other projects and use funds for best value.

Mr Short advised that a representative of the school's Parent Council will be allowed to attend the cabinet to express views on behalf of the school.

Mr Short then thanked everyone for attending and asked everyone to respond in writing with their views by 4 pm on Friday 27 March 2015 using one of the methods previously mentioned.

Public Meeting at Cumnock Academy March 4, 2015

ISSUES RAISED:

42 **Context and Status of this Proposal**

Mr Short explained that this is a continuation of the consultation that began last year involving Barshare PS, SLC & ECC and Greenmill PS & ECC, there was uncertainty of the site to be built on and there was also concern of Hillside School being left isolated on their own. He stated that additional funding had been received from the Scottish Government which allowed the authority to consider a much bigger and better project to involve Auchinleck and Cumnock Academies and Hillside School with Barshare PS, SLC & ECC and Greenmill PS & ECC. He went on to explain that the proposal is based on three separate proposals and to get a full sense of what the proposal aims at he encouraged

everyone to read all three documents. He also advised that consultees are more than welcome to respond to all three consultation proposals.

Parent asked if this is just a proposal at this stage. He was advised yes. He went on to ask if the authority had tried to influence people already, as he had heard that teachers in the school had been telling pupils that the school was closing. Mr Short advised that if any member of staff is making any such assertion they are ill-informed, and he went on to explain that the Council has a legal process to follow before any decisions can be made. Angus McVake stated that he would be disappointed to hear if any member of his staff was making such an assumption and would like to know more about that.

Craig Young, Litigation Team Leader, assured the meeting that no decisions have been made. This is only the initial stages of a proposal to look for views and thoughts from pupils/parents/ staff/members of the community in terms of the proposal. He went on to advise on the various stages of the process, noting that not only will the authority's Education Cabinet and Governance and Scrutiny Committee be involved, but Education Scotland and Scottish Ministers are also involved. He advised that the authority do value everyone's thoughts and comments.

Graham Short advised that children and young people have a clear voice in the proposal process and stated that he would be very annoyed to hear if staff were trying to influence pupils. Mr Short advised that pupils of all ages are welcome to respond to the proposal. Associated primaries are all being consulted.

Mr McVake, Head Teacher Cumnock Academy, advised that Common Ground Mediation had been in contact with him to arrange discussions with groups of pupils to get their views and ideas regarding the proposal. Parent asked what age group of children would be consulted. Mr McVake advised that as many pupils as possible from all year groups, S1 – S6, would be involved in the consultation exercise.

43 **Architecture**

In response to a question, Alex McPhee advised that he and the Chief Executive have met with representation of Dumfries House Estate and were made aware that architectural support would be available to East Ayrshire Council if needed but it is intended that the design and architecture of the building would be sympathetic to the environment.

44 **Sports Facilities**

Parent stated that there are various football clubs and a rugby club that use pitches at Broomfield and expressed concern at the possible loss of this area. Parent stated that given the present obesity concern will the Council ensure sports facilities will be available to all.

Mr Ward advised that should the proposal go ahead, all users of the area would be fully consulted. He also advised that advice will be sought from

SportScotlsand on what to offer in the way of sporting facilities. He advised that there are no plans set at the moment but the hope would be to provide facilities such as trim trails throughout the course and all weather pitches. He further advised that the authority want to enhance what's already on offer for community groups.

45 **Legal Status**

Parent stated that the running track at Broomfield used to be cinder and that the athletics club paid for this to be updated. He asked if the track was going to be removed, and if so, would the athletics club be compensated for the loss.

Craig Young advised the athletics club to write to the Council requesting this to be considered.

46 **Alternative Sites**

Parent Council representative asked if consideration could be given for Wood Road to be used as interim facilities.

Mr Short advised that consideration would be given to developing facilities in the area, even on a temporary basis. He advised that when the new Galston Primary School was built, the pitches at Loudoun Academy were extended so they could be used by the community. The Parent Council representative stated that some parents are concerned about the number of pupils that would be in the campus and that parents may take more comfort from hearing from other parents, rather than hearing from members of the Council. Mr Short advised that visits to other campuses can be arranged if required.

Angus McVake advised that he could arrange for the Parent Council representation to visit Grange Campus to meet with parents from the Grange Parent Council and Annanhill Primary Parent Council.

47 **Possible Timescale if Proposal Goes Ahead**

Member of the Cumnock Rugby Club stated that he has had a lot of questions from parents who have concerns about the proposal and he asked if there was a timescale for beginning any works. Mr Ward advised that it will be late August before any final decisions will be made.

48 **Building Works**

Member of the community requested assurance that any facilities built are built fit for purpose. Simon Bell, Capital Programme Manager, advised that should the proposal go ahead all stakeholders in the community will be consulted to ensure facilities are fit for purpose, and that they would be aiming to start building work during 2017 and finish 2019.

Mr Short advised that the Council has consulted local residents and the community more generally by advertising public consultation meetings in the local press.

49 **Financial Models**

Parent expressed concern about bad publicity on leased buildings.

Mr McPhee advised that the proposed new build would not be funded by Scottish Futures Trust and would be entirely funded and maintained by the Council.

50 **Access to Sporting facilities**

Member of the community passed a picture of Cumnock Rugby Club in 2013 to the panel. He advised that he agreed with the merger of Auchinleck and Cumnock Academy and the proposed new build, but expressed concern about the use of Broomfield, which is the principal area for sport and recreation. He asked if clubs and members of the community would be able to continue activities at Broomfield during the construction period and after the new campus opens. He advised that there are approximately 200 people in the picture, who all use Broomfield during the rugby season. He stated that Cumnock Rugby Club alone have 400 people depending on the Broomfield site for recreation purposes during the week and at the weekend.

Mr Ward stated that the authority would want to work with all of the users of the Broomfield site and would want to enhance what is available and not detract from it. He advised that there would be a transition period where provision would have to be made to make sure there is access to all parts of the site. He further advised that the planning may be simpler because no buildings are being knocked down, and that the authority would do their best to ensure access to the area. He went on to say that he would want to reassure the meeting of the Council's good intent and have stated openly the willingness to work with local groups to ensure the best use of any new site.

51 **Class Size**

Parent asked if we could guarantee that class sizes will not be increased as a consequence of the plans. Mr Ward advised that there is national guidance which dictates the class sizes, which the authority can't exceed. He advised that the primary school would be designed into the campus in such a way that it can work in its own isolation. Pupils would not be able to wander around the campus. If primary classes were undertaking work in secondary classes e.g. music classes, art etc, they would be accompanied by a member of staff.

52 **Community Concerns**

Parent stated she was a pupil at Cumnock Academy and had witnessed some traumatic behaviour between pupils and disputes between pupils from different areas, and expressed concern that her children may witness or be exposed to this in the new campus.

Mr Ward advised that from experience of working in a shared campus the head teachers worked in preparation before the school was built to set the ethos and expectations, as a result the behaviour in the campus overall was significantly improved. He advised that he was at the school gate every morning welcoming pupils into school and being vigilant. He advised that it would be useful for parents to visit a campus school to see how things work. He went on to advise that start times, interval times and lunch times would be staggered and primary pupils would have separate play areas from secondary pupils.

Mr McVake advised that he was previously a teacher at the Grange Campus, and during his time there very rarely saw confrontation in the school. He further advised that at the moment there are a lot of activities that Cumnock and Auchinleck pupils share, including joint work experience. He went on to advise that the Depute Head Teacher from Auchinleck Academy had asked him to nominate 10 pupils to join 10 pupils from Auchinleck Academy to attend a weekend activity.

53 **Classroom size**

Parent expressed concern about classrooms being the right size, and other facilities being sufficient for the number of pupils concerned. Mr Ward advised that the proposed new build would be fit for purpose, a state of the art design to support learning and engage pupils. He advised that there are no plans in place, but a desk top exercise would be undertaken to look at overall cost for schools, and that there would be detailed discussions with members of staff about what they feel would be required. He stated that visits to new school builds could be organised and he would encourage staff and parents to take up this offer to see the new design and layouts in other schools that help to encourage children to be productive and active.

Simon Bell advised that the method used in the document to come to the size and cost for the proposed campus, is one set out by Scottish Futures Trust which is a government body developed to improve spending of money. He advised that the matrix is based on roll, square metreage per pupil etc.

54 **Local Resident**

Mr Short advised that a local resident Dr Brooks, who was unable to attend the meeting due to an injury, had asked if his letter could be read out at the meeting. He went on to read the letter, the main points being:

- **Education**: “The plans and explanations for 'Knockroon' are not simple and acceptable as the council appear to present. Many negative and oppositions are being express by parents and residents. There are many reasons for NOT building and installing infants, juniors, secondary and senior pupils on the same development. Adding, handicapped children, advanced-level pupils, adult students and others into the proposed enterprise is not favoured by many educationalists, parents or neighbours.”
- **Environment**: “Various and many questions arise on the local environment following any development, structure and use of 'Knockroon'. A featured public park and playing field areas would be destroyed. Broomfield Park is one of Cumnock's major feature areas used by residents - old and young. Cumnock residents do not wish to have a "builder's yard" [buildings, builders, large machinery, noise, dirt etc on site for up to 4 years. Then followed by noise, dirt, damage, nuisance, pollution etc for evermore.”
- **Transport**: “Transport and movement of children, staff, workers, cars, buses etc in the area will cause major disturbances - probably for most of every day and for long hours. Remember Auchinleck -Cumnock is a "B Road". I understand the 'Cumnock By-Pass' was built to assist and reduce transport along Auchinleck Road. It would ALL potentially change for the worse. Very little has been explained or questioned by the council.”
- **Neighbourhood**: “Introduction of 2000+ children, 200-300 staff and assistants, 100+ daily buses, 300-400 daily cars, daily multi-drop-off parents, daily domestic and support staff etc will certainly change the movement of people in the neighbourhood. Such is not a welcome thought or sight for Cumnock residents.”

Planning

- 55 Mr Short asked Karl Doroszenko, Development, Planning and Regeneration Manager, to explain the planning process to the meeting. Mr Doroszenko advised that the school proposal must be developed with the environment, transport etc being taken into account. The Council have to submit plans to the Planning Department, which have to be assessed. Separate independent consideration will be taken into account. Scottish Ministers will have to be notified because the Council own the land and the Council are proposing the build.
- 56 Member of the community stated that the Council's Local Development Plan highlights Broomfield as an area for recreation use by the people in the area and asked at what point did this change. Karl Doroszenko stated that the Council's Local Plan hasn't changed, however, it was prepared in 2010 and is due to be replaced. He advised that although Broomfield has been identified as a possible site for a new school, this is a consultative process and the proposal hasn't been agreed. He further advised that the proposed Local Development Plan is a separate proposal that will go out for consultation on 31 March and as a planning authority the Planning Department would be happy to hear proposal responses on that. He advised that the plan will be available on the Councils web page, and public consultation meetings will be advertised and held as part of the consultation.

- 57 Parent expressed concern about flooding in Auchinleck Road which hasn't be sorted and if a campus is developed situation may become worse. Simon Bell advised on flood issues regarding fluvial (rain) and pluvial (rivers). He advised that any design would include very detailed drainage plans. Parent stated that the problem exists today and wanted to know what will be done about it now. Mr Bell advised that he would discuss the matter with Roads Department colleagues and the Council's Flooding Officer.
- 58 Councillor Menzies stated that he would have grandchildren attending the new school, and asked what learning experience his grandchildren would get from a merged campus. Mr Ward advised that the best of all possible opportunities, e.g. continuity in progression in the one campus i.e. early years to primary school and moving into secondary, and later into further education or world of work, we would want the young people making the transfer to do so easily. Familiarity with staff and surroundings is important. Each school on the campus could work on their own, but also experience the breadth and range of experience that can be shared by all members of staff.
- 59 John Wilson, Senior Education Manager, advised that there is no doubt that the biggest impact in learning is the quality of teaching available to young people, however, it's also about how the new build could also help, a larger campus with more staff available to share expertise. He advised that it can be an anxious time for pupils moving from primary to secondary, which may be easier in familiar surrounds. He also advised that it's important to have buildings that are fit for purpose for modern use, with science and technology opportunities, which can help enhance the quality of learning and teaching.
- 60 Cumnock Parent Council asked how the Council will maintain the inspirational learning that pupils experience, need assurance that people are going to get the very best attention, as well as looking to the future.
- 61 Mr Short stated that the community is already served by some excellent schools and teachers, and that he is very proud that our schools are amongst the best schools in Scotland, which is down to the quality of leadership in these schools, and he stated that the commitment of teachers in their job will continue. Mr Ward advised that he had recently visited Cumnock Academy to discuss a range of issues, but the key part of the discussion with the Head Teacher and Senior Management Team was to talk about standards of attainment in schools. He advised that part of his job is to make sure that standards are maintained and improved in each school, the future of pupils is very important, and the results that pupils achieve is very important. Mr McVake stated that should this proposal go ahead there would be additional work between head teachers and senior management to make sure that pupils achieve their full potential, as attainment achievement is very important.
- 62 Mr Kennedy advised that the potential for the proposal is a new build in 4 years. He advised that this current remit is facilities management which covers janitation, cleaning and transport, with more of the property side of things being added to his remit as of 1 April, 2015. He further advised that the Council is looking to offer better facilities and buildings for the future, but meantime still

have to meet the needs of pupils, health and safety and maintenance of schools.

- 63 Parent stated that information in the proposal report has comparison to new build costs and cost of maintaining existing buildings. Mr Kennedy stated that the proposal and aim of the project, if taken forward, is to create a facility that creates the best opportunities for pupils. He further stated that there are a range of issues, eg current buildings in a B condition that could slip into a 'C' condition in time, although figures are provided for maintaining existing buildings, there are issues around facilities available in the present buildings, a new build could offer much more.
- 64 Parent expressed concern that he has grown up in Barshare area, attended Cumnock Academy and has chosen to purchase a house in the area overlooking Broomfield, but now has difficult decision to make, given that there will be a change in local environment and also the educational future of his children.
- 65 Parent asked if consideration could be given to merging the academies and building on the Broomfield site and building merged primary schools on Cumnock Academy site. Mr Short advised that the present proposal is what is for consultation, any changes to the proposal, and if Council still wish to proceed, would have to go into continuation of consultation again.
- 66 Mr Short thanked everyone who attended the meeting and encouraged everyone to respond to all consultation documents by 4 pm on Friday 27 March.

Public Meeting at Sorn Primary School - 11 March 2015

67 **Transition**

A parent worried about pupils transitioning from old academies into new merged school asking about the strategic view of how they are going to move.

Mr. Ward described the transition process at St Joseph's Academy in 2008 where pupils moved from the old school into the new build after Easter break. Senior pupils settled in well; there had been a number of orientation visits prior to the opening of the new school – pupils were very excited at the prospect of moving into new environment. The new merged Knockroon Campus would be an August start – there would be opportunities for visits from both pupils and parents before moving.

A parent asked why not take the tactical view and look at a five year closing cycle where present pupils remain in the school up to S5 – so that there are no transitional issues.

Mr. Ward commented that pupils have been consulted and are keen on the idea of the two schools coming together. The suggestion would mean that the new campus wouldn't be fully used. It would also be difficult to create a sense of community with the three sites running consecutively – it would be hard for

pupils to share a sense of belonging to the one new school. By moving into a 3-5 year cycle the previous lines of demarcation would remain – we'd want to bring the two schools together. Mr Ward described his period as HT at St Joseph's and the very positive experience of bringing two primary schools together as St. Andrews Primary.

A parent said that you describe the campus as being Early Years to Primary and Secondary. Sorn is so small – it will be difficult for our children as they are being asked to integrate with pupils who may have gone through this whole process together. Sorn pupils will make up about 0.3% of the merged school's roll – you talk about primary school pupils being more involved with the academies but it doesn't take a new school to do that.

Mr Ward responded that all of the primary schools in the learning community will benefit from the new campus. There are a number of new initiatives already such as the 1+2 languages; the focus on girls in the STEM initiatives such as Primary Engineer. The new campus will have many more teaching staff and will be able to offer greater curricular choice and improved facilities to both primary and secondary pupils.

A parent was worried that the pupils at Auchinleck at the time of the move will bear the brunt and it will affect their studies.

Carole McCulloch (HT Sorn Primary) commented that the transitional arrangements would be started when the pupils were in Auchinleck – long before any move in date. She also commented that response from the Parent Council and Sorn pupils had been positive to the idea of a new merged secondary school.

Alan Ward confirmed that the merger of Barshare and Greenmill Primary schools could still go ahead even if the proposal to merge Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy was not approved.

A parent asked about the scenario of a pupil in transition year who was facing examinations and had built up a relationship with teachers – how is it fair that when the pupil moves into the newly merged school there's a good possibility that the young person would be taught by teachers who had no prior relationship?

Mr Ward commented that changing teachers on entering a new year group was part and parcel of life of every pupil's experience in secondary school. He described a number of ways that rapport could be built between pupils and teachers through activities such as social events and outdoor learning projects. Mr Ward agreed with the parent that high expectations for these pupils to attain to the very best of their abilities in SQA examinations would still be as important as building rapport.

68 **Named Person**

A parent asked for some clarification as to whether there would be the same integration of the 'named person' as there would be for a Sorn pupil moving to Auchinleck presently.

Alan Ward confirmed that there would be the same integration with the new merged school and that guidance on the 'named person' was currently being produced. Mr. Ward went on to comment that information from birth to two year would be shared with early years to ensure smooth transitions through all the learning stages.

69 **Delineated Area**

A parent asked about the meaning of the term 'delineated area'. Mr Ward explained that it was a line that covered all of the catchment areas of the two secondary schools. The parent went on to ask if Mr Ward was aware that the positioning of the new school means that Loudoun Academy is now the nearest secondary school to Sorn.

70 **Placing Requests**

A parent asked about placing requests. She had filled in forms for Auchinleck Academy but wondered if it was now too late to request a place at Loudoun Academy. Mr Ward said that this was still possible but that any travel costs would have to be supported by parents.

71 **Connections**

A parent commented that the connection between Sorn Primary and Auchinleck Academy was a historical one and one the community understood even if Sorn would be nearer to Loudoun in the future.

Mr Ward emphasised that there would be no affect on the status of Sorn Primary if the merger proposal for the two academies went through. There would also be no change to the catchment area of the merged school due to distance – there is no way that closure of Sorn Primary would be contemplated.

72 **Attainment**

A parent asked if attainment statistics were available for pupils who sat examinations during transitions to new schools.

Mr Ward said that there had been research done on the relationship between class size and attainment but what makes the difference is the professional in front of the class – the standard of teaching and learning at the new merged school will be of the highest quality. Mr Ward commented that although class teachers may change from one year to another – the fact that pupils will remain

under the auspices of the same guidance /pupil support teacher would ensure continuity.

A parent commented that the situation with Grange Academy could not be compared to the Auchinleck/Cumnock merger due to the animosity between young people in the two communities.

Mr Ward referred to a story in the Cumnock Chronicle which had neglected to mention that many young people had written in to the paper in favour of the merger.

Mr. Ward went on to say that, while the issue would not be disregarded, the focus was on getting the education right in the merged school. Given the size of the new school, there would be a full-time campus police officer but that the Head Teacher of the merged school would be the best available and would be put into place before the merger and tasked to bring the schools together successfully and insist on the highest standards of behaviour and good manners from pupils. Mr Ward continued that although there may be teething problems, it will be up to the school's Senior Management Team to promote a sense of good will and togetherness.

73 **Merger**

A parent asked that if the merger of the primary schools could go ahead without a merger of the secondary schools could the reverse happen.

Mr. Ward commented that the proposal for Barshare Primary School, Supported Learning Centre and Early Childhood Centre and Greenmill Primary School and Early Childhood Centre was the continuation of an existing consultation process from 15 months previously and that agreement could not be reached for a site even though the merger had been agreed. The status quo is a perfectly possible option but there will be maintenance issues to ensure Greenmill can function as a modern school. A refurbishment would not give the same value for money as a new build and it wouldn't be the case that the £63.5 million funding for the new campus would be re-allocated.

A parent asked what would happen to the two secondary schools if the merger did not go ahead.

Mr Ward commented that the schools would continue on existing capital maintenance programmes and alternatives might have to be looked at due to the numbers of young people attending at both schools. Mr Ward emphasised that the merger presented a fantastic opportunity to bring both further education and business enterprise projects to the new campus especially as many secondary school pupils are now looking at a mix of academic and vocational courses.

A parent asked if there were any examples of merged secondary schools in East Ayrshire.

Mr Ward said that there were not but there were numerous examples from all over Scotland that could be accessed on the Internet. Mr Ward also said that visits can be organised to St Joseph's and Grange Academy so that parents can see how campus schools operate in the authority.

74 **Educational Benefit**

A parent commented on a young person on the autistic spectrum benefitting from learning opportunities at Clydebank College;

Mr Ward said that the possibility of having a college resource within the new campus would mean that all pupils could benefit from increased choice without having to travel, lessening the impact on academic studies in school.

A parent wondered whether the upcoming UK election would have any impact on the decision to proceed as it could be seen as political.

Mr Ward commented that the East Ayrshire Council cabinet was made up of politicians from a mix of parties and that at the heart of the proposal were the educational benefits of the merged campus and a really powerful vision of what could happen in 2018.

A parent asked if each of the present secondary schools would be able to provide pupils with access to a wide range of subjects without shuttling them back and forward.

Mr Ward said that with a roll of over 1500 pupils, the merged school would be able to offer a far broader range of subjects. Presently Head Teachers have to grapple with whether they can offer subjects if numbers are low – there is no cast iron guarantee that every subject requested will run in the merged school but there is a much greater chance than at present in the two secondary schools.

75 **Budget Savings**

A parent commented on the initial saving of £1.2 million if the new campus is built – he continued that we currently have two well-performing secondary schools and what raises attainment is purpose and motivation not the building.

Mr Ward said that statistics do show a positive impact on attainment in both St Joseph's and Grange Academy since their move to new buildings. Mr Ward went on to say that the new working environment and access to improved and modern facilities would also benefit teaching staff.

76 **Maintenance of Existing Establishments and Facilities**

A parent asked if assurance could be given that in the five years spent building the new campus, pupils attending Auchinleck and Cumnock would not be overlooked. Mr Ward gave his assurance of this and talked about the current painting programme at Auchinleck – he went on to clarify that there is a

minimum level of maintenance that must be adhered to and that repairs would be done. It might be difficult to justify something like a new heating system costing £2.5 million if pupils were scheduled to move to a new merged school but all proper maintenance would be done.

A parent asked if the leisure facilities at Auchinleck Academy would be kept;

Mr. Ward said that although the proposal was at a very early stage, it would be the buildings around the leisure facility that would be demolished if approval is granted.

Another parent wanted to know if the new campus school would have a swimming pool to which Mr Ward said that there was a pool at the Visions Leisure Centre adjacent to the new campus and this could possibly be where pupils would have swimming lessons – at no cost to parents. Mr Ward went on to talk about enhanced sport facilities which would be part of any new campus. Meetings had been held with community groups, the local rugby club and Cumnock Juniors to get a sense of what people are looking for. Although no decisions have been made, the intention is to enhance the sport and recreation facilities that are already in place. The new school would have two full size state-of- the- art games halls; the primary would have a games hall and outdoor learning areas. Part of the £63.5 million allocation would be spent on ensuring safe journeys to school through additional crossing points, widened pavements etc.

77 **Site Issues**

A parent asked about the proximity to the sewerage works and whether this had been seen as an issue as it was said to stink in hot weather.

Mr. Ward emphasised again that the proposal was at very early stages and nothing has been decided on where the new building would actually be situated. The proposal is still some months away from the planning stage when thorough environmental testing would be undertaken.

A parent asked whether any other sites had been looked at given the possible investment involved. Mr. Ward said that the site had to be owned by the council so that every penny would go on the campus and not on buying the land. Also there was no council owned site within the delineated area big enough for the campus and the area that had been chosen was one consistently referred to as appropriate by local parents and other members of the community.

Mr. Ward said that, it was thought that almost all transport would be routed via the existing Cumnock campus with buses travelling down the bypass. A traffic impact assessment would have to be done but the size of the Cumnock Academy site would mean a really sophisticated traffic management solution could be applied. Where possible and appropriate, travelling to school by bicycle or foot would be encouraged. Mr Ward continued that the vast majority of pupils would be transported as they are more than 3 miles from the campus.

78 **Timeline for Proposals**

A parent asked about the timeline for decisions on the proposal.

Mr Ward commented that the council would reach a decision in June and, if the proposal is agreed, this would then go to the Scottish Government before any go-ahead could be given. It would be the end of August 2015 before the council would be able to progress with the proposal. Mr Ward encouraged as many people as possible to take part in the consultation process by responding by post or email.

79 **Catchment Area**

A parent reiterated that the proximity of Loudoun Academy meant that the catchment area for the new campus would now be illogical.

The meeting ended at 2030.

Public Meeting at Ochiltree Primary School 12 March, 2015

Issues

80 **Mergers**

Question: Was Grange campus a merger of different schools?

Response: No it was single schools which moved to the new campus. Each school has a separate Head Teacher. Grange has about 1200 pupils, Annanhill has around 450 pupils and Park School has about 100.

81 **Transport**

Comment: There is concern about transport arrangements and congestion given the number of pupils. There is also concern about the school being near a river and, as the bridge is small, it would become congested with pupils.

Response: In relation to the school being near a river, the Council will talk to SEPA. People should be assured that there is a genuine concern about safety. The bridge is small but elected members are open to having a wide bridge. Pre consultation was undertaken based on the projected school roll and pupil numbers. There are no designs at this stage. Grange campus goes in one side of campus and the others go in at the other side. There is pedestrian access from both sides. There will be consideration given to safe walking routes to school and traffic management. If the proposal goes ahead then we will move to developing a design. The more people who are involved the better. We will involve the community, parents and pupils. For example, there was an open day at New Farm Community Centre to consult the community. When that stage is complete everything goes through planning. In relation to St Joseph's, there has been concern about queues in the car parks however, it's mainly parents who cause the problems.

82 Community Concerns

Question: How safe will the children be?

Response: The police are involved in all discussions. The children will be as safe as children can be.

Question: What about issues between the two communities?

Response: Head Teachers have no problem with this. The vast majority of children come together anyway. There are good links through Business Enterprise Centres, some go to one another's events. We want inward investment to Cumnock and Auchinleck. The recent headline in the Chronicle was very disrespectful. Headlines such as these do not reflect the reality.

83 Working with local Groups

Q. Relating to Cumnock Rugby club. Will there be a loss of sporting facilities?

Response: Discussions are taking place with the Rugby Club, Visions, and Cumnock Juniors. Sports Scotland is a statutory consultee. The Council would have to make good any sports facility and provision affected by the proposal. The Leisure Centre will still be maintained. The swimming pool and 5 aside pitches will remain. There is no point installing the council's own pitches so this will not impinge on the club's facility to generate income.

Question: What about the swimming pools?

Response: Visions has a swimming pool. Hillside would require a hydrotherapy pool for its pupils.

84 Environmental Concerns

Comment: There is Concern about the flooding area.

Response: The majority of Cumnock Academy is situated on a 200 year flood area and to our knowledge has not flooded yet. This is a one off opportunity. Money cannot be spent on other schools or upgrading. If a different site was proposed then it would have to go through another consultation.

85 Site Issues

Question: What about the pitches?

Response: Broomfield is a big site so it wouldn't take all of the pitches. It may take out the running track but we would have to relocate.

Questions: Is it one building?

Response: It would be one building but 3 separate schools. Although there might be a shared entrance there will be separate areas. We want children from the primary and special school to access specialist areas.

Question: Who would own the building?

Response: It will be a council owned and commissioned building.

Question: Would the new campus include college students?

Response: It is a possibility, however it would depend on Ayrshire College raising funds and particular conditions would be specified. If so, the college would be separate and have different security arrangements. Irvine Royal and the former James Watt College are examples of sharing a campus.

Question: Would there be access to the college from over the bridge?

Response: This would depend on which side of the building it was located.

86 **Transition**

Question: This question is about transition as the school would open in my son's first year.

Response: In general, we involve young people in the building and design phase. We can provide photographs for discussion and arrange visits as soon as possible. The schools try to get one another to meet new class mates for joint activities. Interestingly, it has been shown that the attainment of children rises during these phases e.g. Mauchline being decanted.

87 **Building and Construction**

Question: About the fabric of the building, is there a single driver?

Response: There are a multitude of drivers. The Scottish Futures Trust has a building design data base and we have experience of other campuses. There is the availability of Scottish Government money and the conditions of the existing buildings and their suitability. The new facilities are suitable for young people with additional support needs and they have Wi-Fi with a micro set up for restaurant facilities. In Home Economics, lessons can be taught with a camera looking in the pan on the hob shown on a screen.

Question: What is the greatest concern?

Response: From experience, being delivered on timescale. However, from Grange opening 2008 school designs have moved on.

88 **Operation of the Campus**

Question: How would lunchtime work?

Response: There would be a staggered lunch. Head Teachers work out amongst themselves how to phase lunchtimes. The campus arrangement can have a benefit for vulnerable children. Secondary pupils often act as friends to youngster. Other times children who have behaviour problems exhibit a caring side. The Senior Management Teams of the schools all work closely together.

Question: Ochiltree's lunches come from Auchinleck. Would this still continue?

Response: *We would envisage no change to this arrangement.*

Parents were invited to visit one of the new campuses and, if they wished to do so, should speak to Mrs Black, Head Teacher.

The meeting closed at 8.45am.

Public Meeting at New Cumnock Primary School 9 March, 2015
Following the presentation, the following Issues were raised:

- 89 **Question How will New Cumnock Primary School pupils benefit from the resources and experiences at the new campus?**

Response A sustainable and meaningful programme will be developed to ensure that there is a positive impact for pupils attending all associated primary schools

- 90 **Question Concern raised re walking routes and access for transport at peak times.**

Response The assessment of safe walking routes is a high priority and will reflect nationally agreed criteria and be carried out by professionals from the Roads Dept. Where necessary, free/concessionary transport will be provided.

- 91 **Question If the 'two primary' option was chosen, where would the location be?**

Response The location would be at Broomfield and would include Hillside.

Question Concern raised re the future of Riverside Centre.

Response Riverside Centre will not be affected by the proposal

- 92 **Question Could a new secondary be built on the Broomfield site and the new primary school be built on the current Cumnock Academy site?**

Response It would be financially beneficial to build one campus. There is also a significant number of educational benefits to having a multi-stage campus

- 93 **Question raised re P7 swimming at Visions rather than Auchinleck Academy.**

Response This would be investigated.

- 94 **Question Concern re proximity of Scottish Water plant**

Response Measures would be taken to investigate fully and plan accordingly.

- 95 **Question Concern re flooding**

Response Discussion took place re fluvial and pluvial flooding. Measures would be taken to investigate fully and plan accordingly.

Public Meeting at Netherthird Primary School Monday 9 March at 7pm

96 **Travel and Transport**

Will travel plans and traffic impact assessments be completed prior to plans are being submitted?

Yes, all will be completed before firm plans are submitted. Money has been set aside for safe walking routes should adjustments need to be made to ensure pupil safety.

Cllr Menzies asked for clarification about free and subsidised transport.

Slides were shown about thresholds but Alan Ward will contact Ms Crombie, Head Teacher at Netherthird Primary School, to provide full information (via Andrew Kennedy).

97 **Architecture and Design**

Will the design be a reflection of the location at Knockroon or will it simply be a carbon copy of the new Kilmarnock school?

The design will be sympathetic of its surroundings, the shape of the site, the setting. Dumfries House have offered assistance if required.

How many people are on Grange Campus?

1500/1600 people. There are safety features built in to all new builds such as secure entry across the whole building and cashless catering system which ensures that all pupils are served more efficiently and all have time for a proper lunch rather than standing in a queue for the whole of lunchtime.

What does state of the art mean?

There are features of the modern built schools which set them apart such as how light is used; overall style and feel of the building; top quality furniture; good quality flooring; use of social seating for pupils and young people; classroom structures are not as rigid and formal; sound systems; up to date ICT provision and network speeds.

How will the new build impact on residents' Council Tax?

It won't.

What input will parents have in the design of the new build? The situation at Auchinleck Primary School must be avoided.

Architects will be sympathetic to learning and consult much better to get a sense of the desire of all stake holders. Process will be wide and detailed. EAC has set aside extra money to ensure that any new builds represent best value. 4 new education posts have been created to manage the process from inception to completion.

Cllr Menzies stated that one of the things that strikes a person entering one of the new builds is the light but also the use of corridor space. There is not a

sense that you are in part of a massive campus. There are break out spaces for pupils to study, etc.

98 **Site Choice Criteria**

Why was the site at Broomfield chosen?

EAC had a list of criteria including that the land had to be of sufficient size and that it had to already be owned by EAC. Costings were made for creating three separate buildings as opposed to the one building/shared campus model being proposed and this represented best value. This was the only site big enough in the area to meet the requirements.

99 **Sports Facilities**

Will sports amenities provided with the build satisfy what is being lost by building on that site?

Sport Scotland oversee the local authority to ensure that communities don't lose out. EAC have already had numerous discussions with local groups to hear their plans and any concerns they may have about the proposal. EAC is keen not to prevent local groups progressing with plans they already have in place. Undertaking has been made that any facilities that are lost due to the build will be replaced or relocated. The Council looks at the usage figures. The track, for example, is used casually but frequently. It is only 4 lanes so can't be used for official meets. Needs will be addressed and provision made.

100 **Community Impact**

What about the people who stay in those houses that they paid a lot of money for?

They have already raised their concerns separately.

101 **Transition**

What about kids who can't cope with being at a school of that size? Some prefer smaller schools.

Start and finish times will be staggered so the Early Childhood Centres children will arrive first, then the academy pupils will arrive and finally the primary school bell will ring. Breaks and lunches will also be staggered. The site offers enough space to ensure that there are separate play areas for pupils in each establishment. Schools will be aware of their pupils who they feel may struggle with transition and enhanced procedures will be put in place – as is the case now – to ensure their smooth transition.

Will it be possible for parents to visit similar campus sites like Grange Academy and St Joseph's Academy?

Alan Ward is keen to conduct such visits prior to the close of the consultation period so anyone interested should contact Mrs Crombie who will liaise with Alan Ward about visits possibly early next week.

102 **Health and Safety**

How will you guarantee pupil safety throughout the course of the build?

The current Cumnock Academy will be utilised as part of the site only once the school is up. Contractors are responsible for all phases and they will look at the best time to demolish the old Cumnock Academy building. Builders will come and speak to parent groups and pupils. All Health and Safety requirements will be met. Alan Ward cited his experience of moving from old to new building at St Joseph's Academy.

103 **Staffing**

What about teacher unemployment?

Redeployment is the standard East Ayrshire Council policy. No teacher will be made redundant. There are Human Resources systems in place to deal with that.

104 **Educational Benefit**

Under occupancy figures of buildings and falling rolls means falling teacher numbers and that means that some young people will have to travel to other establishments for more choice, especially in AH subjects. Can you give a guarantee that won't happen?

A cast iron guarantee as possible. Bigger classes makes for more choice and a better service.

105 **Existing establishments**

Money has been spent on New Cumnock Primary School and money will be spent on the new build if it goes ahead. How can you guarantee money which will make a significant difference to Netherthird Primary School?

Netherthird is first on the list for capital investment for refurbishment and upgrade. You should be able to see a significant difference. These proposals went to cabinet in December 2014 and Netherthird was specifically mentioned for refurbishment at that point.

Will pupils and parents have a say in how any funding for the refurbishment of Netherthird is spent?

Absolutely. EAC will work with Mrs Crombie and Pupil Council, Parent Council and any other interested parties to identify priorities for spending.

106 **Operation of the Campus**

How will primary pupils access subject specialist time/space?

Primary pupils will have dedicated changing space. East Ayrshire Council is committed to two high quality PE sessions per week. Subjects such as Science, Art, Music, etc can coincide access to secondary space with their non-contact time. This will work best when the heads of all establishments work closely together.

How will pupils from Netherthird get equal access to the new facilities to the pupils who attend the primary school on the new campus?

The space will be timetabled. There will also be sessions when subject specialists will visit other partner primary schools with resources such as a 'pop up lab' to deliver science in the primary setting. Initiatives such as the 1+2 languages model and East Ayrshire Council's commitment to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) education will ensure that primary pupils get much more access to subject specialists.

Other schools in the authority have already faced this issue and have worked hard to ensure that the pupils from partnership primaries that are not on campus still get equal access to any transition activities. This model will be shared with HTs in the new establishment.

107 **Child Protection**

How will East Ayrshire Council ensure child protection measures are put in place given the introduction of a college and the business units on campus?

It is incumbent upon East Ayrshire Council to ensure the safety of all young people. It is highly likely that the college space will be very separate in terms of entrance and exits from the rest of the campus. Young people attending college courses will be pupils who are transitioning from the Academy on campus.

All appropriate security measures will be taken including secure entry systems and the capability to 'lock down' particular areas so that only someone with an appropriately set security pass can gain entry. Young people cannot move freely throughout the entire campus so, when primary pupils are moving into the secondary space for an activity, they have to be accompanied and supervised by staff.

What about work experience opportunities with the business partners on site? Will they be PVG'd?

Not necessarily. Current work experience providers do not need to be PVGd although there are a number of safety checks which are completed. Checks will remain as tight for on-site businesses as they would for external providers.

Would any business be able to get premises on campus or will there be some sort of checks completed?

This has not been fully thought through as this is just at the concept stage. There will be more detail about such plans if and when the project reaches the planning stage.

Public Meeting at Muirkirk Primary School 10 March, 2015

ISSUES RAISED:

108 Planning

Councillor McGhee asked if there were any artists imagery available at the moment. Mr Ward advised that there are a lot of discussions to be had before this can be provided.

Parent asked if the two consultations presented were linked. Mr Ward advised that they weren't linked.

Parent asked if there were any perceived delays? Mr Ward stated that he could not say no for definite but the way builds are conducted now he would hope not, Corporate infrastructure colleagues have gained a lot of experience in this area, and some designs have been superb. He went on to advise that Onthank Primary School's new building went up well, teachers and pupils are delighted, and everything was pretty much on time.

Mr Ward was then asked why timescales stated were different for primary and secondary schools, there is a year of difference. Mr Ward advised that if the proposed academies merger does not go ahead the build will still go ahead, but would hope to have primaries in the building first, as the pupil moves need to be phased.

Cllr Primrose advised that parents could visit Onthank Primary to see new build. Mr Ward also stated that parents are able to go online and google new school builds, they would be able to see the range of builds available nowadays. He went on to advise that parents would be kept fully informed of any updates required.

Parent asked what the size of the new campus school would be. Mr Ward advised that there could be 440 pupils in primary, and, at the very most 1,680 in secondary. However, he would expect the numbers to be lower. He also advised that there would be 100 full time places in the early childhood centre.

Parent asked if there would be security on site in the evening, because she knew someone who has just bought a house in the area.

Mr Ward advised that each school in the proposed new build would have their own area, pupils not able to wander around campus, he advised that campus schools in the authority have worked well, staggered start and finish times, as well as staggered break times to ensure not everyone mixing at same times.

Mr Ward advised that traffic management assessments would be completed to look at traffic in the area and that £1M has been set aside also to look at improving roadways.

Member of the community expressed concern that residents haven't been notified of the proposal. Mr Ward advised that this is the proposal stage only, and that planning colleagues would notify residents if the decision was made to take the proposal forward. He also advised that the proposal and public consultation meetings were advertised in local press, and that local community associations and community councils have also been fully informed.

Member of the community advised that she did not want a school on her doorstep and was concerned that her house price would fall.

109 **Management of Proposals**

Parent asked if P1-3 could be put in portacabins, because she was worried about pupils so young travelling 10 miles to Greenmill Primary.

Mr Ward explained that pupils have been decanted from other schools to allow builds to be completed and this had worked well.

Councillor Shaw asked that if pupils were decanted, would the pupils be separate from the rest of school.

Mr Ward advised that the two schools would work independently from each other, with their own head teacher and maintaining their own identity, perhaps having shared activities at certain times. Councillor Shaw advised that parents of Sorn Primary had the same concerns about decanting pupils, but it worked well. Mr Ward advised that staff would be supervising pupils on the bus.

Parent asked what would happen if children were unwell.

Mrs Whittet, Head Teacher of Muirkirk Primary School, advised that the procedure would remain the same, parents would be called to pick pupils up from the school or they would be transported home in taxi with the classroom assistant. She also advised that she would supervise pupils going on and off the buses.

Mr Ward advised that the buses would be single decker buses with seatbelts. Mrs Whittet advised that she understood parents' anxieties regarding difficult driving conditions on winter roads, but advised that, if she is at all worried about roads, the buses won't leave the school.

Mr Ward stated that health and safety is of the utmost importance, and that a set of guidelines would be in place.

Mr Ward was asked if campus police officers would be on site at the new campus, as they have made a difference to order in other schools. Mr Ward advised that this may be possible and was pleased to hear that campus police are welcome and work well in the area.

110 **Class Size**

Parent asked if class sizes would increase, as this will cause a difference in teaching. Mr Ward advised that there may be a slight increase in class sizes but there are national guidelines on how big a class can be, that the authority cannot exceed.

111 **Transition**

Grandparent expressed concern that the upheaval of moving pupils could cause difficulties for pupils. Mr Ward advise that when he was Head Teacher at St Joseph's Academy, he spoke to parents/pupils/staff about the best time to make the move, and the decision was made to move after the spring break, which worked well. He advised that staff would work closely with pupils to familiarise them with the new build, and that their focus would be on raising attainment.

112 **Information**

Concern was expressed that the advert in the paper was for consultation on new campus only, and that the turnout at today's meeting may have been better if it was advertised that the Muirkirk new build was also going to be discussed. Mr Ward advised that he is happy to attend a further meeting if required.

Mr Ward thanked everyone for attending and reminded them to respond to the consultation using one of the methods highlighted in the presentation before 4 pm on Friday 27 March 2015.

Public Meeting at Mauchline Primary School 11 March, 2015

Issues Raised

113 **Transition**

Question: How would continuity of education be assured for young people who are sitting exams during the period of change.

Response: Every effort will be made to ensure continuity of education for the young people involved. Staff would be coming from the two establishments and this would be taken into account when structuring classes. The plan is to have as much of the change taking place over the summer period to minimise disruption.

Question: What happens if timescales slip?

Response: Careful planning and liaison are taking place between the two Head Teachers already and any foreseeable delays would be accounted for in the planning.

Question: Would pupils who start First Year have to move again if there was slippage in timescales?

Response: Transition arrangements will still take place and should the Primary school opens the year before the secondary there shouldn't be any slippage in transition

Question: Would youngsters be in the same class or mixed classes of Auchinleck or Cumnock pupils?

Response: Classes would be mixed. Staff and pupils from both schools already do a lot of 'pre-coming together' work and have lots of events planned. An example of this would be the joint Cumnock and Auchinleck Band. There have also been opportunities for young people to work on different projects at Hope Homes development at Knockroon and Dumfries House.

Question: Would all the other primaries get access to the new school for transition?

Response (L McLean): Children already travel by bus for transition events. All schools would have the opportunity to come together. Her personal feeling was that pupils would have access to better facilities, particularly those who have a disability. Mauchline children are used to travelling for events.

114 **Advantage V Disadvantage**

Question: Much has made of the advantages of the new campus but what are the disadvantages as referred to in the presentation?

Response: Perceived disadvantages might be the Community losing the school as a focal point and resentment between the Communities. Again, there are initiatives such as the joint band which bring the young people together. Concern was expressed that there is considerable history between the two communities but it was acknowledged that circumstances and the communities are changing.

115 **Funding for Major Projects**

Question: What happens to the money if the proposal doesn't go ahead? Would it be spent upgrading the two schools?

Response: Although there is a considerable sum of money available for this project it would likely cost more to upgrade the two academies. By design, they are not suitable for present day education and want our young people to have the best experiences possible. If the proposal was rejected then the money may be directed towards another project.

116 **Working with Local Groups**

Question: Would the Rugby Club have full access to the new facilities?

Response: It was explained that discussion and negotiations are currently taking place with Cumnock Rugby Club. Vibrant Communities would have a key role in developing links between the schools and community groups including sport organisations. Sports Scotland is keen to be involved in this project Sports and physical activity are good ways for bringing young people together and we are keen to promote it.

Considerable support was expressed for the Rugby Club by those present.

Question: Would there be swimming pool as part of the new campus?

Response: It is proposed that the new schools use Visions pool which is on the same site. Discussions are taking place between the Executive Director and Visions regarding use of the facilities. The existing pool in Auchinleck would remain open for public use and for use by schools where appropriate.

117 Operation of the Campus

Question: Would there be consultation about staggering stopping times as there will be a great number of pupils on the campus?

Response: There would be staggered stopping times. Safety is a valid point which the Council takes very seriously. Head Teachers will manage starting and finishing times as part of the planning process. Police will be represented in the planning process and with the presence of the 'Campus Cop' on the campus. He/she is always included part in such aspects of planning.

Question: Will the new school's use of Visions impact on the general public during the day?

Response: This will form part of the discussions with the Visions management. Mrs McLean, Head Teacher, pointed out that schools such as Mauchline and Sorn would still be able to use Auchinleck pool. It would be the schools on the new campus which would use Visions.

118 Architecture and Design

Question: With regard to architecture, would the project be educationally led or architecturally led?

Response: The project will be educationally led. There will be input from all stakeholders including young people.

Question: Is the project Public Private Partnership (PPP) and how would the architects be identified?

Response: The project is not Public Private Partnership (PPP) and will be subject to the Council's procurement procedures.

Questions: What happens to the existing buildings in Auchinleck and Cumnock in the future?

Response: The buildings would be flattened and the ground cleared. Empty buildings attract vandalism and have safety and security issues.

Question: Will there be separate play areas?

Response: Yes.

Question: What is the square footage?

Response: The footage is 1.7m per pupil population. This depends on the layout. There are areas in older schools which are not used to the maximum. Fiona Taylor and John Wilson asked their Head Teacher know if they wished to visit a new school and this would be arranged.

Comment from parent: They had been to a new school in South Ayrshire and Grange Academy. They felt disheartened when they went back to Auchinleck.

119 **Budgets and Savings**

Comment from parent: While in favour of the new school, it's hard to balance that with losing staff e.g. classroom assistants as savings.

Response: The money for the school is a separate budget from staffing budgets.

120 **Refurbishment V New Build**

Question: Could we improve Cumnock and Auchinleck Academies instead?

Response: A refurbishment of each building would be considerable and not cost effective. The buildings have stood for a long time and need refurbishing to bring them into a suitable condition for modern day education.

121 **Traffic and Transport**

Question: What about traffic management? Will traffic from Visions users be taken into account?

Response: Money is included in the budget to address traffic management issues and to review walking routes to school. Safe walking routes to school are considered to be of high importance and the impact of traffic to and from Visions will be taken into account.

Question: Would Hillside lose its pool?

Response: No. The pupils from Hillside will have their own hydrotherapy pool.

Question: Visions has a communal changing room. Is this appropriate for pupils?

Response: Communal changing rooms are common now in many pools and leisure centres such as The Citadel. Pupils would be used to using these anyway.

Question: Would Auchinleck pool still be maintained.

Response: Yes. It will still be maintained for community use.

Question: Cumnock Academy has the School of Rugby. Would still be enhanced and maintained?

Response: Yes. Sports Scotland would be key in discussions relating to this.

122 **Size of the School**

Comment: Large numbers are scary for a social aspect. Health and Safety are of paramount importance.

Response: Schools do come together and there is a developing ethos and pupils have respect for others.

123 **Management of Proposals**

Question: Is there possibility of parent councils getting together?

Response: Yes.

Public Meeting at Logan Primary School 10 March, 2015

Issues Raised

124 The key points from this explanation were:

- An earlier consultation exercise in Cumnock Town Hall highlighted how important Logan Primary and Early Childhood Centre was to the surrounding community.
- Logan Primary and ECC is classed as a rural school and has some protection in law.

125 Further explanation included:

- There issues with the initial choice of site for the proposal.
- Hillside School parents and carers did not want to lose ties with Barshare Primary, Early Childhood Centre and the SLC. Hillside would have remained on the edge of town and could have been isolated
- Additional money for Scottish Government - £15 million – led to Auchinleck and Cumnock Academies being included along with Hillside School in the current proposal.
- The benefits of an all through provision.
- The benefits of no artificial boundaries.

126 Q: I am not happy that children from the Supported Learning Centre would be in the same building. My child would be overwhelmed.

R: Outlined the success at joint campus – shared resources, staff etc.

The building would still contain separate establishments.

Rolls in the academies have reduced by 25% in last few years which means academies lose staff flexibility in allocation of staff. This means subject choice can become limited.

127 Facilities designed for learning in 21st century

- Fabric of both buildings
- Layout
- Disability access

128 This could include:

- home economics/science lab/modern facilities
- dining areas
- canteen/café area
- £63.5 million - new build benefit

129 Q: Why build a joint Auchinleck/Cumnock Academy?

R: Parental comments received and Head Teachers views did not indicate huge issues for young people coming together.

Examples of shared events already take place, for example, friends/discos and social media.

S: My children have had problems with Auchinleck in town with the children.

There was recognition that rivalries exist but that was necessarily not 'how the world has to be'.

S: It is small minded people who create this.

R: We cannot diminish the past but there would be hard work to do.

An example of this was the Rankinston Primary and Littlemill Primary consultation a number of years ago.

Parents were impassioned about the issue and thought their children would be murdered if they were to attend a school in another community. In this case Drongon Primary.

130 However while the renovation work was carried out at Littlemill Primary work children were decanted to Drongon Primary. There were no murders.

S: It is football that causes the problem.

S: My son is a ball boy and doesn't have any trouble.

Q: Are the buildings all joined? Are Cumnock/Auchinleck in one building?

R: Yes the proposal is for the two academies to become one.

131 The three schools would have three budgets, three Head Teachers and facilities shared for benefit of all. There would be specific resources designed to support children with special needs.

S: My child will be in National 4/5 when the new building is planned.

R: Yes, lots of planning merging of curriculum of the two academies. An example of this Kilmarnock Academy and James Hamilton Academy. This planning takes place at a very early stage.

Transport is also planned at an early stage.

The Head Teacher will be appointed well in advance.

Q: Will children all go home at same time?

132 There will be a detailed traffic management plan. In other schools specific areas are designated for traffic management. In this case this is the land where Cumnock Academy currently sits.

There could be staggered start and end times to ease traffic congestion.

Q: How would transport work? Sometimes the bus doesn't turn up

R: The transport arrangements will remain within the current parameters. There are a number of factors which determine whether transport will be provided for free.

- Distance
- Assessed for safe routes
- Traffic control measures in place
- Subsidise transport for families with more than one child.

133 Q: I am concerned about the noise levels with bells for my child who has autism.

R: Each school would have separate bells which cannot generally be heard in the other's buildings.

This factor would be a consideration of the building planning phase.

134 Q: Where does Cumnock College feature in the plans?

A: The facilities are separate and the college will have to secure funding for this.

It would also be a separate building. There is a report called the Wood report which highlights the benefits of young people and schools having closer links to industry.

There would also be provision for special needs with its continued association with the Riverside Centre.

There would be business induction units close to the schools. This would provide opportunities for young people to get access to generate wealth in the community. This has the potential to encourage inward investors and housing.

135 Q: What do you think it will do Auchinleck Academy? The impact on small businesses and community?

R: The Leisure Centre would remain in Auchinleck.

136 Q: What about local businesses?

Consideration would have to be given to what these companies were selling – burgers, chips, etc. The Council policy on healthy eating and working on

reducing burger vans around schools is important. This issue would be for other people to work out the economic issues.

137 Q: How would Broomfield be affected? It is very well used.

The consultation has taken place with visitors, rugby club etc. Many people use the area and are aware of this. Parent mentioned Highland Games.

There are no designs as yet but if it is approved the location of the build is decided.

There are great opportunities for the clubs that use the area.

There would be no reason the council would add anything which would be of detriment of these clubs.

A running track is a key feature and that should be considered as part of the plan.

Areas would need to be conserved for outdoor areas. Those are questions of facilities.

The use of the local environmental areas, outdoor learning resources, children walking to Dumfries House are all important aspects of future planning.

This would be something specified for the Cumnock and Auchinleck Communities.

There seems to be difficulties around pupils from Cumnock Academy using the Vision for learning.

Every pupil in areas is a potential customer of Vision. Visions has a great opportunity.

From education we need to work with Visions to allow children to use Visions during the school day. This is about people talking.

Hillside will have hydro therapy pool, a £1 million investment. Pools are expensive to build and run

138 Q: Are you keeping the leisure centre open?

R: Yes, all clubs will remain.

Q: What about AstroTurf at Cumnock?

R: Yes, that will stay. Cumnock Academy is a massive area. The question for council is about utilise this space for other things.

Q: If this goes ahead and people change their minds – what happens?

R: If that happened, we would have to manage that situation. Staff are able to manage this. It would be made to work.

139 Q: What are the projected rolls when doors open?

R: The estimated numbers are:

- Primary, SLC & ECC and Hillside - 441 pupils
- Secondary 2019 – 1692 pupils

No alteration to classes as the class sizes are determined by law e.g. primary 25

Primary 1 – 25 pupils

Primary 2 – 30 pupils

Primary 3 to 7 – 33 pupils

S1/S2 – 30 pupils

Practical subjects – 20 pupils

S1 & S2 – 33 pupils

Practical subjects – 20 pupils

S3 to S6 – 33 pupils

Greater numbers in the secondary provide more flexibility in how the classes are made up.

For example:

If there 100 pupils in S1.

The school can decide to have 4 classes in S1

3 class at 30 pupils

4th class 10 pupils

140 Q: Are our children disadvantaged because our children don't have a new school?

R: £11 M allocated to refurbishment of schools that are not included in the proposals across the council.

Schools work in cluster areas links to the academies. There will be lots of opportunities planned between schools to ensure all children get access to the resources available at a new campus.

The challenge will be around transport but IT can be used to support links. Currently there is an upgrade programme to improve bandwidth for schools and introduce wireless technology infrastructure.

Meeting closed at 8:30pm

Public Meeting at Catrine Primary School 16 March, 2015

Issues Raised

- 141 One parent was present for the meeting and an informal discussion between officers and parent took place covering the issues which have generally been raised at other public meetings.

Public Meeting at Drongan Primary School 16 March 2015

Introduction

Mr Short opened the meeting by introducing himself and other representatives from the council present. He proceeded to go through some formal points about the consultation and asked that written contributions be submitted before 4pm on the 27th March 2015. He referred to the pro-forma on the back of the consultation document and reminded the audience that elected members were entitled to read consultation responses and that the process was completely transparent. He went on to give a number of milestones in the process including a timeline for the council's cabinet, Governance and Scrutiny committee and submission to the Scottish Ministers. Mr. Short emphasised that the proposal was very far from a 'done-deal' and would be subjected to intense scrutiny at all stages. Mr. Short reminded the audience that they could respond to all three current school consultations and that formal consultation arrangements were in place for children and young people.

Mr Short went on to describe the context of the current consultation and referred to the launch of a separate consultation in January 2014 which proposed the merger of Greenmill and Barshare Primary Schools and did not go ahead. Mr Short referred to the Scottish Government's injection of £15 million into the capital programme and how that had led to the current proposals. He then went on to talk about the 'allowing factors' and most notably the council's experience in 3-18 campus development at Doon campus, St. Joseph's campus and James Hamilton campus and the 5-18 provision at Grange campus with a special school. Mr Short then described the perceived advantages of the proposal and how it would allow education of all children whatever their needs; combine resources and staff expertise to benefit children and young people with additional support needs. The expertise in mainstream schools would be available to all pupils as well as specialist labs, PE halls and Home Economics facilities.

Mr. Short commented that school rolls in both Cumnock Academy and Auchinleck Academy were shrinking and were currently 25% less than even 3 or 4 years ago. The combined roll of the proposed merged school would be around 1600 and this would enable the Head Teacher of the secondary to manage the curriculum more effectively and provide a broader curriculum for pupils. Mr. Short described the current condition of the two buildings and commented that they would degrade over the next 3 to 4 years and asked the audience to think about their suitability for learning in the 21st Century without modern laboratory facilities or modern music, art or drama environments. Mr.

Short also referred to mobility problems in both schools and their lack of a disability rated elevator. He commented that new schools are built on the same level and built to an acoustic specification to take into account children and young people who are hearing impaired. Mr Short went on to talk about the possible inclusion of a college input and business incubation unit as part of the proposed merged school. He then referred to the innovative nature of the proposal where the campus will cater for 2-18 year olds with the possibility of both further education and employment opportunities.

143 **Traffic and Road Safety**

A parent worried about safety issues with children travelling to school and increased volume of traffic.

Mr Short responded that a traffic impact assessment would have to be completed to determine the feasibility of the proposal. Mr Short emphasised that although the planning process had not begun, it may be that due to its size, the present Cumnock Academy site could be a possible traffic hub. A number of entry routes would be required including direct vehicular access for those pupils with special needs.

A parent referred to the Grange Campus and the different entry points and asked if the proposed campus would be similar.

Mr Short said that this could be the case and that any design would be done in close consultation with staff, pupils, parents and people from the community. Mr Short went on to talk about the siting of the proposed campus and suggested that current thinking favoured a site nearer Cumnock Academy than Knockroon; Mr. Short acknowledged that discomfort about the siting of the proposed campus so near to a sewage works was an issue that had to be addressed.

A parent asked whether there would be safe walking routes to the proposed campus.

Mr Short responded that all routes to the school would need to be assessed as safe walking routes and that £1 million of the budget would be allocated to ensure appropriate adjustments are made if required. Mr. Short then went on to explain the council's policy on free and subsidised school transport.

144 **Community Issues**

A parent asked what would be done about the challenges faced due to the perceived historical rivalry between sectors of the two communities and how it could be prevented from spilling over into trouble at the proposed school.

Mr Short referred to the positive impact of the increasing participation in joint projects by pupils from both schools including the Business Enterprise and Skills Centre at Knockroon and the joint S6 Halloween Disco. He went on to say that both schools take the issue of misbehaviour very seriously and manage it effectively. Pupils would be involved in the design of the school, the school name, motto and badge and Mr. Short said that he was very optimistic that the

transition would be managed successfully for pupils from both Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy.

145 **School design and capacity**

A parent asked about the size of the school and whether it would be able to cope if there was a future 'baby boom'

Mr. Short said that the school had to be built with spare capacity. He went on to say that for a number of reasons, precise school roll projection was difficult especially when placing requests and increased mobility of population are factored in.

146 **Sports Facilities**

A parent asked about the maintenance of the running track.

Mr. Short said that when the process gets to the planning stage Sport Scotland must be consulted and that there was a statutory obligation that there could be no diminution of sports facilities and that if the council takes out a facility, it has to be replicated within a reasonable area.

Mr Short referred to meetings with Rugby Club, Visions and Cumnock Juniors. He referred to a positive meeting with Visions. The company want to look at the next stage to be reassured that there is no conflict with their current provision.

A parent commented that it would be difficult to see how the Visions swimming pool could cope with so many pupils in the proposed new build and Mr. Short confirmed that the new campus would not have a pool. There followed some discussion about how swimming lessons could be scheduled given the customer base already using Visions. Although the Auchinleck pool would remain open, a parent thought that it would be impractical for young people from the proposed campus to travel there.

A parent said that this could be overcome if swimming lessons were allocated a double period where travel time could be built in.

Mr Short referred to the Hydrotherapy pool at Hillside and how a new pool at the proposed campus would be of the same standard as the one situated in Willowbank School.

A parent commented on the public use of the proposed site and Mr. Short agreed that it was an area used by the community. The running track was seen as an important part of the development and there was some discussion about the possibility of extending the current 4 lane facility to 8 lanes to enable it to be competition ready.

A parent asked about changing arrangements at Visions and discussion followed on the difficulties of pupils and members of the public being in the facility at the same time.

A parent said that the current facilities at Auchinleck needed to be maintained. Mr Short said that the proposal was both ambitious and exciting and that the people of the community would be part of developing an agreed strategy should the proposal go ahead.

147 **Transition**

A parent asked about pupils from the feeder primaries accessing the new campus.

Mr. Short said that as there were a number of 3-18 campuses in East Ayrshire, the issue was already alive and that more thought had to be given to how best to cater for the other associated primaries, especially if they are some distance from the campus itself. Mr Short talked about joint curricular planning to look at much more ambitious ways for primary pupils to benefit from the proposed campus, possibly beginning transition earlier in the primary school (from P4 onwards). Mr Short also talked about the benefits of staff from the campus working in associated schools.

A parent asked how the new campus would impact on pupils from Drongan Primary as there would clearly be funding issues with transporting primary pupils to the new campus.

Mr Short agreed that resources were certainly limited but referred to the allocation of a science lab at Grange Academy as part of primary/secondary liaison as an example of how arrangements are already working.

There followed some discussion about the possibility of an FE input in the proposed campus and how this could benefit pupils. Mr Short talked about the current situation where pupils move between schools for some Advanced Higher provision and how this need would be dramatically lessened in a larger merged school where the diverse needs of pupils can be more easily met.

Mr Short went on to describe facilities at a number of new-build Scottish secondary schools including a CCTV camera used to demonstrate cooking techniques in HE lessons.

A parent commented that this worried her as it took away the pupil/teacher relationship;

Mr. Short agreed that distance learning should only complement and supplement that relationship.

A parent asked whether a rolling transition would be possible and mentioned the experience of St Conval's Academy.

Mr Short said that although this might be a possibility, it would be difficult to manage effectively.

148 **Staffing and class size**

A parent asked about teacher numbers in the new campus.

Mr. Short said that teacher numbers were agreed nationally but presently schools have sometimes struggled in attracting people in to teach certain subjects and it would be expected that a state-of-the-art campus would help this situation.

A parent asked about the effect on class size and Mr. Short commented that there needn't be any effect as class sizes were up to the Head Teacher – Mr. Short went on to say that just because the proposed merged school is bigger, this won't mean that class sizes necessarily increase.

A parent worried that in a school of 1600, teachers wouldn't have time to get to know pupils individually.

Mr Short responded by saying that although the combined roll was higher there were a number of schools in Scotland with over 2000 pupils and pupil/teacher relationships had been maintained in these establishments.

A parent said that bigger isn't always better and the proposal is all about saving money; the parent continued that the way to get jobs was to raise attainment not build better facilities.

Mr. Short said that saving money was not the reason for the proposal and that the proposal offers children and young people in the area something that is better than at present both through improved facilities and a broader curriculum.

A parent asked if there would be additional funding for Continuing Professional Development for teachers who are working between primary and secondary schools.

Mr Short referred to the considerable investment already put into staff CPD but agreed this may be an area that could be re-prioritised.

Mr Short confirmed that this would be a merger of 2 schools and not the closure of Auchinleck Academy as both schools will contribute at least 40% of the total roll. He went on to say that the Head Teacher post would be advertised and current incumbents were welcome to apply. There was some discussion about the prospect of job losses if the proposal went ahead; Mr. Short confirmed that the rationalisation would be managed to ensure there would be no compulsory redundancies.

149 **Upgrade V Refurbishment**

A parent asked if the proposal didn't go through and both schools remained open whether current facilities would be upgraded.

Mr. Short commented that there was no guarantee of that as the £63.5 million was allocated to this project with the bulk of funding raised through borrowing. He went on to say that the council would be under no obligation to upgrade the facilities as there are many other competing priorities.

150 **Operation of the campus**

A parent asked how meal breaks would be organised given the numbers of pupils. Mr. Short described arrangements in other campus schools and talked about how school design had moved on from the 'street' idea of lunch areas to designated areas which are 'broken up' around the school.

A parent asked if secondary pupils would be allowed to leave the campus at lunchtime;

Mr. Short said that because some children will go home for lunch it would be difficult to see how this could be stopped.

A parent commented that with the new facilities on offer it would be hoped that pupils would actually prefer to stay on campus during lunch especially with the excellent quality of school meals available to them.

Mr. Short went on to recap on the consultation process and the timeline for the consultation. He confirmed that there would be a definite decision on the proposal by the end of August 2015 after which the authority are able to start implementing the decision by drawing up designs, starting a tendering process and beginning formal planning applications. Mr. Short emphasised that people's comments will be an important part of the decision process but that people should be aware that the consultation is not a 'referendum' but about the merits of the case. He went on to say that if parents have concerns about the size of the school, then statements have to be made on how these concerns are going to be addressed. Mr. Short commented that local people can discuss the proposals with their elected representatives and re-emphasised that the proposal is very far from a 'done- deal'

Public Meeting at Auchinleck Primary School 12 March, 2015

Issues Raised

151 **Merger and pupil roll numbers**

You mentioned percentage of schools - is each one over 40% of proposed campus?

Yes, it definitely qualifies as a merger. Figures apply from when we start consultation.

Do you know the number that will attend the school in 2019?

This is not an exact science but we have the figures for all establishments up until 2019. It doesn't matter if school roll reduces thereafter – it will always be classed as a merger.

Would you cap school roll – where will all the children go?

This would only apply to the new merged primary school. All pupils who currently attend Auchinleck and Cumnock Academies would be entitled to attend the merged academy.

If there is less than 60% occupancy, can you not move Cumnock Academy pupils into Auchinleck Academy?

East Ayrshire Council is committed to improving facilities. Both buildings could get to being beyond reasonable cost to refurbish or improve in 10 years. We think this would not be cost effective, nor will it ensure the best educational provision for the young people involved.

What opportunities are you going to give kids if campus doesn't go ahead?

That is a less clear picture. Money isn't sitting there for any purpose. East Ayrshire Council will only borrow for a new build. We know, however, that the thing that makes biggest difference is high quality teachers every day. If the consultation is not approved it will not be revisited.

152 **Consultations**

You say you're going to speak to the children – how can you ask such young children and get a right response? You're talking to the wrong children surely? We have to comply with legislation. Common Ground Mediation area experts in their field and can manage the discussion – even with very young children. Although I am happy for you to put that in as a concern.

Public have a lot less time to make decision.

We've tried to build in enough time to read and digest the document, attend public meetings and put comments down in writing. We have done more than we are legally required to do – in terms of numbers of meetings and in the length of the consultation process as we want to ensure that as many people in the communities as possible get a chance to respond.

If new school is going to be so advantageous, how did you decide schools?

Each year the council completes an assessment of each establishment and rates each one for suitability. For example, Auchinleck Academy has only 1 lift that would not meet the current standards for disabled children now in terms of size and access. EAC has to work with DDA. Greenmill PS, for example, is on multiple levels and that site wouldn't be suitable for rebuild there with a building that would meet today's standards regarding accessibility. I want to be clear

that this is nothing to do with provision of schools at present. Head Teachers and their staffs are working exceptionally hard and are providing a good service.

153 **Transition Arrangements**

Authority will develop sophisticated transition programme to ensure partner primary school not in campus get equal access to specialist staff/learning spaces – particularly due 1+2 languages, Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths a priority. There will be systematic, planned activities.

Does being in a new school boost attainment? Would you not say learning and teaching, support of parents, motivation makes biggest difference? Will children be more motivated than now?

We need to work on transition so that pupils reap the benefits straight away. I can't say with scientific evidence that moving school raises attainments but changes in approach leads to improvement – changes in expectation level great benefit for secondary to work with primary.

154 **Maintenance of existing buildings**

EAC has a commitment to maintain standards for all buildings – including the schools involved in this consultation if it does not proceed any further. EAC would look to put in additional staffing for first couple of years to ensure high quality transition. This will ensure all pupils are well supported.

155 **Health and Safety**

How will you ensure pupil safety throughout the course of the build?

Very high Health & Safety standards have to be met. School would be built in phases and public meetings will be held at planning stage with all stakeholders so concerns can be raised and plans can be discussed.

156 **Campus Arrangements**

Can you guarantee there will be Further Education provision there?

No, not guarantee. The £63.5 million proposed is for the school only. Preliminary discussions have taken place with Ayrshire College who are keen to make provision on campus. At this stage, however, it is simply a set of proposals.

You've no idea how much that will cost?

The proposed college and any business hubs will not be paid for by EAC but rather from Business Enterprise and the college. This set of proposals is designed to really improve young peoples' education so it is right to include discussion about Further Education and businesses at this aspirational stage. FE being on campus is a great bonus to the learning of the young people.

If you're talking to weans, you can't say the college will definitely be there. But if I said I guarantee it was there, you'd say it was a done deal.

If people in college/business are over 18, will they be vetted?

At moment pupils travel to Kilmarnock/Ayr for college. It would be those pupils whom I would see benefitting from the on-site college input. They would simply be able to remain on the same campus but be able to access Further Education provision without having to travel further afield. There will be appropriate checks on employees and the campus would be spread so that young children are not located right next to the college.

What will you do to police the children on campus?

Safety of pupils in school is a major priority. As far as policing is concerned there will be a full time campus officer. Behaviour and conduct on campus great priority – great feedback from current seniors – they don't see the communities coming together as a major issue. Preparation work goes on years in advance, there are already joint projects. Residential activities, for example, will be arranged and the youngsters will take a role in leading that.

157 **Budget Savings**

How much will the savings be per year?

£1.29 million each year.

If build goes over, that will eat into savings made. I'm just trying to think of what else that money could be spent on.

Some people argue that schools should be refurbished but it's an upheaval and we would not see same educational benefit.

What are the educational benefits of a new school vs refurbishment?

Speaking from experience I would not want to go to anything other than campus. Restrictions of design of 40 year old building doesn't enable opening up for learning that a new build does.

158 **Design Issues**

The design is crucial. You are asking us to make opinions to make decisions on something we can't see. Children with hearing impairments need design to go well – not like in Auchinleck Primary School.

We have learned valuable lessons about design and what makes a difference. EAC has made efforts to research the best fit. I am not saying it will or won't be open plan. I suggest that you complete an internet search on "new school build" to see what can be achieved. We will work with architects to create a visionary space including use of space/light/etc.

In £63 million, is there a cost for crossing the river? 1400 kids have to cross the river – is there a new bridge included?

Yes, everything that is factored into plan will be included in funding.

Have you considered there is a sewerage works?

Environmental impact studies would have to be completed. None of this can or should be completed until the build is definitely proceeding.

159 **Choice of Site**

Is Broomfield the only proposed site?

Yes, it's the only one big enough for large campus, outdoor learning facilities and sporting facilities. Sport Scotland will oversee access to sporting facilities and will ensure they are replaced should anything need to be removed to accommodate the new building. There were set criteria for the appropriate site – it had to be owned by EAC and be big enough for campus model being suggested.

Prince Charles has land so building there will enable him to sell for expensive house.

There are businesses in Auchinleck who rely on schools. They'll be disadvantaged. Have any business owners responded to the proposal?

Not themselves but parents have responded on their behalf.

Visions in Cumnock, Cumnock Rugby Club, Main St businesses will all benefit. How will Auchinleck benefit? We have best school in Scotland with best head teacher and we are being penalised. There should be a site in Auchinleck, not Cumnock. Can you tell me that site 100% suitable?

Corporate Infrastructure colleagues have suggested that from the preliminary planning that has been conducted. Obviously there will be further tests and studies which need to be completed but they cannot and should not be completed at this pre-planning stage. A new build will enhance the education for all young people across the area which is what we are focusing on.

160 **Transport and travel**

Is there money for transport? There will be lots of car drop offs. The whole site of Cumnock Academy will be used. Traffic will be a nightmare.

People feel strongly about traffic and representation has been made.

Don't agree to folk getting free school meals getting free transport – working parents being penalised again.

£1 million has been assigned specifically for safe walking routes. There are a number of national policies at work. The local authority is keen to get people to walk to school or cycle where possible.

It is not fair that pupils who live slightly further away will arrive dry and my child will be soaking. What happens to subsidised transport for after school clubs? Schools are given budgets to ensure pupils can access excellent sport facilities.

I think it's a safety issue for so many people to have to walk.

Funding has been assigned to try to address safe walking routes as described before.

161 **Community Issues**

This plan will only segregate the two communities. More Cumnock kids go to that campus but Auchinleck have to fit in. Why would anyone invest when there is nothing in this community? You are not 'Getting it Right for Every Child' as there will be 2000 children so you can't get it right for all of them.

There are processes and structures which already exist in all of the establishments involved which ensure that each young person is known and not missed. If a young person operates under a guidance teacher just now, they will have the same guidance teacher after the merger.

The whole proposal is to the detriment of the Auchinleck community.

One year ago we opened consultation on Barshare PS and Greenmill PS which did not conclude as the site was not suitable. Elected members did not make a decision. I have made considerable effort to create these proposals so I believe that this will ensure the best educational future for these communities but the community and elected members may not agree.

Majority of 16/17 olds don't go to university but they have to move to work. Transport links need to be improved to bring employment to the area.

We are trying to get young people close to the workforce. Traditionally, Scottish schools had focused on 5 Highers as standard for success. That was totally wrong. There is now wider recognition of a full range of courses and pathways. EAC are just as keen as you to encourage businesses back into the area.

Nothing comes into area and nothing goes out. EAC have no foresight. They need to change things radically.

The new Community Plan is keen to address transport links and wider community issues specific to each area. Schools can make a change by engaging with partners so they tell school where the needs are in term of employment and match those courses.

162 **Staffing Issues**

How will you choose a new Head Teacher for the academy?

As the proposal outlines, this is clearly defined as merger – posts have to go to public advert.

What about cooks, cleaners, etc? Will they all be laid off?

Positions such as the catering staff are dependent on uptake for school meals – it is highly unlikely we will have to lose staff. Classroom Assistants allocated differently

Nobody will lose their job – redeployment will be used but only if necessary. All guidance staff will move across to the new school.

163 **Class Size and occupancy levels**

What will be the maximum class sizes in secondary?

SNCT negotiates such matters and ensure that maximum class sizes have to be adhered to. They might increase a little – from say 22 to 26. HT and SMT will make arrangements to ensure that class sizes are equitable.

Will they merge in with Cumnock kids in classes?

We would expect the schools' improvement plans and curricula to come together before 2019 to ensure subject choices will be aligned. There can, for example, be stark differences between S1-S3 curricula across schools so they would need to try to harmonise that. Lots will be done in advance.

Auchinleck and Cumnock Academies are under occupancy – do you feel children will slip through the net in such a big school? Will you miss things such as a child who is experiencing bullying?

If the new school has double the roll of Auchinleck Academy at present, it will have double the amount of teachers. Guidance staff will move across in the merger and will have responsibility for the same young people so there is continuity. Schools know their young people very well – regardless of the size of establishment. They use formal methods – such as SEEMIS for monitoring and tracking for tracking a young person's progress as well as less formal methods.

Why is occupancy as low in both schools?

The population has dropped in this area since the schools were first built.

164 **Information**

Mr Ward offered to arrange for interested parties to visit existing campuses in the authority (St Joseph's and Grange Academies in Kilmarnock) and would

liaise with Mrs Hanlon, Head Teacher of Auchinleck Primary School, to facilitate this if required.

When will we know if this is going ahead?

August at earliest. Formal consultation closes then EAC will create a response to the process. This will be presented to Cabinet in June and, if referred to Government, could take 18 months.

SECTION 5: FEEDBACK FROM THE PUPIL QUESTIONNAIRES AND FOCUS GROUPS

165 The paragraphs below describe an extract from the report compiled by Common Ground Mediation on the consultation process with pupils.

2.3 Analysis of questionnaire responses: secondary schools

Questionnaires were distributed for every pupil at Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy and Supported Learning Centre. 1,243 questionnaires were returned, and the responses were analysed.

To answer questions 1, 2 and 5 pupils were asked to tick one box. To answer questions 3 and 4 pupils could tick as many boxes as they wished.

Question 1: What do you think about the idea that Cumnock Academy and Supported Learning Centre and Auchinleck Academy could join up into one new secondary school and share a campus with a new-build primary school and a new-build Hillside School?

	Cumnock		Auchinleck		Total	
I like the idea	204	34%	93	14%	297	24%
I'm not sure	220	37%	245	38%	465	37.5%
I don't like the idea	170	29%	311	48%	481	38.5%

Sample of comments:

I like the idea:

'I think it is a very good idea as the primary schools are not fit for purpose and we have an extreme lack of facilities and opportunities for education in our area.'

'Both of the secondary schools have to learn to co-operate with each other.'

I'm not sure:

'From an educational point of view I think it's good because there could be more/better subjects and equipment but from my point of view I think that this big change will need a lot of support which, at the moment I don't think it has.'

'I like the idea but I'm not entirely sure that it will work and be finished for 2019 as it's a massive project.'

I don't like the idea:

'There would be too many people. This means that there would be more fights and bullying.'

'I don't like this idea because my 2 cousins and my auntie and my mum went to this School and it would be a shame to knock it down. There would be loads of controversy. It will be silly to join 2 rival schools together.'

Question 2: What do you think about the idea that the new schools could be built at the Broomfield site?

	Cumnock		Auchinleck		Total	
I like the idea	109	18%	74	11%	183	15%
I'm not sure	207	35%	265	41%	472	38%
I don't like the idea	278	47%	310	48%	588	47%

The main factor mentioned by those who answered 'not sure' or 'I don't like the idea' was concern about possible loss of the current sports and leisure facilities at Broomfield. Other concerns mentioned included the risk of flooding and being too near to sewage works.

'I am all for the idea (the new schools) and think it would benefit thousands of children, however I do not agree with the site location. I think Cumnock will be ruined if it is in this area!'

'I think this idea is good as it is the only space able to provide for a school, yet it takes away sports facilities for the youth of Cumnock.'

'I'm fine with the fact that it will be built at Broomfield, just as long as that the facilities for rugby and football and running track are replaced.'

Question 3: What could be good about a new secondary school?

NB Pupils were invited to tick more than one box

	Cumnock		Auchinleck		Total	
More subject choices	394	66%	349	54%	743	60%
New music, drama and sports facilities	389	65%	292	45%	681	55%
Up to date IT and equipment	382	64%	352	54%	734	59%
New building, with good access, designed for creative learning	281	47%	288	44%	569	46%
Chance to make new friends from different areas and with different learning needs	304	51%	292	45%	596	48%

The most popular potential benefits identified were more subject choices and up to date IT and equipment.

'These new facilities would be incredibly beneficial to the education and development of younger children.'

'I think more subject choices would open more opportunities for life.'
'Make it more wheelchair happy'

Question 4: What worries you about a new secondary school?

NB Pupils were invited to tick more than one box

	Cumnock		Auchinleck		Total	
It will be a bigger school with more pupils	338	57%	346	53%	684	55%
It might take longer to get to school	189	32%	290	45%	479	38%
There might be difficulties mixing people from different schools	427	72%	527	81%	954	77%
Changes can be hard	227	38%	232	36%	459	37%
It might take time to adjust to having new teachers and new pupils in class	302	51%	312	48%	614	49%

The most clearly identified concern was potential difficulties mixing people from different schools, with a considerable number mentioning fights and physical violence. A number of Auchinleck Academy pupils mentioned travelling further to school as a concern:

'..... pupils from Auchinleck will either have to walk over 1 mile on a dangerous road to school or pay for transport.'

'All businesses in Auchinleck rely on the (school) children to keep their business running every week, they lose £500 a week when we are off.'

Question 5: If adults listened to your opinions about the new school, and you were involved in making decisions about its name, school uniform, organisation of houses, etc – would this make a difference to how you feel about the idea of a new school?

	Cumnock		Auchinleck		Total	
Yes	182	31%	171	26%	353	28.5%
I'm not sure	239	40%	248	38%	487	39%
No	173	29%	230	36%	403	32.5%

The interpretation of this question varied considerably. Some of those who had answered positively to the idea of the new school answered 'no' to question 5, ie they would not change their mind because they still thought it was a good idea. Therefore the 'no' response is perhaps higher than it should be.

'I think the pupils should pick the name and uniform of the school.'

'Can the council ensure us that our opinions will be valued – adults don't always listen.'

2.4 Focus Groups: secondary schools

In total 19 focus groups were facilitated at Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy and Supported Learning Centre. The format comprised:

- 1) Introduction and check on the participants' understanding of the Council's proposals
- 2) Carousel activity where participants travelled round 4 stops in small groups to discuss and answer the following questions:
 - What's good about your school?
 - What could be better at your school?
 - What are your hopes for the council's idea?
 - What are your worries about the council's idea?

The purpose of the first questions was to encourage participants to focus on their school's strengths and what they would not like to lose. The building at the new proposed campus could be an opportunity for improved resources and facilities, and question 2 was an opportunity to let the council know what participants feel could be improved.

- 3) Closing activity: 'My message to the council.....'
Following discussion and reflection on the proposals, we asked participants to write down the most important message from pupils that the Council should take into consideration.

2.5 Predominant themes from the secondary school focus groups

What's good about your school?

- Standard of education across wide range of pupils and abilities
- Supportive relationships between pupils and teachers: *'they sort out problems easily'*
- Good sports facilities

What could be better at your school?

- Condition of the school building with particular reference to toilets, heating and general cleanliness
- General equipment including new tables and chairs, new smart boards and more text books
- Lunchtime activities and more after school clubs/ activities

What are your hopes for the council's idea?

- The new school could eliminate the Auchinleck/Cumnock tension and rivalry, leading to better relationships between both communities
- Modern building with excellent IT and sports facilities, offering a wide range of subjects with modern ways of learning: *'Better education for the community and better opportunities for the future generation'*

What are your worries about the council's idea?

- Potential for an increase in fighting and rivalry, particularly in the first few years
- Large number of pupils may lead to overcrowding and less chance for teachers/helpers to get to know their pupils well: *'Being a small person..... I'm more likely to get trampled or squeeshed!'*
- Impact on pupils who change school mid-education, interruptions to exams etc
- Traffic issues including road congestion, car parking, and travel to school, particularly for those who do not qualify for free bus
- Loss of current facilities at Broomfield Playing Fields

My message to the council:

'This is a good idea because it can give us the chance to unite both schools and hopefully work to patch the rivalry between Auchinleck and Cumnock. The pupils will have the chance to have a much better education due to having more teachers/new facilities/different teaching styles. Good luck on this idea'

Auchinleck Academy, S5

'You are taking a chance which might not work, and if it doesn't work out it is a lot of money wasted. Schools that we have now have great facilities which will be put to waste if the new school goes ahead. If the plan goes ahead the new school will have to have the same or better facilities than we have now.'

Auchinleck Academy, S5

'The idea to build the new school is good, however the location is causing the majority of the problems, especially with people who live in Cherrytrees. It will cause a lot of noise and will highly depreciate the value of their property. The school does lack modern commodities which does restrict the learning experience of its pupils, eg IT equipment and sports facilities, which the superschool could accommodate. I think this could be a great proposition for the town if all issues are taken into consideration.'

Cumnock Academy, S3

'Some of us think No! It's a bad idea. We think Netherthird has been left out. Some of us don't know what to think but we do think it will be a lot harder for a lot of people. We feel stressed about it, some of us struggle with change big time!'

Cumnock Academy Supported Learning Centre

'Use the money wisely to create a school which works for all the pupils – including ourselves from the SLC! Learn from mistakes made in other superschools. Include pupils in transition phase to new school'

Cumnock Academy Supported Learning Centre

166 Overall responses from the pupils recognise that there are many positives for both educational benefit and for the community too. There are concerns raised

which East Ayrshire Council has responded positively to and about which we will continue to consult with all stakeholders.

SECTION 6. ANALYSIS OF WRITTEN RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

167 The information is set out in some detail and is organised into a range of categories which allows ease of understanding in the range and tone of the comments. Whilst there are separate consultations for all of the schools involved the issues link the consultations and so responses about the impact on schools other than just Auchinleck and Cumnock Academies appear in the tables below.

1. Responses to Consultation

Total Number of Responses (including a petition with 833 names)	203
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1a. Interest Group Definition as Determined by Responder

Auchinleck Academy Parent	26
Auchinleck Academy Staff	1
Cumnock Academy Parent	12
Cumnock Academy Pupils	2
Cumnock Academy Former Pupils	2
Auchinleck Primary School Parent	8
Auchinleck Primary Staff	2
Barshare Primary Parent	6
Barshare Primary Staff	1
Catrine Primary School & ECC Parent	2
Catrine Primary School & ECC Children	2
Drongan Primary School & ECC Parent	2
Greenmill Primary School and ECC	10
Greenmill Primary School and Child	2
Greenmill Primary School and Former Pupil	1
Netherthird Primary School and ECC Parent	3
Netherthird Primary School and ECC Child	1
New Cumnock Primary School Former Pupil	1
Mauchline Primary School and ECC Parent	10
Ochiltree Primary School and ECC Parent	2
Sorn Primary School and ECC Parent	5
Sorn Primary School and ECC Staff	1
Sorn Primary School and ECC Child	4
Hillside School Parent	3
Hillside School Staff	2

Other School not associated with Auchinleck Academy or Cumnock Academy Parent	2
Other School not associated with Auchinleck Academy or Cumnock Academy Staff	1
Parent Council Member	7
Grandparents	2
Elected Member	2
Community Planning Partner	2
Member of Community Council	0
Resident of East Ayrshire	32
Other	44
Total	203

2. Merger Proposal Auchinleck academy and Cumnock Academy

	Number	%
In favour of a merger	67	33%
Not in favour of a merger	100	49%
No Comment	36	18%
Total	203	100%

3. Agree to Broomfield Site

	Number	%
In favour of a merger	49	24%
Not in favour of a merger	117	58%
No Comment	37	18%
Total	203	100%

4. Agree to merger with Barshare PS, Greenmill PS and Hillside Schools

	Number	%
In favour of a merger	51	25%
Not in favour of a merger	101	50%
No Comment	51	25%
Total	203	100%

5. Top Issues Being Raised in Consultation Forms

ISSUE	NUMBER
Loss of Green space / civic amenity at Broomfield e.g. Highland Games, sports, out door play, dog walking, running, jogging, wildlife, biodiversity	83
Road Safety / There are no safe walking routes to the school	57
School too big / Too many pupils in a single campus / H&S	56
Too much traffic on the road / Traffic congestion around the new school	53
Bad for business in Auchinleck if the school moved to Cumnock/ loss of facilities	32

Transport will be required for children to get school / Costs associated with this	31
There will be a loss of links with the Community original school linked to	27
The communities and the schools don't get on with each other / this would escalate issues / violence / bullying and injuries	26
Better environment to educate children / modern energy efficient building with better facilities for learning	26
It is too far to walk to the new school	24
Replace / refurbish existing schools and forget about a shared campus	15
Size of classes will increase / will be too big	14
Do not want a merger of Academies and / or College with primary Schools. Keep them separate	12
The move to a new / bigger school will affect the attainment of those children moving to it	12
The Broomfield site is prone to sewerage problems / sewerage works on this site	12
Too close to homes in Terringzean View / school will be a noisy neighbour/ houses will be overlooked / block out sunlight / value of properties affected	11
Broomfield site not acceptable as it goes against the local development plan	11
Disagree that pre-school children being on the same campus as senior pupils / college students	10
The secondary school will be able to offer a wider range of subjects	9
The new school will bring communities together and further develop friendships	9
What will happen to the swimming pool at Auchinleck Academy	9
There is no evidence to substantiate the educational benefits claims made in the proposal document	9
Want improved transitions from Primary School to Secondary School	8
Proposal has been put forward to save money and has no thought for education of pupils.	8

Note: whilst this table relates to issues raised within the consultation response forms, a petition with 833 names was received during the public consultation period which raised the same issues.

RESPONSES BY INTEREST GROUP

AUCHINLECK ACADEMY PARENTS (26)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	12	14	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	11	13	2
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	9	16	1

AUCHINLECK ACADEMY STAFF (1)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	0	1	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	0	1	0
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	0	1	0

CUMNOCK ACADEMY PARENTS (12)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	6	6	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	4	8	0
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	4	7	1

CUMNOCK ACADEMY CHILD (2)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	0	1	1
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	0	2	0
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	0	2	0

CUMNOCK ACADEMY FORMER PUPILS (2)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	0	2	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	0	2	0
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	0	2	0

AUCHINLECK PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS (8)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	4	4	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	3	4	1
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	3	4	1

AUCHINLECK PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFF (2)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	2	0	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	0	2	0
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	0	2	0

BARSHARE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS (6)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	0	6	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	0	6	0
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	1	5	0

BARSHARE PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFF (1)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	1	0	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	1	0	0
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	1	0	0

CATRINE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS (2)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	2	0	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	2	0	0
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	2	0	0

CATRINE PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILD (2)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	2	0	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	2	0	0

Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	2	0	0
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DRONGAN PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS (2)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	0	2	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	0	1	1
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	0	1	1

GREENMILL PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS (10)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	3	6	1
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	4	5	1
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	3	7	0

GREENMILL PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILD (2)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	0	2	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	0	2	0
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	1	1	0

GREENMILL PRIMARY SCHOOL FORMER PUPILS (1)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	0	1	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	0	1	0
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	0	1	0

NETHERTHIRD PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS (3)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	1	2	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	1	2	0
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	1	2	0

NETHERTHIRD PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILD (1)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	1	0	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	1	0	0
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	1	0	0

NEW CUMNOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL FORMER PUPIL (1)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	0	1	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	0	1	0
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	0	1	0

MAUCHLINE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT (10)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	5	4	1
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	3	5	2
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	2	6	2

OCHILTREE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT (2)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	1	0	1
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	0	1	1
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	0	1	1

SORN PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT (5)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	0	3	2
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	0	3	2
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	0	3	2

SORN PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFF (1)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	1	0	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	0	1	0
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	0	1	0

SORN PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILD (4)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	0	1	3
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	0	3	1
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	0	0	4

HILLSIDE SCHOOL PARENTS (3)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	3	0	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	3	0	0
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	3	0	0

HILLSIDE SCHOOL STAFF (2)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	2	0	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	2	0	0
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	2	0	0

OTHER SCHOOL PARENTS (2)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	0	2	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	0	2	0
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	0	2	0

OTHER SCHOOL STAFF (1)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	0	1	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	0	0	1
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	0	1	0

GRANDPARENTS (2)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	0	2	0
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	0	2	0
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	0	2	0

PARENT COUNCIL MEMBER (7)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	5	0	2
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	3	1	3

Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	4	0	3
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ELECETED MEMBER / MSP / MP (2)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	0	0	2
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	0	0	2
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	0	0	2

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNER (2)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	1	0	1
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	1	0	1
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	1	0	1

RESIDENT OF EAST AYRSHIRE (32)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	9	14	9
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	4	21	7
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	7	14	11

OTHER (44)	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO COMMENT
Agree to merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy	6	25	13
Agree to site at Broomfield Playing Fields	4	28	12
Agree to merge with Barshare PS / Greenmill PS and Hillside School	4	21	19

Summary of written responses section

There were 203 responses to the Auchinleck Academy / Cumnock Academy and Supported Learning Centre merger consultation proposal.

Of the 203 responses 67 (33%) were in favour of the merger of the Academies, 100 (49%) were against the merger and 36 (18%) made no comment.

With respect to the proposed site; 49 (24%) agreed to the merged schools being based at the Broomfield site, 117 (58%) were not in favour of the schools being based at the Broomfield site and 37 (18%) made no comment on the proposed site for the development.

- 168 With respect to the inclusion of Barshare Primary School, SLC and ECC, Greenmill Primary School and ECC and Hillside School within the proposed campus, 51 (25%) of responders agreed to the inclusion of the three schools at the campus, 101 (50%) were not in favour of the inclusion of the three schools at the campus and 51 (25%) made no comment the inclusion of the three schools at the campus.

The major issues raised by responders to the consultation were (1) the loss of the Broomfield Site for community use, (2) Road safety, (3) The size of the school, (4) Traffic Congestion in and around the school, (5) The effects on businesses, facilities and the community of Auchinleck (6) The distance some pupils will have to travel to school and (7) That the communities in Auchinleck and Cumnock do not get on. These issues have been noted and whilst important are supplementary to the educational benefits set out in the consultation document.

SECTION 7 EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT

- 169 The formal Education Scotland report on the Proposal Document and the submissions received during the consultation process was received by the Council on Friday, 13 September 2013. The full text of the Education Scotland report is set out below:

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by East Ayrshire Council to merge Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy and Supported Learning Centre into a new building located within the area of Broomfield playing fields with effect from August 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter; and to co-locate a newly merged primary school, early childhood centre and supported learning centre resulting from the amalgamation of Greenmill Primary School and Early Childhood Centre and Barshare Primary School, Supported Learning Centre and Early Childhood Centre and a new build Hillside School on the Broomfield site.

1. Introduction

This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments contained in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of East Ayrshire Council's proposal to merge Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy and Supported Learning Centre into a new

building located within the area of Broomfield playing fields with effect from August 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter; and to co-locate a newly merged primary school, early childhood centre and supported learning centre resulting from the amalgamation of Greenmill Primary School and Early Childhood Centre and Barshare Primary School, Supported Learning Centre and Early Childhood Centre and a new build Hillside School on the Broomfield site. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include a copy of this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision. Where a council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all legislative obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

1.1 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the schools and centres affected, any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and

the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.2 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 4 March 2015 at Cumnock Academy in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- visits to the sites of, Auchinleck Academy, Cumnock Academy, Greenmill Primary School, Hillside School, Barshare Primary School, Auchinleck Primary School, Catrine Primary School, Drongan Primary School, Mauchline Primary School, Muirkirk Primary School, Ochiltree Primary School, Sorn Primary School, New Cumnock Primary School, Netherthird Primary School and Family

Centre and Logan Primary School and Early Childhood Centre including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation Process

2.1 East Ayrshire Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*. The proposal sits alongside two other proposals which are running concurrently.

2.2 The statutory consultation period started on 12 February 2015 and ended on 27 March 2015. A copy of the consultation document was published on the council's website. The council advertised the consultation in local press. Public meetings were held in Cumnock Academy on 4 March 2015 and in Auchinleck Academy on 5 March 2015. Prior to the statutory consultation the council held meetings with some local community groups and sought the views of children and young people in some of the schools affected.

2.3 East Ayrshire Council received 203 submissions in response to the consultation. Forty-nine per cent of responses were opposed to the merger with 33% in favour and 18% expressing no overall view. A majority of 58% were opposed to the proposed site at Broomfield with 24% in favour and 18% expressing no view. Twenty-five per cent agreed with the proposed co-location with Barshare, Greenmill and Hillside schools, 25% stated no view and 50% disagreed. In addition the council received a petition signed by 693 people opposing the site chosen by the council.

2.4 The council sought the views of children and young people affected by the proposal, including by engaging an external organisation to work with groups of children and young people to seek their views in the two secondary schools and at Barshare Primary, Greenmill Primary and Hillside Schools. In Cumnock Academy and Supported Learning Centre and Auchinleck Academy a total of 1,243 questionnaires were completed and returned. Overall, there was a mixed response to the proposal with 24% supporting the proposal, 38.5% were opposed and 37.5% were unsure. Forty-seven per cent of children and young people who responded were opposed to siting the proposed campus at Broomfield with 38% unsure and 15% in favour. In the two primary schools 194 questionnaires were completed. Of the children who responded, 36.5% expressed support for the new campus, 35.5% were unsure and 28% were opposed. Forty-five per cent of children were opposed to the Broomfield site being chosen as the proposed location with 25% in favour and 30% unsure.

2.5 During the consultation P6 and P7 children in all of the affected primary schools received formal letters from East Ayrshire Council providing information on the consultation process and notification of a series of meetings scheduled in each primary school.

3. Educational Aspects of Proposal

3.1 The council's proposal has potential educational benefits. Facilities at the new school will replace ageing buildings. Children and young people will benefit

from better equipped, purpose designed, modern learning facilities with improved information and communications technology (ICT). The new building has the potential to offer greater opportunities for young people to experience flexibility within the curriculum and better personalisation and choice. Young people at the senior phase have the potential to benefit from a greater choice of subjects and enhanced vocational learning options. The proposal has the potential to improve partnership working with other sectors and organisations including Ayrshire College. The proposed wider staff team has the potential to improve course planning and facilitate better sharing of practice. The proposed new building will reduce building maintenance and other costs which could result in better use of resources to support learners across East Ayrshire and help the council achieve best value.

3.2 The proposed co-location with Supported Learning Centres could improve access for children and young people to mainstream resources at both primary and secondary levels. This could result in a more inclusive learning community. This aspect of the proposal has potential benefits for all children and young people in the Supported Learning Centres and for the other children and young people on the campus.

3.3 There are clear educational benefits in co-locating the new building on the same site as Hillside School, including potential opportunities for young people in mainstream settings to develop leadership through acting as mentors and buddies for children at Hillside School. In addition, children and young people who attend Hillside School will benefit from the proposal through better integration into the life of a wider community and improved access to specialist resources.

3.4 Co-locating the new school on the same campus as the early childhood centres and primary schools has potential educational benefits. These include supporting transitions in learning across different stages of education and providing children and young people attending the schools with opportunities to access improved sports, ICT and library facilities. Secondary pupils would be able to act as mentors and develop leadership skills. Opportunities for shared curricular planning have the potential to improve implementation of Curriculum for Excellence.

3.5 There are potential educational benefits of college provision on the new campus, including new and expanded range of resources, facilities and staff expertise and improved vocational learning opportunities, skills development and partnerships with businesses. This will support young people's learning and skills development opportunities and post-school transition.

3.6 Headteachers and members of senior management teams in all establishments, who met with HM Inspectors, supported the proposal and were enthusiastic about the opportunities the proposed new campus would offer to improve educational provision. The majority of parents and children who met with HM inspectors also supported the proposal. Staff and young people who spoke with HM inspectors had a range of views with some supporting the proposal, some undecided and some opposing to the proposal. Parents, staff,

children and young people who spoke with HM inspectors could see potential benefits to new purpose built facilities and a campus approach.

3.7 The proposal to site the proposed new campus at Broomfield Playing Fields generated significant levels of concern about the loss of a valued local amenity, attractive green space and sports fields. Children, young people and adults valued the running track as a community resource and were concerned about the impact on local sports clubs. A high proportion of stakeholders would prefer to see the campus built on another site. However, East Ayrshire Council has stated in its proposal that Broomfield is the only suitable area of council owned land available. The council has engaged with community groups during the consultation and has attempted to provide reassurance that the running track will be replaced in another location, yet to be determined. The council has also consulted with Cumnock Rugby Football Club (CRFC) which is faced with the loss of rugby pitches on the site. Whilst concerned about levels and costs of access to the new sports facilities at the proposed campus, members of the CRFC see potential benefits to the development of partnership working with the proposed campus schools. This could extend existing work with local schools and assist with the development of the sport locally. If unable to identify a suitable alternative site for the proposed new campus, East Ayrshire Council will need to continue to engage with stakeholders to provide reassurance that it will mitigate negative effects of the development at Broomfield by replacing the running track at a suitable alternative location. The council will need to continue to work with local sports clubs to ensure that they have reasonable access to the sports facilities within the proposed new campus.

3.8 Stakeholders raised other issues about the suitability of the site, including its proximity to a sewage treatment plant and that an area of the proposed site is on a flood plain. The council will need to continue to engage with stakeholders to provide reassurance that the site is suitable for the new building if it decides to implement its proposal.

3.9 Stakeholders at Auchinleck were concerned about the lack of detail on the physical education and sports facilities at the new campus and that this aspect of the proposal might not result in improvement in young people's learning. The sports facilities at Auchinleck are already of a good standard, including a swimming pool and all weather pitches which the council proposes to retain for wider community and primary school use. The council does not propose to build a new swimming pool on the new campus since a pool operated through Visions Leisure Centre is adjacent to the site. However, details of access to this facility for the campus schools have yet to be developed and agreed. In taking its proposal forward the council will need to work with stakeholders and involve them fully in planning for physical education and sports facilities.

3.10 A significant number of stakeholders who responded to the consultation and met with HM Inspectors raised concerns in relation to road safety, traffic management, traffic congestion, school transport and safe walking routes to school. East Ayrshire Council has responded reasonably to concerns raised. The council's current policy is to provide school transport to better levels than statutory entitlements set out in national guidance. The council acknowledges concerns raised about the safe walking routes, including the safety of pupils

walking from Auchinleck to Cumnock alongside a busy road on which it has identified several traffic hazards. Funding has been set aside to make improvements and address road safety issues. The council proposes that bus and car traffic to the site will be managed by establishing parking, pick-up and drop-off facilities at the site of the existing Cumnock Academy following its demolition. Access from the former Cumnock Academy site to the new campus would be by a new covered pedestrian footbridge across the Lugar Water between the two sites. A few stakeholders want to ensure that transport arrangements and vehicular access for children and young people with additional support needs were appropriate to their needs. In taking forward its proposal the council will need to continue to work with stakeholders on the details of its transport and road safety plans.

3.11 A large proportion of stakeholders expressed some concerns about the large size of the campus and its suitability in a relatively small rural town. They were concerned about the complex management arrangements which might need to be put in place. Some concerns were expressed that the current very good staff knowledge of individual children and young people could be reduced in such a large facility and that staff might be less aware of the social and emotional well-being of individual children and young people in the new campus. Stakeholders were also concerned about the loss of identity in the school communities in both Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy. They were concerned that it might prove difficult to establish an appropriate sense of identity in the new campus given its size and scale. Staff at both secondary schools expressed some concerns over arrangements for sharing space in the new building, including access to specialist areas. Staff were also anxious about the process for establishing new staffing structures at the campus. In taking forward its proposal the council will need to work with stakeholders on its detailed plans for the design and operational management of the campus to ensure concerns are appropriately addressed.

3.12 Concerns about the distinct identity of the two communities of Auchinleck and Cumnock were raised by a high proportion of stakeholders. Some felt that bringing two communities together would be challenging and may result in instances of misbehaviour. The council has sought to reassure stakeholders on this matter. Many of those who spoke with HM inspectors were confident that any issues of this nature could be resolved. Young people at Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy already learn together in some Advanced Higher subjects. The council will need to ensure that it works closely with children, young people and parents to establish a new sense of school community if it decides to implement its proposal.

3.13 The council identifies a number of benefits for the new merged primary school on the campus. Many stakeholders were concerned that children attending other associated primaries of the new build secondary school may not benefit from the same joint activities to support progression in their learning as the move from primary to secondary school. They were concerned that children making the transition from other associated primary schools might not be so well prepared to take a full part in secondary education as their peers in the new campus. The council will need to consider this if it decides to implement its proposal and ensure that plans to enhance learning within the broad general

education phase of Curriculum for Excellence benefit all schools associated with the new secondary school as far as possible.

3.14 Stakeholders were keen to ensure that maintenance of existing school buildings continues until the completion of the new campus. They were also concerned about the maintenance of buildings not included in the merger proposal. The council had considered the position of Logan Primary School and Early Childhood Centre and Netherthird Primary School and Family Centre but had decided not to include these schools in its merger proposals. The council's proposal states that capital budget has been identified for Netherthird Primary School and that it will benefit from further refurbishment. The council will need to clarify its plans for Logan Primary School.

4. Summary

East Ayrshire Council's proposal has potential to provide significant educational benefits. The new campus and merged schools will provide the opportunity for young people to learn in purpose-designed, high-quality facilities. The proposal will provide potential to considerably enhance aspects of the curriculum, particularly opportunities to extend subject choice at senior phase and to enhance vocational education opportunities through closer working with Ayrshire College and other partner organisations. Children in the merged primary schools will benefit from access to improved resources and learning opportunities. The council has responded reasonably to many of the issues and concerns raised and has committed to continue to engage with stakeholders as it formulates more details, including its plans for transport and safe walking routes. However, issues raised by parents, children, young people and staff including questions regarding the overall leadership and operational management arrangements for the campus will require further detailed discussion. The council will need to ensure that it makes appropriate arrangements to continue to engage stakeholders fully in working together on the details of its proposal if implemented. There are significant concerns about the proposed site of the campus. The council has not identified an alternative site. If it decides to implement its proposals it will need to work closely with stakeholders and mitigate any negative impacts on local sports provision. The council will need to clarify its plans for Logan Primary School in its final consultation report.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
April 2015**

SECTION 8. THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO REPRESENTATIONS MADE DURING THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

170 During the consultation period there were a number of comments submitted, either verbally at the public meetings or within the written submissions. However, they do not detract from, or, cause council officers to revise or alter their view on the educational benefit that clearly exists within this proposal. Notwithstanding this, the Council's response to these is set out in the following paragraphs. The information is designed to supplement the details provided in the formal proposal document issued by the Council under the Schools

(Consultation) (Scotland) Act, 2010, as amended. The topics about which questions were often asked are set out below in alphabetical order.

171 **Additional Support Needs**

The Authority has clear responsibilities to individual children under the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004, as amended. Having assessed a child's needs under this Act then the requirement is that these needs must be met. A rationalisation proposal does not alter these rights or entitlements.

If your child's needs are of a nature that the change may raise particular issues, then the authority has responsibilities to ensure that this is addressed as part of the plan for the move to the new site. Should you have concerns about this then you should not hesitate to discuss this with your child's headteacher or head of centre.

Please note that if your child works with a particular member of staff, it cannot be guaranteed that this colleague will transfer to your child's new school or early childhood centre. However, if your child's needs are of a particular nature, it may be important that this personal relationship continues, in which case the Authority will have due regard to this consideration as part of the transition plans to the new site.

172 **Bullying and Pupil Welfare**

Parents and children often express concerns about bullying before the move to the new establishment. Such concerns almost invariably prove groundless. In fact, children at both establishments involved become excited at the prospect of meeting new people and making new friends.

While no guarantee can be given that bullying or poor behaviour will not occur, experience has shown that such events are exceptionally rare.

173 **Class Sizes**

Schools or early childhood centres are staffed in relation to the number of children. Bigger establishments have more staffing. The fact that your child is moving to a bigger school or early childhood centre does not automatically mean they will be in a bigger class or group. Class sizes have clearly defined legal limits, which cannot be exceeded, as do adult : child ratios in early childhood centres under national regulations.

The only qualification to this is that larger schools are more able to work on a single stream basis. Single stream classes are permitted to be larger than composite classes, with the exception of P1 which also can only have a maximum class size of 25.

174 **Establishment Design**

Where a new school or early childhood centre building is being created, East Ayrshire Council seeks to involve staff, parents, children and the community in its design. Our experience is that by so doing, a much better design emerges, and the children in particular can literally think of it as “their” school or early childhood centre

175 **Furniture and Equipment Surpluses**

Wherever possible any surplus equipment resulting from the rationalisation is offered to other educational establishments and services. The first offer goes to the school or early childhood centre to which the young people will transfer, and then to other establishments in the same learning community. Thereafter, all other establishments and services are offered what is left. Any residual furniture or equipment that is of possible future use is put into storage.

176 **Heritage Issues**

So far as possible where a school or early childhood centre closes or merges with another, the Authority tries to conserve heritage issues. This can involve the transfer of artefacts such as dux boards or war memorials to the new building if possible. Similarly, it is possible that trophies, prizes and bequests move to the new location with the children. Any artefacts that cannot be accommodated, or valuable records such as log books are offered to the Ayrshire Archive, or local museums if appropriate.

If a new school or early childhood centre is being created it is important that a balance is struck between the importance of heritage, which contributes to the ethos of the establishment, and the need to create a modern, 21st Century learning environment.

177 **Managing Transition**

The Authority has extensive experience of managing transition.

The date of school or early childhood centre closure and transfer tends to be tied to a holiday and particularly the summer break so that children can start at their new establishment along with the other children. Sometimes this is not possible however, for example if there is a delay in any new building work.

Opportunities are taken for school or early childhood centres to work together prior to the change, for example by:

- Visits of staff and pupils, children and young people.
- Joint sports days.
- Reciprocal invitations to school or early childhood centre shows and fetes.
- Special events involving team work between children.
- Designing a new school or early childhood centre uniform or badge.
- Appointment of buddies and befrienders
- Joint parents events

At time of transition staff carefully monitor how children are socialising.

Parent Councils can play a key role here by working together and ultimately combining to assist children and the staff.

Much work also has to be done to ensure that the transition proceeds easily from the perspective of learning and teaching. Headteachers, heads of centres and staffs will therefore work together to harmonise the curriculum, exchange best practice on learning and teaching methods and plan for best use of educational resources. The records of individual children, with any associated learning plans are also transferred as the basis of planning the young people's experiences.

178 **Name of School or Early Childhood Centre**

If the school or early childhood centre is a "new" establishment, that is one that is the result of a merger rather than a closure. Then a new name is necessary. Parents and children from the schools or early childhood centres that are merging are consulted on the new name and involved in the process. The decision on the new name remains however the prerogative of the Council.

179 **Placing Requests**

A parent/carer's right to apply, and to be considered for, a placing request is unchanged by a rationalisation proposal.

180 **Resourcing**

School and early childhood centres are resourced according to the number of pupils, children and young people. Indeed the greater availability of resources at a bigger school or early childhood centre should allow the head of establishment to have more flexibility to manage resources for the benefit of children.

181 **Staffing Implications**

The Authority consults trades unions and staff on rationalisation proposals. As a major employer, the Council has the flexibility to absorb staffing declared surplus as a result of school or early childhood centre rationalisation. There are different conditions for different groups of staff however:

Unpromoted teachers: the teaching staff of a school is determined by the pupil roll. An enlarged school has a requirement for more teachers and therefore this group of staff tend to move with the children to the new school. This assists transition, but it is not necessarily the case that your child will be taught by the former members of staff of their old school. If the combined roll of the newly created school is lower than that of its predecessors, then there will be a reduction in teaching staff with the possibility of surplus staff being redeployed. Any such redeployments are by individual negotiation with the members of staff concerned under a process agreed with the teachers' unions.

Promoted staff, including headteachers: If a new school, or early childhood centre, is being created then the promoted posts, including those of headteacher or centre manager will be subject to open advertisement for which the present post holders will be welcome to apply. If one school or early childhood centre is closing then promoted staff from that school or early childhood centre may be surplus. In this latter case, or where staff do not secure a post through the open recruitment process in the former situation, then the Authority has a redeployment policy agreed with the trades unions.

Ancillary Staff: similarly, a bigger school or early childhood centre will have an increased requirement for ancillary staffing, but this may be less than the total for the former schools. Some staff will therefore transfer to the new school or early childhood centre, subject to consultation. For staff who do not transfer to the new school or early childhood centre, there is a redeployment policy and individual discussions take place with colleagues.

182 **Transport Entitlement**

The Authority's transport policy is universal and is determined by the distance a child lives from the school and the availability of a safe walking route. If there is a safe walking route from a child's home to school and the distance is less than the Authority policy on entitlement, then transport will not be provided.

183 **Safe Walking Routes**

The safe walking routes to school or early childhood centre, including the ones involved in any rationalisation proposal, are assessed by the Road Safety section of the Council. To assess the route, colleagues use nationally set criteria. Each route is individually assessed. If you have concerns about the safety of a particular route then you can ask for it to be assessed, and you are entitled to see the results of that assessment.

It is important for you to know that the assessment is based on the young person being accompanied by a responsible adult, and that this approach is established in law.

184 **Uniform**

If a new establishment is being created then the opportunity exists to create a new uniform and badge. This is an excellent project for staff, children and parents and helps create the ethos of the new establishment.

If one establishment is going to close, then the uniform of the remaining school or early childhood centre will be automatically adopted. However, the option still remains to create a new uniform.

Where parents have already invested in a uniform of a closing school, then it is perfectly in order for your child to wear this uniform at their new establishment.

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC ISSUES FOR HILLSIDE SCHOOL

Loss of Green Space/Civic Amenity

- 185 Officers acknowledge that concerns have been raised about the above issue. It is important to note that Education Scotland has indicated its support for the council's position, noting that throughout the pre-consultation and full consultation periods efforts have been made to re-assure community groups about the availability of high quality facilities which will not only meet demand but will open up new areas of facility/activity where possible. The planning of the re-organised facilities could not pre-empt a Cabinet decision or the Schools (consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 by stating definitively what would be provided. Officers undertook to abide by due process and worked with a range of local organisations in pre-consultation to establish working relationships for the longer term. In keeping with Sport Scotland requirements the council will base future provision on the basis of current use and new opportunities. There will therefore be provision for Rugby (in consultation with the Cumnock Rugby Club) there will be 3G football pitches to meet demand (including links with Cumnock Juniors FC) and there will be running facilities provided on site to meet demand. Further, existing leisure facilities at Auchinleck Academy, including the swimming pool, will be retained. All of this subject to approval by cabinet and Scottish Government ministers.

Transport , Safe Walking Routes, Traffic and Congestion

- 186 East Ayrshire Council is legally obliged to provide transport if there is no safe walking route to school. There has been money set aside within the overall budget to address any alterations necessary. However this will only become apparent after full traffic impact assessments have been done at the planning stage. Congestion will be avoided by staggering the timings of the school day for each establishment and by using the current Cumnock Academy site as the transport hub for buses and cars. For Hillside pupils transport will be provided and will be organised to have drop-off facilities at the most accessible point for Hillside pupils. This will be a key part of the design discussions.

Community Issues/Loss of contacts

- 187 Hillside parents and pupils have been very clear throughout that they value the connections which exist between Hillside and Barshare and that they want this to continue. East Ayrshire Council have ensured that there will be continuity of that aspect of school life for Hillside pupils but in a modern environment and as part of an inclusive campus. Pupils have led the way in other schools in stating that it would be important to address the notion of the academies coming together and any potential rivalries that there might be from the communities. All concerned acknowledge that this matter must be managed and addressed. There is no lack of willingness amongst the groups at public meetings and comments from pupils for example to work together, build on the excellent link the schools already have and to bring about change.

Loss to the local communities when schools close

- 188 This concern will be addressed in the time leading up to the opening of the campus, should it go ahead. The existing schools will remain open until the new campus is ready. During that time there would be an opportunity for Vibrant Communities colleagues to work with local associations, businesses and the Community Councils to do further work on this issue.

Refurbishment v New Build

- 189 Officers have responded to this issue at a number of public meetings. There is a clear answer to this in that in terms of value for money there is no way that refurbishment can compete with a new build in terms of quality and quantity of resource. The financial information in the proposal Document makes this clear.

Campus, School and Class Size and impact on attainment

- 190 The only clear evidence that exists on school and class size and its impact on attainment is that there is no proof one way or the other. The greatest determinant of quality learning and teaching lies with the most valuable resource in our teachers and additionally our pupils and parents in supporting learning. There is an evident boost to standards in schools when there is change which focuses on learning. In this case the change will be transformational and it is reasonable to expect that this proposal could achieve significant improvements in ethos/expectation/ Learning and Teaching and as a consequence improved attainment. One of the main concern of parents with this issue was around how a campus of this size can work. Each establishment will operate as a separate entity and the design will provide for this. It will also be part of the work of the whole campus to develop transitions and cross-sector working. The design and layout of the school will provide for this. Senior Management Teams will work together to ensure that there is an ethos of high expectation across the new campus regarding attainment and behaviour.

The design and layout of the campus will ensure that Hillside School pupils are central to the planning and operation of the three establishments. This will take account of security for all pupils as well as access to other areas of the campus for Hillside pupils.

Planning Issues and Choice of Site

- 191 A small group of local residents raised a number of concerns at public meetings for the new campus and for the local development plan. Officers have acknowledged the concerns on all occasions but since at this stage there are no formal plans, detailed discussion is not possible. The residents group was assured that the council would continue to liaise and consult with residents through the planning stage of this proposal should it reach that point.

The Council has a vision for the future of education in the area for these communities. This vision encompasses the earliest stages of education and could conceivably also include Further Education provision for local young

people and further to that a Business Enterprise zone. The opportunity is there to link all of these lifelong learning facets together to improve life –chances for young people in the area. The only site available, fitting all the criteria was the Broomfield site. As such the Council's proposals were shaped accordingly.

Other issues raised are covered in FAQ section above

Response to Education Scotland Report

- 192 The report provided by Education Scotland in Section 6 of this report indicates very full and positive support for the council's proposal and at the same time endorses the conduct of the process so far by encouraging the officers of the council to continue to provide the level of detail and support being offered up to this point.
- 193 In section 2 of the report there is clear confirmation that the council has complied with all aspects of the consultation process as indicated in the Act including pre-consultation. Section 2 also highlights that different interest groups have shown concerns over a number of issues most of which concern community issues rather than educational benefit. Education Scotland also note throughout the report that the council has been able to provide re-assurances about ongoing consultation in the years ahead to mitigate the concerns raised.
- 194 Section 3 provides overwhelming support for the educational benefit being offered by the council with its vision and aspirations for the communities in Auchinleck and Cumnock. For example this support ranged from the increased quality of buildings and IT, the benefit for Supported Learning Centres, the inclusive dimension of co-location, significantly enhanced transitions and the possible link through to further education.
- 195 In paragraph 3.7 Education Scotland refers in detail to concerns about local facilities. The Council acknowledges these concerns and as can be seen from previous paragraphs of this section and from the responses to comments raised at public meetings, the council has provided ample re-assurance to interested parties (many of whom have no connection to the school), that the range of facilities becoming available to the public, will be the best that the Council can provide and will be organised as far as possible on the campus Education Scotland particularly highlights the good work done with local organisations and reinforces our intent to continue in that vein. Additionally an environmental survey will be carried out as part of the planning process in relation to the points made about the proximity of the Councils works nearby.
- 196 In 3.10 the issue of road safety was raised. Council officers have indicated in presentations that substantial money has been allocated to support safe walking routes to school and reassurances have been given at all public meetings and in response to consultation comments that this is a high priority for the council and this will be reflected in the time spent getting this issue right in the traffic impact assessment to address stakeholder concerns.
- 197 The bringing together of communities , which is mentioned in 3.12, has been in the main very well received and although some stakeholders have raised this

as an issue they also qualified their concerns by stating it was really vital to do something about it. The council is fully aware of these concerns and officers were delighted by the lead being taken by young people in wanting to effect change around this issue. The existing ongoing strong links between the schools has been referenced.

- 198 The summary of the Education Scotland report provides the re-assurance to the council that it has complied with the legislation to a high level and and notes that where concerns have been raised we have responded well and we continue to engage with stakeholders. East Ayrshire Council has stated publicly, through officers our absolute commitment to maintain the excellent start that has been made to this process and the many positive comments about the vision for education. East Ayrshire Council will ensure that the new establishments build their own identity and sense of themselves with an unprecedented level of opportunity to provide seamless transition in what will be an inspiring setting to take education in the Auchinleck and Cumnock areas to new heights in the years ahead. Logan Primary School has a key, long-term role in East Ayrshire and its future along with the other schools in the area is assured.

SECTION 9: COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 9(1) OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

- 199 Having received Education Scotland's report on 13 May, 2015, Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, requires the Council to review the relevant proposal having had regard (in particular) to the written representations that have been received by it during the consultation period; oral representations made to it at the public meetings held between March 2, 2015 and March 16, 2015 and Education Scotland's report. In terms of Section 10(2) (e) of the said Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, the Consultation Report requires to contain a statement explaining how the Council complied with its duty under the above Section 9(1) of the Act.
- 200 On 22 May, 2015, Council Officers convened a special meeting for the purposes of reviewing the relevant proposal, having had regard to the written representation received by the Council during the public consultation period, the verbal representations made to it at the said public meetings, and Education Scotland's report, all of which is summarised in Sections 3-8 above. When reviewing the proposal against the written and verbal responses as well as the terms of the Education Scotland report, Council officers concluded that their attitude to the proposal had not substantially changed and that there were clear education benefits for the proposed merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy and Supported Learning Centre and, for the merged secondary school with associated supported learning centre to be co-located on the Broomfield site with Hillside School and a merged Barshare Primary School, Supported Learning Centre and Early Childhood Centre and Greenmill Primary School and Early Childhood Centre given the opportunity for young people to learning purpose-designed, high quality facilities. The proposal also has potential to enhance aspects of the curriculum and, children in the merged primary schools and Hillside School will benefit from access to improved resources and learning opportunities.

SECTION 10: ALLEGED OMISSIONS OF RELEVANT INFORMATION AND ALLEGED INACCURACIES CONTAINED WITHIN THE PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

201 No responses asserting allegations of omissions or inaccuracies within the Proposal Document were received during the consultation period.

SECTION 11: REVIEW OF THE PREFERRED OPTION 22 MAY, 2015

202 The Proposal Document expressed the preferred option of officers, which was the development of a 2-18 campus on the Broomfield site, including the merger of the two secondary schools and the two primary schools to be co-located with Hillside School. The consultation exercise asked for responses to four questions:

- Were respondents in favour of the secondary schools merging?
- Were respondents in favour of the primary schools merging?
- Were respondents in favour of the co-location of Hillside School with the above two questions.
- Were respondents in favour of the new proposed campus being located on the Broomfield site?

203 The responses to the above questions were mixed with 33% in favour and 49% not in favour of the secondary school merger with the remaining 18% undecided. Many of the comments against merger arose from issues not associated with educational benefit of any kind and which disregarded assurances provided by the authority regarding reinstatement of playing fields and sports facilities.

204 Having considered the above information and all of the comments received verbally and in writing during the consultation period, it is the view of officers that there have been no arguments submitted that would cause a reconsideration of the belief that the preferred option (the creation of a 2-18 campus on the Broomfield site involving the merger of Auchinleck Academy, Cumnock Academy and Supported Learning Centre, Barshare Primary School, Supported Learning Centre and Early Childhood Centre, Greenmill Primary School and Early Childhood Centre to be co-located with Hillside School represents the best educational and financial outcome for the Council, which also maximises the number of young people who will directly benefit from the new building and fulfils the vision for a transformational change in the provision for the Cumnock and Auchinleck areas. This view is also supported by Education Scotland in their report in Section 7

SECTION 12: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

205 The following paragraphs detail the arrangements that will be made, should the Council decide to implement the merger of the two secondary schools and the merger of the two primary schools, along with Hillside School, creating a 2-18 campus on the Bromfield site.

206 Design Specification

The successful completion of the build by August 2019 will require early completion of the design specification. The Council is committed to following the good practice achieved in its *Building Learning Communities* project and seek input from pupils, staff, parents and the wider communities. It is through such involvement that staff, young people and parents engage with the concept of the new school and assume a sense of ownership and this assists in the development of the new schools' ethos.

Following from this the Schools Delivery Team of East Ayrshire Council will liaise with stakeholders as the design and planning for of the new 2-18 campus evolves.

207 School Management

(a) Secondary Schools

To ensure a seamless integration of the two secondary schools, with the alignment of the curricula, the education authority will work closely with the management teams of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy should approval be granted by cabinet, and then consequently should a final decision also be approved by the Scottish Government. This work will involve reviewing the existing management arrangements and appointing a joint school management team for the start of the 2017/18 academic session.

(b) Primary School and Early Childhood Centre

Similarly to the merger of the secondary schools, the education authority will work in partnership with the two management teams of Barshare Primary School, SLC and ECC and Greenmill Primary School and ECC to prepare the groundwork for a merged primary school and ECC. It is anticipated at this stage that a new management team will be in post prior to the proposed school merge in August 2018. In addition, consideration will require to be given to the provision of pre-school education. Presently this is provided by the Council within the primary schools above. The Head of Education will lead this review in conjunction with the involvement of appropriate staff and stakeholders and Human Resources.

(c) **Hillside School** will retain its separate identity and will transfer in its entirety to the new campus. Arrangements will require to be made through discussion and planning with all Senior Management Team colleagues from the other establishments involved to ensure full and effective integration of operational issues.

208 Parent Councils

(a) Section 16 of the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006, sets out the parameters within which a Combined Parent Council can be established for the new educational establishment. Officers will work with the existing Parent Councils to create a joint Parent Council for the secondary schools. Should all the concurrent proposals go ahead then close working for all Parent Councils

will be developed. It is expected that discussions on this proposal would commence in early 2016.

209 **Staff**

- (a) The Council is committed to ensuring staff are informed and involved in planning activities. Following the standards set during the *Building Learning Communities*, project effective communications will be maintained throughout the process. This will commence with input into the design brief and the opportunity to influence the building design.
- (b) The Council is aware that staff will be concerned about future employment opportunities and is committed to working closely with Human Resources and Trade Unions to ensure that relevant information is provided at the earliest opportunity.

210 **Aligning Curricula**

- (a) It is the view of officers that the secondary schools' curricula will require to be aligned no later than the start of the 2018/19 academic session. Planning to achieve this will commence in early 2017 with input from senior authority staff and the existing schools' management teams and will be continued when a new joint school management is appointed. This work will ensure a seamless transition to the new school building in August 2019.
- (b) It is envisaged that the primary schools' curricula will be aligned for the start of the 2017/18 academic session and will link to work connected with the secondary schools. Hillside School would be closely involved in this process too in order to promote inclusion. This will require the involvement of the senior management teams in all establishments and senior education authority officers.

211 **Involvement of Pupils**

- (a) Central authority staff, in conjunction with school staff, will facilitate joint working with pupils to create Pupil Councils for the new schools. As intimated previously, pupils of all affected schools will be consulted on the design of the new school and will be kept informed of progress, including site visits to view the creation of their new schools.

212 **Identity of the New Schools**

- (a) In order to create new identities for the merged schools, further activities such as names, school badges and uniforms for the two establishments will be undertaken at the appropriate time prior to the schools coming together. Details of when these activities will occur will be discussed with the Parent Councils, staff and pupils and progress will be reported to Cabinet.
- (b) Noting that Education Scotland have commented on the need to establish arrangements for the new establishments at the earliest opportunity, officers are committed to working with the management teams, staff, pupils and parents

in all of the affected establishments to achieve the implementation of merger and transition arrangements at the earliest opportunity. This will ensure that all stakeholders are informed of developments and will result in a seamless merger of the primary schools and the secondary schools and their relocation to the new campus from August 2018 onwards.

SECTION 13: CATCHMENT AREAS

- 213 If Cabinet approve the merger proposal for the secondary schools, its implementation will result in the delineated area of the new secondary school being the combined delineated areas of Auchinleck and Cumnock Academy.
- 214 Likewise, should the Council agree to implement a 2-18 campus which includes a new primary school with Early Childhood Centre, arising from the merger of Barshare Primary School, SLC and ECC and Greenmill Primary School and ECC, the delineated area of the new primary school will be the combined delineated areas of the above named primary schools.
- 215 There are no catchment issues for Hillside School

SECTION 14: PROCEDURES FOR MINISTERIAL CALL- IN

- 216 Since this proposal involves the merger of Auchinleck Academy with Cumnock Academy and Supported Learning Centre to create a new educational establishment section 10(4) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 will apply. At this stage, it is anticipated that Cabinet will be asked to make an initial decision on the proposal to establish the campus described at Cabinet on June 17, 2015. If Cabinet agree to the said proposal, the Council's Governance and Scrutiny Committee will be asked to review that document on 18 June 2015. The Governance and Scrutiny Committee will then refer the proposal back to the Cabinet to consider any matters relevant to the proposal accordingly, the Cabinet will make a final decision on the proposal on 24 June, 2015. If Cabinet agreed to the proposal at that stage the Scottish Ministers must be notified of this decision. They then have an 8 week period commencing on the date of Cabinet's final decision to consider whether they will issue a notice to the Council to call-in the Cabinet document. In taking the decision whether to issue a call in notice, the Scottish Ministers are required by the Act "to take account of any relevant representations made to them (by any person) within the first three weeks of that eight week period." In effect, this means that anyone seeking to have the Council decision regarding the Secondary and Primary schools called in would need to contact the Scottish Ministers in writing, within three weeks of the Cabinet's final decision supporting the merger of the schools, setting out relevant reasons why the decision should be called in by them.
- 217 Anyone wishing to contact the Scottish Ministers during the three week period referred to above regarding the Secondary and Primary schools should do so by e-mail to:

schoolclosure@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

or in writing to:

School Infrastructure Unit
 Scottish Government
 Areas 2-A South
 Victoria Quay
 Edinburgh
 EH6 6QQ

- 218 Should Cabinet agree to the recommendations, detailed in section 20 of this report, and implement the merger proposals and the creation of a 2-18 campus at the Broomfield site, the Council, in order that its position is not prejudiced in complying with section 15 of the 2010 Act will notify Scottish Ministers of its decision. This final decision will include consideration of comments from the Council's internal Governance and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 18 June, 2015

SECTION 15: CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM ROLE IN THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 219 The proposal to merge Auchinleck Academy with Cumnock Academy, including the existing supported learning centre at Cumnock and additionally the merger of Barshare Primary School, SLC and ECC and Greenmill Primary School and ECC to create two new educational establishments that will be co-located within a 2-18 campus on the Broomfield site have been discussed fully and regularly at the highest level of Officer Management of the Council. This included reviews of the Proposal Document prior to its consideration by Cabinet on 28 January 2015, and consideration of the Consultation Report prior to its publication. The outcome of this involvement, in part, is a set of recommendations by the Depute Chief Executive Economy and Skills and supported and endorsed by the Corporate Management Team.

SECTION 16: THE COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO CONSULTATION

- 220 The foregoing subsections of Sections 3 to 8 (above) detail the Council's considerations of all issues as originally defined in the Proposal Document and importantly, all of those, both educational and non-educational, raised through the detailed consultation responses and the public meeting. The Council allocated time beyond the statutory minimum (42 calendar days, to include a minimum of 30 school days) consultation period for responses in recognition of the significance with which the intended parties/stakeholders regard this matter.
- 221 Of the 203 responses received, all issues raised have been addressed in earlier sections of this report. Cabinet will therefore have before it in this paper full and detailed arguments for and against the recommended proposal by officers in keeping with recent amendments to legislation.

SECTION 17: RISK MANAGEMENT

- 222 Any reduction in the property portfolio will reduce the risk to which the Council is exposed in terms of issues such as infrastructure failure, vandalism and

threats to security. Any property that is vacated, however, is likely to be exposed to an increased level of risk requiring additional security measures until a decision is taken as to its future use.

- 223 In implementing the closure proposal, officers will ensure the quality of educational experience for the young people attending, or due to attend, these four educational establishments is maintained or improved.

SECTION 18: LEGAL ISSUES

- 224 By virtue of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, which consultation forms the subject matter of this report. It is a legal requirement that the Council shall not reach any formal decision without:

- having reviewed the merger proposals and the creation of a 2-18 campus having regard in particular to:
 - (a) Relevant written representations received from any person during the consultation period;
 - (b) Oral representation made to it by any person at the public meetings held between 2 March, 2015 and 16 March, 2015 and
 - (c) The Education Scotland report;
- Preparing this Consultation Report; and
- Waiting until a period of 3 weeks starting on the day on which this Consultation Report is published in electronic and printed form has expired.

- 225 If East Ayrshire Council's Cabinet is minded to agree to the merger of the two secondary schools and the creation of a 2-18 campus recommendation it should be noted that no steps can be taken to implement this decision during the period of time where the decision is being scrutinised by Scottish Ministers. Following a final decision by Cabinet to proceed with the co-location and the mergers, the matter must be referred to the Scottish Ministers who will take a period of up to 8 weeks to review the decision making processes and determine whether or not they will call in the decision to implement the closure proposal.

- 226 As provided for in section 1 of the 1980 Act, it is the duty of the Council to ensure adequate and efficient provision of school education within East Ayrshire. Such education to be directed towards the development of the personality, talents and mental and physical abilities of children or young persons to their fullest potential (Standards in Scotland's Schools Etc. Act 2000 section 2). That said, as with all Council duties, the Council has a duty to make arrangements to secure best value and in securing best value the Council is required to maintain an appropriate balance between, inter alia, the quality of its performance of its functions and the cost to the authority of that performance (Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 section 1). In coming to any decision, members should balance the foregoing duties.

- 227 Article 2 of the first protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights, incorporated into domestic law by the Human Rights Act 1998 provides that:

“No person shall be denied the right to education. In the exercise of any functions which it assumes in relation to education and to teaching, the State shall respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions”

228 The principle in the second sentence is accepted into UK law only so far as it is compatible with the provisions of efficient instruction and training, and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure. The right to education is a general right and the relevant provisions of the 1980 Act and the Standards in Scotland’s Schools etc (Scotland) Act 2000 go beyond what is required by the provision in the first protocol. Accordingly, provided the Council complies with the duties referred to in Section 18, a successful Human Rights challenge to a properly considered decision will be minimised.

229 **Title Implications**

There are no subsisting title conditions restricting the use of the site at Broomfield. Should the merger proposals be accepted and implemented, with the two existing sites being declared surplus to requirements, the Council will discuss future use of these sites.

SECTION 19: CONCLUSION

230 Having carefully reviewed the secondary schools merger proposal with the consequent creation a new 2-18 campus and having had regard to:

- (a) Relevant written representations received by the Council from any person or groups during the consultation period;
- (b) Oral representations made to the Council by any individual at the public meetings between 2 March, 2015 and 16 March, 2017 and
- (c) The contents of the Education Scotland report;

It is concluded that the decision to proceed with the consultation on the merger proposal remains valid.

231 It is clear from the responses received and from officer knowledge that the educational experience for the pupils attending the existing establishments directly affected remains very positive but would undergo a significant transformation should the proposals go ahead. This is supported by Education Scotland in its report including comments on educational benefit.

232 However, the decision to recommend the merger of the secondary schools and with the creation of a 2-18 campus, as the preferred option, takes account of a number of factors such as the educational and financial advantages available from a new 2-18 campus.

233 In summary, it is considered that the preferred option, which will result in the merger of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy with reference to this consultation and to the consequent creation of a new secondary school which will be co-located on a 2-18 campus on the Broomfield site, will secure the

greatest educational advantage for young people who attend or will attend these existing establishments. It will also deliver best value for money for the Council. In reaching this recommendation, officers are satisfied that:

- There is no material omission or flaw in the proposal or the Proposal Document;
- Education Scotland did not identify any procedural flaws in the consultation process;
- The educational benefits that will arise are clear and recognised by Education Scotland;
- Implementation of the proposal will address objectives set in the Council's Transformation Strategy and School Estate Management Plan, by reducing surplus capacity and delivering revenue cost savings; and
- No significant counter argument was developed against the preferred option of officers.

234 The Council should therefore proceed with the implementation of the preferred option and the consequent creation of a 2-18 campus on the Broomfield site as set out in the Recommendations section of this report (below).

SECTION 20: RECOMMENDATIONS

235 It is therefore recommended that:

- (i) Education provision at Auchinleck Academy be discontinued with effect from the end of the 2018/19 academic session in June 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter;
- (ii) Education provision at Cumnock Academy and Supported Learning Centre should be discontinued at the end of the academic session in June 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter;
- (iii) That the young people attending these establishments transfer to a new build secondary school, with effect from the start of the 2019/20 academic session in August 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter,
- (iv) That the delineated area of the new secondary school be created with effect from the start of the 2019/20 academic session in August 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter, from the amalgamation of the delineated areas of Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy.
- (v) That the new merged secondary school be located within a 2-18 campus located on the Broomfield site;
- (vi) That consultation with relevant interested parties should continue during the design, construction and delivery phase to ensure that concerns raised are considered, and responded to appropriately
- (vii) This Consultation Report be referred to the Governance and Scrutiny Committee for consideration at its meeting on 18 June, 2015 with a

recommendation that they report any views/further recommendations back to Cabinet for consideration on 24 June, 2015 in order that a final determination on the proposal can be made in terms of Section 11 (1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 at that time; and

- (viii) Cabinet remit the Depute Chief Executive Economy and Skills to prepare a report to a future meeting of Cabinet detailing the management arrangements of the new school, with identified implementation dates, as requested by Education Scotland in their report at Section 7 (above)
- (ix) Otherwise note the contents of this report.

Alex McPhee

**Depute Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer for East Ayrshire Council
Economy and Skills**

AMcPH/AW

June 2015

LIST OF ATTACHED PAPERS

- i) Proposal Document issued 12 February, 2015

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- i) List of respondents

Members wishing further information should contact **Alex McPhee**
Depute Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer, Economy and Skills for
East Ayrshire Council or Alan Ward, Head of Education at 01563 576000

PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

An electronic version of the Proposal Document can be found at the link below:

www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk