

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **CABINET– 13 NOVEMBER 2013**

#### **CONSULTATION REPORT – EDUCATION PROVISION AT JAMES HAMILTON ACADEMY, KILMARNOCK ACADEMY, NEW FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE AND SILVERWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Cabinet of outcome of the Governance and Scrutiny Committee's review of the Consultation Report, which has been prepared following the public consultation on the future of education provision at James Hamilton Academy, Kilmarnock Academy, New Farm Primary School and Early Childhood Centre and Silverwood Primary School.
2. Further, Cabinet is asked to make a final determination, in line with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, on the proposal:
  - to merge James Hamilton Academy and Kilmarnock Academy to create a new secondary school;
  - to merge New Farm Primary School and Early Childhood Centre and Silverwood Primary School to create a new primary school with ECC; and
  - to co-locate the new schools in a 3-18 campus to be sited on ground at Sutherland drive, Kilmarnock

### **BACKGROUND**

3. Cabinet, having considered at its meeting of 30 October 2013, the Consultation Report which had been published on 4 October 2013 and which had been appended to the report agreed that given they were minded to:
  - Agree that education provision at James Hamilton Academy be discontinued with effect from the end of the 2016/17 academic session in June 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter;
  - Agree that education provision at Kilmarnock Academy be discontinued with effect from the end of the 2016/17 academic session in June 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter;
  - Agree that the young people attending these establishments transfer to a new build secondary school, with effect from the start of the 2017/18 academic session in August 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter,
  - Agree that the delineated area of the new secondary school be created with effect from the start of the 2017/18 academic session in August 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter, from the amalgamation of the

delineated areas of James Hamilton Academy and Kilmarnock Academy.

- Agree that education provision at New Farm Primary School and Early Childhood Centre be discontinued with effect from the end of the 2016/17 academic session in June 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter;
  - Agree that education provision at Silverwood Primary School be discontinued with effect from the end of the 2016/17 academic session in June 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter; and
  - Agree that the young people attending these establishments transfer to a new primary school and Early Childhood Centre, with effect from the start of the 2017/18 academic session in August 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter
  - Agree that the delineated area of the new primary school be created with effect from the start of the 2017/18 academic session in August 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter, from the amalgamation of the delineated areas of New Farm Primary School and Early Childhood Centre and Silverwood Primary School.
  - Agree that the new merged secondary school and new merged primary school be co-located within a 3-18 campus located on the Sutherland Drive site;
  - Agree that that an Elected Member / officer working group be created to consider the future of the 1890s Kilmarnock Academy building, taking cognisance of the heritage and iconic status to the town of Kilmarnock of this historic building;
  - Agree that this Consultation Report be referred to the Governance and Scrutiny Committee for consideration at its meeting on 7 November 2013 with a recommendation that they report any views/further recommendations back to Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 13 November 2013 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
  - Remit the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to prepare a report to a future meeting of Cabinet detailing the management arrangements of the two new schools, with identified implementation dates, as requested by Education Scotland in their report at paragraph 4.15 of the Consultation Report. This report will be submitted to Cabinet at the earliest opportunity when the Council has received notification of the Scottish Minister's decision on the matter.
4. Following the Cabinet meeting of 30 October 2013, the matter was referred to Governance and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting of 7 November 2013 and its views and recommendations are detailed in the following paragraphs.

## **GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

5. The Committee, having considered the Cabinet report dated 11 October 2013, and the appended Consultation Report published on 4 October 2013, had no views or further recommendations and agreed to refer the matter back to Cabinet in order that a final determination on the proposal could be made in terms of Section 11(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 at the meeting of Cabinet on 13 November 2013; and otherwise noted the contents of the report.

### **POLICY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

6. The consultation exercise has been conducted in full compliance of the relevant statutory requirements, including the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The Consultation Report has been publicly available since Friday 4 October 2013.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7. The revenue implications of implementing the closure proposal were contained within the Proposal Document. As stated within the Consultation Report it remains officer belief that the savings of £1.1 million identified in the Proposal Document are accurate.

### **HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

8. At this stage, there are no Human Resource implications. Should Cabinet agree to the recommendation set out in paragraph 13 below and this is subsequently approved by Scottish Ministers, the Council would implement the relevant HR policies and procedures at the time of the schools' mergers and transfer to the new build campus in August 2017. Full consultation with all staff and Trade Unions will be maintained during the development of the campus proposals.

### **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

9. If the mergers of the secondary schools and the merger of the primary schools are agreed and a new 3-18 campus is built it on the Sutherland Drive site it will create state of the art educational facilities for upto 1,900 young people aged 3-18.
10. The reduction in the Council's property estate will reduce risks in terms of infrastructure failure, vandalism and threats to security.

### **COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

11. It should be noted that Community Planning Partners were also consulted on this proposal. If implemented the mergers and new build campus will assist the Council in delivering the following strands of the Community Plan:
  - The promotion of lifelong learning;
  - Improving community safety;
  - Delivering community regeneration; and

- Improving health and wellbeing.
12. In addition, the proposals, if implemented, would contribute to the following strategic Council objectives:
- Improving educational attainment.

Implementation would also reduce the number of Council properties and reduce under occupancy in the school estate, creating world class accommodation for upto 1,900 young people.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

13. Cabinet is asked:
- (i) To note that there were no further views or recommendations arising from the Governance and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 7 November 2013;
  - (ii) That under Section 11(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2011, to
    - (a) Agree that education provision at James Hamilton Academy be discontinued with effect from the end of the 2016/17 academic session in June 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter;
    - (b) Agree that education provision at Kilmarnock Academy be discontinued with effect from the end of the 2016/17 academic session in June 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter;
    - (c) Agree that the young people attending these establishments transfer to a new build secondary school, with effect from the start of the 2017/18 academic session in August 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter,
    - (d) Agree that the delineated area of the new secondary school be created with effect from the start of the 2017/18 academic session in August 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter, from the amalgamation of the delineated areas of James Hamilton Academy and Kilmarnock Academy.
    - (e) Agree that education provision at New Farm Primary School and Early Childhood Centre be discontinued with effect from the end of the 2016/17 academic session in June 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter;
    - (f) Agree that education provision at Silverwood Primary School be discontinued with effect from the end of the 2016/17 academic session in June 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter; and
    - (g) Agree that the young people attending these establishments transfer to a new primary School and Early Childhood Centre, with effect from the start of the 2017/18 academic session in August 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter

- (h) Agree that the delineated area of the new primary school be created with effect from the start of the 2017/18 academic session in August 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter, from the amalgamation of the delineated areas of New Farm Primary School and Early Childhood Centre and Silverwood Primary School.
- (i) Agree that the new merged secondary school and new merged primary school be co-located within a 3-18 campus located on the Sutherland Drive site;
- (iii) Agree that that an Elected Member / officer working group be created to consider the future of the 1890s Kilmarnock Academy building, taking cognisance of the heritage and iconic status to the town of Kilmarnock of this historic building;
- (iv) Remit the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to prepare a report to a future meeting of Cabinet detailing the management arrangements of the two new schools, with identified implementation dates, as requested by Education Scotland in their report at paragraph 4.15 of the Consultation Report. This report will be submitted to Cabinet at the earliest opportunity when the Council has received notification of the Scottish Minister's decision on the matter.
- (v) Remit the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to refer the recommended closures of James Hamilton Academy, Kilmarnock Academy, New Farm Primary School and Early Childhood Centre and Silverwood Primary School to Scottish Ministers, in terms of Section 15(2) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010;
- (vi) Otherwise note the contents of this report.

Graham Short  
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

EC/  
7 November 2013

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. School (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010
2. Cabinet Report – 24 April 2013 (Agenda Item 3E)
3. Consultation Report – Issued 4 October 2013
4. Cabinet Report – 30 October 2013 (Agenda Item 1E)
5. Governance and Scrutiny Report – 7 November 2013 (Agenda Item 8)

Members requiring further information should contact Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services, Tel: 01563 576017 or Euan Couperwhite, Head of Service: Projects, Tel: 01563 576090

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: EUAN COUPERWHITE**