

To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 21 January 2021

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Response to proposal to consult on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley

1. Summary

- 1.1 On 12 March 2020 the education and children's services policy board agreed to a formal consultation on a proposal to consult on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley.
- 1.2 In line with legislative requirements detailed in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, amended through the enactment of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, a formal consultation on the proposal was expected to commence in April 2020.
- 1.3 As a result of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions it was not possible to progress the formal consultation as originally intended and a revised timetable was approved by the education and children's service policy board on 20 August 2020.
- 1.4 Subsequent to this approval, local lockdown restrictions across the Council area meant that the public meeting scheduled to take place at the Lagoon Leisure Centre on 22 September 2020 could not be undertaken at this venue and the public meeting was replaced by 2 "virtual public consultation meetings" which took place on 22 September 2020 and 30 September 2020.
- 1.5 All interested parties were advised of revised arrangements and provided with the opportunity to register to take part in the online events.
- 1.6 The consultation formally opened on 31 August 2020 and closed at 12 noon on 20 October 2020.
- 1.7 The purpose of this report is to provide the education and children's services policy board with recommendations which recognise the issues and comments made by stakeholders and the responses provided in the course of

the consultation exercise. A report on the issues raised and a consideration of these is included as Appendix 1 to this document.

- 1.8 The outcome of this consultation demonstrates support for the proposal and the education and children's services policy board is therefore asked to approve the recommendation to relocate Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The education and children's services policy board is asked to:
- note the issues raised through the formal consultation detailed in Appendix 1;
 - note the comments made by Education Scotland in relation to the educational benefits of the proposals detailed in appendix 4; and
 - approve the proposal to relocate Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 12 March 2020 the education and children's services policy board agreed to a formal consultation on a proposal to consult on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley.
- 3.2 In line with legislative requirements detailed in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, amended through the enactment of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, a formal consultation on the proposal was expected to commence in April 2020.
- 3.3 As a result of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions it was not possible to progress the formal consultation as originally intended and a revised timetable to progress the consultation was approved by the education and children's service policy board on 20 August 2020.
- 3.4 Subsequent to this approval, local lockdown restrictions across the Council area meant that the public meeting scheduled to take place at the Lagoon Leisure Centre on 22 September 2020 could not be undertaken at this venue and the public meeting was replaced by 2 "virtual public consultation meetings" which took place on 22 September 2020 and 30 September 2020.
- 3.5 All interested parties were advised of revised arrangements and provided with the opportunity to register to take part in the online events. In this respect the Council:
- updated the Council website to reflect the change in arrangements;
 - issued a text message advising of the change in arrangements to all Paisley Grammar parents and carers, to all P6 and P7 parents and carers of children attending Paisley Grammar School's feeder primary schools and to all P6 and P7 parents and carers of children residing within Paisley Grammar School's catchment but not attending feeder schools;

- placed adverts in local newspapers to alert the public to the change in arrangements;
 - posted information regarding the change in arrangements in all Council libraries;
 - promoted the online events via social media;
 - emailed all individuals who had registered an interest in attending the public meeting in the lagoon on 22 September 2020 to advise of the change of arrangements; and
 - emailed community councils, trade unions, users of the school building, directors of neighbouring authorities, church reps, MPs/ MSPs etc to advise of the change of arrangements.
- 3.6 The consultation formally opened on 31 August 2020 and closed at 12 noon on 20 October 2020.
- 3.7 Responses to the proposal to consult on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley are contained within Appendix 1 to this report.
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4. Consultation

- 4.1. Following agreement to consult on the proposal to relocate Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley a consultation document was issued to parents, carers and interested parties affected by the proposal.
- 4.2. The consultation document invited members of the public to respond to the proposal either through contributions to a public consultation meeting or by written submissions in hard copy or email to the director of children's services. Interested parties also had the opportunity to take part in the consultation through the Council's online survey.
- 4.3. Further to local lockdown restrictions across the Council area, the physical consultation meeting scheduled to take place in the Lagoon Leisure Centre was replaced by 2 "virtual public consultation meetings" took place on 22 September 2020 and 30 September 2020.
- 4.4. All interested parties were advised of revised arrangements and provided with the opportunity to register to take part in the online events.
- 4.5. A presentation was made by officers from children's services during the virtual meetings. The presentation outlined the background to the proposal, highlighting the impact this would have on the school community. Questions were invited and notes of the questions asked and the answers provided by education officers were recorded and published on the Council's website.
- 4.6. A report on written responses received and comments made through the Council's online survey is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
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5. Comments and observations arising from the consultation

- 5.1. During the course of the consultation, questions were raised regarding how the Council would progress this proposal. Appendix 1 to this document, “Response to proposal to consult on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley”, details the questions asked and the responses provided.
- 5.2. Education Scotland have been consulted on the proposal in line with legislative requirements detailed in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, amended through the enactment of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
- 5.3. Education Scotland consulted with stakeholders during November 2020 as part of their assessment of the Council’s arrangements.
- 5.4. The response received from Education Scotland was supportive of the Council’s proposal and it is attached to this document as Appendix 4. A summary of this finding is noted below.
- 5.5. HM Inspectors agree that the council’s proposal has clear educational benefits. A new campus has the potential to provide a high-quality learning environment. A new school could be developed to use space more creatively and flexibly with regard to areas for learning and social spaces. The curriculum could improve through enhanced facilities, for example, in drama, music, technologies and physical education. Improved partnership with West College Scotland could widen curricular pathways and help to develop further young people’s skills for learning, life and work. The proposed campus also has the potential to open new opportunities for the wider community within and beyond normal school opening times. Parents agree that the new campus will bring wider opportunities and improved experiences for young people. A few parents raised concerns over safety with regard to heavy traffic around the proposed site. Should the proposal go ahead, it is important that the council continues to listen to these concerns and works with stakeholders to find appropriate solutions which brings re-assurance with regard to these issues.
- 5.6. Renfrewshire Council welcomes the comments made by Education Scotland and will work with the school communities to find appropriate solutions to the concerns raised through the consultation process.

Implications of this report

1. Financial

The Council has earmarked resources totalling £51.850m to support priorities emerging from the review of the school estate management plan. Although the costs of a new Paisley Grammar School are estimated to be in excess of this Council funding in isolation, the Council resources provide significant scope for match funding capacity from the Scottish Government £1bn schools investment fund. The Council will continue to work with the Scottish Government and Scottish Futures Trust as the funding model for the Learning Estate Investment Programme develops in order to support delivery of priorities identified by the Council.

2. HR and Organisational Development

None.

3. Community/Council Planning

Our Renfrewshire is thriving - All children and young people attending Paisley Grammar School will have the opportunity to learn in an environment designed to support their attainment and achievement.

4. Legal

Renfrewshire Council adheres to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (the 2010 Act).

5. Property/Assets

Through its school estate the Council aims to have an efficient and well maintained property portfolio which provides learning environments which support the delivery of the curriculum.

Subject to board approval, the formal processes in relation to planning application(s) would be followed involving further stages of consultation with the local community.

In relation to the existing Paisley Grammar School site, consideration would be given to identifying a positive use for the site which recognises that part of the existing campus is Listed.

6. Information Technology

None.

7. Equality and Human Rights

The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. An equalities impact assessment is attached as Appendix 3 to this report.

8. Health and Safety

None.

9. Procurement

The procurement model for the delivery of this project will be developed by corporate procurement and property services.

10. Risk

Budget and programme management of the proposed development will be undertaken by an officer Steering Board representing all areas of the Council and will report to ECSPB. Prior to commencement of any construction, intrusive geotechnical investigations will be undertaken to confirm the economic suitability of the site for development.

11. Privacy Impact

None.

12. Cosla Policy Position

None.

13. Climate Risk

The Scottish Government sustainable procurement tools are used to support optimising the economic, social and environmental outcomes for all construction procurements. The proposed development will satisfy the demanding energy efficiency/carbon targets prescribed by the Scottish Government's 'Learning Estate Investment Programme' grant criteria recognising the requirement to not only design and build a school to new and hugely challenging energy efficiency/carbon targets but also to maintain and operate the school as designed over its lifetime.

List of Background Papers

Background Paper 1: Proposal to consult on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley.
March 2020
Revised consultation arrangements regarding the proposal to relocate Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley.
August 2020

The foregoing background papers will be retained within children's services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Ian Thomson, Education Manager, 0141 618 7241, ian.thomson@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Children's Services

IT/GMcK/KO

2 December 2020

Author: Ian Thomson, Education Manager, 07881837623, ian.thomson@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Response to the proposal to consult on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley.

1 Consultation Process

- 1.1 Following agreement to consult on the proposal to relocate Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley, consultation documents were issued to all interested parties.
- 1.2 In line with legislative requirements detailed in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, amended through the enactment of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, a formal consultation on the proposal was expected to commence in April 2020.
- 1.3 As a result of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions it was not possible to progress the formal consultation as originally intended and a revised timetable to progress the consultation was approved by the education and children's service policy board on 20 August 2020.
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- 1.5 All interested parties were advised of revised arrangements and provided with the opportunity to register to take part in the online events. In this respect the Council:
 - updated the council website to reflect the change in arrangements;
 - issued a text message advising of the change in arrangements to all Paisley Grammar parents and carers, to all P6 and P7 parents and carers of children attending Paisley Grammar School's feeder primary schools and to all P6 and P7 parents and carers of children residing within Paisley Grammar School's catchment but not attending feeder schools;
 - placed adverts in local newspapers to alert the public to the change in arrangements;
 - posted information regarding the change in arrangements in all Council libraries;
 - promoted the online events via social media;
 - emailed all individuals who had registered an interest in attending the public meeting in the lagoon on 22 September 2020 to advise of the change of arrangements; and
 - emailed community councils, trade unions, users of the school building, directors of neighbouring authorities, church reps, MPs/ MSPs etc to advise of the change of arrangements.
- 1.6 The consultation formally opened on 31 August 2020 and closed at 12 noon on 20 October 2020.
- 1.7 Copies of the consultation document were made available to the parents of children and young people attending affected schools and to all parent council groups. Copies of the document were also distributed to local libraries and a copy was placed on the Council website. Adverts to notify the public of the consultation meeting were also placed in the local press. In addition, the consultation document was issued to council officers, local elected members, MSPs and MPs for the Renfrewshire area and Education Scotland.

- 1.8 All formal responses submitted as part of the consultation exercise have been retained and can be viewed on request to the director of children's services.

2 The Consultation

2 written (emailed) responses were received from interested parties registering their comments on the proposals and 133 responses were received via the online questionnaire. The following is a breakdown of responses that were received:

Category	Number of Responses	Type of Response
Renfrewshire Parent/ Carer	87	on-line survey or questionnaire
Renfrewshire Resident	20	on-line survey or questionnaire
School Staff	12	on-line survey or questionnaire
Pupils	9	on-line survey or questionnaire
Other	3	on-line survey or questionnaire
Other Local Authority Parent/ Carer	1	on-line survey or questionnaire
Renfrewshire Council employee	1	on-line survey or questionnaire
Renfrewshire Resident	1	e-mail
Renfrewshire MSP	1	e-mail

- 2.1 The virtual public meeting held online on 22 September 2020 and was attended by 45 people and the virtual public meeting held online on 30 September 2020 and was attended by 22 people.
- 2.2 A note of the meetings was taken and can be obtained by request to the director of children's services or they can be viewed on the Council website.
- 2.3 8 elected members attended a virtual briefing session on the proposal on 9 October 2020.
- 2.4 The staff at all schools affected were advised of the consultation and had the opportunity to attend the virtual public event.
- 2.5 Children and young people affected by the proposal were consulted via their schools and their views were captured in survey responses attached to this report.
- 2.6 In total 135 responses were received: 78 (58%) were for the proposal and 57 (42%) were against.

3 Key issues and comments raised during virtual public consultation meetings and virtual briefing session for elected members.

- 3.1 Questions, comments and responses from the virtual public meeting held on 22 September 2020 are noted below:
- The head of schools thanked everyone for attending the first online consultation meeting and advised that Renfrewshire Council approved a new school estate management plan (SEMP) in May 2019.

- The Council continually reviews the performance of the school estate in terms of core fact findings which relate to the sufficiency, condition and suitability of buildings.
- The new SEMP also includes assessment of current and future housing development; considering how new housing impacts on roll projections.
- The SEMP report outlined that action is required to address the suitability of facilities at Paisley Grammar School as the overall suitability rating for this school is “C” however, a number of elements within the survey are rated as “D”.
- On 20 August 2020 approval was granted to consult on the proposal on the Relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley.
- A presentation was delivered which outlined the Council’s rationale and timeline for the proposal; highlighting that the Council aims to improve outcomes for children and young people attending Paisley Grammar School through careful management of the school estate.
- Attendees were advised of Renfrewshire Council’s commitment to the Equalities Act 2010.
- A representative from Education Scotland attended the online meeting.

The first six questions below were submitted in advance of the meeting, the head of schools provided a response to the questions and thereafter, conducted a question and answer session with input from the education manager (resources) and head teacher.

Q There are many artefacts within the school of historical significance. Some can and may be transferred to the new school or may be distributed to conservation bodies such as Paisley Museum. Other cannot be moved. What plans are being made?

R If the proposal to relocate the school to a new community campus is approved, the historical contents of the old building can be relocated to the new campus or to an alternatively appropriate location. The cultural and historical significance of the building would be considered as part of the assessment of its future use.

Q If the school is relocated what are the options for the current location?

R If the proposal to relocate the school to a new community campus is approved the building and its grounds will be declared surplus to requirement and referred to the Head of Property Services (FRCS) to determine future use.

Q I would like to understand timescales first build, when the new school will open if go ahead given?

R It's anticipated that the campus would be available by August 2025. A new secondary school typically takes 4 - 5 years to develop from concept to conclusion and handover.

Q Will school transport be provided for those pupils living in Ralston due to the further distance to travel?

R The Council's free school transport policy would apply for any young person entitled to attend the school who lived more than 2 miles from the school building.

Q Road safety is a big concern on Renfrew Road. How will this be made safe for kids at lunch and home time especially? The motorway traffic is often really fast and a constant stream during the daytime hours.

R Renfrewshire Council is committed to the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people. Traffic management schemes would be developed to promote positive and considerate behaviour around the school grounds and safe drop off facilities ensure appropriate levels of pedestrian / vehicular segregation and Children's Services would ensure the Council's road safety teams were central to the development of safe walking routes.

- Q If the proposal proceeds, what is the anticipated timescale for the new school being open?
- R It's anticipated that the campus would be available by August 2025. A new secondary school typically takes 4 - 5 years to develop from concept to conclusion and handover.
- Q Will the slides be available after the meeting?
- R Yes, the presentation will be e-mailed to individuals who registered to attend.
- Q Would new building have outdoor PE facilities?
- R The new community campus would have facilities which are fit for purpose. There is sufficient space at the identified site to accommodate both indoor and outdoor PE facilities. This will allow the full PE entitlement to be delivered to pupils on-site removing the need for any travel to alternative facilities.
- Q With regards to ongoing capacity has the growing number of houses being built off Hawkhead Road been factored into the estimates for future needs?
- R Yes, new house builds are factored into our roll projections. The current school roll is under 1000 and our proposal is for a new build around 1175. This figure will be kept under review and we will continue to liaise with our planning colleagues and seek developer contributions where we are able to do so.
- Q With regards to road safety and access there was an accident last week on Renfrew road that created severe congestion, and I believe closure in 1 direction. Given there will be a future need for some children to be provided with transport what are the council plans to adequately ensure children are able to make it to the school campus not only safely but on time daily?
- R Traffic management schemes would be developed including safe drop off facilities within the school grounds and the Council's road safety teams will be central to the development of safe walking routes and travel plans to ensure children and young people get to school on time.
- Q I would second the concerns over the road safety and access on the Renfrew Road site, there is already considerable congestion around the one way system through Paisley, with a number of learners traveling from the Hawkhead/Ralston areas of Paisley, to have a clear plan on transportation of learners?
- R Home to school transport will be provided in line with Council policy. The design process will fully consider road safety concerns and look at options that allow children to be dropped off / collected from within the school grounds.
- Q Road safety on Renfrew Rd has always been terrible. With motorway traffic and now the retail units how will it be workable at peak times? Will the roads have more congestion in the local areas at these times?
- R Traffic management schemes would be developed to promote positive and considerate behaviour around the school grounds and safe drop off facilities ensure appropriate levels of pedestrian / vehicular segregation and Children's Services would ensure the Council's road safety teams were central to the development of safe walking routes.
- Q With regard to home to school travel, has any thought been given to providing safe cycle routes from the catchment area to the school?
- R Children's Services will work with the Council's road safety teams on safe walking routes and sustainable travel plans which will consider cycling and wheeling to school.
- Q Currently Home Economics teachers are in short supply but would there be kitchen facilities built within the school for children to learn in?
- R The aspirations for the new community campus is to provide the full range of curriculum activities for all children attending. The Council will recruit staff to support the delivery of the curriculum where this is required.
- Q Given the lead time you mentioned for a new building, what plans are in place to maintain/improve the present building if classed as unsatisfactory?

- R There are challenges facing the existing building, however, the Council is committed to maintaining the existing building. £750,000 was invested last year to improve internal facilities including toilets, flooring and decoration. The SMT within the school will continue to liaise with Children's Services officers regarding any issues arising.
- Q Would a drama studio be part of the new estate?
- R Yes, the new community campus would have facilities which are fit for purpose.
- Q With regard to proposed new school will the Council seek to use this relocation and be bold and target a reduction in class sizes as part of the development and improve the learning opportunities for the children?
- R It is envisaged that the educational experience of children will be enhanced through the provision of bespoke resources which will be available at the new campus. At the design stage, parents / carers and the wider school community will be consulted. The Council will liaise with relevant partners to ensure the design is informed nationally and internationally.
- Q Will there be a physical connection to the West College?
- R No, there will not be a physical connection.
- Q Will there be any plans to improve the passenger railway bridge at Gallowhill?
- R Children's Services would ensure the Council's road safety teams were central to the development of safe walking routes.
- Q In addition to traditional academic learning will the new school include facilities for more vocational qualifications to provide a better range of opportunities for those that decide that would be a better fit for their future needs?
- R Although there will not be a physical connection to West College Scotland the close proximity will present exciting opportunities and the school would look at the options available to possibly offer an increased range of vocational qualifications in working in partnership with the College.
- Q Would there be special needs facilities built in to accommodate children who require extra assistance?
- R The new community campus would be developed in line with current building regulations and the equalities act. The existing school has as support base and there are no plans to change this.
- Q What other sites have been considered as possible sites and why were they ruled out in favour of the Chivas Regal site for wider consultation?
- R The range of sites considered are detailed within the consultation documentation. The other sites were ruled out as they were not under Council ownership or large enough. The site being taken forward within the proposal is big enough to accommodate the size of building required for the new community campus and aligns with the Council's regeneration aspirations.
- Q Will FF&E be new? In terms of migration of staff and students, will this be done during the summer of 2025 to remove impact on the curriculum. If there is slippage, will migration be undertaken during future holiday periods such as October or December?
- R Yes, the furniture, fittings and equipment at the new community campus will all be new. The construction will be kept under review and there will be a degree of resilience built into the timescales. The preference is to move during the summer holidays as this will ensure all staff and children and young people receive essential orientation of the building.
- Q Can you please consider establishing quiet/prayer room for girls and separate one for boys?
- R Your question has been noted and this will be considered.
- Q Will public transport links to and from the school be looked at even to areas which may be over the 2 mile radius? I am a firm believer in high school children being able to make their way to school independently.

- R The Council's free school transport policy would be available to any young person entitled to attend the school who lived more than 2 miles from the school building. Children's Services cannot influence bus routes but the question of alternative transport arrangements to school will form part of the discussion with the road safety team.
- Q Will the new building be carbon neutral meeting Scottish government targets of carbon neutral by 2045?
- R The new community campus will be built to meet current building regulations and sustainable planning will be considered as part of this process.
- Q Would a swimming pool make up part of the PE facilities?
- R It is unlikely that a swimming pool will form part of the PE facilities, as the maintenance and running costs are significant. The Lagoon Leisure Centre is run by Renfrewshire Leisure and has swimming pool facilities near-by that the community can make use of.
- Q I struggled to get on to Teams tonight and was late to the meeting - will notes be circulated?
- R Yes, the notes will be made available on the Council website in due course with the presentation being e-mailed to individuals who registered to attend.

3.2 Questions, comments and responses from the virtual public meeting held on 30 September 2020 are noted below:

- The director of children's services thanked everyone for attending the second online consultation meeting and advised that Renfrewshire Council approved a new school estate management plan (SEMP) in May 2019.
- The Council continually reviews the performance of the school estate in terms of core fact findings which relate to the sufficiency, condition and suitability of buildings.
- The new SEMP also includes assessment of current and future housing development; considering how new housing impacts on roll projections.
- The SEMP report outlined that action is required to address the suitability of facilities at Paisley Grammar School as the overall suitability rating for this school is "C" however, a number of elements within the survey are rated as "D".
- On 20 August 2020 approval was granted to consult on the proposal on the Relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley.
- A presentation was delivered which outlined the Council's rationale and timeline for the proposal; highlighting that the Council aims to improve outcomes for children and young people attending Paisley Grammar School through careful management of the school estate.
- Two representatives from Education Scotland attended the online meeting.
- Attendees were advised of:
 - Renfrewshire Council's commitment to the Equalities Act 2010.
 - that if the proposal to relocate the school to a new community campus is approved, the historical contents of the old building can be relocated to the new campus or to an alternatively appropriate location. The cultural and historical significance of the building would be considered as part of the assessment of its future use.
 - that the proposed site presented excellent opportunities in terms of size, scope and design.

The first two questions below were submitted in advance of the meeting, the director of children's services provided a response to the questions and thereafter, conducted a

question and answer session with input from the education manager (resources) and head teacher.

Q Will there be a bridge built from the Shortroods and Gockston area to the school? At the moment the children would have to walk in an almost complete circle to reach a part of the town they can practically see from their homes.

R Renfrewshire Council is committed to the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people. Traffic management, road safety, safe walking routes and all other environmental factors would be addressed through the design development process.

Q What safety measures will be taken given the proposed location is on a busy dual carriageway? My children attend the Grammar on a placing request, we live in Renfrew. There is no safe crossing at the B&Q roundabout / motorway slip road.

R Traffic management, road safety, safe walking routes and all other environmental factors would be addressed through the design development process and it was also noted that two secondary schools were previously located on Renfrew Road.

Q Are there more children in the catchment area around Renfrew Road?

R The school covers a large catchment area within Paisley, we will ensure the catchment map is added to our website consultation pages. The exact number of pupils from around the Renfrew Road area is not available, however, the young people who attend the school come from feeder schools located within Paisley that include Gallowhill Primary School, Mossvale Primary School, Ralston Primary School, Todholm Primary School and Williamsburgh Primary School.

Q How will existing children at the Grammar get to school

R The Council's free school transport policy would apply for any young person entitled to attend the school who lived more than 2 miles from the school building and green travel plans will be developed to support young people to walk, cycle or wheel to the new campus

Q Does Paisley Grammar still use the Penilee playing fields?

R Paisley Grammar makes use of the Renfrewshire Leisure Site located at Seedhill Playing Fields for the delivery of PE. The school does not use Penilee playing fields for the delivery of curricular activities.

Q What will happen to the existing site?

R If the proposal to relocate the school to a new community campus is approved the building and its grounds will be declared surplus to requirement and referred to the Head of Property Services (FRCS) to determine future use.

Q Will there be further consultation?

R When the consultation exercise is concluded, this will end the process. The communication channels available to individuals to submit their views/ comments/ concerns were highlighted as part of the presentation and will be e-mailed to everyone who registered to attend the meeting.

Q What is the timeline to complete?

R It's anticipated that the campus would be available by August 2025. A new secondary school typically takes 4 - 5 years to develop from concept to conclusion and handover.

Q Are you considering other sites?

R The range of sites considered are detailed within the consultation documentation. The current site was not large enough to accommodate a new build school with the outdoor facilities required while the existing school remained operational. The other sites were ruled out as they were not under Council ownership or large enough or had problematic access arrangements. The site being taken forward within the proposal is big enough to accommodate the size of building required for the new community campus and aligns with the Council's regeneration aspirations.

Q Is there plans to amend/change the catchment

R No.

- Q What if the plans are not approved? What happens then?
- R Children's services officers believe this is the right thing to do as the new community campus would have facilities which are fit for purpose and available for wider community use. Elected members will approve or reject the proposal in January 2021. If the proposal is not approved, elected members may task children's services officers with looking at alternatives. If the proposal is approved parents / carers young people and staff and the wider school community will have the opportunity to contribute to the design development process which is also informed by relevant partners both nationally and internationally.
- Q Is it possible for the council to say what they are considering for the existing site before the consultation has ended?
- R No. If the proposal to relocate the school to a new community campus is approved the building and its grounds will be declared surplus to requirement and referred to the Head of Property Services (FRCS) to determine future use.
- Q Has work begun on developing a budget?
- R The council will work with Scottish Futures Trust to agree the budget required based on the size of the new build community campus. The council has identified some of the capital spend required and will submit a proposal to the Scottish Government to access funding available to local authorities.
- Q Can you give some examples of the facilities that will be available for the children should the new build go ahead?
- R The new community campus would have facilities which are fit for purpose now and in the future and the curriculum and needs of the school and wider community will drive the design. There is sufficient space at the identified site to accommodate both indoor and outdoor PE facilities. This will allow the full PE entitlement to be delivered to pupils on-site removing the need for any travel to alternative facilities. The close proximity to West College Scotland will also present unique and exciting opportunities and the school would look at the options available to possibility offer an increased range of vocational qualifications in working in partnership with the College.
- Q Will the design now have to take into account potential social distancing for learning areas?
- R The curriculum and needs of the school and wider community will drive the design and given the current pandemic this may need to consider areas that were not considered previously. The Council will liaise with relevant partners to ensure the design is informed nationally and internationally.
- Q What happens if the move isn't approved?
- R This consultation exercise will inform the decision and the elected members will approve or reject the proposal in January 2021. If the proposal is not approved, elected members may task children's services officers with looking at alternatives. At the moment, we believe this is the right solution and there is no alternative.
- Q I believe the new school is the best option and I'm pleased to hear the new school will have outdoor facilities that can be developed. The other issues for example safety/ transport can be managed over time.
- R Thank you for your comments. I acknowledge that the current building presents challenges in respect of the delivery of the curriculum. The feedback we have received so far has indicated that individuals are reasonably happy with the new campus proposal.
- Q It sounds like it will be a large campus. Have you considered that it may lose the feeling of being a local high school? Could that be detrimental to the kids? Especially those coming from a small primary setting.
- R The feeder primary schools vary in size. The council will make best use of the design and one of our priorities in developing the design will be to ensure the young people have a sense of community and are proud of their new school.

- Q Janice, are you and the majority of the teachers in favour? Are the pupils in favour?
- R Absolutely, the young people and staff are also for it and the young people will respond formally to the consultation exercise. The current building has challenges and is not fit for purpose, which becomes clear to children when visiting other secondary schools. The opportunities the new community campus would offer would be phenomenal. Some individuals have an attachment with the building, but the new building will be far better equipped to deliver a wider curriculum.
- Q Will the school still be called Paisley Grammar School if it is moved?
- R Yes, the school name will remain as is and the community campus would be available for wider community use out with school times.
- Q What else is planned to be built on the site? Is it all to be allocated to the school?
- R This response has been provided by our planning colleagues post meeting. Part of the current Chivas site (about 25%) is being purchased from Chivas by Scottish Leather Group for a new factory and the remainder of the site (about 16 acres) is being sold to the Council to accommodate a new community campus. The use of the remaining site will become clear when a design has been prepared and would be subject to the normal consultation process with any planning application for new buildings.
- Q Would there be bike sheds?
- R Yes. The Council's road safety teams will be central to the development of travel plans.
- Q The proposed location has lots of options for off-site catering. The range of school meal choices is limited and do not meet a range of dietary requirements for example my family's preference is halal.
- R I acknowledge that a large number of young people leave the existing school at lunchtime through personal choice. The school can support a range of dietary requirements and the hope is that this encourages young people to eat lunch within the school's facilities. As part of this process we will flag the concern regarding the breadth of options to our environment and infrastructure colleagues. In the meantime, please contact the school to highlight your concerns and school staff will liaise with catering colleagues to ensure suitable options are made available.

3.3 Officers convened a virtual briefing session for elected members on 9 October 2020. Questions, comments and responses from the virtual briefing session are noted below:

Why was there such short notice for this meeting?

- An apology was given for the short notice for the meeting. Any elected member who was unable to attend was offered a separate meeting.

Why did we not consider the Dykebar site for the new school?

- Section 5 of the report "Proposal to consult on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley" - 12 March 2020, lays out the options appraisal criteria which determined that the site at Renfrew Road provides an option which can accommodate the educational and community aspirations of the Council.

What will happen to the current building?

- If the proposal to relocate the school to a new community campus is approved the building and its grounds will be declared surplus to requirement and referred to the Head of Property Services (FRCS) to determine future use.

When will a planning application be made and what process will be involved?

- Planning application process will be in line with agreed council policies. This would include any public consultation in line with normal practice dependent on the size and scale of the project.

Have we considered issues around health and sustainable neighbourhoods with consideration of smaller schools within 20 minutes walking distance of everyone in the catchment area?

- It is envisaged that the educational experience of children will be enhanced through the provision of bespoke resources which will be available at the new campus. The educational benefits of this proposal are laid out at section 6.3 of the Council's report "Proposal to consult on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley".

How will we manage traffic congestion and buses (for comparison see congestion at St Andrew's Academy)?

- Renfrewshire Council is committed to the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people. Traffic management schemes would be developed to promote positive and considerate behaviour around the school grounds and safe drop off facilities ensure appropriate levels of pedestrian / vehicular segregation and Children's Services would ensure the Council's road safety teams were central to the development of safe walking routes.

Will the school be large enough given the capacity issues at St Andrew's Academy and the house building in the area?

- Yes. The Council uses its roll projection tool to determine the impact of current and future housing on education infrastructure and the new school will be built for circa 1175 young people.

Have you considered the likely increase in the number of cars as parents may not feel safe to allow children to walk to school?

- Renfrewshire Council is committed to the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people. Traffic management schemes would be developed to promote positive and considerate behaviour around the school grounds and safe drop off facilities ensure appropriate levels of pedestrian / vehicular segregation and Children's Services would ensure the Council's road safety teams were central to the development of safe walking routes.

Have you considered the implications of increased placing requests to St Andrew's Academy from families who are not happy with the proposed site on Renfrew Rd?

- The Council's admissions policy has recently been reviewed and a revised version approved by the education and children's services policy board in August 2020.

Does the safe route to schools assessment include consideration of personal safety as well as road safety?

- The safety and wellbeing of all children and young people is of paramount importance. Any concerns relating to walking routes will be considered sensitively.

4 Key issues and comments raised by interested parties and responses provided.

4.1 Online survey submissions:

4.1.1 Building Capacity

Questions:

A new high school Should be built, not adding pupils to an existing school.
A new school with better facilities
At the same time I do not want to halt progress for the next generation and I hope my concerns raised will be answered. I can see that the proposals outlined for the new campus do sound amazing, however I have raised concerns over what will happen to the beautiful interior and exterior of the original school, with the interior looking very similar to Harry Potter. Would the council consider having 2 campuses ,with possibly lower school and upper school or keeping traditional subjects in the current old historic building on Glasgow Rd and having sports/drama at the new Renfrew Rd?
Building in disrepair, various large leaks throughout building. Mushrooms growing on ceiling (c floor balcony)
building not fit for purpose as a school in 21st century.
Building not fit for purpose as school in 21st Century
Changing facilities within the PE department are not adequate for the demands of the department. There can be 5 classes sharing 3 changing rooms (2 big and 1 small).
Current building has not got same facilities as other secondary schools in the council area especially outdoor sports facilities
Current building needs significant repair/upgrading work
Current building not fit for purpose
Current building presents access challenges e.g. for wheelchair users
Current building unsuitable
Current location cannot grow to accommodate
Current school is not big enough.
Current school is outdated.
Current school is too small to cope with number of pupils.
Current school isn't fit for purpose
Facilities lack of sports for the children
Great opportunity for a modern upto date campus
I feel a new build premises would be a good move as the current building for Paisley Grammar is quite run down.
inadequate social areas for pupils
Indoor facilities are poor, outdated halls with small gyms which limits pupils teaching and learning.
Insufficient changing facilities which can be a health and safety hazard.
Insuficient changing facilities for PE in the old campus.
It is essential to pupils education that they engage with 2 period of PE a week, however, with the current buildings lack of facilities pupils are losing a big chunk of their allocated PE time walking to Seed Hill.
It's old and in need of change , neglect over the years.
Lack of sports grounds.
Lacking in sports facilities - need to travel to Seedhill for outdoor PE, wasting class time
More Capacity
My son who has aspergers feels the building to be unsafe because of its age. This is just his impression of the place
New building will be more modern and spacious
No outdoor space for PE
Old school is seriously run down so a new facility would be amazing for the children
Old school not fit for purpose for future requirements
Outdated current school estate is not fit for purpose
Paisley grammar building is outdated, needs extensive repairs

Paisley Grammar pupils are learning in a school now unfit for purpose and are at a distinct disadvantage to their peers in schools across the authority and in Scotland as a whole due to the lack of and shockingly bad state of facilities.
Paisley Grammar School is in desperate need of a new campus. The pupils are unfairly disadvantaged compared to the other schools in the Local Authority especially those who take PE as a certificated subject in the senior phase. The school is beyond repair and cannot be refurbished to an acceptable standard. The site is simply not big enough to accommodate Paisley Grammar School.
Parts of the school are falling apart/down and unsafe for use and many areas are infested with silverfish.
PGS pupils deserve better sports facilities.
Poor sports education at current building
School building in state of disrepair, multiple leaks throughout building, dampness evident
School is in bad state of repair
School is not safe - leaks in roof, mushrooms growing in ceiling etc
Schools in Renfrewshire are so run down
Social areas in school inadequate
Sport facilities in school very poor
Temperature issues - ineffective central heating and air conditioning leading to freezing or boiling classrooms
The building is not fit for 21st century teaching. It is tired, infested by silverfish and beyond the point of being a hygienic workplace.
The building is old and in a poor state of repair and damage is not being repaired.
The building is old and new facilities hopefully will be better suited to new age teaching
The current building is not fit for purpose.
The current building is not fit for purpose. Many of the classrooms and communal areas are in a state of disarray.
The current school grounds are not acceptable; the space is limited around the school and this is neither useful for recreation or wellbeing.
The current site does not have all the sports facilities required for a school of its size
The Grammar is tired and dated. This location is ideal
The grammar school seems to be too small for the demand of children that will increase in coming years
The kids deserve more space, a modern school, more facilities
The new school would be large enough to accommodate the growing population
The pupils and teachers at Paisley Grammar deserve equality with other schools in their learning environment. The old building and outdoor space is not fit for purpose.
The school had no outdoor space which is very limiting for pupils and staff. No recreational and sporting facilities outdoors is not good for the pupils health and well-being.
The school just now is dated
The school requires significant upgrade
There is no where for outdoor sports hopefully this can be catered for in one place
Toilets in current building horrendous
very poor sports facilities. small classrooms also
We need a modern school for pupils.
We need a new fit for purpose and modern school
While the original school building has character much of the rest of the school is looking dilapidated and in need of repair

Responses:

The current occupancy level at the school is graded B. This means the school roll is between 60% and 81% of its capacity.
The new community campus will be designed to accommodate current and future rolls affected by existing and planned housing within the catchment area.

The new community campus will be designed to support the needs of all young people and facilities will be safe and fit for purpose.

There are no plans to split Paisley Grammar across 2 locations. If the proposal to relocate the school to a new community campus is approved the building and its grounds will be declared surplus to requirement and referred to the Head of Property Services (FRCS) to determine future use.

4.1.2 Community

Questions

1. I think Paisley Grammar needs a new building but looking at a map, the proposed site means that most pupils will have further to travel than before, reducing the likelihood of active travel.

2. Given the previous problems attracting pupils from Todholm Primary, will this further disincentivise pupils from that school? 3. The proposed site is on a main route into Paisley - this creates a risk of traffic congestion and danger to pupils, particularly those who walk or cycle to school. Will pupils be exposed to car fumes as a result of being on a busier road? 4. You are serving up customers to a well known burger chain which serves food of low nutritional value and is sited very close to the proposed site.

On the whole I think a new school campus is a good idea and would provide the pupils with far better facilities and opportunities in more modern surroundings.

I do however have some issues with the proposals.

My children could walk or take a single bus to the current Paisley Grammar school as it is in a central position close to the town centre with many direct transport links. How are my children supposed to access the new school? There is no direct, safe walking route and no direct bus links leaving driving the only option for many parents. Renfrew road and surrounding areas are already incredibly busy at peak times, how will the addition of the school impact this and what plans are in place to negate this?

From the proposals it sounds as though there would be a lot of non school staff coming and going from the campus during school hours. How can you ensure my child's safety from undisclosed people moving around the campus in a busy industrial part of town. This also includes from the college next door.

I am also keen to know what air quality studies have been undertaken in this already traffic heavy, industrial area. And most importantly with a water treatment works beside it, which everyone knows does not smell pleasant. If there are plans for outdoor learning and sporting facilities, surely clean air is a must for the children's health and well being.

I am happy to have my comments made public.

Seedhill park or Ralston playing fields are empty most days and would serve local area

Impact of litter on surroundings

The current building is a great architectural building but no longer fit as a school building, it should be a museum.

Closer to home

The area could be used as a small park/walking area which would benefit the area greatly by adding some much needed green space

Consider keeping Paisley Grammar for east end of Paisley and also building a smaller new school elsewhere.

I think the proposed location is very accessible and ideal spot.

Chivas building should be used as a whisky visitor centre as joint venture with Pernod Ricard creating new jobs

Grammar has been there at the present site for many years and would be a shame to take it away from the heart of paisley
Better location
Community hub
Depend what the plans are for the existing school
The destruction of such a historical area is wrong
Concern over use of current site
It would depend on what your plan for the historic existing building which has significant presence on glasgow road and it serves as a feature of paisley's past
One concern I have is what the space would be used should the move take place. Would it be left to rot or would it be turned into flats or green space? This would be a concern to residents in the area like myself, would there be another consultation for this? It would be disappointing to learn that I was going to be looking on to other flats having had the school there previously.
Paisley Grammar is a wonderful building steeped in history but sadly is no longer fit for purpose for a High School. Pupils and teachers should have the same facilities as other schools in Renfrew eg, St Andrews Academy and Glennifer High school. There are so many new campuses with amazing new technology, up to date equipment and fantastic outdoor space to push pupils to their highest potential, sadly Paisley Grammar Is not one of them. Obviously moving from Glasgow road will bring worries to local businesses that have managed to have the business of the pupils for a long time. I would hope the council would support these businesses by making new plans for the old school eg. A community hub or Flats something to bring the footfall back into the area.
Detrimental effect on Glasgow road businesses as dramatically less footfall in the area.
The local shops will loose the custom of lunch time kids
What about the local businesses that rely on the trade of the pupils eg Genova restaurant, Subway and many other food outlets
What will happen to such a beautiful historic building established 1586 if the pupils leave? The history of the school is linked and tied in with the current building in it's geographical location.
Would also effect local established businesses on Glasgow road
History contained in current building will be lost/destroyed
Proposed relocation would erode cultural and historical significance of Paisley Grammar School in current location.
Loss of traditional building/heritage
So must history will be lost.
The building currently used for the grammar is a local landmark
Proposed new campus not at the heart of the community (4.11)
school not in local community for eastend paisley
Proposed new campus not central to schools catchment area (4.18)
It's close to the college so it could help senior school make a transition there easier if they wish.
Is the catchment area going to be extended due to this new location?
Although I am strongly in favour of a new build for Paisley Grammar, I am yet to be convinced that the Chivas site is the most appropriate site for a new build school. I would have to be convinced that every care had been taken to ensure health and safety of pupils when the site is in such close proximity to a very busy main road. I would also have to be convinced that the air quality would not be detrimental to children's health given the site's close proximity to the sewage works.
The school is in a central location with good transport links and walking access
Distance from current site highly unsuitable, more thought should be given to building on Seedhill playing fields.
I don't see any benefits of putting a high school in that area.
New school could be built on seed hill playing fields dual access from seed hill road and Glasgow road
Non residential area, industrial and out of the way for much of the catchment

The vast majority of pupils who attend live in the east end of Paisley, nowhere near the proposed new site (Around 70% of the intake are from Ralston and Williamsburgh). It is ridiculous to displace this number of students and is in no way comparable to the closure and relocation of relatively few Merksworth High pupils, one of whom is my wife and many others are friends, and are also in full agreement with this statement. The site is an industrial one, it is unsuitable for a school which is part of the community so long as it remains within the community. Schooling is about far more than classroom learning and facilities. This heavily demotes the East End of Paisley as a desirable location to live and raise a family as part of a community. The land at CIBA, Hawkhead Road, could have been utilised before being sold off to housing. Seedhill playing fields has not been properly considered.
Unsuitable location
Why can't the original school be renovated
Perfect location and a lot safer than Renfrew Road.
Impact on nearby households
What about the impact on the area?
The mess in our street ! Children throwing litter around after school 'we have to pay for this as well as council tax !
There is clearly no room for expansion in the area which could be negative to the prospects of the school and pupils
I agree that more modern facilities are required and this is a good opportunity to have community centred space.
Much more appropriate area
Good links to neighbouring college
More opportunities for kids to link up with the college if closer together
Good use of the site
Links with local college
The new campus will allow closer links to the college which will provide opportunities for harnessing the knowledge and expertise of specialist teachers and special facilities for developing the young workforce.
To big a school if merging castlehead and grammar
The new school should retain its name
Distance from catchment
To far away
If relocated, St Andrews Academy must no longer be a RC School. Its intake should be from all local primary Schools including Ralston and Williamsburgh. A level playing field to local quality education facilities MUST be maintained without prejudice.
Need more detail as to the catchment area for the new proposed location. Paisley is very diverse and 'lumping' all the kids together may not be ideal for their needs.
Safety and pollution a main concern in this location.
Travel to and from school a concern.

Responses:

<p>Renfrewshire Council is committed to the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people. Traffic management schemes would be developed to promote positive and considerate behaviour around the school grounds and safe drop off facilities ensure appropriate levels of pedestrian / vehicular segregation and Children's Services would ensure the Council's road safety teams were central to the development of safe walking routes.</p> <p>It is envisaged that all young people entitled to a place at the new campus will attend and benefit from new facilities which are fit for purpose.</p> <p>The Council promotes healthy and balanced meals options through its catering arrangements. Children and young people are also encouraged to make healthy eating choices through the health and wellbeing curriculum.</p>
<p>If the proposal to relocate the school to a new community campus is approved the building and its grounds will be declared surplus to requirement and referred to the Head of Property Services (FRCS) to determine future use.</p>
<p>If the proposal to relocate the school to a new community campus is approved, the historical contents of the old building can be relocated to the new campus or to an alternatively appropriate location. The cultural and historical significance of the building would be considered as part of the assessment of future use.</p>
<p>It is acknowledged that the location is not at the centre of the school's catchment area, however the overall assessment of potential sites suggested that a new build Paisley Grammar Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley provides an option which can accommodate the educational and community aspirations of the Council.</p>
<p>It is envisaged that the educational experience of children will be enhanced through the provision of bespoke resources which will be available at the new campus. The educational benefits of this proposal are laid out at section 6.3 of the Council's report "Proposal to consult on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley".</p>
<p>No. The relocation of the building does not affect catchment areas.</p>
<p>Renfrewshire Council is committed to the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people. Traffic management, road safety, safe walking routes and all other environmental factors would be addressed through the design development process.</p>
<p>Renfrewshire Council is committed to the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people. Children's Services would ensure the Council's road safety teams were central to the development of safe walking routes.</p>
<p>Renovation of the existing building will not address the challenges faced by the school in relation to outdoor education and activity.</p>
<p>Section 5 of the report "Proposal to consult on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley" - 12 March 2020, lays out the options appraisal criteria which determined that the site at Renfrew Road provides an option which can accommodate the educational and community aspirations of the Council. Section 6 of this report lays out the educational benefits of the proposal.</p>
<p>The Council's free school transport policy would apply for any young person entitled to attend the school who lived more than 2 miles from the school building and traffic management schemes would be developed to promote positive and considerate behaviour around the school grounds.</p> <p>If the proposal to relocate the school to a new community campus is approved the building and its grounds will be declared surplus to requirement and referred to the Head of Property Services (FRCS) to determine future use.</p>

The Council's free school transport policy would apply for any young person entitled to attend the school who lived more than 2 miles from the school building and traffic management schemes would be developed to promote positive and considerate behaviour around the school grounds. Safe drop off facilities will ensure appropriate levels of pedestrian / vehicular segregation and Children's Services would ensure the Council's road safety teams were central to the development safe walking routes.

Pupil safety when in the school building is a priority for the Council. All schools have local safety protocols which ensure appropriate segregation between children and young people and other users of the building; such as the arrangements in place to ensure the safety of children and young people where there is public use of shared sports hub facilities at Park Mains and Johnstone High Schools.

All environmental factors, including air quality, land conditions and topography will be fully assessed with any reasonable mitigations put in place prior to the design and construction of the campus.

The existing school building faces many challenges which cannot be addressed at the current location.

The impact of the new campus on the nearby neighbourhood would be assessed through the design development process.

The new community campus would have facilities which are fit for purpose.

The overall assessment of potential sites suggested that a new build Paisley Grammar Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley provides an option which can accommodate the educational and community aspirations of the Council.

The overall assessment of potential sites suggested that a new build Paisley Grammar Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley provides an option which can accommodate the educational and community aspirations of the Council.

The proposal does not involve the amalgamation or merger of Paisley Grammar and Castlehead

The proposal does not require a change to the name of the school.

The proposed site is in Paisley within the Paisley Grammar School catchment area.

The proposed site is within the Paisley Grammar School catchment area. It is acknowledged that this site may be further away for some young people but nearer for others and the Council's free school transport policy would apply for any young person entitled to attend the school who lived more than 2 miles from the school building.

The relocation of the building does not affect catchment areas and therefore the existing diverse cohort would be unchanged and traffic management, road safety, safe walking routes and all other environmental factors would be addressed through the design development process.

The relocation of the Paisley Grammar school building does not affect catchment areas. Those pupils living outwith the catchment area for Paisley Grammar School would not be entitled to a place at the school.

There is no plan to alter the denominational provision within Renfrewshire.

Traffic management schemes would be developed to promote positive and considerate behaviour around the school grounds and safe drop off facilities ensure appropriate levels of pedestrian / vehicular segregation and Children's Services would ensure the Council's road safety teams were central to the development of safe walking routes.

4.1.3 Financial

Questions:

Increased cost of providing school transport to the council.

Responses:

Renfrewshire Council is committed to providing facilities which are fit for purpose and will work with the Scottish Government to secure funding to support improvement in its educational infrastructure.
Resources previously spent on the existing building were required to ensure the environment was safe and free from hazards.
Transport costs are assessed as part of the financial implications of the proposal.

4.1.4 Health and wellbeing

Questions:

As the building is run down and cold, pupils and staff often come down with the cold and other illnesses.
Current location provides too many opportunities for pupils to be unhealthy at lunch time.
I'm not keen on the idea that KFC and McDonald's are near the new proposed site, they should be relocated away from school children. The last thing we need are more obese children.
Renfrew Road has fast food outlets mainly for lunch options
Older children who are allowed outside for lunch will no doubt go to the McDonald's across the road as there are no other places to purchase food.
Fast food establishments too close by
Renfrew Road food options are limited and mainly unhealthy choices.
New school would be too close to McDonald's and KFC
Too many fast food outlets close
Unable to walk to school
We have no onsite outdoor facilities for pupils to use which would be detrimental to attainment in PE and to pupils physical and mental well being.
The PE department often has mice, which creates issues with hygiene and illness.
Poor conditions in classrooms and PE base, water leaking, mice and silver fish.
The working conditions for both staff and pupils is of a poor standard. Most classrooms/working areas are infested with Silverfish (bugs) and there are regular infestations of mice.
Vast majority of pupils being driven to school instead of healthy walking and increased pollution.
With fast food chains within walking distance the roads will be a death zone for children.
Although the positives outweigh the negatives, I have concern over the speed of the road and proximity to McDonalds encouraging kids out at lunch time, unhealthy food and road safety concerns.
It is further to travel for my son, he would need to get a bus or cycle.

Responses:

Renfrewshire Council is committed to the wellbeing of all children and young people and it promotes healthy and balanced meals options through its catering arrangements. Children and young people are also encouraged to make healthy eating choices through the health and wellbeing curriculum.
The new community campus would have facilities which are fit for purpose.
The Council's free school transport policy would apply for any young person entitled to attend the school who lived more than 2 miles from the school building.
Traffic management schemes would be developed to promote positive and considerate behaviour around the school grounds and safe drop off facilities ensure appropriate levels of pedestrian / vehicular segregation and Children's Services would ensure the Council's road safety teams were central to the development of safe walking routes.

4.1.5 Infrastructure

Questions:

Would be of great benefit if a bridge could be built across the water for easier access from Glasgow Airport.
A new school building would be fantastic for children/young people and offer more comfortable and update resources for pupils and staff
Better facility
Having indoor and outdoor PE facilities on site will be a big plus
Better facilities for kids
More space, could incorporate a better sports area
A new building with up to date technology would be fantastic for the children
Need custom built school campus
A building built for purpose of todays needs.
New facilities are necessary to provide the best education for young people in a technologically enhanced world. A complete redesign for the school will allow for technological developments throughout the school estate.
New build would provide appropriate, modern outdoor sports facilities.
Access to sporting facilities instead of accessing other schools.
Potential for more outside space that current school doesn't have
PGS pupils deserve better IT provision in 2020.
Insufficient technology, partly due to age of building
Need need school to have adequate sports facilities
New build should incorporate up to date ITC equipment including smart boards for all classrooms.
Complement the strengths of the music/drama departments with a studio similar to old Merksworth High School studio.
All for the new school, however worried about surrounding infrastructure including roads, traffic and public transport.
I do believe the facilities would improve however it is unclear in the alternatives.
No information provided on what the new facilities will be and how they differ to current
Newly Building/ Environmentally Friendly
A new modern school would be in the best interest of my son
A bigger campus is needed as the intake of pupil will increase with the new housing estates that are getting built in Hawkhead road and beyond.
More information on viability of new build at existing site required (4.17)
My concerns, however, would be transport and infrastructure in an already very busy road. Children would need to go in buses from the majority of homes as new site is not central for most residential areas of Paisley. Businesses in the Glasgow road area will undoubtedly suffer when the school moves and what would the plan be for the current school building and land - it cannot be allowed to be left derelict
Industrial / commercial area

Responses:

It is envisaged that the educational experience of children will be enhanced through the provision of bespoke resources which will be available at the new campus. The educational benefits of this proposal are laid out at section 6.3 of the Council's report "Proposal to consult on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley".
The new campus would have all the facilities required of a modern secondary school including dining facilities. Renfrewshire Council is committed to the wellbeing of all children and young people and it promotes healthy and balanced meals options through its catering arrangements. Children and young people are also encouraged to make healthy eating choices through the health and wellbeing curriculum.
The new community campus would have facilities which are fit for purpose.

Renfrewshire Council is committed to the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people. Traffic management, road safety, safe walking routes and all other environmental factors would be addressed through the design development process.
Section 5 of the report "Proposal to consult on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley" - 12 March 2020, lays out the options appraisal criteria which determined that the site at Renfrew Road provides an option which can accommodate the educational and community aspirations of the Council. Section 6 of this report lays out the educational benefits of the proposal.
The education and children's service policy board report "Proposal to consult on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley" - 12 March 2020, lays out the educational benefits of the proposal to relocate the school. Actual physical provision is determined via a design development process which is informed by the school community.
The size of the existing site at Paisley Road is insufficient for the requirements of a new secondary school.
Renfrewshire Council is committed to the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people. Traffic management, road safety, safe walking routes and all other environmental factors would be addressed through the design development process. If the proposal to relocate the school to a new community campus is approved the building and its grounds will be declared surplus to requirement and referred to the Head of Property Services (FRCS) to determine future use.

4.1.6 Learning and teaching

Questions:

I agree that the options on building a new school on a different site is best as this means time can be taken to build what is necessary while the children are unaffected at the current school and then can move in once complete.
The children deserve a new campus which meets the standards they deserve without having to choose another school outwith the catchment area just to get a decent environment for learning.
More opportunities for learning in purpose built classrooms
PGS pupils are disadvantaged because of the lack of facilities.
I think it's a fantastic opportunity for the pupils and teachers to access modern suitable facilities to teach and learn.
No onsite outdoor sports facilities at the school which makes our timetable very difficult and impacts learning and teaching.
We have no outdoor facilities in the PE dept. This means we have to walk down to Seedhill which has a massive impact on learning and teaching.
There are no onsite outdoor sport facilities at the current campus which is detrimental to learning and teaching in PE. Travel time to Seedhill reduces activity time by twenty minutes at least for each class.
The current building is run down, meaning that a number of classrooms and changing rooms are unusable due to damage. This impacts pupils' learning environment negatively as they don't respect their surroundings as they are falling apart.
Up to date learning (I.T.)
We need a new building with modern facilities and infrastructure fit for purpose. Our kids are at a real disadvantage from other schools in the authority. It would be great for kids to get a range of teaching experiences in an environment which is safe for learning.
The staff in this school have been doing a great job despite of the teaching areas they have been using. The pupils and staff need a better facility to engage the pupils and allow them to learn the skills they will need to make Paisley the thriving town it deserves to be.
Lack of modern infrastructure (wifi, PCs, laptops etc) to allow pupils to learn about what they will need to become a member of a modern workforce.
Paisley Grammar pupils deserve to be given an education that supports them to achieve in all aspects of their education in a safe environment.

Responses:

It is envisaged that the educational experience of children will be enhanced through the provision of bespoke resources which will be available at the new campus. The educational benefits of this proposal are laid out at section 6.3 of the Council's report "Proposal to consult on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley".

The new community campus would have facilities which are fit for purpose.

4.1.7 Miscellaneous

Questions:

Great idea and badly needed

What is the alternative?

Ability to still operate while new school being built and just a matter of transfer when schools built. And not far from existing school.

Responses:

It is envisaged that the educational experience of children will be enhanced through the provision of bespoke resources which will be available at the new campus. The educational benefits of this proposal are laid out at section 6.3 of the Council's report "Proposal to consult on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley".

Section 5 of the report "Proposal to consult on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley" - 12 March 2020, lays out the options appraisal criteria which determined that the site at Renfrew Road provides an option which can accommodate the educational and community aspirations of the Council.

There would be no construction disruption.

4.1.8 Safety and transport

Questions:

Although I agree with the need for building a new school I am concerned about how children from the Ralston area are to get along to the proposed site, without direct buses they will struggle to get there easily.

The school is in a central location with good transport links and walking access

I am neither for or against the proposal. I have had to chose an option for or against just to complete this response form. I have chosen against as my daughters will have a longer journey to take to and from school that they would have had in the current school location.

location - see below

safety - see below

Easier for transport

The lack of grounds make intervals and lunchtimes difficult. Pupils end up hanging about the streets which is a safety risk.

Increase of traffic and congestion on an already busy main road.

Renfrew Road is an access road to M8 and airport and already extremely fast moving and busy

The location is extremely dangerous, the road has awful accidents and this will make the road even busier. As a local resident trying to navigate Renfrew road at busy time is horrendous as it is.

travel distance from eastend paisley very busy roads

will help to reduce congestion on glasgow road

Safety of children on said busy main road.
Amount of traffic already on Renfrew Road is high and eillnrise
easy accessible on foot or public transport.
Well serviced by public transport
The road is so limited and congested unless there was new road link from the B&Q area taking you toward love st etc the chaos this will create is unthinkable.
my children will not be walking along busy roads for over hour to get to school eastend deserves local school
As stated, you are running the risk of children being seriously injured on the Renfrew road.
LOCATION - WILL BE AWKWARD AND DANGEROUS FOR DROPPING OFF AND PICKING UP CHILDREN
INCREASE OF TRAFFIC ON THE RENFREW ROAD AND SURROUNDING AREA
The new location does not have good road safety access, busier road due to motorway
EXTRA PUBLIC TRANSPORT WOULD BE NEEDED
Renfrew Rad has a history of bad road accidents
I am very much in favour of the council developing a new larger school with modern facilities which will be of great benefit to young people in Paisley. My main concern is that of transport. I think any school proposal should have safe active travel as one of its underpinning considerations which whilst mentioned in the report, isn't given detailed consideration. I would have serious concerns around my son cycling on the busy route via Seedhill Rd, Lacey St, Glasgow Rd and Renfrew Rd and I can't visualise how and where you would create off road cycle routes in these areas.
There are safe quiet cycle routes available to Castlehead High and St Andrews Academy therefore in selecting this new location I believe many will request placement in other high schools which may not have been factored into your projection numbers.
As well as active travel, if this site is taken forward, green space and large outdoor sports facilities should be embedded in the design.
I am concerned about the the traffic on Renfrew Road, the increase in traffic and footfall on what is already an extremely busy stretch of road. Teenagers will take risks crossing roads.
Contd. What sort of safety considerations and traffic calming measure will be put in place?
I support the move to relocate the school, but have real concerns for children travelling from the east end of Ralston. There is no direct transport for those children and an already lengthy journey is likely to increase significantly. I am also concerned about how busy Renfrew Road will become as would imagine majority from Ralston will drive children to school given distance. I would also prefer that a move for the Grammar also then has a domino effect for St John Ogilvie and Williamsburgh who could combine and share a campus in old Grammar footprint as expansion of those schools is needed to cope with increasing Hawkhead estates
The traffic on Renfrew road is terrible right now but, placing a high school there will result in the road becoming even more dangerous. As there will be in an increase in the number of pupils attending so too parents dropping off/picking up.
Horrendous traffic problems no matter what traffic management systems are put in place.
The new location does not have good road safety access, busier road due to motorway.
Renfrew Road has been notorious for bad road accidents.
New site will be on a very busy road increasing chance.of road traffic accidents for dopsmoff and pick up time.
Busy Road
Busy road for dropping off and collecting children Poor cycle routes
Busy road increases risk of children being injured
New site on a very busy road posing a risk to the children when moving around local area
Not very accessible for parents to drop kids off
On a very busy road

Poor transport links
Renfrew road and one way junction would not cope with increased traffic
Site is unsuitable, Renfrew Road a very busy and dangerous road with a huge traffic volume given its proximity to Glasgow Airport, M8 slip road and retail park. Airport noise and sewage works atmosphere unsuitable.
Terrible transport links
The proposed location is much busier with existing traffic and potentially more dangerous for kids
There is no reasonable place for people to cross without them running across the road, again a traffic hazard.
Traffic on Renfrew road is already challenging and it will further impede movement on a main route in and out of Paisley
The main toad traffic and commuting of pupils concerns me, measure need to be installed to provide a safe walking/commuting route to and from school
This location will be perfect. Just concerned for my son walking across the road at b&q/motorway and hope there is a new road crossing planned
The only issue I have is safe travel to and from the campus from all directions.
Distance for catchment pupils to travel as they will be unable to walk
Journey time to school is doubled with no direct public transport available. Will transport be provided and as live out with catchment would my child be able to take it?
Too Far from our house
Students from edges of Paisley will find this location difficult to travel to i.e. lots will be unable to walk.
Transport
People who are unable to drive or can't afford public transport everyday are at a disadvantage due to the new location.
Distance
Current pupils will be required to travel a lot further to get to Renfrew Road.
How will Ralston pupils travel to the new site as it will be 2.7 miles from my house in Ralston to the new site?
Traffic, safety and busy
Limited transport links making access to a hook more difficult
School will be at the centre of what is already a retail park instead of near green space.
I am reluctant to send my daughter - currently P7 at Todholm Primary - to Paisley Grammar because of the location of the proposed new build. I feel that it is too far away from our home address and the one way system in place in that part of Paisley makes it very difficult for me to drive her there in the morning and still get to work on time myself. The roads are very busy in that area and I feel concerned about the safety aspect her making her own way to the school on foot from the town centre.
I believe providing new facilities for the Paisley Grammar is long overdue however, if the school is going to be placed at the Chivas site measures must be addressed and put in place. The road is extremely busy and pavements are not adequate in size for all of our children to be safe, this must be addressed. Increasing the size of the school will inevitably increase the number of pupils attending, and in turn the number of footfall outside the school grounds. If children are to be allowed out of school grounds at lunch time, other options for food must be provided to try deter them from eating fast food everyday. Transportation for children who aren't able to be dropped off or families who cannot afford public transport everyday, needs to be looked at. Additionally, a lot of children walk to school by themselves therefore, new traffic signals, road humps, speed cameras, traffic patrol etc. leading up to the new site, must be addressed to ensure an increased level of safety.

<p>No information on impacts of substantial new travel arrangements for majority of pupils (new single journey bus arrangements to and from new site from Ralston and Williamsburgh for example). Would a free bus be provided to and from the proposed new campus?</p> <p>No estimated timescales for build offered and no explanation of how the build, if approved, would impact existing and newly enlisting students for sessions 2020/2021, 2021/2022, and thereafter depending on proposed completion date of new build.</p> <p>More evidence required as to the suitability of the topography of proposed new build (4.18)</p>
The school is in disrepair and not up to par

Responses:

<p>Renfrewshire Council is committed to the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people. Traffic management schemes would be developed to promote positive and considerate behaviour around the school grounds and safe drop off facilities ensure appropriate levels of pedestrian / vehicular segregation and Children's Services would ensure the Council's road safety teams were central to the development of safe walking routes.</p>
<p>Renfrewshire Council is committed to the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people. Traffic management, road safety, safe walking routes and all other environmental factors would be addressed through the design development process.</p>
<p>The Council's free school transport policy would apply for any young person entitled to attend the school who lived more than 2 miles from the school building and traffic management schemes would be developed to promote positive and considerate behaviour around the school grounds. Safe drop off facilities will ensure appropriate levels of pedestrian / vehicular segregation and Children's Services would ensure the Council's road safety teams were central to the development safe walking routes.</p>
<p>The Council's free school transport policy would apply for any young person entitled to attend the school who lived more than 2 miles from the school building.</p>
<p>The overall assessment of potential sites suggested that a new build Paisley Grammar Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley provides an option which can accommodate the educational and community aspirations of the Council.</p>
<p>Traffic management schemes would be developed to promote positive and considerate behaviour around the school grounds and safe drop off facilities ensure appropriate levels of pedestrian / vehicular segregation and Children's Services would ensure the Council's road safety teams were central to the development of safe walking routes.</p>
<p>Children's Services would ensure the Council's road safety teams were central to the development of safe walking routes and the Council's free school transport policy would apply for any young person entitled to attend the school who lived more than 2 miles from the school building.</p>
<p>The relocation of the building does not affect catchment areas.</p>
<p>The Council's free school transport policy would apply for any young person entitled to attend the school who lived more than 2 miles from the school building.</p> <p>At this point Renfrewshire Council is engaging with the school community to determine the views of that community on a proposal to relocate the school. Subject to approval to proceed, the design development phase would commence. This would be informed by the views of stakeholders and a timeline would be determined and communicated. If approved, the build would not impact on any new cohort as it is remote from the existing building where the new cohorts would remain until the new campus was available.</p> <p>All environmental factors, including land conditions and topography will be fully assessed with any reasonable mitigations put in place prior to the design and construction of the campus.</p>

4.2 Email and written submissions:

I am generally in favour of proposals to relocate the school to a modern building on a larger site. However the proposed new site is some distance from the current site and the proposals will involve increased travel for many pupils and parents. I am currently a

resident of the estate to the South of the proposed site adjacent to the McDonalds restaurant. I am concerned about the impact of increased traffic on the Renfrew Road and the current roundabout which currently serves the site. I think it is essential that all buses and cars associated with the proposal are not parked for any length of time on Renfrew Road (one of the busiest roads in Renfrewshire). The proposed site is large enough to be able to offer generous onsite parking for all buses and cars belonging to staff, parents dropping off children and even pupils themselves. Serious consideration needs to be given to improvements to the road access to the proposed site. Despite the increase in quality, quantity and choice of school meals since my time as a pupil, I would envisage a demand from pupils to visit the McDonalds restaurant on the South side of Renfrew Road and the bus stops servicing buses heading into Paisley Town Centre. This should be taken into account in the traffic management proposals.

R: Thank you for your comments and contribution to the formal consultation on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School. In relation to the observations you have made with regard to the location of the new community campus and issues relating to traffic and road safety, please be assured that Renfrewshire Council is committed to the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people and its communities. Traffic management schemes will be developed to promote positive and considerate behaviour around the school grounds and safe drop off facilities will ensure appropriate levels of pedestrian / vehicular segregation. In this respect Children's Services will ensure the Council's roads and transport teams are central to the development of this proposal.

I would like to put forward my views on the possible relocation of Paisley Grammar School. The long history of the school, established under royal charter, over 500 years ago, is recognised, as well as its location being within the town centre during this period. The current building is grade B listed and over 120 years old. The use of this building must be considered if any move does take place. You will know that there were plans for the closure of the school in the 1980's which were changed after intervention from Westminster.

The catchment area for the school covers a wide area, primarily the east end of Paisley. The effect the school has a wide variety of benefits in the area. For instance, the businesses located in the area benefiting from having the school in the vicinity, with children and relatives making use of the local economy. If the school was removed from Glasgow Road the businesses in the area would suffer, less footfall, less impetus to come to the east end of Paisley. At the current time this is not something that should be taken lightly, there are other areas of our town showing the current economic stresses. I would like to draw your attention to the National Planning Framework (NPF3); 'NPF3 reflects the importance of town centres as a key element of the economic and social fabric of Scotland. Much of Scotland's population lives and works in towns, within city regions, in our rural areas and on our coasts and islands. Town centres are at the heart of their communities and can be hubs for a range of activities. It is important that planning supports the role of town centres to thrive and meet the needs of their residents, businesses and visitors for the 21st century'. I feel that I should also raise the town centre first principle; 'The town centre first principle, stemming from the Town Centre Action Plan, promotes an approach to wider decision-making that considers the health and vibrancy of town centres.' The policy principle I think needs to be addressed too; 'Planning for town centres should be flexible and proactive, enabling a wide range of uses which bring people into town centres. The planning system should: apply a town centre first policy [33] when planning for uses which attract significant numbers of people, including retail and commercial leisure, offices, community and cultural facilities; encourage a mix of uses in town centres to support their vibrancy, vitality and viability throughout the day and into the evening; ensure development plans, decision-

making and monitoring support successful town centres; and consider opportunities for promoting residential use within town centres where this fits with local need and demand. The full details can be found in the NPF3 document;

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-planning-policy/>

Removing the Grammar from the town centre will sever the links between the school and the local community, of that there can be no doubt. The strong links this school has are easily examined by those involved in the campaign for it to remain open in the 1980's. There are still a number of Grammarians that have developed careers that have a strong affection and interest in the town because of this strong link. Removing a school from the heart of a town, moving to its outskirts in an industrial area, with no local businesses, no services, difficult and constrained transport infrastructure, is not sensible in my opinion. Looking at transport, there would be a large scale commute for pupils from one side of Paisley to the proposed site. This would be mass movement on the A762 to Renfrew Road through narrow railway tunnels at peak congestion times. Commutes from one end of Paisley to another during peak times is not a good idea in my opinion. I hope that you would consider these points as part of your consultation process.

R: Thank you for your comments and contribution to the formal consultation on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School. In relation to the observations you have made with regard to the location of the new community campus, please be assured that the process of options appraisal considered all appropriate sites in all potential locations within the catchment area of the school. In this respect, it is believed that the site at Renfrew Road best meets the requirements of a new community campus as it has the potential to deliver educational and community benefit to the children and young people of Paisley Grammar and the wider school community while no other options, within the town centre area, could address these requirements. Additional to this is Renfrewshire Council's ambition to improve the educational experience of children and young people attending Paisley Grammar School by aligning this proposal with its programme of economic regeneration in Paisley and the opportunities which arise from accommodating Paisley Grammar Community Campus within an education corridor which also includes West College Scotland.

Please also be assured that the concerns you highlight around road safety; traffic management; and transport to and from school will be addressed through the design development phase of this proposal, should it be approved and progressed. In this respect Renfrewshire Council is committed to the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people. Traffic management schemes would be developed to promote positive and considerate behaviour around the school grounds and safe drop off facilities ensure appropriate levels of pedestrian / vehicular segregation and Children's Services would ensure the Council's road safety teams were central to the development of safe walking routes. Where it is not possible to walk to school the Council's free school transport policy would apply for any young person entitled to attend the school who lived more than 2 miles from the school building.

You also note concern regarding the historic links to the town centre and the potential impact of this proposal on local business. Please be assured that the historical contents of the old building can be relocated to the new campus or to an alternatively appropriate location to ensure there is no legacy loss and I am advised by colleagues within the Council's planning department that any matters arising in relation to planning policy, in terms of future use of the existing building, will be addressed in any planning application that follows.

- 4.3 Comments and responses from a representative group of children and young people potentially affected by the proposal.
- 4.3.1 Paisley Grammar School and its associated Primary Schools were asked to undertake a survey with children and young people on the proposal to relocate the school to a new build community campus.
- 4.3.2 It is noted that representative groups of children and young people from Paisley Grammar School and almost all its associated primary schools (Gallowhill, Ralston, Todholm and Williamsburgh Primary Schools) recorded their support for the proposal. Details of their observations are attached as an appendix to this report.
- 4.3.3 One associated primary school, Mossvale, submitted its survey details after the formal consultation closed. While supportive of the proposal the comments have been issued to Education Scotland but they do not form part of the formal response.
- 4.3.4 Renfrewshire Council welcomes the positive comments received from children and young people and will seek to address the concerns intimated by some through appropriate feedback and reassurance when the final decision on this proposal is made.

5 Feedback on virtual public consultation meetings.

- 5.1 Renfrewshire Council values feedback on its approach to consultation and therefore conducted a short survey to ascertain levels of satisfaction with the arrangements implemented to conduct this public consultation online.
- 5.2 Responses to this survey indicated that respondents found the online meetings informative and the presentations on the proposals clear.
- 5.3 In total 25 individuals responded to the survey with 24 individuals scoring their levels of satisfaction with meetings as 3, 4 or 5 out of 5.

THIS IS A CONSULTATION DOCUMENT
Proposals relating to:

**The relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus
at Renfrew Road in Paisley**

1. Introduction

- a. The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (“the 2010 Act”) makes provision for the consultation process that is to apply re: various proposals made by Councils for schools. The principal purpose of the 2010 Act is to provide strong, accountable statutory consultation practices and procedures that local authorities must apply to their handling of all proposals for school closures and other major changes to schools. These consultation processes are expected to be robust, open, transparent and fair, and seen to be so. They are also expected to be consistent across Scotland. The 2010 Act applies to a wide range of changes to the school estate, referred to as “relevant proposals”.
- b. This report seeks approval to consult on the proposal to relocate Paisley Grammar School. In accordance with Section 2 and Schedule 1, Para 3 of the 2010 Act a proposal to relocate a school is a relevant proposal for the purposes of the 2010 Act.
- 1.3 This is the proposal paper, produced by the Council in accordance with the terms of Sections 1 and 4 of the 2010 Act. This proposal paper must:
 - a) set out the details of the relevant proposal;
 - b) propose a date for implementation of the proposal;
 - c) contain the educational benefits statement in respect of the proposal;
 - d) refer to such evidence or other information in support of (or otherwise relevant in relation to) the proposal as the Council considers appropriate; and
 - e) give a summary of the process provided for in the 2010 Act.

The Council must do the following:

- a) publish this proposal paper in electronic and printed form;
- b) make the paper, and (so far as practicable) a copy of any separate documentation that it refers to, available for inspection at all reasonable times and without charge:
 - (i) at its head office and on its website; and
 - (ii) at any affected school or at a public library or some other suitable place within the vicinity of the school.

- c) provide without charge the information contained in this proposal paper:
 - (i) to such persons as may reasonably require that information in another form; and
 - (ii) in such other form as may reasonably be requested by such persons.
- d) advertise the publication of the proposal paper by such means as it considers appropriate.

2 Correction of the proposal paper

- 2.1 Where, during the consultation period, the Council has been notified of an alleged omission of relevant information from a proposal paper or an alleged inaccuracy in a proposal paper the Council must proceed as follows:
 - a) determine if relevant information has (in its opinion) been omitted and whether there is (in fact) an inaccuracy;
 - b) inform the notifier of its determination under paragraph (a), and the reasons for that determination;
 - c) inform the notifier as to the action (if any) it is taking and of the reasons why it is, or is not, taking such action; and
 - d) invite the notifier to make representations to the Council if the notifier disagrees with the Council's determination under paragraph (a) or its decision as to whether to take action.
- 2.2 Where the notifier makes further representation under paragraph 2(d) above, the Council may make a fresh determination as to whether relevant information has been omitted or there is (in fact) an inaccuracy and the Council may make a fresh decision as to whether to take action. The Council must inform the notifier if it makes a fresh determination referred to above, or if it makes a fresh decision as to whether to take action.
- 2.3 Where, having been notified by another person as described above, the Council determines that:
 - a) relevant information has been omitted from the proposal paper, or
 - b) there is (in fact) an inaccuracy in the proposal paper; and
 - c) where the Council discovers, during the consultation period that relevant information has been omitted from a proposal paper or discovers an inaccuracy in a proposal paper, the Council must proceed as follows:
- 2.4 Where the information that has been omitted or the inaccuracy relates to a material consideration relevant to the Council's decision as to implementation of the proposal, it must:
 - (i) publish a corrected proposal paper,
 - (ii) give revised notice in accordance with the 2010 Act and
 - (iii) send a copy of the corrected paper to Education Scotland, or
 - (iv) issue a notice to the relevant consultees and Education Scotland providing the omitted information or, as the case may be, correcting the inaccuracy, and, if the Council considers it appropriate, extending the consultation period by such period as is reasonable by reference to the

significance of the information provided or, as the case may be, the nature of the correction.

- 2.5 Where the information that has been omitted or the inaccuracy does not relate to a material consideration, the Council may, but is not obliged to, take steps (i)-(iii) or (iv) described above, and may also take no further action, except to report the inaccuracy/omission as required by the 2010 Act in the consultation report, which is referred to in more detail below.
- 2.6 Where, after the end of the consultation period, the Council issues a notice to the relevant consultees and Education Scotland providing the omitted information or correcting the inaccuracy, that notice may, instead of extending the consultation period, specify such further period during which representations may be made on the proposal as is reasonable by reference to the significance of the information provided or, as the case may be, the nature of the correction. Any such further period is to be treated as part of the consultation period for the purposes of the 2010 Act.

3 Consultation arrangements

- 3.1 As confirmed above, the present proposal is a relevant proposal for the purposes of the 2010 Act, and therefore the Council will adhere to the consultation process in the 2010 Act.
- 3.2 This consultation document provides background information to the proposal to relocate Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley. It details the proposal and indicates a timeframe for implementation should the proposal be approved.
- 3.3 This consultation document also includes the Council's Educational Benefits Statement.

4 Rationale for Change and Strategic Context

- 4.1 In May 2019 the education and children's services policy board approved the report "Developing the School Estate Management Plan (SEMP 2020)" which included a proposal to replace Paisley Grammar School with a new learning environment to meet the needs of the school's pupils and the local community.
- 4.2 Through its school estate project team, the Council reviewed the performance of the school estate in terms of core fact findings, which relate to the sufficiency; condition; and suitability of buildings and assessed current and future housing development; considering how new housing impacted on roll projections.
-
- 4.3 Condition surveys of the secondary school estate showed that: 4 schools were categorised at condition level "A"; 6 schools were categorised at condition level "B"; and 1 school, Paisley Grammar School, was categorised at condition level "C" which means that the building is showing signs of major defect and that it is not operating as intended. To address the situation at

Paisley Grammar School the Council has invested in essential repairs and maintenance to ensure that facilities remain fit for purpose.

- 4.4 Assessment of the suitability of the secondary school estate showed that: 5 schools were categorised at suitability level “A”; 5 schools were categorised at suitability level “B”; and 1 school, Paisley Grammar School, was categorised at suitability level “C” which means that the building has major problems affecting its operational efficiency.
- 4.5 On the basis of current roll projection, it is anticipated that a new Paisley Grammar School will have to accommodate circa 1,200 pupils.
- 4.6 The combined assessment of current performance and future need informed the prioritisation process and provided the evidence base which supported the proposal to invest in the relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley.
- 4.7 The Council’s vision for its school estate is to promote learning and achievement, and to give children and young people the opportunity to learn in the best possible environment by providing facilities that are fit for learning in the 21st century.
- 4.8 This vision is underpinned in our local objectives:
 - to provide the best educational experience for all learners in Renfrewshire;
 - to satisfy the condition, sufficiency and suitability core facts;
 - to retain services within communities where possible; and
 - to provide environmentally and economically sustainable facilities with lower carbon footprints.
- 4.9 This proposal for a new Paisley Grammar Community Campus has been developed in line with the Scottish Government’s “Scotland’s Learning Estate Strategy”; following the strategy’s guiding principles:
 - learning environments should support and facilitate excellent joined up learning and teaching to meet the needs of all learners;
 - learning environments should support the wellbeing of all learners, meet varying needs to support inclusion and support transitions for all learners;
 - the learning estate should be well-managed and maintained, making the best of existing resources, maximising occupancy and representing and delivering best value;
 - the condition and suitability of learning environments should support and enhance their function;
 - learning environments should serve the wider community and where appropriate be integrated with the delivery of other public services in line with the place principle;
 - learning environments should be greener, more sustainable, allow safe and accessible routes for walking, cycling and wheeling and be digitally enabled;

- outdoor learning and the use of outdoor learning environments should be maximised;
- good consultation about learning environments, direct engagement with learners and communities about their needs and experiences, and an involvement in decision making processes should lead to better outcomes for all;
- collaboration across the learning estate, and collaboration with partners in localities, should support maximising its full potential; and
- investment in Scotland's learning estate should contribute towards improving learning outcomes and support sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

4.10 The proposal aligns with the commitments of the national performance framework and also supports many of the Scottish Government's education policy ambitions:

- A new Paisley Grammar Community Campus would support the three key national education and skills priorities: Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC); Curriculum for Excellence (CfE); and Developing the Young Workforce (DYW);
- The proposal would provide bespoke intensive support facilities designed around the needs of the young person;
- It would provide "A" rated facilities in terms of condition and suitability;
- State of the art digital technology would support learning experiences and the creation of new and diverse skills, improving links to business and enterprise;
- The high standard of facilities would demonstrate that learning is valued in Renfrewshire;
- The proposal would contribute to the development of well-educated and skilled young people who are able to contribute to society;
- It would support families by providing facilities for after school and holiday childcare; and
- It could have the capacity to accommodate social and community provisions which support local empowerment.

4.11 The proposal also accords with the government's infrastructure plan and aspiration for shared arrangements and collaborative working with the college sector.

- It would build upon existing opportunities for partnership working between the secondary school and college in alternative curriculum provisions such as: hospitality; early years practice; sports; drama; and apprenticeships.
- The facilities, which would be agreed and developed throughout the design phase, might include enhanced social areas such as a community café. It could also provide theatre / performance and enterprise space for the use of the school, wider community and local business. The proposal could also provide training and enterprise facilities and conference spaces, supported by extensive catering

facilities, to be utilised by local businesses encouraging growth in our local economy.

- It is envisaged that the new campus would be at the heart of the community and that there would be collaboration with locality partners through an integrated approach which would achieve outcomes that are wider than just attainment.
- The new campus would become a centre of learning for the whole community during and after the school day. The location of the new campus and the opportunities for building strong relationships with Renfrewshire Leisure and the local community would provide lasting benefits for all people within the surrounding area.
- This type of investment in the learning estate offers the opportunity for a place-based approach to local outcomes; integrating local services to support communities; and it could progress the public sector reform agenda. This could be enabled through collaborative planning and working and shared use of assets. The opportunity of a joined-up approach to place making through this type of campus would maximise the benefits of investment to the locality it would serve.
- A school-based health and social work team could take a proactive approach to prevention, early-intervention, and support. Co-locating teams in education establishments could enable all to work more closely with children and their families, especially where the child is care-experienced or at risk of being so. This team could work collaboratively with education colleagues to improve attendance, attainment and achievement at Paisley Grammar School as well as supporting young people throughout Renfrewshire.
- The new campus would provide a high-quality learning environment which young people and their communities could enjoy and be proud of. It will encourage continuous engagement with learning and it could provide an accessible range of services and opportunities which would enrich the local community and the lives of learners and their families.
- The inclusion of a library / resource facility could also open up a number of significant opportunities for community learning and wider involvement such as lifelong learning; digital access; intergenerational opportunities; health and wellbeing support; creative opportunities; reducing social isolation; literacy; numeracy; employability support; parenting; early literacy (Bookbug); primary school visits; information literacy; further and higher education application support; and Developing the Young Workforce.
- The daily interactions young people could have with those using the library and other social spaces would promote positive relationships and citizenship and provide opportunities for intergenerational work.
- Where community facilities are located within the campus, the Council will work with all relevant groups to ensure that issues related to access and security are fully considered throughout the design phase of the new building.

4.12 An options appraisal process has been used to determine project viability and the identification of a suitable location within the catchment area.

- 4.13 In accordance with HM Treasury Green Book guidance, a baseline case is included to allow comparisons to be made against a common 'benchmark' position when evaluating options.
- 4.14 The project viability options considered were:
- do nothing, maintain the status quo;
 - refurbish the existing buildings;
 - build a new community campus at the existing location; and
 - build a new community campus at an alternative location within the catchment area.
- 4.15 The success criteria evaluated asked if the project options provided:
- the best educational experience for all learners in Renfrewshire (holistic impact);
 - a learning environment which supports the delivery of the curriculum;
 - environmentally sustainable facilities with lower carbon footprints;
 - satisfactory building conditions;
 - satisfactory sufficiency levels; and
 - suitable educational facilities.
- 4.16 This aspect of the appraisal highlights that building a new community campus at an alternative location within the catchment area is the most appropriate option.
- 4.17 From a long list of potential sites, the following short list was considered in more detail:
- Option 1. New build Paisley Grammar Community Campus at existing location;
 - Option 2. New build Paisley Grammar Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley; and
 - Option 3. New build Paisley Grammar Community Campus at Seedhill Road in Paisley.
- 4.18 The success criteria evaluated asked if the option provided a site which was:
- big enough with suitable topography;
 - within local authority ownership;
 - accessible with good pedestrian and vehicle access;
 - central to the school's catchment area;
 - supported by good public transport links;
 - supportive of the wellbeing of the building's users (local environmental factors); and
 - not detrimental to any community groups or local organisations.

- 4.19 The overall assessment suggests that a new build Paisley Grammar Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley provides the best outcome for children and young people and the school community.
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5. Educational Benefits

- 5.1. Under the 2010 Act the Council must prepare an educational benefits statement (EBS) in accordance with Sections 1 and 3 of the 2010 Act.
- 5.2. The EBS must include the following:
- a) the Council's assessment of the likely educational effects of a relevant proposal (if implemented) on:
 - (i) the pupils of any affected school;
 - (ii) any other users of the school's facilities;
 - (iii) any children who would (in the future but for implementation) be likely to become pupils of the school; or
 - (iv) the pupils of any other schools in the Council's area,
 - b) the Council's assessment of any other likely effects of the proposal (if implemented),
 - c) an explanation of how the Council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse educational effects that may arise from the proposal (if implemented),
 - d) a description of the educational benefits which the Council believes will result from implementation of the proposal (with reference to the persons whom it believes will derive them), as well as the Council's reasons for coming to those beliefs.
- 5.3. The following paragraphs detail the Council's Educational Benefits Statement:
- 5.3.1. How does the proposal support improvement in the curriculum?
- The young people would be at the centre of the new learning campus with the facility designed to deliver the vision of integrated learning and teaching. The flexible use of space and creative use of new technologies would ensure a learning experience that is relevant, meaningful and challenging for young people.
 - A new building would be designed to support the full breadth of the curriculum. It would provide spaces for teacher directed learning; breakout areas for independent or small group learning; specialist areas for practical subjects; and it would facilitate the range of learning experiences necessary for the development of skills.
 - The new facilities would provide an opportunity to develop and promote greater partnership working within and between faculties and departments and improve the curriculum offer and delivery.
 - There would be a greater potential for interdisciplinary learning within and across faculties due to the geography and layout of a new building.
 - In addition, teaching and learning areas from each faculty may be grouped together allowing greater staff working relationships and more opportunities

for sharing knowledge, skills and experiences across this wider curriculum provision.

- Teaching and learning in subject areas, such as the Technologies, Music and Physical Education, would be enhanced; ensuring improved personalisation and choice as well as greater breadth of the curriculum than can currently be offered.
- Young people would be exposed to a fuller curriculum through the Broad General Education and into the Senior Phase. This has the potential to lead to further improvements in attainment and wider achievements for young people.
- Furthermore, there would be the opportunity to create facilities as an explicit part of the design for the improved delivery of the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).
- The development of skills for life, learning and work would be increased with a focus on vocational and technological pathways while still maintaining the academic achievements that the school enjoys. These elements would deliver a more relevant, challenging and enjoyable learning experience which is much more clearly focused on positive destinations for all young people. This could be achieved through consultation with the school community when designing the new campus.
- The opportunities for partnership working could be enhanced through the adjacency of the campus to West College Scotland and the potential co-location of council services and other organisations within the building.
- A greatly improved ICT infrastructure would provide a platform for new and emerging technologies to be used to support learning; enabling the full potential of systems to be realised for the benefit of young people and staff. These innovative and creative technology proposals would benefit not only those children and young people within the Campus, but across Renfrewshire Council in its widest sense.
- The new campus would offer an enhanced sporting experience for young people and the wider community which would meet the requirements and aspirations of the Council and the Scottish Government.
- An effective whole-school and community approach to Learning for Sustainability could bring together global citizenship, sustainable development education and outdoor learning to create coherent, rewarding and transformative learning experiences.
- Enhanced drama, performance and media facilities would allow the talents of young people to be showcased to larger groups of parents and the wider community throughout the year. Young people's confidence develops significantly when given opportunities to perform in front of an audience and in turn, will contribute significantly to their overall development.
- Increased and improved outdoor areas would allow for all weather participation in activities not currently possible due to lack of facilities. The superior outdoor areas would further promote opportunities for outdoor learning to meet the needs as set out by the Scottish Government in 'Curriculum for Excellence through Outdoor Learning'.
- Flexible working spaces and staff development facilities within the building would enhance collegiality and promote working practices which respond to the expertise and interests of staff.
- The proposal provides the Council with the opportunity to investigate the possible benefits of an "advanced higher hub" with bespoke facilities to support transition between the secondary and tertiary sectors; including the

opportunities that will arise from Renfrewshire Council's economic strategy.

5.3.2. How does the proposal support greater personalisation and choice?

- The layout of the building would support staff to provide opportunities for young people to take responsibility for their learning.
- Well planned storage solutions would support young people to make meaningful choices and decisions about the resources they use in their learning.
- Open learning environments would allow for more active learning and would support young people in organising their own experiences.

5.3.3. How does the proposal support the personal, social, health, emotional and additional support needs of children?

- The proposal would provide a bright, naturally ventilated environment, which supports active learning, energises the learning community and supports the wellbeing of all its users.
- Dining and social areas would be improved and this, along with the development of external flexible spaces, would encourage young people to socialise; potentially improving their health and wellbeing.
- The design of the new campus would consider how young people move around the school throughout the day; improving circulation and orientation and further enhancing the ethos of the school.
- PE facilities would be designed to meet the needs of the school community; providing for a range of indoor and outdoor physical activities.
- Quiet spaces would be provided to support the emotional wellbeing of all young people and for those pupils with specific additional support needs.
- The proposal would provide bespoke intensive support facilities designed around the needs of the young person.
- The new campus would be compliant with the provisions of the Equality Act (2010); it would be fully accessible to people with mobility difficulties and additional support needs. This would help support the Council's aim to develop a fully integrated education service which meets the needs of all learners.
- All areas of the curriculum would be accessible and take account of a broad range of needs. In addition, young people with social and emotional difficulties would benefit from an environment which enhances the learning experience and is more engaging and personalised.
- Better vocational provision with clear learning pathways leading to further education, for example, would better meet the needs of young people who may not have their needs met through a more traditional learning experience within the limited confines of the current buildings.

5.3.4. How does the proposal support improvement in morale and ethos within the school?

- The design principles for the building would reflect the school's vision, values and aims and they would be informed by the school's socio, economic and cultural context.

- Opportunities to promote citizenship would be further enhanced through the possible co-location of council services and other organisations.
- The open environment and assembly spaces would provide opportunities for whole school activity and the promotion of the school's promoting positive behaviour ethos.

5.3.5. How does the proposal facilitate travel and transport arrangements?

- Through local regeneration initiatives there would be access to safe walking routes and cycle paths which are designed to support children and young people in making greener travel choices.
- Traffic management schemes would be developed to promote positive and considerate behaviour around the school grounds and safe drop off facilities ensure appropriate levels of pedestrian / vehicular segregation.

5.3.6. How does the proposal support school leadership?

- The building would provide a variety of education management spaces to support activities which contribute to effective school leadership including leadership team offices; conference / meeting rooms; small, medium and large meeting spaces; and assembly spaces for whole school collegiate activity.

5.3.7. How does the proposal support teacher professionalism?

- The building would provide a variety of education development spaces to support activities which enhance teacher professionalism including spaces for visiting specialist; small, medium and large development spaces; and assembly areas for school development activity.

5.3.8. How does the proposal support parental engagement?

- The building would provide a variety of welcoming spaces which promote parental engagement with the school, including parents' rooms and conference / meeting rooms for parental workshops.

5.3.9. How does the proposal support assessment of children's progress; school improvement; and performance information?

- The building would provide a variety of education management spaces where staff can meet in appropriate venues such as conference / meeting rooms; small, medium and large meeting spaces; and assembly spaces for whole school collegiate activity.

5.4. Our assessment of any other likely effects of the proposal (if implemented).

- The proposal aligns with the commitments of the national performance framework and it supports the three key national education and skills priorities: Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC); Curriculum for Excellence (CfE); and Developing the Young Workforce (DYW).
- Additionally, state of the art digital technology would support learning experiences and the creation of new and diverse skills, improving links to business and enterprise.

- 5.5. How we would intend to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal (if implemented).
- Construction of a new Paisley Grammar Community Campus at an alternative site would ensure that the continuity of learning is not affected by construction disruption.
 - Curricular and logistical arrangements would be developed by the school to ensure a smooth transition for all children and young people and staff to the new building.
- 5.6. The benefits, which we believe, would result from implementation of this proposal.
- In addition to the benefits noted above, Children's Services believe that this change would support improvement in the overall efficiency of the school estate which ultimately supports all children and young people within Renfrewshire.

6. Impact on schools and their communities

- 6.1 Relocation and new build form part of the Council's School Estate Management Planning process and equality impact assessment is central to this approach.
- 6.2 The recommendations contained within this report will be assessed in relation to their potential impact on equalities and human rights as part of the consultative process.
- 6.3 There is no impact on community council boundaries.
- 6.4 A new Paisley Grammar Community Campus will have the capacity to serve communities.

7. Involvement of Education Scotland

- 7.1 A copy of this proposal has been sent to Education Scotland.
- 7.2 At the end of the formal consultation period Children's Services will send Education Scotland the following:
- a) a copy of all relevant written representations that are received from any person during the consultation period;
 - b) a summary of any oral representations made by any person during the public meeting; and
 - c) a copy of any other relevant documentation, as available and so far, as practicable.
- 7.3 Education Scotland will provide the Council with a report on the educational aspects of this proposal. This report will be submitted to the Council no later than 3 weeks after Children's Services have sent them all of the

representations and documents noted above, or such longer period as the Council may agree with Education Scotland.

- 7.4 In preparing their report, Education Scotland may visit establishments affected by the proposal and may make reasonable enquiries of such persons (both in the in the establishments and outwith) as they consider appropriate.

8. Consultation report

- 8.1 After receiving the report from Education Scotland, Children's Services will review the proposal having regard (in particular) to the following:
- a) written representations received by the Council from any person during the consultation period;
 - b) oral representations received by the Council from any person at the public meeting; and
 - c) the report provided by Education Scotland.
- 8.2 Thereafter the service will prepare a consultation report for consideration by the education and children's services policy board.
- 8.3 The consultation report will contain the following:
- a) a record of the total number of any written representations made to the Council (by any person) on the proposal during the consultation period;
 - b) a summary of:
 - (i) those written representations; and
 - (ii) any oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting.
 - c) a statement of the Council's response to:
 - (i) those written and oral representations; and
 - (ii) Education Scotland's report.
 - d) a copy of that report
 - e) a statement explaining how the Council complied with its obligation to review the relevant proposal as described above.
- 8.4 The consultation report will also include the following:
- a) details of any omission/inaccuracy in the proposal paper, or (as the case may be) any alleged omission/inaccuracy, (including a statement of the Council's opinion on it);

- b) a statement of the action taken in respect of the omission or inaccuracy, or (as the case may be) the alleged omission/inaccuracy, or, if no action has been taken, of that fact (and why); and
- c) any representations made to the Council where the person who made the notification re: omission/inaccuracy disagreed with the Council's determination as to whether there had been an omission/inaccuracy, or its decision as to whether to take action.

8.5 The Council must:

- a) publish the consultation report in both electronic and printed form;
- b) make the report available for inspection at all reasonable times and without charge:
 - (i) at its head office and on its website; and
 - (ii) at any affected school or at a public library or some other suitable place within the vicinity of the school.
- c) provide without charge the information contained in the consultation report:
 - (i) to such persons as may reasonably require that information in another form; and
 - (ii) in such other form as may reasonably be requested by such persons.
- d) inform any person who during the consultation period made written representations on the relevant proposal of the publication of the consultation report; and
- e) advertise the publication of the consultation report by such means as it considers appropriate.

8.6 The time line and summary of the consultation process in respect of this proposal is set out below:

Activity	Date
Approval for consultation sought from Education and Children's Services policy board	20 August 2020
Consultation document to be issued outlining the proposal to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the parent council or combined parent council of any affected schools; • the parents of the pupils at any affected school; • the parents of any children who would be likely to become pupils at the affected schools expected by the education authority to attend any affected school within 2 years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; • the pupils at any affected school (in so far as the education authority considers them to be of a suitable age and maturity); • the staff (teaching and other) at any affected school; • any trade union which appears to the education authority 	31 August 2020

<p>to be representative of the staff (teaching and other) at any affected school;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the community council (if any); • the community planning partnership for the area of the local authority in which any affected school is situated and any other community planning partnership that the education authority considers relevant; • any other education authority that the education authority considers relevant; and • any other community groups using any of the affected schools. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advert to advise of public consultation meeting and the commencement of the formal consultation period issued via local press; • Social media release; and • Questionnaire to go live on the Council website. 	31 August 2020
<p>To comply with current physical distancing measures the public consultation meeting will take place in the “Arena” at the Lagoon Sports Centre at 6.30pm. This venue has accommodation to provide space for a physically distanced meeting and the infrastructure to support live streaming of the event.</p>	22 September 2020
<p>Public consultation period ends 6 weeks after 31 August 2020. This is the date on which all consultation documents were issued and publicised. The total period excludes any school holidays or in-service days.</p>	20 October 2020
<p>Report to Education Scotland on outcome of consultation.</p>	30 October 2020
<p>Response from Education Scotland on outcome of consultation.</p>	20 November 2020
<p>Consultation response report (including Education Scotland response) presented to Education and Children’s Services policy board meeting stating consultation outcomes and making final recommendation.</p>	21 January 2021
<p>Copy of proposal paper and consultation response report sent to Scottish Ministers within 6 days of education and children’s services policy board approval.</p>	29 January 2021

Appendix 3

Equality Impact Assessment relating to: Relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley

Officer and department responsible for completing the assessment.	Ian Thomson, Children's Services.
Name of policy, strategy or project.	Proposal to consult on the relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley.
What is the main purpose or aims of the policy, strategy or project?	To address the condition and suitability challenges of the existing Paisley Grammar School Building.
Who will be the beneficiaries of the policy/strategy/project?	The creation of a community campus incorporating Paisley Grammar School will be beneficial to the school and extended community.
Has the policy/strategy/project been explained to those it might affect directly or indirectly?	Approval to consult on this proposal was authorised by the education and children's services policy board in March 2020 and all interested parties were supplied with, or had access to, the Council's proposal. The consultation adhered to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010; commencing on 31 August 2020 and closing on 20 October 2020.
Have you consulted on the policy?	<p>As above. Subsequent to approval to consult, local lockdown restrictions across the Council area meant that the public meeting scheduled to take place at the Lagoon Leisure Centre on 22 September 2020 could not be undertaken at this venue and the public meeting was replaced by 2 "virtual public consultation meetings" which took place on 22 September 2020 and 30 September 2020.</p> <p>At this meeting attendees were advised of Renfrewshire Council's commitment to the Equalities Act 2010. No adverse comment was received.</p>

Complete the following table and give reasons/comment where:

- The policy/strategy/project could have a positive impact on any of the equality target groups or contributes to promoting equality, equal opportunities and improving relations with equality target groups.
- The policy/strategy/project could have a negative impact on any equality target groups. (If the impact is high a full EIA should be completed)

Equality group	Positive impact	Negative impact	Reason/comment
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	High	Low	High	Low	
Race		✓		✓	
Sex		✓		✓	
Disability		✓		✓	Appropriate transport arrangements are based on individual need.
Religion / Belief		✓		✓	
Sexual Orientation		✓		✓	
Age		✓		✓	
Gender Reassignment		✓		✓	
Marriage and Civil Partnership		✓		✓	
Pregnancy and Maternity		✓		✓	

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Renfrewshire Council to relocate Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus.

November 2020

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of Renfrewshire Council's proposal to relocate Paisley Grammar School to a new build Community Campus. 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 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.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the school; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper;

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.

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

attendance at the virtual public meetings held on 22 and 30 September 2020 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

virtual visits to the sites of Paisley Grammar, Gallowhill Primary, Mossvale Primary, Ralston Primary, Todholm Primary and Williamsburgh Primary Schools including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

2.1 Renfrewshire Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

2.2 The consultation period ran from 31 August to 20 October 2020. The council had originally planned a public meeting for 22 September 2020 to be held at the Lagoon Leisure Centre. However, due to the developing Covid-19 situation and taking account of public health risks, the council cancelled this meeting and arranged two virtual public meetings; one on 22 September and one on 30 September 2020. Sixty-seven stakeholders took part in the virtual meetings. In order to seek further the views of stakeholders, the council arranged a number of consultation sessions with children and young people from Paisley Grammar School and its associated primary schools. The council received 133 responses to an online questionnaire in addition to two email responses from stakeholders. Fifty-eight percent of the responses were in favour of the proposal and forty-two percent against.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The current suitability of Paisley Grammar School is judged by the council to be at condition and suitability “C” – poor, with a few aspects below that. Young people are required to go offsite to access some physical education facilities. The existing site is not sufficiently large to build a replacement for the current building. The council has clearly set out a number of important educational benefits in its proposal paper. A new campus has the potential to improve the learning environment for young people. The proposed new location could help build further partnership working between the secondary school and West College Scotland in terms of wider curriculum provision.

3.2 Young people who met with HM Inspectors welcome the improved facilities that a new school building will bring. They think the current toilets, changing areas for physical education and social areas within the current school are poor. Staff, parents and young people believe that new outdoor areas for learning, recreation and social meeting areas will enrich young people’s experience. Senior staff and teachers across the cluster are confident that the new campus will be improved through enhanced facilities, for example, in drama, music, technologies and physical education. Improved partnership with West College Scotland could widen curricular pathways and help to develop further young people’s skills for learning, life and work. HM Inspectors agree that the proposed campus also has the potential to open new opportunities for the wider community within and beyond normal school opening times.

3.3 Stakeholders welcome the council’s commitment to designing a campus which will allow spaces to be used flexibly and creatively. They acknowledge that a new campus could enhance and develop further learning experiences which are relevant, meaningful and challenging. Senior leaders are confident the new campus will allow the school to maintain young peoples’ academic achievements whilst increasing the option of following vocational and technological pathways. Young people and staff are keen that the design for the new school creates improved facilities for subjects including STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics); drama, performance and media; and ICT (information and communications technology).

4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree that the council’s proposal has clear educational benefits. A new campus has the potential to provide a high-quality learning environment. A new school could be developed to use space more creatively and flexibly with regard to areas for learning and social spaces. The curriculum could improve through enhanced facilities, for example, in drama, music, technologies and physical education. Improved partnership with West College Scotland could widen curricular pathways and help to develop further young people’s skills for learning, life and

work. The proposed campus also has the potential to open new opportunities for the wider community within and beyond normal school opening times.

Parents agree that the new campus will bring wider opportunities and improved experiences for young people. A few parents raised concerns over safety with regard to heavy traffic around the proposed site. Should the proposal go ahead, it is important that the council continues to listen to these concerns and works with stakeholders to find appropriate solutions which brings reassurance with regard to these issues.

HM Inspectors

November 2020