
To: Education and Children Policy Board

On: 21 January 2016

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Response to the proposal to relocate Spateston Pre 5 Centre to a refurbished St Anthony's Primary School

1. Summary

- 1.1 On 20 August 2015 the education and children policy board agreed to a formal consultation on the proposal to relocate Spateston Pre 5 Centre to a refurbished St Anthony's Primary School.
 - 1.2 In accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, a formal consultation on the proposal was undertaken and a consultation document was prepared and issued simultaneously to parents and interested parties affected by the proposal.
 - 1.3 The consultation formally opened on 1 September 2015 and closed at 12 noon on 28 October 2015.
 - 1.4 The purpose of this report is to provide the education and children policy board with recommendations which recognise the issues raised and comments made 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.
 - 1.5 Responses to the consultation were positive and supportive and details of such responses are contained within appendix 1 to this report.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The education and children 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 proposal detailed in appendix 4;
 - approve the relocation of Spateston Pre 5 Centre to a refurbished St Anthony's Primary School;
 - approve the development of detailed project proposals, including project design, fully developed project costing, financial assessment and funding approach for the refurbishment; and

- note that the refurbishment will be delivered by the Council's property services section, augmented by external consultants as required.
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3. Background

- 3.1. As part of Renfrewshire Council's approach to school estate management a schools' project team, including officers from various council services, continually assesses the performance of the school estate.
 - 3.2. The project team identified that the condition and sufficiency of a number of primary schools and pre 5 centres present significant challenges for the Council at this time.
 - 3.3. A focussed review of the primary and pre 5 estates was therefore undertaken to inform children's service's School Estate Management Plan (SEMP) which was approved by the education policy board in May 2014.
 - 3.4. As part of this ongoing development the education and children policy board agreed to a formal consultation on the proposal to relocate Spateston Pre 5 Centre to a refurbished St Anthony's Primary School at its meeting in August 2015.
 - 3.5. Elected members agreed a consultation document which was subsequently issued to parents and interested parties affected by the proposal. A copy of the consultation document is attached to this report as appendix 2.
 - 3.6. The consultation formally opened on 1 September 2015 and closed at 12 noon on 28 October 2015.
 - 3.7. Responses to the consultation were positive and supportive and details of such responses 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 Spateston Pre 5 Centre to a refurbished St Anthony's Primary School a consultation document was issued to parents 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. A public meeting was held with parents and members of the public as part of the consultation process on 1 September 2015.
 - 4.4. A presentation was made by officers from children's services. The presentation outlined the background to the proposal, highlighting the impact this would have on the school and pre 5 communities.
 - 4.5. Those in attendance at the public meeting were invited to raise questions and notes of the questions asked and the answers provided by education officers were 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 the proposal to relocate Spateston Pre 5 Centre to a refurbished St Anthony's Primary School" details the questions asked and the responses provided.
- 5.2. Education Scotland have been consulted on the proposal in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The response received from Education Scotland was supportive of the Council's proposal and is attached to this document as appendix 4. A summary of this finding is noted below:
 - 5.2.1. The proposal is of clear educational benefit. The council outlines the educational benefits for children, families and the local community well. A refurbished building will enhance the learning environment and provide more flexible learning spaces which will allow the school to meet the needs of all children better. The inclusion of the pre-5 centre, primary school and ASD provision in one campus, will enhance children's experiences. Sharing of facilities across all provisions will allow better use of space and has the potential to improve the current provision for nurture, soft play, outdoor learning and the use of quiet areas. Staff development will also be facilitated by allowing all staff to share practice more easily. The local community will benefit from an improved building and the potential for better community engagement in learning. The council is aware of the need to ensure that a robust traffic management system is put in place, and that children's learning is not compromised during the building works.
- 5.3. Renfrewshire Council welcomes the comments made by Education Scotland and will adopt the consultative approach successfully used to progress previous new build projects. This approach ensures that the refurbishment is informed by the views of all stakeholders.

Implications of this report

1. Financial Implications

Further development of the scope of works will be undertaken to determine the capital investment required for this project.

The revenue implications of this proposal will be developed as the project progresses however, it is envisaged that all costs will be contained within existing revenue resources.

2. HR and Organisational Development Implications

Community Resources will consider the deployment of their staff who currently operate over 2 facilities. Similarly, Corporate Business Support will determine the deployment of their staff as appropriate.

3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications

Children and Young People	· An improved school environment supports learning and achievement.
Community Care, Health and Well-being	· An improved school environment supports health and wellbeing.
Greener	· Sustainable approaches to ensuring high quality assets will be developed.

4. Legal Implications

This proposal adheres to the procedures required to take forward any proposal in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

5. Property/Assets Implications

This proposal aims to deliver a refurbished building designed to provide sustainable accommodation that is fit for education in the 21st century.

The area of the land on which the existing Spateston Pre 5 Centre currently stands will be surplus to requirement further to the demolition of the Pre 5 Centre building. This area is therefore referred to the director of development and housing services for further consideration and to be disposed of if it is not required for council purposes.

6. Information Technology Implications

None.

7. Equality and Human Rights Implications

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 Implications

None.

9. Procurement Implications

The procurement model for the delivery of this project is being developed by corporate procurement and finance and resource services. The refurbishment will be delivered by the Council's property services section, augmented by external consultants as required, and a main contractor will be appointed through an open competitive tender process.

10. Risk Implications

None.

11. Privacy Impact

None.

List of Background Papers

- (a) Background Paper 1: Consultation Proposal for the Development of the School Estate Management Plan (SEMP) 2013
- (b) Background Paper 2: Report on the consultation to develop the School Estate Management Plan (SEMP) and proposals to address the property challenges in the primary and pre 5 estate.
- (c) Background Paper 3: Proposal to consult on: The relocation of Spateston Pre 5 Centre to a refurbished St Anthony's Primary School.

The foregoing background papers will be retained within ELS 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 (resources). 0141 618 7241, ian.thomson@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Children's Services
IT/GMcK/LG
30 November 2015

Author: Ian Thomson, education manager (resources). 0141 618 7241,
ian.thomson@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Response to the proposal to relocate Spateston Pre 5 Centre to a refurbished St Anthony's Primary School

1. Consultation Process

- 1.1. Following agreement to consult on the proposal to relocate Spateston Pre 5 Centre to a refurbished St Anthony's Primary School a consultation document was issued to all interested parties in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 1.2. A consultation meeting was held with parents and members of the public and meetings were also held with staff from both establishments.
- 1.3. The consultation formally opened on 1 September 2015 and closed at 12 noon on 28 October 2015.
- 1.4. Copies of the consultation document were issued to parents of every pupil in attendance at St Anthony's Primary School and Spateston Pre 5 Centre 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. An advert to notify the public of the consultation meeting was also placed in the local press. In addition the consultation document was issued to council officers, local elected members, MSPs and MPs for the ward area and Education Scotland.
- 1.5. 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

- 2.1. A number of written responses were received from interested parties registering their comments on the proposal. The following is a breakdown of written responses received:

Category	Number of Responses	Type of Response
Parent / Carer	25	On-line survey
Renfrewshire Council employee	1	On-line survey
Staff	4	On-line survey
Pupils	1	On-line survey
Other	1	On-line survey

- 2.2. The public meeting was held in St Anthony's Primary School on 1 September 2015 and was attended by 18 members of the public and staff.
- 2.3. Arrangements were also made to consult directly with the staff of both schools.
- 2.4. A note of the public meeting was taken and can be obtained by request to the director of children's services and can be viewed on the Council website at www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/haveyoursay.

3. Analysis of key issues raised during the consultation

- 3.1. 32 responses were received.
- 3.2. 29 responses (90.60%) were supportive of the proposal and 3 (9.4%) response were against the proposal.

4. Response to key issues raised during the consultation

4.1. Questions, comments and responses from the public consultation meeting.

Q: With regard to building works will there be consideration for the children in the unit who have sensory disorders.

R: The health and well-being of all users of the building is central to the planning of any refurbishment and the council recognises, and is sensitive to, the needs of all pupils attending the communication unit within St Anthony's Primary School. During construction effort is made to identify any individuals who may be potentially adversely affected by the refurbishment in order that alternative arrangements can be considered in advance of any works; thereby mitigating any risk to any individual or group. Disruption management plans will be looked at to identify how best to minimise disruption for all pupils.

Q: Will the nursery have its own entrance?

R: Yes, Spateston Pre 5 Centre will retain its individual identity and status. The Centre will be designed in line with the requirements of the Care Inspectorate and external learning and play areas will be segregated and secure.

Q: Will the Spateston building condition last until 2018?

R: The condition of the building is category "C". The head of establishment is an experienced Head who will continue to report repairs and faults as they occur using the council's reporting system (CAMIS). The safety and health and well-being of children and parents using the Centre is continually monitored by all staff in the Centre.

Q: Why can't this be done more quickly?

R: The statutory consultation process; Council approvals; and the design process are sequential and require time for consideration. It is important that the consultative approach adopted by Renfrewshire Council allows for all interested parties to contribute their opinions and views. Additionally, design development, which is a crucial part of the process, requires input from staff, parents, children and the care inspectorate and the collation of this information takes time.

Q: How much money will be allocated to the project?

R: The principle of consultation is to establish if proposals are supported by communities and if they should be progressed. At this stage the Council has not yet defined individual project costs. However, a SEMP project budget of £53m has been identified to take forward all projects.

Q: Will the Council look at parking arrangements as there is congestion currently at the nursery and with proposed planning for the old St Cuthbert's site and new shops how will this be managed?

R: Travel Planning, which identifies how pupils get to schools; whether on foot, by car, by bus or by bicycle will be reviewed as part of the design development process. The project team would look at this with regard to the whole community to understand how to utilise the full site to minimise traffic management concerns.

Q: Is there scope to expand Spateston Pre 5 Centre provision?

R: The current building doesn't give scope for any expansion therefore this is something we would have to consider in relation to demand within the Johnstone area as a whole; allowing for the implementation of any requirements derived from changes in government policy.

Q: Although we don't know the amount of money available for this project, how will resources be allocated?

R: The total allocation of funding has been agreed for this phase of SEMP and the Council expects that all projects will be delivered. As many projects are at the consultation stage no definitive budgets have been allocated to particular projects. In due course a report on individual project budgets will be developed and presented to elected members; this information will also be available to members of the public.

Q: Is there actually room to extend?

R: Yes, preliminary assessments have been undertaken and there is space available if required. It should not be assumed that the building necessarily needs extension as the design process has to be developed to assess how well the building currently works. Additionally it should be understood that extending the building may impact on available outdoor spaces and traffic management.

Q: Will outdoor learning be included in the works?

R: Yes, the requirements for outdoor education and play spaces are central to design development.

Q: Where is nursery going?

R: The Council will consider the best solution for both the School and Pre 5 Centre. In determining the best location for the Pre 5 Centre we will consider similar projects to ascertain how these might be developed to provide the best solution for St Anthony's and Spateston.

Q: Will you come back to speak to parents about proposals?

R: The heads of each establishment will be the representatives for the parent body. They will work with the project team which includes technical departments within the Council, to inform them of the staff / parents / pupils requests. Periodically progress reports will be provided to parents; presentations will be delivered; and updates will be posted on the Council and establishments websites. All views will be listened to and where we can adopt these ideas we will. Equally, when views cannot be taken forward we will explain why.

Q: Will there be plans available to look at.

R: When these are available they will be sited at both schools, available on the websites and there may also be local arrangements to share the information.

4.2. Questions, comments and responses from the Council's online questionnaire which asked contributors to comment on why they were supportive or against the proposal.

C: Against. If there has to be a renovation that means dust and a lot of noise this will disrupt the children's education, dust will affect their health.

R: The health and well-being of all users of the building is central to the planning of any refurbishment and the Council recognises, and is sensitive to, the needs of all pupils attending the School. During construction effort is made to identify any individuals who may be potentially adversely affected by the refurbishment in order that alternative arrangements can be considered in advance of any works; thereby mitigating any risk

to any individual or group. Disruption management plans will be looked at to identify how best to minimise disruption for all pupils.

- C: The safety of the children will be at risk with all the equipment and machines that will be around, not practical for around children of a young age.
- R: Every effort is made to identify any potential hazards during the construction phase of a project. Traffic management schemes are considered to ensure the movement of vehicles does not create any hazard and areas of the school undergoing construction will be segregated from operational school areas.
- C: Think it may make the school busier as it's a small school as it stands at the moment. So I would be against it. If they put the nursery into the school could become v crowded.
- R: If the proposal is approved by elected members the space available to the school, further to the relocation, will be proportionate to the school's roll. It is recognised that the share of the building available to the school would be reduced however this must be considered in relation to the actual capacity of the existing building which is far greater than the space required for the school's roll.
- C: To keep both nursery and school open and importantly in Spateston.
- C: The Spateston community has already lost so much. Closing / moving the school and or nursery would further devastate it.
- R: Maintaining the status quo does not deal with the challenges the Council faces in terms of overall sufficiency within the school estate. Addressing capacity issues across the school estate is central to Renfrewshire Council's School Estate Management Plan which is why the co-location suggestion was proposed for communities to consider.
- C: St Anthony's Primary School is needing a new school it not in good order and need upgraded.
- C: It would be good for the community plus the two buildings are in need of repair.
- C: With extra facilities would only help the children.
- C: Makes life easier for parents of pre and primary school age for their children to attend education on same premises.
- C: Pre school children would have been familiar with the environment by the time they transit to primary.
- C: Moving pre-school - primary is a lot simpler and in the same building.
- C: Your child is going to the same school as their brother / sister.
- C: Continued sense of community.
- C: Local and surrounding areas will be at a loss to lose nursery, area is quite desolate currently.
- R: The area in question is experiencing a degree of regeneration however, it is acknowledged that moving the nursery from its current location to the adjacent primary school building will have a further impact on the surrounding area.

- C: Retain separate identity, would be given like for like or better than what we have at the moment.
- R: The design of the new centre will be informed by service users, it will be fit for purpose and it will retain its identity and ethos.
- C: To give children a better building and environment which will enhance the excellent opportunities and learning they receive at present.
- C: Keeping Spateston Pre Five Centre in the community of Spateston and keeping our identity within the community.
- C: I feel Spateston pre 5 and St Anthony's primary have the same great attitude towards the children and their wellbeing and already have strong links at the moment which would be made stronger by this move.
- C: From my initial discussion with staff I am satisfied that SP5C will still be in good hands. As long as the nursery standards are allowed to be maintained and fully supported by RDC I am happy for the new move.
- C: This move should in principle provide a better and more modern environment to be enjoyed by the staff and children. I think it will allow the nursery to enhance its already excellent status.
- C: This can only be a good thing for all concerned.
- C: My daughter is happy and settled at the pre-5 centre there for I don't want her moved.
- R: Every effort will be made by the staff at the pre 5 centre to ensure that all children are prepared for the transition to the new building.
- C: I don't want my daughter going to a catholic school.
- R: The Pre 5 Centre will maintain its own identity and ethos; it will be a non-denominational provision.
- C: From my experience, having a nursery based in a primary school is a good thing. It lets the children get familiar with a school atmosphere and environment.
- C: Gives the nursery so much more available to them. Gym halls, possibly bigger outdoor area etc.
- C: St Anthony's need a refurb and the pre 5 centre would benefit from more space inside and out.
- C: Think it is important to keep the school and pre 5 in our community.
- C: To the benefit of both school and nursery. Updated building.
- C: Good relationships exist between both already. Makes sense to co-locate as there is great cooperation ongoing.
- C: Must be able to achieve savings in overhead costs.
- C: It combines two establishments within the one complex.
- C: Beneficial to community as it joins children and parents together.
- C: For St Anthony's to be refurbished.
- C: St Anthony's to remain as Primary school and nursery to be attached helps with transition period for Pre 5's.

- C: The nursery will still be a standalone building and children will have a better nursery. It is the best way forward for all the Spateston Community.
- C: All for improvements. New premises, nice safe area. Fresh building. Bigger area.
- C: Positive for our area to bring in new residence.
- C: All new equipment and resources for the children.
- C: The nursery would maintain its own identity and continue to serve the community in the most beneficial way.
- C: They will be able to use the schools facilities without having to cross a main road.
- C: As the number of children attending Spateston has increased, they need more space to have the best start in education.
- C: Betterment
- C: A more modern building which staff and management will have a say in the layout and design of rooms.
- C: Spateston Pre Five will keep its own identity. It's will still be a centre in its own rights and will keep the high standard of service to staff and service users that the Spateston community, council, hmie and care inspectorate praise highly.

4.3. Responses from pupils attending St Anthony's Primary School. Pupils were consulted on the proposal to refurbish St Anthony's Primary School and co-locate Spateston Pre 5 Centre in the building. 192 pupils took part in the consultation. 188 pupils were in favour of the proposal and 4 pupils were against it. Pupils' views are noted below:

- No more cracks/potholes in the playground
- Would be nice to have a separate stage area
- No more draughty windows
- Silverfish and bugs will be gone
- Toilets that don't smell
- Toilet doors that lock
- Sinks that don't leak
- Nicer walls in classrooms
- Bigger gym hall
- No more broken cupboards
- New furniture
- Better area for our library
- Better soft play area

R: Renfrewshire Council welcomes input from all pupils and will give careful consideration to the points noted above. If the proposal to rebuild the school is approved by elected members the head teacher will ensure that pupils are informed of

the rationale for what improvement suggestions can and cannot be accommodated within the design.

4.4. Responses from children attending Spateston Pre 5 Centre. Children were consulted on the proposal to refurbish St Anthony's Primary School and co-locate Spateston Pre 5 Centre in the building. 87 children took part in the consultation and their views are noted below:

- New tree houses with different rooms
- Outside tree house
- New wallpaper
- A new kitchen and new toilets
- A new fairy garden and toys in the garden
- A water park
- New tables and seats
- New lunch bell
- More new toys
- A climbing frame and chute
- New roads and lights for the cars
- Lots of new toys
- Mirrors everywhere
- A pond

R: Again Renfrewshire Council welcomes input from all children and will give careful consideration to the points noted above. If the proposal to rebuild the school is approved by elected members the head of centre will ensure that pupils are informed of the rationale for what improvement suggestions can and cannot be accommodated within the design.

THIS IS A CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Proposal relating to: The relocation of Spateston Pre 5 Centre to a refurbished St Anthony's Primary School

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Renfrewshire Council's vision for its school estate is to promote learning and achievement, and to give our children and young people the opportunity to learn in the best possible environment.
- 1.2 The SEMP sits within the Council's corporate asset management plan to ensure the most effective use of all council assets. The purpose of the SEMP is to set out a strategy to focus the resources available for new and redesigned school and pre 5 accommodation.
- 1.3 The SEMP is guided by Scottish Government's 9 principles for school estate management planning and the Council's 4 objectives for the school estate in Renfrewshire:

Scottish Government Principles:

- Good consultation to support better outcomes;
- Innovative design and change informed by experience;
- A more integrated, holistic and longer term approach to change;
- Schools must be in a condition to support and enhance their functions;
- Schools must be more suitable and inclusive, better future proofed for flexibility and adaptability;
- Schools should be greener, more sustainable and environmentally efficient;
- A well managed estate should represent and deliver best value;
- Schools should drive and support effective learning and teaching; and
- Schools should best serve their communities.

Council 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.

- 1.4 The Council's SEMP aims to improve the fabric, efficiency and suitability of school buildings. To assist councils in making progress towards this objective a set of indicators referred to as 'core facts' are gathered on an annual basis. These core facts provide ratings with respect to a school's condition, sufficiency and suitability.

1.5 Core facts ratings are as follows:

- A Good
- B Satisfactory
- C Poor
- D Bad

1.6 Through its school estate project team the Council continually reviews the performance of the school estate in terms of these core fact findings.

1.7 This process recognised that the existing St Anthony's Primary School building was performing satisfactorily (rated "B") for the school community.

1.8 The process also identified that the condition of Spateston Pre 5 Centre was "C" (poor) and that by integrating the Centre into the surplus accommodation within St Anthony's Primary School the Council could improve the sufficiency of the school and the condition challenges facing the Pre 5 Centre.

1.9 It is also significant to note that this approach would reduce the number of property assets within the education estate, supporting the Council's asset management strategy.

1.10 A programme to engage school communities and interested parties in the development of the SEMP was approved by elected members and further investigation of the property performance challenges facing these establishments concluded that:

- the educational experience for all pupils and young children could be improved if delivered in a refurbished St Anthony's Primary School building;
- the condition challenges facing Spateston Pre 5 Centre are such that the most appropriate, best value, approach would be to relocate the Centre into the surplus accommodation within the St Anthony's Primary School building; and
- a consultative approach, involving all stakeholders and service users, would deliver a refurbished building which would enhance the educational experience for all pupils and young children attending the School and Pre 5 Centre.

1.11 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, this report seeks approval to consult on the proposal to relocate Spateston Pre 5 Centre to a refurbished St Anthony's Primary School building.

1.12 The SEMP of May 2014 provided elected members with a programme which advised that the consultation for the relocation of Spateston Pre 5 Centre to a refurbished St Anthony's Primary School building would be undertaken in May 2016.

1.13 However, further assessment of the programme and the reorganisation of resources suggests that the project can be accelerated as detailed below.

1.14 Subject to approval by the education and children policy board to proceed with this proposal, a refurbished building could be operational by January 2018. The proposed programme would be:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| • Consultation commences | September 2015 |
| • Approval to proceed received | January 2016 |

- Start of design phase January 2016
- Start of construction phase September 2016
- School operational January 2018
- Demolition of vacant facilities commencing June 2018

2. Rationale for change and project development

- 2.1 At the last school census date in September 2014 St Anthony's Primary School had a capacity of 292 with a pupil roll of 183 meaning its sufficiency rating was satisfactory (category B) and it was 62.67% full.
- 2.2 In terms of planning accommodation for the future it is essential to consider not only the current pupil roll but the potential variances in the roll over a period of time.
- 2.3 The table below illustrates roll projections for both schools over a 10 year period.

	Capacity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
St Anthony's Primary	292	183	189	190	191	200	199	197	195	188	184	179

- 2.4 The roll projection for St Anthony's Primary School shows a degree of fluctuation over a 10 year period and a revised capacity of around 212 to accommodate a single stream school is recommended. The accommodation required for such a roll will be in keeping with government recommendations outlined in the guidance document "Determining Primary School Capacity".
- 2.5 In addition to the mainstream provision the St Anthony's Primary School building will continue to accommodate an integrated additional support needs facility which requires facilities to support the individual needs of up to 30 pupils.
- 2.6 Spateston Pre 5 Centre accommodates an early years provision for 80 young children from three to five years old. It operates between 8.00am and 6.00pm on a term time basis.
- 2.7 Spateston Pre 5 Centre has a sufficiency rating of "A" but the building's condition is rated "C" (poor).
- 2.8 Through the SEMP development process officers identified three potential solutions to improve the sufficiency level at St Anthony's Primary School and the condition challenges at Spateston Pre 5 Centre. These options included:
- Option 1. The co-location of Spateston Pre 5 Centre in a refurbished St Anthony's Primary School building;
 - Option 2. The capacity reduction of St Anthony's Primary School building to create an efficient, smaller school achieved through partial demolition of the surplus areas within the existing building; and
 - Option 3. The construction of a new school, incorporating a Pre 5 Centre.

- 2.9 Following the compilation of cost estimates and an assessment of all of the options in the context of the Council's asset management strategy; it is considered that the refurbishment of St Anthony's Primary School building to accommodate Spateston Pre 5 Centre is the best value option for the Council.

3. Educational benefits statement

- 3.1 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 it is incumbent on the Council to produce an educational benefits statement which describes the impact the proposal might have on the pupils of any affected schools; other community groups using the affected schools; children who would be likely to become pupils at the schools; and other pupils within the Council area.
- 3.2 Having carried out a review of the educational benefits of this proposal with the head teacher and head of centre, Children's Services concludes that the educational experience and outcomes for the primary school pupils and early years children will be improved if delivered in a single building which better meets the needs of all learners.
- 3.3 The following paragraphs detail some of the benefits that would be experienced by children and young people attending both facilities if this proposal was implemented by the Council.
- 3.4 A refurbished facility will better support the delivery of the curriculum for both establishments. Curriculum for Excellence encourages staff to provide opportunities for children to take responsibility, to work independently and in teams, and to make meaningful choices and decisions. It advocates children learning through being more actively involved in the process, learning by organising their own experiences, and learning with and from other children and adults. A refurbished building will facilitate the range of learning experiences necessary for the development of these skills.
- 3.5 In a refurbished building the physical environment would be enhanced to provide breakout spaces and flexible learning areas in line with the Scottish Government capacity guidance document "Determining Primary School Capacity" issued in October 2014.
- 3.6 A refurbished building would provide the opportunity to enhance the ICT provision, which will make a significant contribution to achieving learning approaches advocated in Curriculum for Excellence. As ICT becomes increasingly more mobile the ICT strategy for the building would be developed through a consultative approach based around the needs of the primary school pupils and early years children; the staff of both facilities; and the ICT requirements of the local authority which operates a training provision from the St Anthony's Primary School Building.
- 3.7 A refurbished building will energise the learning communities and support their wellbeing.
- 3.8 Segregated play areas will be provided for the early years children.
- 3.9 The primary school and pre 5 centre currently have "ECO Schools" status and would benefit in working together to share experiences. A garden area would benefit learners' participation in education about plant life and living things; further supporting the continued work in learning about environmental issues.

- 3.10 Flexible working spaces and staff development facilities within the refurbished building will foster collegiality and promote working practices which can respond to the expertise and interests of staff. This would ensure the delivery of high quality learning experiences for all children and would encourage engagement and motivate learners.
- 3.11 The co-location proposal would also provide enhanced opportunities for cross establishment peer observations which will support the improvement agenda within both establishments.
- 3.12 The redesigned building would provide nurture spaces to support both the school and pre 5 Centre in meeting the full range of needs of pupils and early years children.
- 3.13 The integration of additional support needs classes in the main body of the school will enhance the ethos of inclusion within St Anthony's Primary School. Such classes will be designed to support the need of the pupils with quiet spaces provided where appropriate.
- 3.14 A refurbishment would ensure the building was fully compliant with the provisions of the Equality Act (2010).
- 3.15 The co-location would provide the opportunity for improving traffic management arrangements.
- 3.16 The proposal would ensure the refurbished building has a condition and sufficiency rating of "A".
- 3.17 By providing an efficient primary school building with an integrated additional support needs facility and pre 5 centre, which is designed specifically for the current and future pupil numbers, it is envisaged that the sufficiency of Renfrewshire Council's school estate will be improved to the benefit of all pupils within the Council area.

4. Impact on schools and their communities

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment was undertaken as part of the development of the school estate management plan and no adverse comment was received from the Spateston Pre 5 Centre or St Anthony's Primary School communities.
- 4.2 The recommendation contained within this report has also been assessed in relation to its 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 recommendation contained in the report and an equalities impact assessment is available on request.
- 4.3 As this proposal relates to the refurbishment of the St Anthony's Primary School building there will be a degree of disruption to staff, pupils and the school community for the duration of the programme of work.
- 4.4 Renfrewshire Council is experienced in disruption management arrangements and all works would be managed through this established process. As with all successfully delivered school projects previously undertaken, the head teacher and project manager would assume responsibility for the day to day management of the plan and staff, pupils, parents, professional bodies and trade unions would be updated through an agreed communications arrangement determined at a local level.

- 4.5 Renfrewshire Council has temporary accommodation which could be re-located to the school site to operate as temporary accommodation if required.
- 4.6 This approach supports a “phased insitu refurbishment” where the refurbishment programme operates around the requirements of the school.
- 4.7 As part of the design development process for the project the head teacher and of head of centre would represent the interests of their communities at regular focus group meetings with the Council’s project team.
- 4.8 For the duration of the construction period any non school lets would be redirected to alternative locations.
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5. Consultation arrangements

- 5.1 The consultation document, attached to this report as Appendix 2, provides background information to the project. It details the proposal and indicates a timeframe for implementation should the proposal be approved.
- 5.2 The consultation will adhere to the procedures required to take forward the proposal in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, amended through the enactment of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
- 5.3 The Act defines ten types of proposal that trigger the consultation process. Proposals requiring consultation are those where a council proposes to:
- discontinue permanently a school (this includes special schools and nursery schools) or a stage of education in a school (this includes years in a secondary school or a special class in a mainstream school or where the council proposes to discontinue Gaelic medium provision);
 - establish a new school or stage of education in a school;
 - relocate a school or nursery class;
 - vary the catchment area or modify the guidelines for placing requests for a school;
 - vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school;
 - change the school commencement date of a primary school;
 - vary arrangements for the constitution of a special class in a school other than a special school;
 - discontinue arrangements for the provision of transport by the council for pupils attending a denominational school;
 - change a denominational school into a non-denominational school; and
 - discontinue a further education centre which is managed by the council.
- 5.4 The consultation document also includes an educational benefits statement which sets out an assessment of the effects of the proposal if implemented.

5.5 Involvement of Education Scotland.

- A copy of this proposal has been sent to Education Scotland and at the end of the formal consultation period Children's Services will prepare a report for Education Scotland which will include all relevant written and oral representations that are received by the service from any individual during the consultation period;
- Education Scotland will then provide the Council with a report on the educational aspects of this proposal no later than 3 weeks after Children's Services has sent them all of the representations and documents noted above; and
- In preparing their report, Education Scotland may visit establishments affected by the proposal.

5.6 Children's Services will then reassess the proposal in relation to the comments made in the report provided by Education Scotland. Thereafter the service will prepare a consultation response report for consideration by the education policy board.

5.7 In line with the recommendations of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, amended through the enactment of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, the council will publish its final consultation report. The final consultation report will contain:

- an explanation of how the Council has reviewed the proposal;
- the report from Education Scotland in full;
- a summary of points raised during the consultation – both written and oral – and the Council's response to them; and
- the substance of any alleged or discovered inaccuracies and omissions details of the council's response and the action taken.

5.8 The report will be available on the Council's website, at the schools affected by the proposal, at Children's Services HQ and at all public libraries. Additionally, all mandatory consultees who received direct notification of the consultation will be sent a copy of the response report.

5.9 If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this proposal document, either by Children's Services or any individual, Children's Services will determine if relevant information has been omitted or, if there has been an inaccuracy. Children's Services will then take appropriate action which may include:

- the issue of a correction;
- the reissue of the proposal paper; or
- the revision of the timescale for the consultation period as appropriate.

5.10 The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, amended through the enactment of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 does not require referral to Scottish ministers in cases other than closure of schools.

Activity	Date
Approval for consultation sought from education and children policy board	20 August 2015
<p>Consultation document to be issued outlining the proposal to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the 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; 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 or professional body which appears to the education authority to be representative of the persons mentioned above; the community council (if any); any bodies which have been established by a local authority, whether formally or informally, for the purpose of assisting it in carrying out its functions under Part 2 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 (asp 1); any other education authority that the education authority considers relevant; and any other community groups using any of the affected schools. 	27 August 2015
Advert to advise of public consultation meeting and the commencement of the formal consultation period issued via local press.	27 August 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public consultation meeting held to consult with affected community; and Questionnaire to go live on the Council website. 	1 September 2015
Public consultation period ends 6 weeks after the date of the public meeting. The total period excludes any school holidays or in-service days.	28 October 2015
Report to Education Scotland on outcome of consultation.	by 11 November 2015
Response from Education Scotland on outcome of consultation.	by 2 December 2015
Publish Response (3 weeks before policy board)	21 December 2015
Consultation response report (including Education Scotland response) presented to education and children policy board meeting stating consultation outcomes and making final recommendation.	January 2016
Copy of proposal paper and consultation response report sent to Scottish Ministers within 6 days of education and children policy board approval.	

Equality Impact Assessment relating to:

SEMP Development: Spateston and St Anthony's Primary School

Officer and department responsible for completing the assessment.	Ian Thomson, Children's Services
Name of policy, strategy or project.	Proposals to relocate Spateston Pre 5 Centre to a refurbished St Anthony's Primary School.
What is the main purpose or aims of the policy, strategy or project?	To provide a learning environment which is conducive to education in the 21 st Century and to address historical catchment anomalies to better serve communities.
Who will be the beneficiaries of the policy/strategy/project?	This strategy would specifically affect the Spateston Pre 5 Centre and St Anthony's Primary School communities.
Has the policy/strategy/project been explained to those it might affect directly or indirectly?	<p>Yes. This has been undertaken through an informal consultation which highlighted the challenges and opportunities available to address the inefficiencies within the school estate.</p> <p>Written representation were made to The Director of Children's Services, Renfrewshire Council, Children's Services, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1LE.</p> <p>All participants were provided with an equalities proforma which provided the opportunity to record any concerns relating to this proposed strategy; no responses were received in this respect. Additionally this proforma was made available on-line; again no responses were received.</p> <p>Further to this exercise members of the public were asked to nominate themselves for a series of focus groups to discuss SEMP matters on a geographical basis in more detail. These focus group meetings took place during January 2014.</p> <p>Notes from the public meetings and the focus group meetings have been collated and have been made available through the Council's website.</p> <p>In line with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, a formal consultation was undertaken during September and October 2015.</p> <p>A public consultation meeting took place on 1 September 2015. All participants were provided with the opportunity to complete an equalities proforma to record any concerns relating to this proposed strategy; no responses were received in this respect. Additionally this proforma was made available on-line; again no responses were received.</p>

Have you consulted on the policy?	As above.
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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
	High	Low	High	Low	
Race		✓		✓	
Sex		✓		✓	
Disability		✓		✓	
Religion / Belief		✓		✓	It is recognised that the main challenges within the school estate relate to denominational schools. However, the proposed strategy does not recommend the closure of any denominational schools and the proposed actions to address the property challenges facing the Council are common to both denominational and non-denominational schools.
Sexual Orientation		✓		✓	
Age		✓		✓	
Gender Reassignment		✓		✓	
Marriage and Civil Partnership		✓		✓	
Pregnancy and Maternity		✓		✓	

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Renfrewshire Council to relocate Spateston Pre-5 Centre to a refurbished St Anthony's Primary School.

1. Introduction

This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments contained in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of Renfrewshire Council's proposal to relocate Spateston Pre-5 Centre to a refurbished St Anthony's Primary School. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include a copy of this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision. Where a council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all legislative obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

1.1 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the school and centre; 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.

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

- attendance at the public meeting held on 1 August 2015 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;
- visits to the site of Spateston Pre-5 Centre and St Anthony's Primary School, including the Autism Spectrum Disorder classes (ASD) and discussion with relevant consultees; and
- discussion with representatives of the Diocese of Paisley.

2. Consultation Process

- 2.1 Renfrewshire Council undertook the consultation on its proposal with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*.
- 2.2 The consultation formally opened on 1 September 2015 and closed at 12:00 noon on 28 October 2015. Renfrewshire Council issued copies of the consultation document to all interested parties, including individual parents and Parent Councils of the establishments involved. Copies of the document were distributed to local libraries and a copy placed on the council's website. The council placed an advert in the local press giving details of a public meeting which was held on 1 August 2015. The meeting was attended by 18 people. Meetings were also held with staff from both establishments. A total of 32 responses were received. Twenty nine of these were supportive of the proposal and three responses were against.

3. Educational Aspects of Proposal

- 3.1 The proposal will provide an enhanced physical environment for learning. It has the potential to provide breakout spaces and flexible learning areas which will facilitate and enhance opportunities for active learning and deliver the curriculum better. For both groups of children, the opportunity for enhanced outdoor play areas will help to improve children's experiences. In considering the benefits set out by the council, HM Inspectors agree that a refurbished building will also enhance the locality and be in keeping with the regeneration of the surrounding area. Such a development may allow better community engagement with greater space to bring parents and carers together to support their own and their children's learning. Currently, the pre-5 centre has limited space and as a result parental involvement activities are held in the staff room. The refurbishment will provide the opportunity to create more appropriate facilities to enhance current parental involvement programmes. In its proposal, the council notes that bringing the two establishments together will enable better use of space and greater flexibility of use. This will be particularly helpful for those children with ASD who attend St. Anthony's Primary School from across the council area. The potential for providing more appropriate quiet areas for these children will be particularly beneficial. The bringing together of the pre-5 centre, primary school and unit also has the potential to enhance the inclusive educational experiences for all children. The council will need to manage the refurbishment very carefully to ensure that children with ASD are able to integrate into their new environment with ease. Currently the nurture and soft play areas in the school are adequate, but have potential to be improved during the refurbishment. In the pre-5 centre, the parents' room is used as a nurture area and whilst this is comfortable, it could be improved if incorporated in the design of the refurbishment. The provision of more and better flexible working spaces in the pre-5 centre, the school and unit also has the potential to enhance opportunities for professional development. It has the potential to provide greater opportunities for staff to share practice more easily and facilitate transition between age stages.
- 3.2 In considering the educational benefits outlined in the proposal, HM Inspectors believe that there are significant potential educational benefits from the refurbishment proposal of Spateston Pre-5 Centre and St Anthony's Primary School.

- 3.3 Almost all parents who met with HM Inspectors felt that a refurbished building would enhance the physical learning environment for their children and provide a more conducive place for teaching and learning. They were pleased that their community would have a better integrated facility which they felt would enhance the locality and provide the potential for more community involvement. The majority of parents who met with HM Inspectors were keen that the proposal proceeds quickly, and that further details of the design are made available. Almost all stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors were seeking reassurance that the building works would be well managed to reduce the disruption to learners and staff. This is particularly important for the ASD pupils. The council is aware of the need to assure parents, staff and other interested stakeholders, that a robust traffic management system will be put in place to ensure children's safety. Children from both the pre-5 centre, school and ASD provision were keen for the refurbishment to go ahead and at pace. Almost all felt that they would have better facilities and were looking forward to being involved in the design.
- 3.4 The Diocese of Paisley was in favour of the proposal, feeling that it would provide a much better learning environment for all children. The Diocese expressed a desire that the building works should be well managed to avoid disruption to children's learning.

4. Summary

The proposal is of clear educational benefit. The council outlines the educational benefits for children, families and the local community well. A refurbished building will enhance the learning environment and provide more flexible learning spaces which will allow the school to meet the needs of all children better. The inclusion of the pre-5 centre, primary school and ASD provision in one campus, will enhance children's experiences. Sharing of facilities across all provisions will allow better use of space and has the potential to improve the current provision for nurture, soft play, outdoor learning and the use of quiet areas. Staff development will also be facilitated by allowing all staff to share practice more easily. The local community will benefit from an improved building and the potential for better community engagement in learning. The council is aware of the need to ensure that a robust traffic management system is put in place, and that children's learning is not compromised during the building works.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland**