

REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE –
16 DECEMBER 2002

REPORT ON: CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF DENOMINATIONAL
SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN DUNDEE – SUMMARY OF RESULTS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 891-2002

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to update the Education Committee on the summary of results of the survey of parents/carers and staff of all Dundee City Council denominational primary and secondary schools. This survey was carried out following on the urgent decision of the Director of Education detailed in Report No 852-2002 approved in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation and entitled "Consultation on the Future of Denominational Secondary Schools in Dundee". A survey was carried out of all parents and staff with regard to the future of denominational secondary school provision in the City.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** The committee is asked to
- (i) Take note of the contents of this report
 - (ii) Forward the content of this report as evidence to a Best Value Review Working Group for their consideration.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1** None

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** All questionnaire forms were printed on recycled paper.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** None

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1** This survey was carried out following on the urgent decision of the Director of Education detailed in Report No 852-2002 approved in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation and entitled "Consultation on the Future of Denominational Secondary Schools in Dundee". A survey was carried out of all parents and staff with regard to the future of denominational secondary school provision in the City.

- 6.2** Survey forms were sent to the families of all children attending denominational schools in the city, and to the staff of all denominational schools in the city.
- 6.3** Survey forms were returned to the Education Department by Monday 2 December 2002.
- 6.4** An official count was carried out by Education Department staff following procedures that are operational for School Board elections.

7.0 CURRENT SITUATION

The results of the survey were as follows:

Survey of families

	Number	Percentage of forms returned
Number of families surveyed	3639	
Survey forms returned	1640	45.1
Option 1 – “Lawside Academy, St John’s High School and St Saviour’s High School should be retained on their present sites, in their present condition.”	620	37.9 *
Option 2 – “Lawside Academy and St Saviour’s High School should be merged and relocated in a new school on a site at Kirkton Park and St John’s High School should be extended and refurbished.”	1008	61.4 *
Rejected Papers	12	0.7 *

Survey of staff

	Number	Percentage of forms returned
Survey forms distributed	561	
Survey forms returned	296	52.8
Option 1	45	15.2 *
Option 2	243	82.1 *
Rejected Papers	8	2.7 *

* As these figures have been rounded to one decimal place the sum of the result may not add up to 100%

- 7.1** 124 respondents (6.8% of those replying) chose one of the two options but also took the opportunity to express feelings regarding the project via their questionnaire. Of these, 107 respondents who chose option 2 (8.9% of those who chose this option) chose to express their objection to the site at Kirkton Park, and called for further discussion and consultation over this aspect of the proposal.

7.2 School Boards of denominational schools were contacted by the Director of Education and asked to express a view regarding the options. Four boards responded. All chose Option 2. Two Boards expressed concern over the site. These responses are attached.

7.3 The result of the survey indicates support for the merger of Lawside Academy and St Saviour's High School on the site at Kirkton Park and the refurbishment of St John's High School.

8.0 PROPOSAL

8.1 It is proposed that the Education Committee forward the content of this report as evidence to a Best Value Review Working Group for their consideration.

9.0 CONSULTATION

9.1 Consultation on the contents of this report was carried out with the Chief Executive and the Directors of Corporate Planning, Support Services and Finance

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education

5/12/2002

AW/NJ

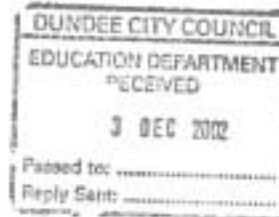


St Saviour's RC High School Board

Mrs A Thomson
Clerk
c/o St Saviour's RC H S
Drumgath Road
DUNDEE
DD4 0JX

2 December 2002

Mrs. Anne Wilson
Director of Education
Dundee City Council
28 Crichton Street
Dundee



Dear Mrs. Wilson,

St. Saviour's High School, Dundee
New proposals from Dundee City Council
Denominational Secondary Schools in Dundee

I refer to your recent letter sent to the Clerk of this Board.

After the original proposals were put forward, this board submitted (by letter dated 27th April 2002) its formal response to the suggestions contained in the PPP booklet, which had been distributed in November and December of last year.

The members of the School Board do, very realistically, recognise that matters have gone on apace since that time. At the most recent meeting of the Board, which was held on Tuesday 19th November 2002, the "new" proposals were outlined to the members. By good fortune, we were apprised, through the offices of Mrs. Pauline Ballie - one of our parent members - of the content of the letter that was to be sent from the Convenor and Vice-Convenor of Education the following day to the parents of every child at Catholic schools in this city.

That meeting of the School Board was followed by a public meeting - arranged at fairly short notice by the "Dundee Catholic Parents' Action Group" - to which the parents of children presently at St. Saviour's High School were invited. (I would record that I am not a member of that group.) Inevitably, a number of differing points of view were put forward and canvassed. These views were heard by elected members of the authority who were present at the meeting.

I have to record that there was a degree of unease about the wording of the second option in the questionnaire sent with the letter from the Education Committee's Convenor and Vice-Convenor. As drafted and as put to the parents, the impression was certainly given that the only option available was a new Catholic secondary school at the site at Kirkton Park, Dundee. It was felt, by a sizeable group of those present at the meeting of parents, that it was not only restrictive, but also inequitable, to limit the choice of site for the new school to the one location.

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I think that I can say, with absolute accuracy, that if the second option had been drafted in the following terms: -

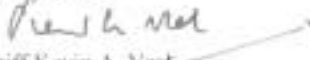
Laneside Academy and St. Saviour's High School should be merged and relocated in a new school on a site to be determined, and St. John's High School should be extended and refurbished.

and if that had been the option put to the St. Saviour's parents, then I am quietly confident that that proposal would have gained the whole hearted support of this school community. However, this board still believes that there will be a consensus for two Catholic Secondary Schools to become one on a site to be identified and agreed.

We think that it is likely that those parents from this school community who voted in favour of the second alternative may well have qualified their acceptance of the second proposal by stating in terms that the site for the new school is a matter which will require to be identified and consulted upon, and thereafter the parents' views be taken into account.

Thank you again for inviting us to respond, and I offer my apologies that this response is a little "hurried". Nothing ever proceeds at a sedate pace these days!

Yours sincerely,



Sheriff Kevin A. Veat
School Board Chairman



St Joseph's Primary School SCHOOL BOARD

St Joseph's Primary
School
Bellfield Street
DUNDEE DD1 5HX

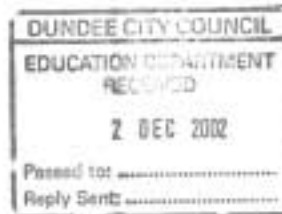
Tel : 01382 435316

Reply to : 4 Elliot Court
Elliot Road
DUNDEE
DD2 1TB

DELIVERY

Director of Education
Dundee City Council
Floor 8
Tayside House
Crichton Street
DUNDEE
DD1 3RJ

28th November 2002



Dear Ms Wilson

Questionnaire on the future of Denominational Secondary Schools in Dundee

Thank you for your letter of 19th November. Our School Board are strongly supportive of the plan to merge Lawside Academy and St Saviour's High School and relocate the merged school onto a new site, with St John's High School being extended and refurbished.

We firmly believe that this is the best option to secure the future of Catholic Education within the City of Dundee although we have doubts as to whether the location of the new school at Kirkton Park is necessarily the best option. We understand however that the choice of location will be part of the consultation process to be carried out with affected parents at primary and secondary school levels.

We welcome the commitment of the Education Authority to produce Catholic schools fit for the twenty first century and look forward to learning of the decision of the Education Committee in due course.

In the meantime I return the completed questionnaire.

Yours sincerely,

Ivan J.G. Carnegie,
Chairman

COPY

QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE FUTURE OF DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN DUNDEE

The City Council wishes to discover the views of parents whose children attend a denominational school on the future of denominational secondary schools in Dundee. Listed below are two options. Option 1 is the present position. Option 2 is a possibility for future action.

You are asked to mark a cross in the box opposite the option you prefer.

- 1 Lawside Academy, St John's High School and St Saviour's High School should be retained on their present sites, in their present condition.

☐

OR

- 2 Lawside Academy and St Saviour's High School should be merged and relocated in a new school on a site at Kirkton Park and St John's High School should be extended and refurbished.

☒

The cost of the possible merger of Lawside Academy and St Saviour's High School and relocating to a new school on a site at Kirkton Park and St John's High School being extended and refurbished would be an additional £2.17 million per year support from the Scottish Executive.

These resources are not available to the City Council at this time, and would require the City Council to make a future bid for Public Private Partnership funding or to utilise other capital resources which may be available.

This consultation exercise is for the purpose of informing the Best Value Review Group and does not constitute part of the current formal Schools PPP Project consultation procedures. However, further formal consultation may be required at a future date.

*Our Lady's Primary
School Board*

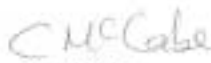
29 November 2002

Anne Wilson,
Director of Education,
Tayside House,
28 Crichton Street,
Dundee,
DD1 3RJ.

Dear Ms Wilson,

I am writing on behalf of the above named School Board. The members of the Board would like to intimate their preference for Option 2.

Yours sincerely,


C. McCabe,
Clerk to the Board.

SS Peter and Paul's School Board

29th November, 2002

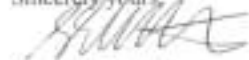
Anne Wilson
Floor 8, Tayside House
Crichton Street
Dundee DD1 3RJ

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE FUTURE OF DENOMINATIONAL
SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN DUNDEE**

Dear Anne Wilson:

It is the view of the above board and parents of SS Peter and Paul's, that we support Option 2, to merge Lawside Academy and St Saviour's High School and to refurbish St John's High School.

Sincerely yours,



Scott Mitchell
Chairperson