

ITEM No ...6...

REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES COMMITTEE - 9 SEPTEMBER 2019

REPORT ON: INFORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE LEARNING ESTATE

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

REPORT NO: 297- 2019

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out the progress made in relation to the collaborative work of Dundee City, Angus and Perth and Kinross Councils in relation to possible improvements to their respective learning/school estates.
- 1.2 This report also provides key findings from the related informal consultation process conducted between March and June 2019, including key findings emanating from the digital engagement strategies with key stakeholders.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that members:

- (i) instruct the Executive Director of Children and Families Service to bring back a formal consultation paper to Children and Families Services Committee in December for approval to consider how primary provision for the Western Gateway can be taken forward; and
- (ii) instruct the Executive Director of Children and Families Service to carry out further work on the options for Braeview Academy and Craigie High School and bring recommendations back to the Children and Families Services Committee for approval in December.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 None

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Reference is made to Article VI of the Minute of the Meeting of the Children and Families Services Committee held on 28 January 2019 (report no [47-2019](#) refers) when the respective Directors in Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross sought and gained permission to engage in a period of informal consultation with the relevant communities across Tayside in relation to a potential combined learning/school estate and practicalities of developing a Tri-Council 2-18 Joint Community Learning Campus and/or separate primary provision in Dundee's western gateway. Approval was also granted to:

- work in collaboration with Angus council regarding school estate matters in the West Broughty Ferry/Monifieth areas;
- consider estate options for secondary education in the east of Dundee;
- undertake an informal consultation exercise with key stakeholders in relation to the above learning/school estate matters and prepare a report on the results of the informal consultation for consideration by Committee. Depending on the outcome of this informal consultation, the respective Committees might be asked to instruct the relevant Executive/Strategic Directors to consult formally under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

5.0 INFORMAL CONSULTATION KEY FINDINGS

- 5.1 Between March and June of 2019, Dundee City, Angus and Perth and Kinross Councils undertook a period of informal consultation with all stakeholders in connection with:
- A potential Tri-council 2-18 Joint Community Learning Campus in the west of Dundee and/or a Western Gateway primary school;
 - Possible shared catchment for Barnhill Primary in relation to Grove Academy and Monifieth High School within Angus Council;
 - Refurbishment/replacement of Braeview Academy and Craigie High School or the creation of a new combined secondary school, merging Craigie High school and Braeview Academy.
- 5.2 The development of the informal consultation exercise was undertaken collaboratively with Angus and Perth and Kinross Councils. In addition, the governance of the consultation was shared equally across the three local authorities with a shared strategy and communication plan developed.
- 5.3 Briefing papers were prepared to allow all council members who were taking part to have a clear understanding of our intended outcomes and to enable a clear and consistent approach across all three local authorities.
- 5.4 As the potential Tri-council 2-18 Joint Community Learning Campus could be located in the West of Dundee/South Angus/East Carse, communications were put out by respective Councils to communities within these localities and catchment schools to invite them to take part in informal consultation.
- 5.5 Seven informal engagement sessions in relation to the Joint Community Learning Campus were held between April and May 2019.
- 5.6 All three local authorities undertook a variety of planned engagements to gain views and assess the level of support for the proposals, including:
- engagement with children, young people, staff and other stakeholders;
 - meetings with parents/carers and communities and;
 - informal consultation via digital engagement strategies.
- 5.7 Representatives from all three local authorities attended each applicable informal public engagement event to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to see proposals from each Council, be provided with information specific to each local authority's context and share their opinions on the plans.
- 5.8 All stakeholders were informally consulted to ascertain the level of support for the proposals. Views were sought in a variety of mediums dependent upon the type of event which was planned to take place, these included group engagements sessions, drop in sessions, focus groups and through digital questionnaires. A summary of the on-line responses are included in Appendix 1.

TRI-COUNCIL 2-18 JOINT COMMUNITY LEARNING CAMPUS/NEW WESTERN GATEWAY PS

- 5.9 Over 130 people attended across the seven events, either individually or as couples. There was a mix of parents/carers of current pupils, families with young children not yet of school age or residents within the locality of the proposals. The main points arising from the events were:
- Support for a potential Tri-council 2-18 Joint Community Learning Campus, this was also acknowledged in the survey with 407 out of 556 people saying Yes to the proposal;
 - Apprehension over the time scale such a project would take and which cohort of young people this would potentially benefit or have impact upon;
 - Transition to the new Joint Community Learning Campus, particularly where there are siblings;
 - Issue of transport from home to schools was a consideration for families;
 - Concerns over potential closures of rural primaries for Angus residents;
 - For Dundee, although a Joint Community Learning Campus was favoured first by the majority who responded, there was support for a primary provision in the Western Gateway.

- 5.10 An adaptive online survey was accessed by 750 participants across Tayside between the months of April and June of 2019.
- 5.11 Detailed analysis was undertaken of the findings from the three unique electronic questionnaires addressing the aforementioned elements of the informal consultation (this section, however, just pertains to the Tri Council 2-18 Joint Community Learning Campus) agreed by respective council committees in relation to the three local authorities learning/school estate and compiled into a summary report (see Appendix 1) highlighting the following conclusions.
- 5.12 The level of engagement within the digital survey varied and a number of respondents did not complete the entire survey. Of the 560 valid responses, 133 were completed by those who associated themselves with Dundee City Council.
- 5.13 Of the 133, 100 respondents associated with Dundee City Council supported the idea of a Joint Community learning Campus.
- 5.14 Whilst the consultation response supported the idea of a Tri-council 2-18 Joint Community Learning Campus, progress towards this is only possible where the proposal is deemed viable by all three councils. The position of Perth and Kinross and Angus Council are set out in paras 5.15 and 5.16.
- 5.15 In considering all of the information available, including the position of our partner local authorities, it is proposed that Perth and Kinross Council maintain their focus on the improvement of the existing learning estate rather than progress further with the joint community learning campus.
- 5.16 Recommendations to Angus Council's Children & Learning Committee will include that involvement in a potential joint campus should cease on the basis of feedback and engagement, including opinions about school closures, as well as consideration of financial and educational implications.
- 5.17 The feedback from Dundee citizens taking part in the consultation supported the idea of a Joint Community Campus.
- 5.18 In light of the fact that there is not an agreed position across the three councils, it is not proposed to take forward a Joint 2-18 Campus at this time.
- 5.19 There remains a need for primary provision for the Western Gateway, however currently capacity within the Western Gateway associated secondary schools (Baldragon Academy and St Paul's RC HS) enables the emerging and current secondary requirement to be managed.
- 5.20 It is proposed that officers bring back a formal consultation paper to Children and Families Services Committee in December for approval to consider how the primary provision for the Western Gateway can be taken forward.

OPTION FOR BARNHILL PRIMARY PUPILS TO ATTEND MONIFIETH HIGH SCHOOL

- 5.21 23 individuals attended during the course of the two public engagement sessions on 14th May & 22th May 2019 from 3-7pm.
- 5.22 Meetings were also conducted with the pupils attending Barnhill to gain their views, this was a selection of young people currently in P4-P7.
- 5.23 All conversations during the various sessions took place in relation to Dundee's proposals on a Tri-council 2-18 Joint Community Learning Campus and/or primary provision in the western gateway and the potential benefits this could bring to young people attending Barnhill primary. The option of a "choice" to go to Monifieth High school or Grove was shared and discussed with all participants.
- 5.24 The overwhelming view from all participants was positive, seeing the proposed opportunity as beneficial as it enabled a choice to be given to families as to which secondary provision their child attended.

- 5.25 Cross Authority issues such as siblings being in two different local authority schools and the potential for in-service days and holidays not being aligned were raised, also concerns such as extra-curricular activities within one authority but not the other. i.e. a Dundee pupil attending Monifieth wishing to partake in the Dundee or Angus school sports.
- 5.26 In addition to the engagement sessions, 69 responses were obtained via the online and paper surveys. Of the 69 responses, 55 or 80% were in favour of the proposal, 8 were unsure and only 6 were against.
- 5.27 Although the informal consultation was very much in favour of the proposal, as highlighted in the informal consultation paper, reference is made to Article VI of the Minute of the Meeting of the Children and Families Service Committee held on 28 January 2019 (report no [47-2019](#) refers) priority 1 categorisation at Monifieth High School for Barnhill PS pupils would only be viable on the basis that a Tri-council 2-18 Joint Community Learning Campus was built as it would free up potential capacity within Monifieth High due to some pupils from South Angus attending the new campus.
- 5.28 As it is likely that the Tri-Council provision will not proceed it would not be possible to make any changes to the secondary prioritisation of Barnhill PS pupils.

OPTIONS FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION IN THE EAST OF DUNDEE

- 5.29 Stakeholders were informally consulted on two options regarding the learning/school estate in the east of the city. These options have come about due to a number of factors surrounding the current condition and suitability of Braeview Academy and Craigie High Schools buildings. An additional factor is the recent tragic fire which engulfed and destroyed approximately 50% of the Braeview buildings.
- 5.30 The two options presented to stakeholders, both of which are dependent upon Dundee City Councils future capital programme and importantly external Scottish Government funding, were:
- Reinstating Braeview Academy on its existing site and continue with the maintenance programme to Craigie high school with the potential, in the future, for refurbishment or replacement of both schools on their existing sites or;
 - Closing both Braeview Academy and Craigie High School and creating a new single secondary school serving the east of Dundee located on the Drumgeith Road site.
- 5.31 23 Parents/Carers/Members of the community attended the informal public consultation events. From those in attendance, their views varied and opinions were split relative to which option they preferred and was in the best interests of young people, the schools and their communities.
- 5.32 Given the very low number of stakeholders attending these public events, it is difficult to determine to what extent this is a representative view of the combined communities.
- 5.33 There were a total of 231 responses via digital and paper surveys, of these returns:
- 132 or 57% were in favour of reinstating Braeview Academy and maintaining Craigie High School with future potential to refurbish or rebuild;
 - 81 or 35% were in favour of closing both Braeview Academy and Craigie High School and creating a single new secondary.
- 5.34 Over 33% of the overall survey responses provided were views obtained from young people attending Braeview Academy, Craigie High School or their respective feeder primaries during planned engagement sessions with council officers.
- 5.35 As with the face to face meetings, 231 is a low response rate in relation to the sum of both secondary school communities and associate feeder primaries.
- 5.36 The breakdown of the responses also highlights a disparity in the response rate from the two communities. 187 of the respondents associated themselves with Craigie High School community or its feeder primaries compared to 44 associated to Braeview Academy community and its associated feeder primaries. This suggests that further engagement with the communities would be beneficial to gain a more balanced view between the stakeholder groups.

5.37 It is proposed that officers are asked to carry out further work on the options for Braeview Academy and Craigie High School and bring recommendations back to the Children and Families Services Committee for approval in December.

6.0 CONTINUED LEARNING ESTATE COLLABORATION ACROSS THE TAY CITIES REGION

6.1 Officers have recognised that our collaboration in relation to learning estate has been very positive. This has been a pronounced learning experience, officers have benefited greatly from the depth of skills, expertise and opportunities which were created to work and learn from one another during the projects development.

6.2 There remains a desire from Children and Families Service to continue our collaborative working to extend the potential benefits afforded to us in transforming estate and our approaches to learning which may possibly include other partners in relation to the Tay Cities Deal.

6.3 At this time, Children and Families Service will focus upon other estate within the authority which requires more immediate attention and seek potential support from Scottish Futures Trust in allocating appropriate funding to assist with their respective projects.

7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 This Report has been subject to an assessment of any impact on equality and diversity, fairness and poverty, environment and corporate risk. There are no major issues.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The Council Management Team have been consulted in preparation of this report.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None.

Paul Clancy, Executive Director
August 2019

Gordon Laidlaw, Project Officer

Graphs and breakdown of electronic responses

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO LEARNING ESTATE TRANSFORMATION ACROSS TAYSIDE

Consultation Feedback April - June 2019

Tri-Council 2-18 Joint Community Learning Campus

Engagement events:

Notes:

- All Authorities were represented at public engagement events however each Local Authority hosted events within their locality.
- The Authorities adopted slightly different approaches to engagement with Learners and Parent Council Groups.

Date	Host Authority	Engagement	Venue	Attendees
26.03.19	Perth and Kinross	Parent Council	Inchture Primary (Invergowrie, Inchture, Abernyte, Longforgan, Errol & St Madoes primaries represented)	8
23.04.19	Angus	Public	Birkhill Primary	30
24.04.19	Dundee	Public	Harris Academy	4
25.04.19	Perth & Kinross	Public	Inchture Primary	30
04.05.19	Tri-Council Event	Public	Double Tree Hilton	30
07.05.19	Perth & Kinross	Public	Madoch Centre, St Madoes	9
08.05.19	Angus	Public	Birkhill Primary	19
09.05.19	Dundee	Public	Harris Academy	12
23.04.19	Dundee	Learner	Harris Academy	20
25.04.19	Dundee	Parent Council	Harris Academy	12
June 2019	Angus	Learner	Auchterhouse, Birkhill, Grange, Liff, Mattocks, Murroes, Newtyle, Seaview, Strathmartine, Tealing, Monifieth High School	Various

Parent Councils

Perth High School Cluster

PKC met with the chairs of the Parent Councils of primary schools in the Carse of Gowrie. This was to plan the drop-in sessions rather than gaining their views on the proposal.

Monifieth Learning Estate

Initial engagement took place with Parent Council Chairs during September 2018 in relation to the wider Monifieth Learning Estate. Parent Council Chairs were given advance notification of the drop-in dates and invited to encourage attendance at the sessions. It was not considered necessary to do further specific work at this stage due to the informal nature of the consultation and the other methods available for engagement.

Public engagement events

Over 130 people attended across the seven events. There was a mix of parents/carers of current pupils, families with young children not yet of school age or residents within the locality of the proposals. The main points arising from the events were:

- Recognition of potential community benefits and improved facilities that could result from a Joint Community Learning Campus;
- Apprehension over the time scale such a project would take and which cohort of young people this would potentially benefit or have impact upon;
- Questions relating to holidays and transition to any potential new Joint Community Learning Campus, particularly where there are siblings;
- Varied views were expressed in relation to the impact of travel times to school
- Comments regarding how local infrastructure such as roads and drainage would be affected
- Concerns over potential closures of rural primaries for Angus residents;
- For Dundee, Support for a primary in the western gateway area although a Joint Community Learning Campus was favoured first.

Some attendees had already accessed information and completed the survey via local authority websites prior to attending the events. Devices were made available at some events for surveys to be completed. Paper copies were also provided for those who required them and attendees were also given details of hyperlinks to take away.

Digital engagement strategy

There was a total of **560** valid responses to the survey. These can be broken down as follows:

Angus Council **178**

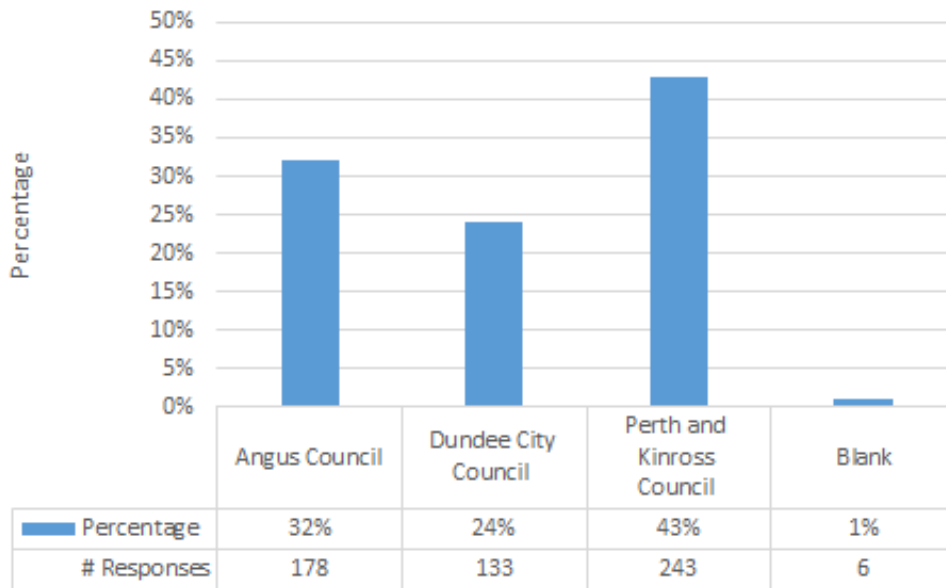
Dundee City Council **133**

Perth and Kinross Council **243**

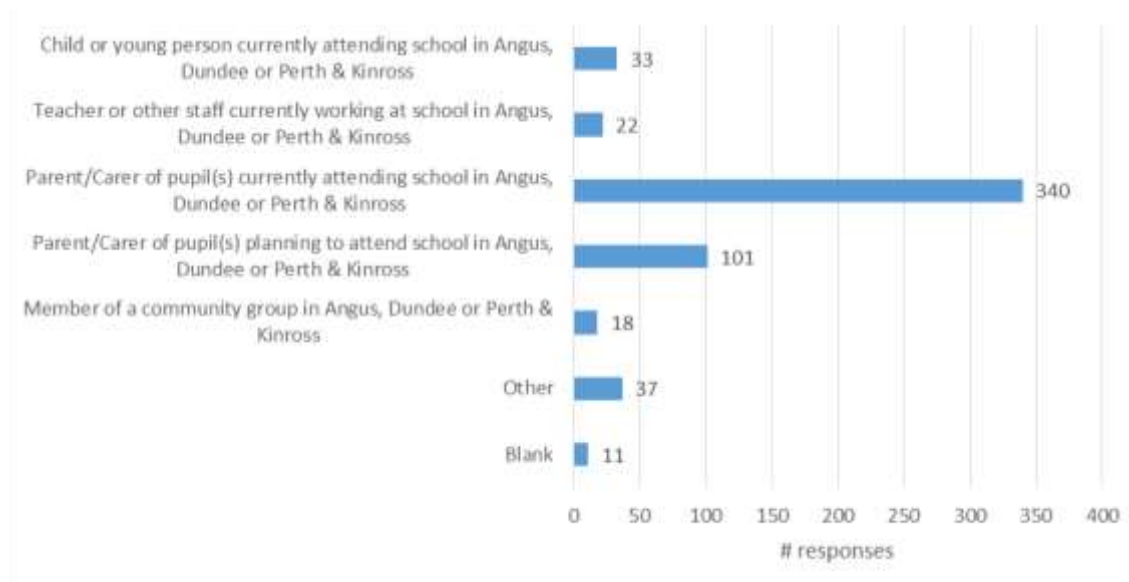
No Council disclosed **6**

Those that engaged with the survey were asked to respond to the following questions:

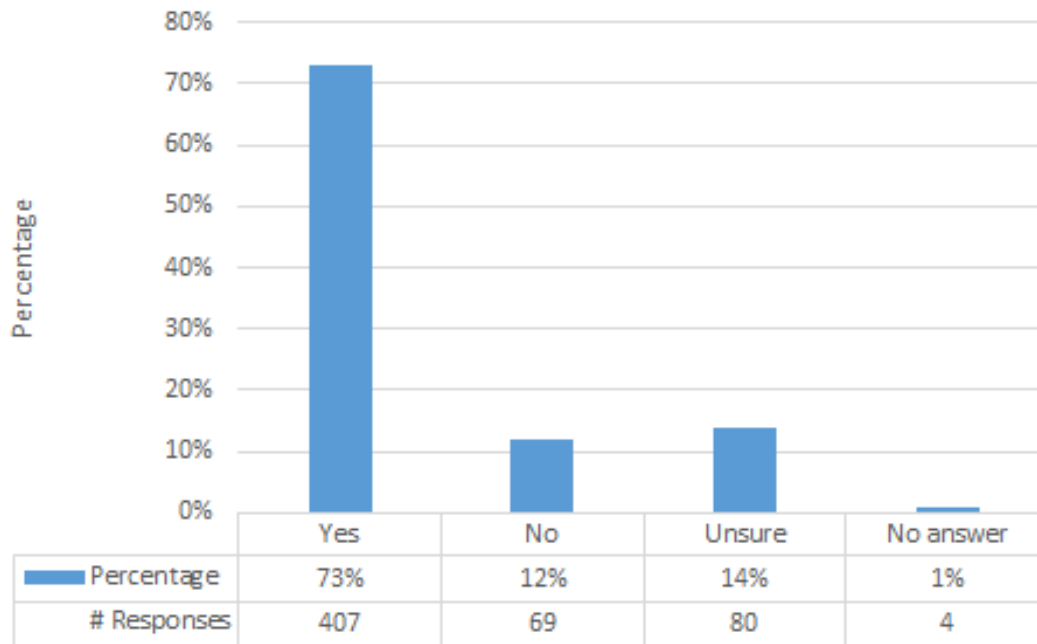
Which local authority do you live in?



Please tell us who you are?

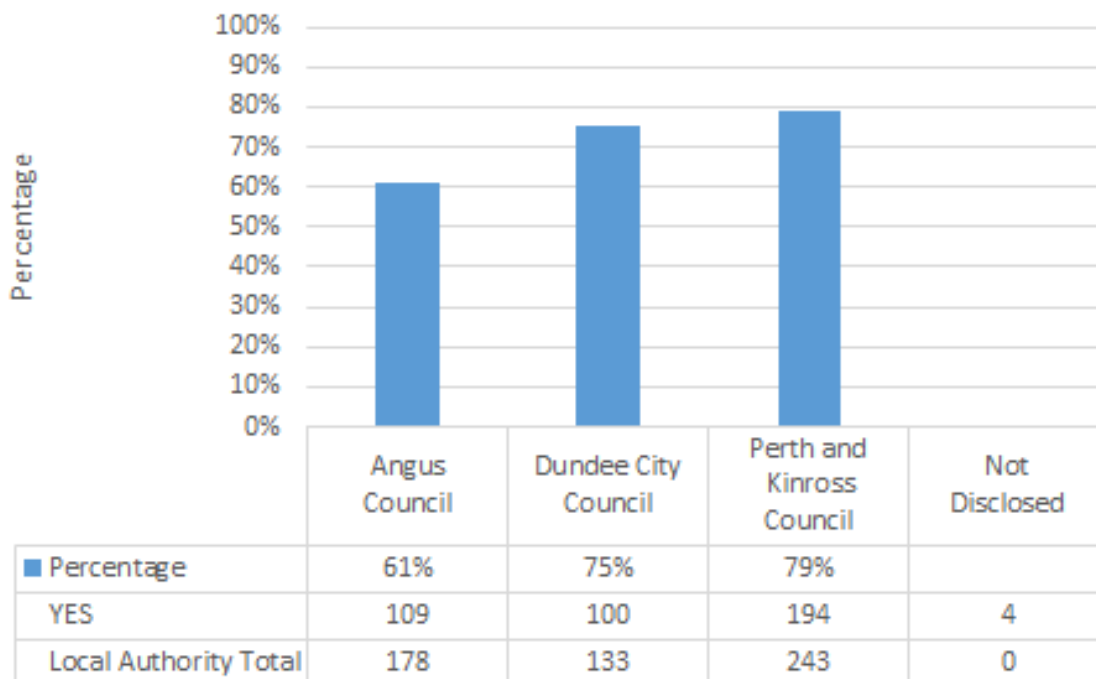


Do you support the idea of a 2-18 joint community learning campus?

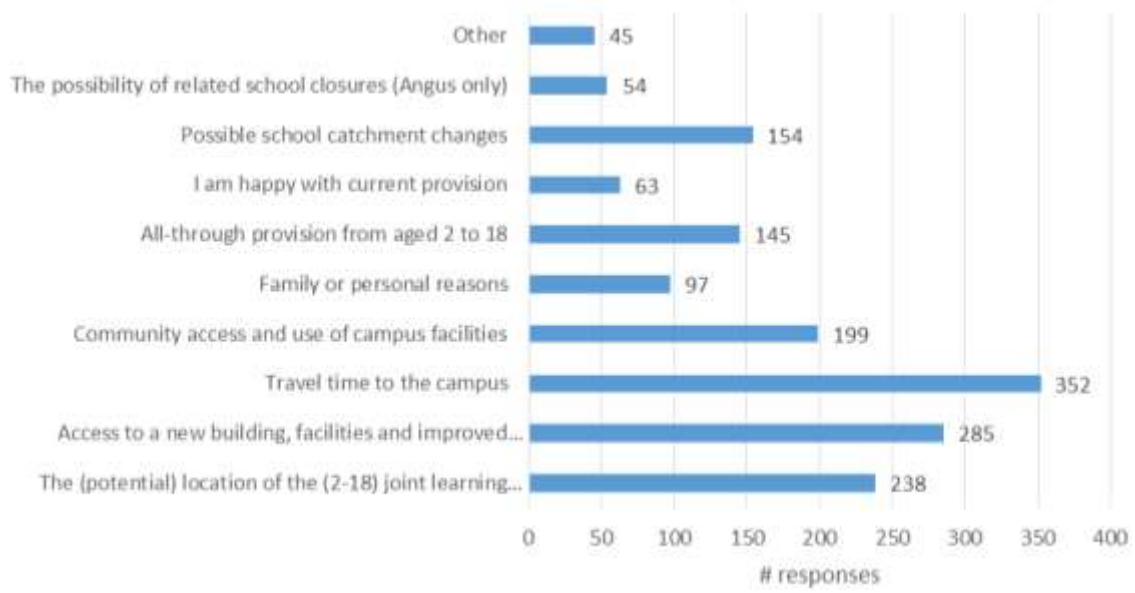


556 responses were received to this question.

Breakdown of support by local authority

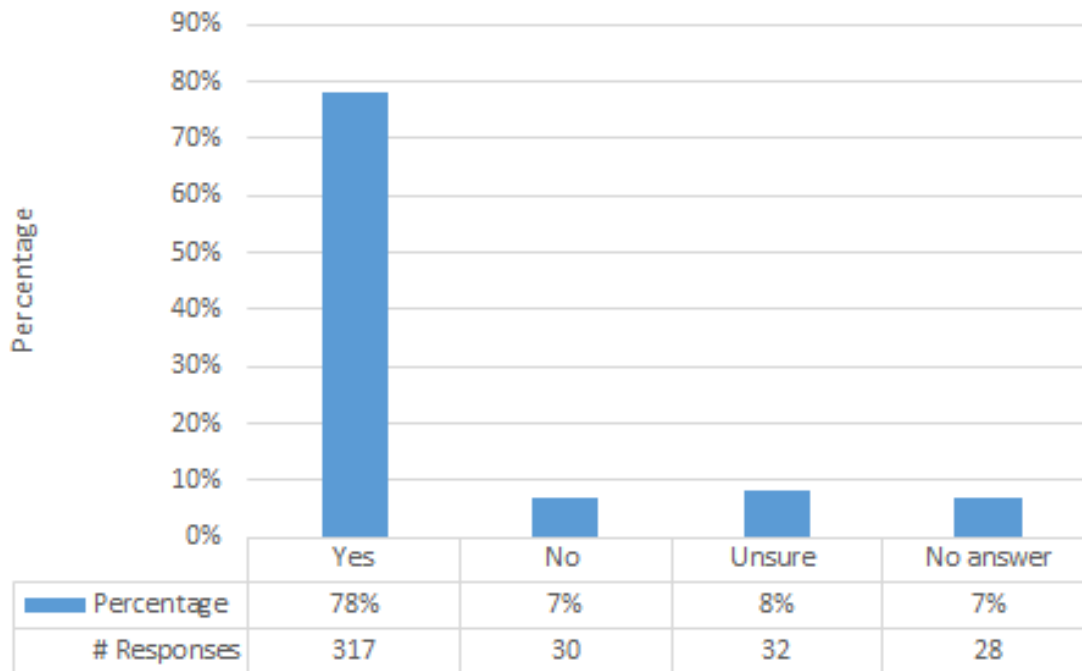


What influenced your answer?

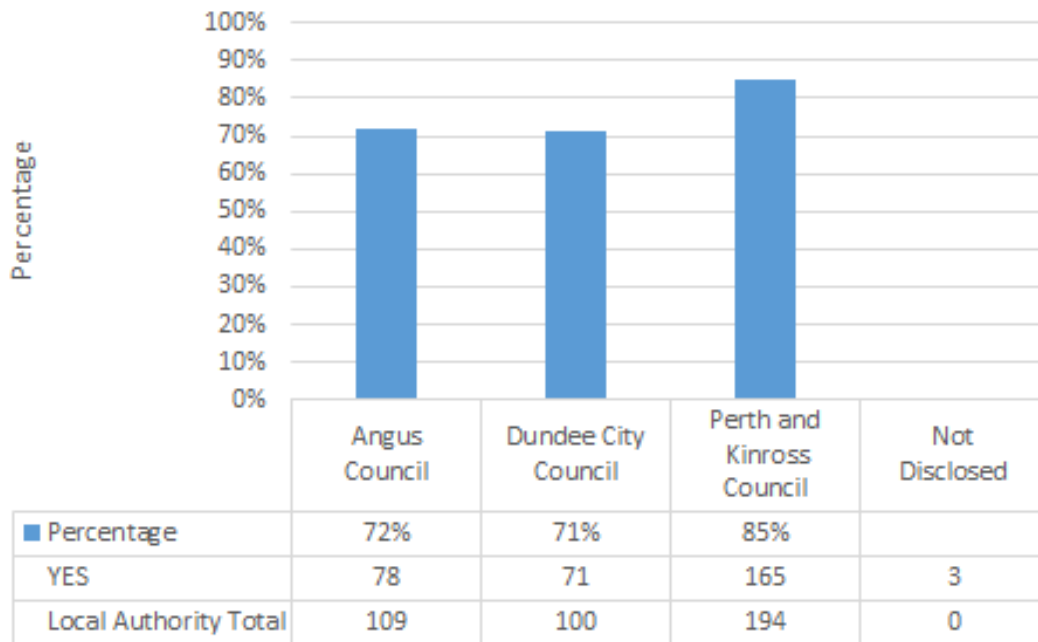


*respondents could select more than one reason

Would you like your child or children to attend this campus?

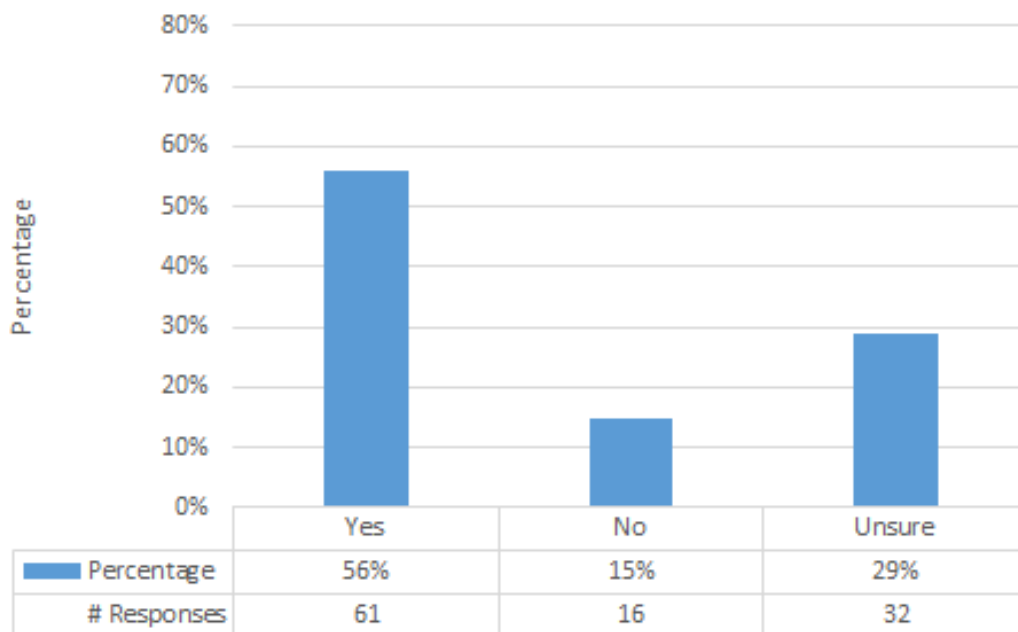


Breakdown in relation to local authority



This Question was asked of Angus Council Residents Only:

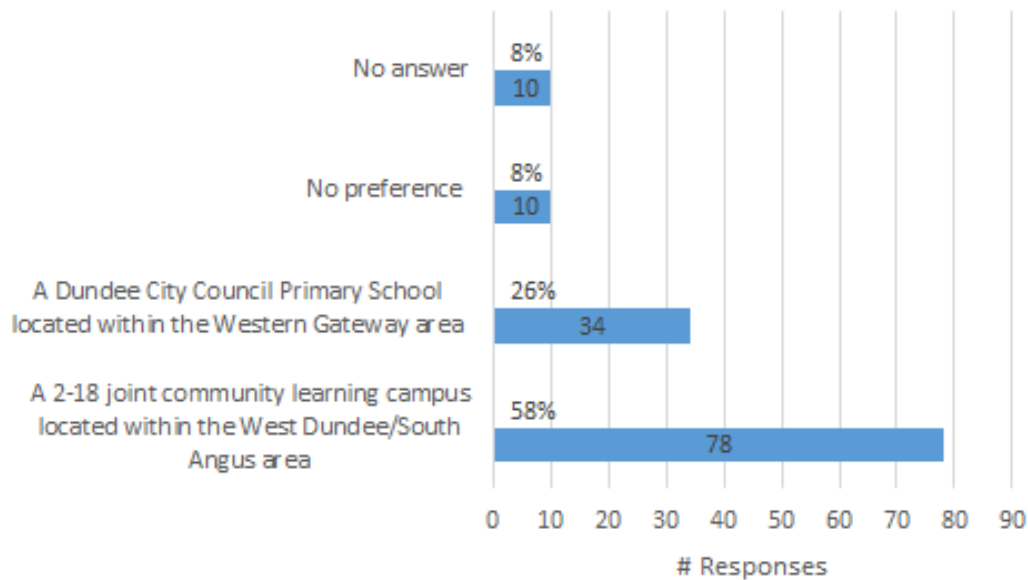
Would you still support the idea of a 2-18 Campus if it meant the closure of other Angus Schools?



All of the 109 Angus respondents that expressed support for the idea of the 2-18 Joint Community Learning Campus, answered this question. Slightly over half of respondents remained in support of the idea even if it meant the closure of other Angus Schools.

This Question was asked of Dundee City Council Residents Only:

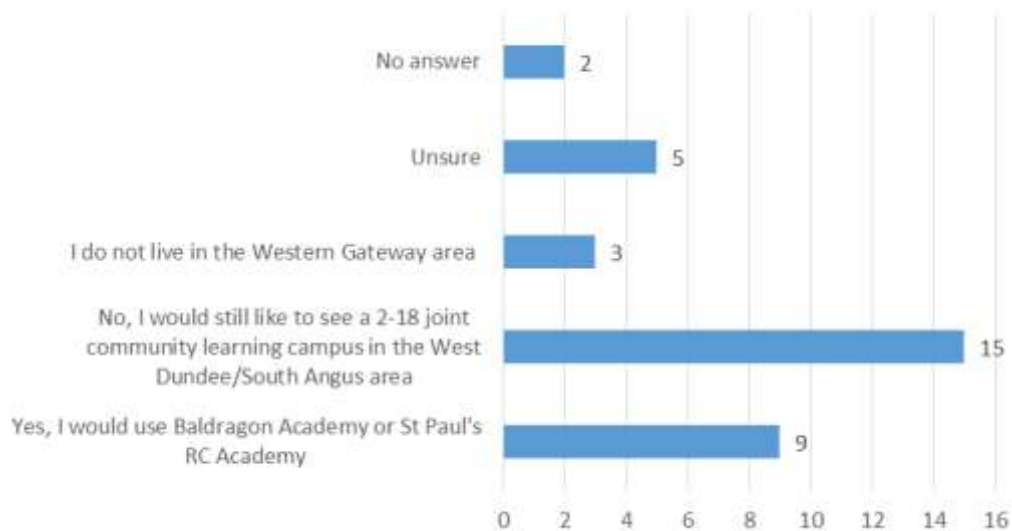
Which of the following two options would you prefer to see built first?



Of 132 responses Dundee respondents, 58% favour the 2-18 Joint Community Learning Campus being built first. Less than half respondents favoured the primary being built first.

This Question was asked of Dundee City Council Residents Only:

If you live within Dundee's Western Gateway development area, once the primary school is built, would you be content to use existing secondary education provision (Baldragon and St Paul's RC Academies)?



34 completed this question which was specific to the Western Gateway development.

Pupil Focus Groups

Dundee City Council Schools

Note: Overall Feedback is more extensive and available, these are the succinct key points.

Pupil Focus group consisted of a blend of representatives from pupil voice across all year groups within Harris Academy and pupils who formerly attended Invergowrie Primary School.

The following comments and observations were shared by the pupils:

Many of those that were involved in the engagement felt that it was not relevant to them given the timescale involved for this to happen and might be of more relevance to parents, especially of younger children.

- Transport could be an issue for pupils from Invergowrie and other outlying areas depending on exactly where the new school is located.
- This idea might take the pressure of numbers of Harris and allow more Dundee people to attend which could be positive however wondered if there would there be a special priority for younger siblings who had siblings currently at Harris to still have the opportunity to attend Harris?
- This could be an opportunity for a fresh start which might also be an issue for 'outsiders' coming in as a through-school however may also help young people to make new friends from different areas.
- Pupils acknowledged that journey times would probably be less for Invergowrie people currently attending Harris and also for Angus pupils currently travelling to Monifieth HS.

Monifieth Learning Estate

Angus Council Schools & Learning Team held a series of learner engagement events in June 2019. Focus groups were held with P5-7s and secondary learners from:

Auchterhouse, Birkhill, Grange, Liff, Mattocks, Murroes, Newtyle, Seaview, Strathmartine, Tealing, Monifieth High School

The sessions focused on two key questions:

What is good/great about your current school?

If we were designing a new school, what would you like it to have?

The findings can be summarised as:

What is good/great about your school?

- Schools and the surrounding areas are quiet and peaceful
- Positive relationships with teachers and peers. Learners feel valued, listened to and supported
- Everyone knows each other in a small school and there are valuable links with the wider community
- Parental Engagement is strong
- Teachers are friendly and make learning fun
- Learners are able to walk/bike to school safely
- There is excellent use of outdoor space and learners are given freedom to experience different environments such as school gardens and ponds
- Learners are happy and enjoy successes at school. There is a range of leadership opportunities available to them such as pupil voice and community groups
- There are many opportunities for pupils to take part in schools trips and activities, and a range of people visit the schools to enhance learning experiences
- Schools are well resourced, particularly in terms of outdoor equipment

If we were designing a new school what would you like it to have?

- A secure and safe environment, open to the community with an inviting entrance and disabled access
- A relaxed environment with kind, helpful teachers
- Good support for all learners
- Clear, visible information displays
- Colourful new uniform
- Happy people – pupils ready to learn
- Big classrooms with comfortable seating, and wide corridors
- Specialist primary teachers for Music, Art and PE
- Air conditioning and lots of natural light and bright colours
- Specialist areas such as Science Labs, Library, Hospitality Suite and Drama Studio
- Good sports facilities including swimming pool, football pitches, badminton courts, climbing wall
- Wide choice of languages to learn including Italian and Russian
- Excellent ICT including interactive whiteboards and laptops (less textbooks)
- Quiet spaces and cool down zone
- Social spaces
- Outdoor learning spaces and different playgrounds for different stages
- BBQ, trees, plants and flowers
- Opportunities for extra-curricular activities, breakfast club and after school clubs
- An eco-friendly school with solar panels and recycling facilities
- Healthy eating, variety of catering options (including vegan and vegetarian), vending machines
- Bike racks
- School pets/bring your pet to school day

Perth & Kinross Schools

A learner event was not undertaken with pupils from Perth High School but would be considered at a later date if the process was to move forward, this would include the possibility of an online survey for them to complete.