

**REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 23 JUNE 2008**

**REPORT ON: WHITFIELD DESIGN FRAMEWORK - OUTCOME OF THE FORMAL CONSULTATION PROCESS ON THE PROPOSAL TO BUILD A NEW THREE STREAM PRIMARY SCHOOL TO REPLACE WHITFIELD AND NEWFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND WHITFIELD COMMUNITY EARLY YEARS CENTRE**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

**REPORT NO: 320 - 2008**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report details the representations made during the formal publication and consultation exercise on the above proposal and recommends that the Council proceeds with the proposal.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the proposal to build a new three stream primary school to replace Whitfield and Newfields Primary Schools and Whitfield Community Early Years Centre on a site of approximately 2.5 hectares central to the regeneration developments.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 None

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1.1 At its meeting of 28 April 2008 the Education Committee approved the report entitled "Whitfield Design Framework - Primary and Early Years Education Provision" and agreed (inter alia) to remit the Director of Education to carry out the statutory consultation procedures in terms of the Education (Publication and Consultation etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 in respect of the proposal to build a new three stream primary school to replace Whitfield and Newfields Primary Schools and Whitfield Community Early Years Centre and to report back to Committee in due course (Report No 212-2008 refers)
- 4.1.2 The proposal was advertised in the "Evening Telegraph" on Friday 2 May 2008 and all statutory consultees received a copy of the consultation document on that date.
- 4.1.3 A consultation meeting for parents/carers of pupils at Whitfield and Newfields Primary Schools was held on the evenings of Tuesday 20 May and Thursday 22 May respectively. A meeting was also held for all staff at Whitfield Primary School, Newfields Primary School and Whitfield Community Early Years Centre. In addition the Parent Councils of Whitfield Primary School and Newfields Primary School were consulted.
- 4.1.4 Copies of the notes of the meetings held during the consultation period are attached as Appendix 1.
- 4.1.5 A letter received by way of representation is attached as Appendix 2.

## **5.0 APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSAL**

- 5.1 The proposal was enthusiastically supported by all who attended the meetings. Those present indicated that they were satisfied with the answers received to their questions.

## **6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti - Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Assessment.
- 6.2 There are no major issues.

## **7.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Head of Finance were consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 None

ANNE WILSON  
Director of Education

28 May 2008

**WHITFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL  
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING - HELD AT WHITFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL  
TUESDAY 20 MAY 2008 AT 6.00 PM**

**Number of Parents in attendance: 1**

**The following questions were asked:**

- Could the new school be sited away from shops?
- Will class sizes be bigger in the new school?
- What will happen to the staff?
- Will things be done prior to the move to the new school - eg. joint planning and purchase of resources?
- What will the new school be called?
- Will we have the opportunity to change the uniform if we wish?
- Will there be support staff in the new school?
- Who will be in charge of the upkeep of the grounds at the new school?
- Will it all be on ground level?
- Is it a possibility to "do up" the exiting schools?
- Will the school be involved in decision making all the way through the process?
- Will there be Out of School Care Provision?
- Will the new school have a garden area?
- How many acres will it occupy?
- Will all the social problems return when the houses are built on the open spaces?
- What is happening to the eco house?
- What will the parking/drop off arrangements be?
- Will a mini bus be provided for the school?

The Parent Council Representative felt that the proposal would be a good thing for the area.

**WHITFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL  
PARENT/CARER MEETING - HELD AT WHITFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL  
TUESDAY 20 MAY 2008 AT 7.00 PM**

**Number of Parents in attendance: 6**

**The following questions were asked:**

- Will the Out of School Care Club at Whitfield Early Years Centre come to the new school?
- Could the new school be built away from roads and have only one entrance?
- What will happen to the sites when the schools are vacated? Will they become targets for vandals?
- How long will it be before we know for sure if the proposal is going ahead?
- Will all the services presently provided by the Whitfield Early Years Centre continue in the new building?

All present agreed that the proposal would be a good thing for the area.

## **NEWFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **PARENT COUNCIL MEETING - HELD AT NEWFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**THURSDAY 22 MAY 2008 AT 6.00 PM**

**Number of Parents in attendance: 5**

**The following questions were asked:**

- Will class sizes be affected?
- Will the new school cater for pupils in wheelchairs?
- Are the PPP schools the bench mark for the standard of provision we will get?
- Will the pupils from both schools get a chance to mix before the schools come together?
- Will anything happen to the money allocated to the two schools in the meantime?
- Will the new school have an Out of School Care Club?
- Will there be a Breakfast Club?
- Who will the Head Teacher be?

All the Parent Council members felt that the proposal would be a good thing for the area.

## **NEWFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **PARENT/CARER MEETING - HELD AT NEWFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**THURSDAY 22 MAY 2008 AT 7.00 PM**

**Number of Parents in attendance: 26**

**The following questions were asked:**

- Is this really a proposal or has it already been decided?
- Who put the news of the report in the newspaper?
- Would it not be better to tell us? (It is wrong to assume we buy newspapers)
- What is going to happen to the base unit?
- Will the new school have disabled access?
- Will the classes from the two schools be kept separate in the new school?
- Who is going to be in charge of the new school?
- Can you not replace the politicians on the selection panels with parents?
- If we don't accept the proposal, what will happen to this school?
- Will the catchment areas stay the same?
- Why isn't Longhaugh involved in this proposal?
- What happens to the teachers when the two schools merge?
- Will there be an Out of School Care Club in the new school?
- Will the new school be near roads?
- Do you have any idea of the design of the building - will it be open plan?
- Are all the children in both schools at present guaranteed a place in the new school?
- Is Newfields running under capacity?
- Are you doing away with classroom assistants?
- Will you have composite classes?
- What size will the classes be for P4 upwards?
- Can money be spent on Braeview Academy as well?
- Is it true Braeview is being closed?
- Can we organise a joint event to bring the parents of the two schools together?

All present agreed that the proposal would be a good thing for the area.

## **WHITFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **STAFF MEETING - HELD AT WHITFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**TUESDAY 20 MAY 2008 AT 3.30 PM**

**Number of Staff in attendance: 14**

#### **The following questions were asked:**

- Whitfield has been a small school for a number of years - in a school of 21 how do we get to know the pupils?
- Think the idea is a good one - the school is not fit for purpose. However, there is no mention in the proposal for additional rooms for the more "vulnerable" pupils.
- Will the new building be used by the community at weekends/nights etc?
- Will there be a need for more facilities staff?
- Is Whitfield Early Years open all year and if so will office staff be expected to work more/longer hours?
- Will both EYPs be needed (from Whitfield and Newfields Primary Schools)?
- Will you merge schools before the new build?
- Will there be enough PE facilities to deliver 2 hours PE?
- Will it be to the same specification as PPP schools?
- There has been no feedback from parents.
- Would there be the possibility of a "package" for those who are surplus and nearing retirement?

## **NEWFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **STAFF MEETING - HELD AT NEWFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**THURSDAY 22 MAY 2008 AT 3.30 PM**

**Number of Staff in attendance: 22**

#### **The following questions were asked:**

- At the planning stage will staff and pupils have input?
- Will this be a Council school?
- Would be more advantageous to shut one school, merge the two schools now prior to the new build?
- Can a visit to a new PPP school be organised?
- Will the Council look to build an "eco friendly" school as it is a Greenfield site and would the two surplus sites be put back to a Greenfield site?
- Will everyone have to reapply for their job?
- Will there be an enhanced provision?
- Will the school be on one level or have lifts etc?
- Will there be football pitch/play areas in the new school?
- Will the Head Teacher have responsibility for the 0.5 early year's facility?
- Why is it not a PPP school?
- How will it be financed?
- Will there be a computer suite?
- Will the Council run out of money for the new school and have to make cuts?
- How much did it cost of build the new Claypotts Castle and would this school have the same money?
- How will it be furnished?

## **WHITFIELD COMMUNITY EARLY YEARS CENTRE**

## **STAFF MEETING - HELD AT WHITFIELD COMMUNITY EARLY YEARS CENTRE**

**THURSDAY 22 MAY 2008 AT 3.30 PM**

**Number of Staff in attendance: 14**

**The following questions were asked:**

- How much consultation would staff have regarding the design/layout of the new Early Years area in a new school?
- Will school meals be prepared on the premises?
- Will all services currently provided at WEYC be offered at the new school?
- Will staff have an opportunity to visit new PPP schools to see EY facilities in them?
- Staff at WEYC work 52 weeks per year. How would term times and school holidays affect their terms and conditions of employment?
- Will there be 80 children at one time in the EY area?
- Will there be a full-time Facilities Assistant?
- Will there be a drop-off (car) area for EY children?
- Will WEYC Inset Days continue to be different (on 2 days per year) from School Inset Days to provide parents with childcare?
- Would EY area have its own staff room?
- How will the actual move be handled?
- Will Newfields NC continue to offer term-time only services?
- Will Whitfield Primary School Breakfast Club merge with WEYC's Breakfast Cub in new setting?
- Will there be service for babies?
- Prior to the new building opening, will one primary school move in to another temporarily?

## DUNDEE LOCAL ASSOCIATION

Gillian Ross Pond  
 PPP Project Director  
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 Overgate  
 Dundee DD1 1UH



**eis**  
 The Educational  
 Institute of Scotland

28 May 2008

Dear Gillian

**Replacement of Whitfield and Newfields Primary Schools and Whitfield Community Early Years Centre with a new build 3-stream primary school.**

I refer to your letter of 2 May inviting comments/representations on the above proposal and do so below.

Dundee EIS believes the proposal is a very positive development in the context of the more general regeneration proposals for Whitfield. We note that this proposal might not have been the highest priority for replacement in the Council's planning for the primary school estate but accept that the funding position, specifically the developers' contribution, as set out in Report No 212 – 2008, provides the grounds for it being taken forward at this stage.

We note the intention to agree arrangements for staffing transition to the new school through a Protocol. We believe the Protocol in place for the PPP Primary school mergers has demonstrated its fitness for purpose and would therefore be likely to be suitable for this merger also. We would welcome discussions on this matter at an appropriate stage.

We note the outline of the accommodation schedule for the new school. While acknowledging that this is only indicative at this stage we would nevertheless raise the issue of class size reduction requiring particular consideration in regard to the number of classrooms required. We appreciate that the overall roll in the long term has some uncertainty (with an extra 300 primary age pupils estimated from the new houses planned), but it is instructive to note, for example, under present class size regulations that a roll of 95 at stages P4 to P7 could be accommodated in 3 classes in each case, but that 95 at stages P1 to P3 would require more than 3 classes per stage. The classroom need would be extended again if further improvement in class size was to come about in the short term, specifically if progress is made in implementing the present Scottish Government commitment to a maximum of 18 in P1 to P3. We are confident that consideration will already have been given to this matter but we would welcome the opportunity to discuss this aspect in more detail in arriving at a decision on the critical matter of the number of classrooms.

Yours sincerely

*Eric*

Eric Baillie  
 Negotiating Secretary

Negotiating Secretary · Eric Baillie

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