



**Perth & Kinross Council
Education and Children's Services
Statutory Consultation Public Meeting**

Minute of meeting held on Thursday 15 March 2012

At 7pm in Kinross High School

Present

Councillor George Hayton, Vice Convenor, Lifelong Learning Committee
Tine Yule, Head of Corporate Business Change and Information Technology
Karen Robertson, Service Manager, Business and Operational Support

In Attendance

Cheryl Gahan – Minutes
Councillor Kathleen Baird, Perth and Kinross Council
Dick Keatings, Headteacher, Kinross HS
Fiona Robertson, Inspector, HMI

16 members of the public

1. Welcome and Introductions

WHO

Councillor George Hayton opened the meeting and welcomed members of the public in attendance to the Statutory Consultation Public Meeting. Councillor Hayton introduced himself.

2. Format of meeting

Councillor Hayton explained the format of the meeting.

3. The proposal

Tina Yule outlined the proposal to the attendees..
The secondary school catchment area serving Arngask Primary School should be amended from Perth Academy to Kinross High School from 7 January 2013.

4. Presentations

Background

Tina Yule gave a presentation on the factors which were considered when reviewing the catchment area. Tina advised that there are currently 53 children from Arngask Ps who attend Kinross High School. 7 children are currently attending Perth Academy. The old Kinross High School did not have capacity

to take children from Arngask (capacity of 675, with roll of 939). The capacity of the new campus which was opened in October 2009 is 1286 with a current roll of 895. This means there is significant capacity for expansion.

There has been strong representation to change the catchment which is mainly focused around distance and transport.

Tina reminded the meeting that we are only in the consultation stage and no decision has been made.

Statutory Consultation Process

Karen Robertson explained that new consultation legislation came into place in 2010. In March 2011 Lifelong Learning School Estate Sub Committee considered the request to start statutory consultation on review of catchment and permission was granted.

In January 2012 the proposal was put to Elected Members and almost 3000 proposal papers were issued which set out the detail/implementation/benefits statement and outlined the transition arrangements.

The Council is required to consult for at least 30 days and we are consulting for 40 days from 2 February 2012 – 30 March 2012. Public meetings are being held in the middle of the consultation period to allow members of the public to here the rationale behind the review and have time to submit representations.

At the end of the consultation period the proposal and all representations will be sent to HMI who will prepare a report on the proposal. HMI will have 3 weeks to complete and return to Local Authority to review. The Local Authority will publish a report in a further 3 weeks and it is at this point that the report will go to Lifelong Learning Committee for a decision. The first Lifelong Learning Committee will be August 2012.

5. Questions

Q: What is the current capacity of Perth Academy?

A: Tina advised current roll is 1014 with a capacity of 1200.

Q: What do parents need to do to get the change to the catchment made?

A: Karen explained the consultation process requires to be followed from start to finish. (see above)

Q: What happens to the 53 pupils who already attend Kinross High School if the proposal doesn't go ahead?

A: Karen explained arrangements would remain the same, pupils can continue to attend Kinross High School as Placing Requests and parents/carers would be responsible for providing transport.

Q: Who makes up the Lifelong Learning Committee?

A: Councillor Hayton explained there is a political balance of Councillors, Teachers and Church Representatives.

Q: Is the Lifelong Learning Committee open to the public?

A: Councillor Hayton advised anyone can attend the meeting unless a private paper is being discussed.

Q: Why would Councillors have a political view on a catchment review?

A: Councillor Baird advised that this only affects pupils in Arngask and she cannot see anyone objecting to this proposal. She advised she is aware that there was not a great representation at the Perth Academy meeting.

Q: Is silence accepted?

A: Karen Robertson advised that if members of the public do not make a representation to make the Council aware of their views then the Council would take this as acceptance of the proposal.

Q: Has there been a lot of objections?

A: Karen Robertson advised that to date no objections have been received. However, the consultation period is still open until 30 March 2012.

Q: Concern raised regarding political agenda?

A: Councillor Hayton explained that members of the Lifelong Learning Committee would not stand in the way of parental votes. Councillor Hayton advised the Council wants to know what parents/carers want.

Comment – Councillor Baird advised that all members of the Lifelong Learning Committee supported the review going out for consultation at the January 2012 meeting.

Q: What will the HMI report include?

A: Karen advised this will focus on the community identity, enhanced transition and ease of travel for pupils.

Q: When will parents find out the results of the August Lifelong Learning Committee?

A: Karen advised that the outcome will be known immediately as this is an open meeting.

Q: Effective dates?

A: Karen advised the proposal is to change from 7 January 2013. Generally the Council would not make a change to a catchment area mid session, however the reason for this date is to enable P7s transferring to S1 in August 2013 to know the catchment school at the time of registration in January 2013.

Q: When will transport come into place?

A: Karen advised that if the proposal is accepted then transport would be provided from 7 January 2013.

Comment – We can assume that the 53 people who already sent their children to Kinross High School are in favour and have voted with their feet.

Q: Is it worth us as a community going to individual parents/carers to get acceptance? Some people may not have responded as no pre paid envelope.

A: Karen said the community could do this if they wish and advised that members of the public can submit representations by email rather than post should they wish as detailed in the proposal paper.

Q: Is there a risk that a new administration will change the goal posts?

A: Councillor Hayton explained there is no risk. There would still have to be a Lifelong Learning Committee who will make the final decision on the proposal.

6. Close and Thanks

Dick Keatings confirmed that the proposed change and effective date are good for the school and will help with transition greatly and pupils could get the benefit of a bus. Dick advised parents this is your opportunity to tell us what you want.

There was a show of hands and all were in favour of the change.

Councillor Hayton thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.