



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

Minute of meeting held on Wednesday 24 September 2014

at 7.00pm in Methven Church Hall

Present

Councillor Bob Band	Convener, Lifelong Learning Committee
Audrey May	Strategic Lead – Change & Improvement
Karen Robertson	Service Manager - Business Services
Carol Taylor	Service Manager - Resources

In Attendance

Councillor Barbara Vaughan	Perth and Kinross Council
Ken McAra	Education Scotland
Susan Davidson – Minute	Perth and Kinross Council

13 members of the public

1. Welcome and Introductions

Councillor Band opened the meeting and welcomed the members of public in attendance to the Statutory Consultation Public Meeting. Councillor Band introduced himself and the panel to the members of the public and thanked them for attending.

2. Format of meeting

Councillor Band explained the format the meeting would follow.

3. The proposal

Councillor Band explained the consultation proposal to the attendees:

The Council proposes to:

- establish a new secondary school at Berth Park with effect from March 2018;
- vary the existing admission arrangements to alter the catchment areas for Perth Grammar school, Perth High School and Perth Academy to establish a catchment area for the proposed new secondary school, and establish temporary admission arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new school; and
- vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school by altering the designated secondary school for the directly affected primary schools and establish temporary transfer arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new secondary school.

4. Presentations

Audrey May and Karen Robertson gave presentations explaining the proposal in further detail.

Audrey May gave a presentation on the background to the proposal and the reasons a new secondary school is required. The presentation outlined the proposed site for the new secondary school and the proposed catchment area. Information was provided on the proposed first cohort of pupils expected to attend the new secondary school along with the transition arrangements, the educational benefits of the proposal and leadership and staffing arrangements for the new secondary school. Audrey also explained the project timeline to 2018.

Karen Robertson gave a presentation on the statutory consultation process including the legal framework, consideration by Lifelong Learning Committee, the content of the proposal including the Educational Benefits statement, statutory consultation period and representation from interested parties as the first part of the consultation process. Karen Robertson then went on to explain the next stages of the process which includes the involvement of Education Scotland, the preparation and publication of the consultation report and the decision made by the Lifelong Learning Committee.

Councillor Band then opened up the meeting to any questions or observations from the floor.

5. Questions

Q. Was the last new school to be opened in Scotland populated in the same way as proposed at Bertha Park?

A. Yes. There was not a City Campus model like PKC but it was built up year by year. Perth Grammar School was populated in the same manner when it first opened many years ago. The new school has to be opened by March 2018 rather than August 2018 as it has to be completed within the Scottish Government's financial year 2017/2018.

Q. How many children will be attending the school?

A. The intake will be based on around 100 pupils per year from existing primary schools plus any additional pupils from the new housing developments.

Q. Is the funding 100% guaranteed if timescales are met?

A. Yes. Other factors have to be taken into consideration and if any problems arise we can ask the Scottish Government for an extension.

- Q. What is the cut-off date for the Lifelong Learning Committee?**
- A.** May 2015. We are consulting early as there is a risk of not meeting the timescale if left any later. Our consultation is about the establishment of a new school, the catchment area and the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary school not the location of the new school. The planning consultation has already taken place.
- Q. Is there any conditionality on the link road being in place?**
- A.** Yes, although the link road is due to be in place mid 2017. A compulsory purchase order may be required for an area, however, there is another plan in place to ensure that there are no delays in progressing with the school build.
- Q. Is the funding for both the new school and link road in place?**
- A.** Yes, funding is all in place.
- Q. If there is a delay would the current P5 still move in August 2017?**
- A.** This consultation is for the proposal of the new school opening in March 2018, with children now in P5 starting S1 in Perth Grammar School in August 2017 and then moving to the new school in March 2018. If there are delays they could stay at Perth Grammar School longer however, if there are any fundamental changes or delays to the new school then further consultations may have to take place. We will know in advance if any aspects of the plans fall behind schedule.
- Q. Will the children attending Perth Grammar School until March 2018 be separated from the children staying on at the school?**
- A.** Perth Grammar School was chosen because of the available accommodation and it was important to bring the children together as a unit for moving forward into the new school. They will have separate timetables for some classes from the other S1 pupils who are staying although they will of course share spaces.
- Q. Will the same arrangements be in place for transition?**
- A.** Yes, we want the children to move together as a group.
- Q. Will all the same lessons be in place over the first few years if the teachers aren't full time?**
- A.** Perth & Kinross Council is obliged to deliver the full curriculum. We can't provide specific detail yet regarding staffing but children will receive their full entitlement. Teaching allocation is based on pupil roll so there won't be a full complement of teachers based on the 1100 school capacity when it first opens but we do plan on putting in place additional staff to support the planning and transition into the new school.

- Q. Will the children have a different teacher for the same subjects every other day?**
- A.** No. There will be a continuity of staff. Children will not have different subject teachers all the time.
- Q. Is the first phase of new houses in the area being planned in tandem with the new school opening?**
- A.** We don't know how the developers are phasing the house building yet. We are basing the plans on the current homes within the defined catchment area and are making no assumptions about the new housing development at this stage.
- Q. Is there scope for any primary schools in Bertha Park?**
- A.** Yes. There will possibly be 2 new primary schools in the area by 2040.
- Q. Why is the school positioned in an industrial estate, next to an abattoir, is this because it is the worst place to build houses?**
- A.** The new school will not be on the industrial estate. The proposed area for the new school is across the river. This is still in discussion with the planners and planning meetings will be held where any input would be gratefully received.

Comments – Well done to Perth & Kinross Council. This is a very exciting proposal.

Councillor Band thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.