

The Highland Council
Education, Children and Adult Services Committee
11 February 2015

Agenda Item	7.
Report No	ECAS 21/15

Sustainable School Estate Review – Tain

Report by the Director of Care and Learning

Summary

Following conclusion of the statutory consultation process, this report and accompanying information sets out a recommendation to improve school accommodation provision in Tain, through the establishment of a new 3-18 campus on the site of present Tain Royal Academy, replacing all other education provision within Tain, including the present Tain Royal Academy, Craighill Primary School, Knockbreck Primary School, and St. Duthus Special School.

1. Background

- 1.1 On 28 August 2014, the Education, Children and Adult Services Committee agreed to proceed to statutory consultation on proposals to improve school accommodation in Tain.
- 1.2 The statutory consultation was taken forward as per the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 1.3 Attached to this report is the final proposal for decision, following conclusion of the statutory consultation process.
- 1.4 The legislation requires that any proposal for decision must be published at least 3 weeks in advance of the meeting at which any decision may be made, to allow time for further representations. The proposal was published on Tuesday 20 January.

2. The Proposal

- 2.1 **Booklets A and B**, circulated separately, set out the proposal for consideration by the Committee. The proposal document and appendices provide details of all consultation comments received, the report from Education Scotland, and the Council's response to comments arising from the consultation.
- 2.2 While the final proposal has considered and responded to the comments received during the consultation, the final recommendation remains unaltered from that which this Committee agreed to go to consultation on in August of this year.
- 2.3 The proposal within the booklets sets out the rationale for the recommendation, and relevant supporting information, which includes:
 - The educational benefits of the proposal;
 - The current school buildings condition and suitability scores;
 - The community impact of the proposal;
 - The school transport implications of the proposal;

- The financial implications (revenue and capital) of the proposal.

2.4 The booklets also contain details of any further representations received, since the proposal report was published on Tuesday 20 January. Any further representations received up to the date of this Committee, will be tabled on the day of the Committee.

3. Next Steps

3.1 Following consideration by the Committee, if the recommendation is agreed the following timeline will be followed as required by the legislation.

- The minuted recommendation of this Committee will go forward to the Highland Council meeting of 12 March for decision.
- Within 6 working days of the decision at full Council, the Council must advise Scottish Ministers of the decision it has reached, provide them with the proposal paper and consultation report, and publish a notice stating that Ministers have been advised and the process through which representations may be made to Ministers regarding call-in of the proposal.
- From the date of the Council decision, there is a period of 3 weeks in which representations to Scottish Ministers regarding call-in of the proposal can be made by any interested party.
- Scottish Ministers then have a further up to 5 weeks in which to decide whether they will issue a call-in notice or not.

4. Implications

4.1 Resource implications – are as detailed within the proposal report (section 10 and appendix 1P).

4.2 Legal implications – as described earlier, the statutory consultation has been taken forward as per the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended.

4.3 Equalities implications – an Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared and is included within the proposal report (section 11 and appendix 8).

4.4 Climate Change/Carbon Clever implications – the design and construction of the new campus will comply with all relevant legislation and Council policies with respect to environmental standards and sustainability.

4.5 Risk implications – the main risks associated with progressing the recommendation relate to the potential for call-in by Scottish Ministers. Officers have sought to mitigate the risk through review and evaluation to ensure that procedurally the requirements of the Act and statutory consultation process have been met.

4.6 Gaelic implications – the proposal will support the provision of Gaelic medium education in the new primary school.

4.7 Rural implications – the proposal will see the merger of a secondary school, 2 existing primary schools and a special school, in a new 3-18 community campus in Tain. If the proposal is agreed, extensive consultation with the community will follow regarding the detailed design and facilities of the new complex.

5. Recommendation

5.1 Members are asked to consider the proposal set out within Booklets A and B and, having given consideration to further representations received, agree to recommend to the Council:

- To discontinue education provision at the following campuses – Tain Craighill Primary School, Tain Knockbreck Primary School and St Duthus Special School and to relocate provision to a new 3 to 18 campus to be established on the site of the existing Tain Royal Academy;
- As an interim measure, until the proposed 3 to 18 campus is available, to relocate current Pre School provision from St. Duthus School campus (English Medium) and the Tain Knockbreck Primary School campus (Gaelic Medium) to temporary modular accommodation on the current Tain Craighill Primary School campus;
- To establish a new 3 to 18 community campus on the site of the existing Tain Royal Academy comprising Early Years, Primary, Secondary, Additional Support Needs (ASN) and Gaelic Medium provision to replace all other local authority education provision within Tain, including the existing Tain Royal Academy building and Community Complex;
- To combine the existing school catchment areas of Tain Craighill Primary School and Tain Knockbreck Primary School to become the catchment area of the new combined Primary School within the 3 to 18 campus.

Designation: Director of Care and Learning

Date: 2 February 2015

Authors: Brian Porter, Head of Resources
Ian Jackson, Education Officer