

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by North Lanarkshire Council to provide a new build Chryston Primary School at a different location to that of the current primary school.

November 2018

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \("the 2010 Act"\)](#). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of North Lanarkshire Council's proposal to provide a new build Chryston Primary School at a different location to that of the current primary school, on land to the south of Cliffvale Road, Chryston. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include a copy of this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision. Where a council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all statutory obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the school; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 2 October 2018 in connection with the council's proposal;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- visit to the site of Chryston Primary School and to the site of the proposed new building, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

2.1 North Lanarkshire Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#).

2.2 The consultation period ran from 12 September 2018 until 1 November 2018. A public meeting was held at Chryston High School on 2 October 2018 which was attended by

approximately 180 members of the public. Responses to the proposal could be made electronically or in writing, posted to the council headquarters. There were 426 responses to the proposal. Of those who expressed a preference, 329 were in favour of a new building and 34 were against this. Regarding the proposed site for the new building on land to the south of Clifftvale Road, 222 were in agreement with this proposal and 111 disagreed with this proposal.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The authority considers that, overall, the provision of a new school building, benefiting from current design practice to provide a varied range of teaching environments, will give children the most modern standard of facilities and resources to support delivery of the curriculum, delivering high quality, accessible, inclusive learning within an energy and environmentally efficient building. Whilst it appears likely that this will be the case, there are no details available at present of the facilities and resources which will be included in the new building. This is therefore a potential educational benefit.

3.2 The school is currently operating well above capacity and has four classrooms in temporary modular accommodation, located in the playground area. Almost all ancillary areas in the primary school are in permanent use. The authority considers that the new building will be more suited to the increasing population of the school, with better access to ancillary accommodation. Whilst it would appear likely that this will be the case, with a new building having a greater overall capacity, there are no details available at present of the facilities and resources which will be included in the new building. This is therefore a potential educational benefit.

3.3 The authority believes that the new and flexible learning environment will have a positive impact on the general health and wellbeing of stakeholders, increasing learners' aspirations, attainment and achievement. Whilst it would appear possible that this will be the case, there are no details available at present of the facilities and resources which will be included in the new building. This therefore has the potential to be an educational benefit.

3.4 The authority also believes that the new building will provide a hub for learning, activities and facilities that will make a contribution to improving people's health and wellbeing, adding to the strength and vibrancy of the community. It feels that the facilities of the new build primary school would complement and further enhance the facilities available to the local community. Whilst it would appear possible that this will be the case, there are no details available at present of the facilities and resources which will be included in the new building nor how the community will be able to access them. This therefore has the potential to be an educational benefit.

3.5 Children who attend Chryston Primary School who spoke to HM Inspectors are in favour of a new building. They are happy with the proposed site but would like access to the skate park and other facilities to be retained during the building phase if possible. They have some concerns about safe vehicle access to the proposed site and safe routes to school.

3.6 Parents of children who attend Chryston Primary School who spoke to HM Inspectors are in favour of a new building. Not all are in favour of the proposed site, although they realise that there are no other options which are more suitable. They would welcome reassurance that any building work on the proposed site is sympathetic to the needs of local residents. They also have concerns about safe vehicle access to the proposed site and safe routes to school.

3.7 Staff who work at Chryston Primary School who spoke to HM Inspectors are in favour of a new building and are happy with the proposed site. They are well aware of the inadequacies of the current building and would welcome a modern, well-specified school.

4. Summary

Overall, there are potential educational benefits to the proposal. Children should benefit from a new school building, with the most modern standard of facilities and resources to support delivery of the curriculum. Parents and staff are generally agreed about the educational benefits of the proposal. In taking the proposal forward, the council needs to continue to engage with all stakeholders and to address their concerns. In taking its proposal forward, an effective communication strategy will be essential for the council to keep all stakeholders informed and engaged. The council should include details of this in its final report.

HM Inspectors
November 2018