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## **JEDBURGH INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING CAMPUS**

**Report by Service Director, Children and Young People**  
**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**

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**21 December 2017**

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### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 **Following the completion of a public consultation process as set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (as amended), this report requests that Scottish Borders Council approves the proposals to build an Intergenerational Learning Campus in Jedburgh, and thereafter formally closes the Nursery, Primary, Secondary and Specialist Provision in Jedburgh.**
- 1.2 At its meeting on 6 September 2016, the Executive Committee agreed to proceed with Phase 1 of the School Estate Review, including focused pre-consultations on the Education provision in several Borders towns including Jedburgh.
- 1.3 Initial Ward Member and Community Council engagement and feasibility design work has been undertaken in the town since September 2016 to provide sufficient detail to allow pre-consultation engagement with the wider community.
- 1.4 Pre-consultation events were held in Jedburgh on 25 and 26 April 2017 where a very positive response was received. Over 500 people attended over the two days.
- 1.5 A statutory consultation was undertaken in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 from 8 May 2017 to 18 June 2017.
- 1.6 The statutory consultation is complete. A Consultation Report in respect of the proposals was prepared and published on 16 October 2017. The Consultation Report is Appendix 1. The Consultation Report was advertised in the press, with all interested parties given until 6 November 2017 to raise concerns or pose alternative solutions through written or electronic submissions.

### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Council approves the following proposals:**
  - a) **That an Intergenerational Learning Campus is built in Jedburgh;**
  - b) **Once the Intergenerational Learning Campus is complete (expected date of new build completion is March 2020) the following schools are permanently closed and pupils transfer to the Learning Campus in a planned move :**

- (i) Howdenburn Primary School;**
- (ii) Howdenburn Nursery;**
- (iii) Parkside Primary School;**
- (iv) Parkside Nursery;**
- (v) Jedburgh Grammar School;**
- c) Howdenburn Schoolhouse is permanently closed with the educational support for secondary aged pupils with Additional Support Needs being transferred to the Intergenerational Learning Campus;**
- d) The policy regarding pupils from Ancrum Primary School transitioning to Parkside Primary School for Primary 6 and Primary 7 is amended to facilitate transition to the Intergenerational Learning Campus;**
- e) The primary school catchment zones are rezoned from Howdenburn Primary School and Parkside Primary School to the Intergenerational Learning Campus; and**
- f) The secondary school catchment zone is rezoned from Jedburgh Grammar School to the Intergenerational Learning Campus.**

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The report to Executive Committee on 6 September 2016 identified a strategic way forward to the phased delivery of a School Estate Review across Education provision in the Scottish Borders. This report followed a series of nine consultation events in the High School clusters in March 2016.
- 3.2 The report specifically identified the high level of community engagement in Jedburgh where concern was raised about the challenge of sustaining a broad curriculum of education, the condition of the school estate in the town and the quality of the sports and recreational facilities.
- 3.3 On 25 and 26 April 2017 Scottish Borders Council held two successful events at Jedburgh Grammar School where over 500 people came along to see and discuss what work had been carried out regarding education in Jedburgh. These events were highly engaging and informative, and very supportive of the proposals.
- 3.4 On 21 April 2017, Scottish Borders Council took the decision under Emergency Powers to formally undertake a statutory consultation process in respect of proposals to build an Intergenerational Learning Campus in Jedburgh, replacing the Nursery, Primary and Secondary schools and Additional Support Needs educational support provision within the town. The Consultation process has been carried out in compliance with the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended (the 2010 Act).
- 3.5 Officers proceeded to arrange for a Proposal Paper to be published and the consultation period ran from 8 May 2017 until 18 June 2017. The statutory consultation period has now been completed. In accordance with the statutory requirements and process set out in the Proposal Paper, Education Scotland have been consulted on the proposals and have prepared a Report. Officers have, as required by the 2010 Act, considered both the Education Scotland Report and all consultation responses received and have prepared a Consultation Report responding to the key issues raised. The 2010 Act stated that the Education Authority may only proceed with a "relevant proposal" a minimum of three weeks after they have published the Consultation Report in both electronic and printed form, to provide interested parties with a further period to raise concerns or pose alternative solutions through written or electronic submissions. The Consultation Report was prepared and published on 16 October 2017 and all interested parties were given until 6 November 2017 to respond. The (Consultation) Report is Appendix 1 to this report. The Proposal Paper is contained within the Consultation Report.
- 3.6 The Consultation Report responds in detail to the consultation responses received and sets out the reasons why, having taken cognisance of these responses, Officers recommend that Council approve the establishment of an Intergenerational Learning Campus within the town of Jedburgh.
- 3.7 The power to establish a new school, following appropriate Statutory Consultation, rests solely with the Education Authority in terms of the 2010 Act. If the Council approves this proposal, officers can commence implementation without further procedure.
- 3.8 Where a decision is taken to approve a school closure proposal, the Council is required to notify Scottish Ministers within 6 days of the decision. A

further period of 3 weeks is then allowed for any party to make representations, either in support or against the Council's closure decision, to Scottish Ministers. The Scottish Ministers have a period of 8 weeks following the Council's decision to decide whether to call the closure decision in or not. If the Ministers do not make a decision within that period the proposal is automatically permitted to proceed. If the decision is taken to call the Council's decision in the Scottish Ministers will advise the Council in writing as expeditiously as possible.

#### **4 JEDBURGH CONTEXT – WHY A NEW INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING CAMPUS IS REQUIRED**

- 4.1 The rationale for a new Intergenerational Learning Campus in Jedburgh is contained in the Proposal Paper which is in Appendix 1 of the Consultation Report, which is attached as Appendix 1 of this report.

#### **5 IMPLICATIONS**

##### **5.1 Financial**

The construction of the Intergenerational Learning Campus is being supported by the Scottish Government's Schools for the Future Programme by providing revenue support for their 2/3rds funding share. The Council's support can be made in both revenue and capital. Details of the financial implications of the closure of the education provision in Jedburgh are contained in Appendix 5 of the Proposal Paper, which is in Appendix 1 of the Consultation Report, which is attached as Appendix 1 of this report.

##### **5.2 Risk and Mitigations**

There is a risk register for the Jedburgh Intergenerational Learning Campus project that is regularly reviewed and updated. The key risks relating to this stage in the project process are as follows:

- (a) There is a risk that the Scottish Ministers may call the proposals to close the schools in Jedburgh in for review, referring the proposals to the Schools Closure Review Panel. This may result in a delay with the project, or result in the Council being unable to proceed with closures without further consultation in a minimum of five years' time. The grounds for call in concern failure by the Council to comply with the requirements of the 2010 Act, or that it has failed to take proper account of a material consideration. This significant risk has been mitigated by Council officers closely adhering to the terms of the legislation and commencing the pre-consultation and consultation with all stakeholders at the earliest opportunity, to ensure that all concerns and issues could be identified, assessed and managed. Public engagement has been extremely strong and very positive. The Consultation Report attached as Appendix 1 details the responses made to the main comments and questions received during the Statutory Consultation process. Education Scotland has confirmed its strong support for the proposals and the Scottish Government has confirmed its support to jointly fund the proposals.
- (b) There is a risk that Planning Permission may not be obtained for the proposed Intergenerational Campus in time to allow construction to take place within the timeframe specified by the Scottish Government funding proposal. This has been mitigated through the assembly of a strong professional team, which has considerable expertise in delivering projects of this scale. A collaborative approach has been

adopted at all times and several public engagement events and private meetings have been held to provide the community with as much detail as possible regarding the planning proposals.

### 5.3 **Equalities**

An Equalities Impact Assessment was carried out on the overall proposals set out in the Proposal Paper and, given the proposals are unchanged in terms of the Consultation Report, it continues to be anticipated that there are no adverse equality implications.

### 5.4 **Acting Sustainably**

Economic, social and environmental issues are fully incorporated within the statutory consultation documentation.

### 5.5 **Carbon Management**

A carbon management plan will be fully developed and will be a key design of the new building

### 5.6 **Rural Proofing**

This report does not relate to new or amended policy or strategy and, as a result, rural proofing is not an applicable consideration. However, it must be stated that Ancrum Primary School will remain as a small rural school within the Jedburgh cluster.

### 5.7 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

There are no changes to be made to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals contained in this report.

## **6 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Service Director HR and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

### **Approved by**

**Donna Manson**  
**Service Director, Children and Young People**

**Signature .....**

### **Author(s)**

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Donna Manson	Service Director, Children and Young People

### **Background Papers:**

### **Previous Minute Reference:**

**Appendices:** Appendix 1 – Consultation Report

**Note** – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Donna Manson can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose TD6 0SA.

*Scottish Borders Council, 21 December 2017*