
EYEMOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL – UPDATE REPORT

**Report by Service Director Assets & Infrastructure and Service
Director Young People, Engagement and Inclusion**

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

17 December 2020

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the progress with the Eyemouth Primary School project.**
- 1.2 The report to Council on 27 August 2020 provided approval to undertake a feasibility study on alternative education delivery models in the town.
- 1.3 The feasibility study has been concluded and Officers have validated the options considered.
- 1.4 Initial consultation has taken place on the options with the high school and primary school senior leadership teams and respective parent councils.
- 1.5 Progress will now be made with wider community based consultation prior to a statutory consultation in accordance with Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 legislation.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Council:-**
 - (a) Notes the contents of this report.**
 - (b) Approves that community engagement and consultation should take place on the feasibility study options prior to a statutory consultation in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.**
 - (c) Requests a follow on report as the project progresses.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The report to Council on 27 August 2020 identified issues that were affecting the delivery of the proposed replacement of the primary school in Eyemouth. The report also identified cost pressure issues. The report approved that a feasibility study should be undertaken to review three education delivery models within Eyemouth.
- 3.2 The feasibility study has now been concluded and Officers have validated the findings of the study.

4 FEASIBILITY STUDY

- 4.1 The technical feasibility study considered three options for the delivery of early years and primary school education in Eyemouth.

OPTION 1

- 4.2 The first option was that of the extant project that has been in development for several years in terms of a replacement early years and primary school facility on the land adjacent to existing primary school on Coldingham Road in the town.
- 4.3 The issues remain with this project in terms of a local opposition to the loss of greenspace in the town and that of an adjacent development of social housing that is intended to be promoted by Berwickshire Housing Association. The cost pressures also remain on this option in terms of being able to deliver within the current budget of £15.4M.

OPTION 2

- 4.4 The second option was to create a 3-18 campus within the existing High School. Following an analysis of the existing secondary school and of its capacity versus current / future forecast of pupil roll, it would be technically possible to consolidate the existing secondary school. This would free up enough space within one of the teaching wings to allow it to be re-purposed as a primary school. While this appears to be technically possible, the campus school would be operating at a high level of capacity with little room for expansion.
- 4.5 In addition, there would be no room within the existing secondary school and a stand alone early years building would be required.
- 4.6 A preliminary cost evaluation of this option was undertaken with a range of costs developed from between £3-6M. The range is dependant on what type of invasive work is undertaken within the existing secondary school in terms of opening up cellular rooms to create a more open plan style of teaching and learning. It would be advantageous to create open plan teaching clusters as recently seen created at Jedburgh Grammar Campus, Broomlands and Langlee PS.

OPTION 3

- 4.7 The third option investigated still involved consolidating up the secondary school but this time to only create enough space for the upper primary P5-7 year groups. The early years and P1-4 classes would be provided in a new build adjacent to the secondary school building but within the overall land boundary.

- 4.8 This would allow the secondary school to operate at a more sustainable level of capacity. The option would provide campus style benefits for P5-7 learners where they would have access to a range of specialist activities within the secondary school.
- 4.9 The option would cost approximately £11M.

5 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1 It is intended to undertake community based consultation during January and February 2021 on the three options so as to obtain the view of the community.
- 5.2 There has been some initial stakeholder discussions with the management teams of both the primary and secondary schools and also with both parent councils.

6 STATUTORY CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The changes identified within report to the primary school education provision with Eyemouth will involve the need for a statutory consultation in accordance with the Schools (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2010. It would be normal for Members to be asked to approve a proposal within this statutory consultation. It is intended that a report will be brought back to Members in February 2021 following on from the community consultation and engagement.
- 6.2 The report will identify what local opinions and views are expressed following the community consultation and engagement exercise identified within section 5 of this report. The report will identify which of the options should be taken forward as a 'proposal' in accordance with the Schools (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

7 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial

- (a) The Capital project budget for the construction of the Eyemouth Primary School as contained within the 2020/21 Capital Investment Plan is as below.

2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
7,600	7,400	400	0	15,400

- (b) Progress with the primary school has been affected by COVID-19. A significant timing movement of £7.102M was approved by Executive Committee in June 2020.
- (c) Further revisions to the overall project budget and timing movements will be reported to Members following the statutory consultation exercise.

7.2 Risk and Mitigations

- (a) The report to Council on 27 August 2020 identified risks associated with the extant project to provide a primary school adjacent to the existing primary school. This risk has been mitigated by the completion of the feasibility study of alternative education options.
- (b) There could be timing risks associated with undertaking a statutory consultation in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 should there be significant opposition to the proposal taken forward. This risk is intended to be mitigated by the early engagement with the local community consultation prior to a proposal report to Council in February 2021.
- (c) There is a contractual and commercial risk associated with opening up negotiations with the Council's PPP provider Scottish Borders Education Partnership to alter the existing contract to allow for the alterations to create either option 2 or 3 remains. Initial discussions have taken place with SBEP who have shown a willingness to discuss a possible project at the High School. This risk will be further mitigated through ongoing discussions with SBEP. It is likely that specialist advisers will be required to represent the Council.

7.3 Equalities

- (a) An Integrated Impact Assessment has not been carried out on this report.
- (b) It is anticipated that there are no adverse impact due to race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or religion/belief arising from the proposals in this report.
- (c) A campus solution will provide improved outcomes.

7.4 Acting Sustainably

It is noted that overall the project will have a positive impact on energy consumption when compared to the existing buildings.

7.5 Carbon Management

It would be planned that the project will seek to minimise the use of fossil fuels.

7.6 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.

7.7 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.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Executive Director (Finance & Regulatory), the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Service Director HR & Communications, the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Lesly Munro
Service Director Young People, Engagement and Inclusion.....

John Curry
Service Director Assets & Infrastructure Signature

Author(s)

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Background Papers: Report to Executive – 27 August 2020

Previous Minute Reference: Nil

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