

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: RELOCATION/DECANT OF MARINER SUPPORT SERVICES
Meeting: EDUCATION EXECUTIVE
Date: 2 FEBRUARY 2016
Author: DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this report is to:

- (i) Confirm to the Education Executive that Children's Services were successful in their bid to purchase the former focus school and to
- (ii) seek Education Executive's approval for:
 - the temporary relocation of the Mariner Support Service from the Weedingshall site to the former Focus School site at Laurieston.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Education Executive on 29 September 2015 agreed that the Director of Children's Services progress with a bid to purchase the former Focus School site at Laurieston.

2.2 The business case in relation to this bid outlined the reasons for the services wish to relocate the Mariner Support Service from its current location at Weedingshall, to the Focus School site.

2.3 Procurement Of Former Focus School Site

Children's Services can report that this bid was successful and the missives concluding the sale/transfer of the site have now been completed and the Service received the keys for the school site on 14 December 2015.

2.4 Progress Of Onsite Work/Improvements

Since receiving the keys Children's Services Property Team and Development Services Facilities Team have been working together to plan/carry out onsite improvement work in the following areas:

- general internal decoration
- electrical wiring checks and minor upgrades
- kitchen improvements

- upgrade of some internal fixtures and fittings
- ICT wiring and network connectivity
- minor roof repairs/checks
- asbestos checks.

2.5 Consultation With Parents, Pupils and Staff

Parents

- Meetings have already taken place between officers and parents to update them on the position. Following the initial meeting the Parents Group submitted a letter offering their full support with the planned move.

Staff

- The school management team have spoken to the staff about the plans and the services' intentions.

Pupils

- The pupil representatives had previously submitted a letter to the Director of Children's Services asking for school improvements to be undertaken at Weedingshall.
- The acquisition of this facility has surpassed the expectations of the pupils and the school reports that they are delighted with this.

Visits to Site

- Site visits have taken place to allow staff the chance to visit and look around the Focus School site. A further visit to allow pupils and parents the chance to view the site is being arranged

2.6 Proposal To Move Staff/Pupils From Weedingshall Site To New Focus School and Campus

For the reasons outlined in the original business case presented to Education Executive on 29 September 2015, Children's Services now wish to progress with this temporary decant arrangement as soon as possible.

This decant has received backing from the pupils, parents and staff at Mariner Support Service and a further letter of support for the move has been received from the Local Branch Secretary of The Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS).

Subject to the onsite works being completed our Property Team hope to progress the move during the Easter (2016) holiday period.

2.7 What Is Required Before Such A Move Can Be Made Permanent

Whilst a temporary move can be undertaken, before any such move can be deemed permanent a Statutory Consultation must be undertaken in accordance with the 'Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010'.

Children's Services will consider when they are best placed to undertake this statutory consultation and a report will come to Education Executive in the future to request permission to progress this.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no changes to the financial position previously reported to Education Executive.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Education Executive are asked to:

- 4.1 approve the temporary decant/move of the Mariner Support Service from Weedingshall to the new Focus School site during Easter 2016;
- 4.2 instruct the Director of Children's to ensure that all parents, pupils and staff remain involved and are kept up to date with the progress of the move; and
- 4.3 instruct the Director of Children's Services to bring a further report to Education Executive to request permission to undertake a statutory consultation on making the move permanent at a future date.

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Director of Children's Services

Date: 13 January 2016

Contact Officer: Gary Greenhorn, ext 6620

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL