

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the Coat of Arms of the Government of Nunavut. The crest includes a crown with four maple leaves, a shield divided into four quadrants (top-left: diagonal bars, top-right: caribou head, bottom-left: sailing ship, bottom-right: Inuit figure), and a banner at the bottom with the motto 'ANE FOR A'.

Agenda Item 8

**Report Back on Statutory Consultation
- Permanent Relocation of the Mariner
Support Service**

Falkirk Council

Title: Report Back on Statutory Consultation - Permanent Relocation of the Mariner Support Service

Meeting: Education Executive

Date: 23 January 2018

Submitted By: Director of Children's Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the formal consultation held on the proposal to permanently relocate the Mariner Support Service from Weedingshall to the Laurieston Campus.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Education Executive is asked to:-

- (i) note the response to the formal consultation exercise undertaken on the proposals;**
- (ii) agree that the Mariner Support Service is permanently relocated from Weedingshall to the Laurieston Campus; and**
- (iii) agree that Weedingshall is declared surplus to Children's Services' requirements.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Mariner Support Service was moved to the Laurieston Campus in August 2016. The Education Executive agreed at the time that this move would be temporary, pending a formal statutory consultation on the matter.
- 3.2 Parents, pupils and staff were consulted on this proposal before the move took place and there was general support and enthusiasm for the relocation. However, the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, requires that a formal statutory consultation is undertaken for any proposal to permanently relocate a school before a final decision can be made.
- 3.3 The Education Executive on 13 June 2017 agreed to a formal statutory consultation in accordance with the Act, on a proposal to permanently relocate the Mariner Support Service from Weedingshall in Polmont to the Laurieston Campus.

- 3.4 Following on from this consultation and the subsequent publication of the consultation report (see Appendix 1), this report summarises the consultation feedback and findings and recommends a way forward.

4 Response to Consultation

4.1 Timelines

- The consultation took place over a 6 week period from 23 August to 6 October 2017.
- A public meeting was held at the Laurieston Campus on 19 September 2017.
- Education Scotland reported back on the educational aspects of the proposal on 7 November 2017.
- The Consultation Report (Appendix 1) was published online on 14 December 2017

4.2 Consultation Response

There were 5 responses to the consultation, as follows:

Type of Respondents	Number of Responses	For Proposal	Against Proposal
Parents	1	1	0
Staff	4	4	0
TOTAL	5	5	0

All of those that responded were in favour of the proposal.

4.3 Public Meeting

Two members of the public attended the meeting held on 19 September at the Laurieston Campus. Education Scotland were also represented at the meeting

The minutes of this meeting are within the Consultation Report which is attached as Appendix 1.

4.4 Main Issues Arising From Consultation Responses

The issues raised were mainly concerned with repairs and maintenance issues at the Laurieston Campus. These are detailed in the Consultation Report (Appendix 1) together with the plans to resolve the main problems.

There was also a concern raised from staff about the availability of parking at the Laurieston Campus, as some staff are required to park on the adjacent access road.

4.5 Report from Education Scotland

HM Inspectors agreed that the proposal is of educational benefit. They conclude that Weedingshall was not suitable to meet all of the pupils' wellbeing and learning needs and that Laurieston Campus provides better facilities. However, they also noted that some aspects of the Laurieston Campus require some improvements, and agree that the concerns raised by staff in these respects are reasonable.

They also report that further development of the facility is needed to extend the support in all curricular areas.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial

It is planned to undertake some repairs and maintenance work to help address some of the matters raised during the consultation before the end of term. This work will be carried out using existing financial resources.

5.2 Resources

None.

5.3 Legal

None.

5.4 Risk

None.

5.5 Equalities

None.

5.6 Sustainability/Environmental Impact

None.

6. Conclusion

6.1 The response to the formal consultation, and report by Education Scotland, confirm that the move to the Laurieston Campus has been educationally beneficial to pupils attending the Mariner Support Service and has been welcomed by pupils, parents and staff alike.

6.2 Formal agreement of a permanent move to the Laurieston Campus will:

- ensure that Children's Services can continue to develop the facility and the opportunities on offer to pupils; and

- allow Children's Services to officially declare Weedingshall surplus to requirements so that the Council can plan for its re-use or disposal, as appropriate.

Director of Children's Services

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Date: 22 December 2017

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Consultation Report

List of Background Papers:

None.



**PROPOSAL TO PERMANENTLY RELOCATE THE MARINER SUPPORT
SERVICE FROM WEEDINGSHALL TO THE LAURIESTON CAMPUS**

A REPORT OF THE CONSULTATION

23rd AUGUST TO 6th OCTOBER 2017

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1 INTRODUCTION

Background

In February 2016, Children's Services purchased the former Focus School in Laurieston, primarily for the purpose of relocating the Mariner Support Service from Weedingshall in Polmont.

In August 2016, the Mariner Support Service was moved from Weedingshall to this new site, which is now called the Laurieston Campus.

This move/decant was agreed by the Council's Education Executive to be on a temporary basis pending a formal statutory consultation on the matter. The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 requires that such a statutory consultation is undertaken for any proposal to relocate a school.

Proposal

It is proposed that the Mariner Support Service should permanently relocate to its current base at the Laurieston Campus.

The details of the proposal can be read in the Consultative Document which is attached as Appendix C.

Purpose of Consultation Report

The permanent relocation of a school requires a formal consultation to be carried out in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This report Documents the formal consultation undertaken on this proposal between 23rd August and 6th October 2017.

Timelines

- The Consultation was over a 6 week period from 23rd August and 6th October 2017
- A public meeting was held at the Laurieston Campus on 19th September 2017
- Education Scotland reported back on the educational aspects of the proposal on 7th November 2017.
- This Consultation Report was published online on 14th December 2017

Consultees

During the consultation period, views were sought from a range of stakeholders and interested parties as follows:

- parents and carers of all Mariner Support Service pupils and also of any pupils that may access the Service in the coming 2 years;
- the Parent Council;
- school staff and trade unions;
- pupils;
- community councils in the Falkirk Council area;
- elected members; and
- Education Scotland.

2 RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

Summary

There were 5 responses to the consultation (via post and email), all from individuals. The main points raised are summarised in this report.

Type of Respondents	Number of Responses	For Proposal	Against Proposal
Parents	1	1	0
Staff	4	4	0
TOTAL	5	5	0

All of those that responded were in favour of the proposal to permanently relocate the Mariner Support Service to the Laurieston Campus.

Public Meetings

A public meeting was held during the consultation period at the Laurieston Campus on Tuesday 19th September 2017.

2 members of the public attended the meeting.

Education Scotland were also represented at the meeting.

The minutes from this meeting can be read in Appendix A.

3 RESPONSE TO THE MAIN ISSUES RAISED

Summary of Written Representations and Response to Main Issues Raised

The main issues raised were:

1. **There has been a lack of hot water in the Home Economics department.**

Work is programmed during the current school session to resolve this. New pipework is required to resolve this matter. As this is a major piece of work it cannot be carried out whilst pupils are on campus, so the work is currently planned for Easter 2018.

2. **The fan system has been broken since June.**

The heating system in the garage area is not currently working. Subject to available funding, this will be repaired to make the area available for Design and Technology teaching (which is not currently offered at the school).

3. **There is a lack of staff parking, forcing staff to park in the approach road or further afield.**

There is parking on site for approximately 19 vehicles, however, this is not enough for all of the staff based at the Laurieston Campus so they do park on the adjacent access road.

It should be noted that there is no legal requirement to provide staff car parking on site.



4 REPORT BY EDUCATION SCOTLAND

Legislative Duty

Under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, Education Scotland (formerly Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education) must prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal out to consultation.

Summary of Report

The Education Scotland report can be read in full in Appendix B. In summary, their conclusions were as follows:

- Consultation Process:
The Council made appropriate arrangements to consult with stakeholders. There were few responses to the consultation, but those that did respond were in favour of the proposal.
- Educational Aspects of the Proposal:
HM Inspectors agree that the proposal is of educational benefit. They conclude that Weedingshall was not suitable to meet all of the pupils' wellbeing and learning needs and that Laurieston Campus provides better facilities.

However, they also noted that aspects of the Laurieston Campus require attention, particularly improvements to the appearance of the inside of the building and services.

They also report that there is not yet sufficient facilities to support all curricular areas.

They agree that the concerns raised by staff in these respects are reasonable.

Response to Issues Raised

As outlined in Section 3, there are planned plumbing improvement works which will resolve one of the main concerns regarding hot water supply to the Home Economics classroom.

Another planned improvement is the installation of a video communication link to front office at the main entrance to improve security.

Curricular areas that are not currently fully supported (PE, Science and Design Technologies) can be accessed by some of the pupils at mainstream schools. Further to this, investment will be considered in future asset management plans to broaden the curricular options at the school, subject to available funding.



APPENDIX A: MINUTES

Public Meeting at Laurieston Campus on 19th September 2017 (6.30pm)

In attendance:

Gary Greenhorn, Head of Planning & Resources, Children Services, Falkirk Council
David MacKay, Head of Education, Children Services, Falkirk Council
David McKellar, Headteacher, Mariner Support Service, Falkirk Council
Paul Stones, Depute Headteacher, Mariner Support Service, Falkirk Council
Gilliam Macadam, Depute Headteacher, Mariner Support Service, Falkirk Council
Ken McAra, Education Scotland
Adanna McQue, Elected Member, Falkirk Council
Julia Rice, Forward Planning Officer, Children Services, Falkirk Council

In addition to the above attendees two members of the public attended the meeting.

Introductions:

Mr Greenhorn welcomed everyone to the meeting then proceeded to the presentation.

Presentation:

- background for the requirement for the consultation.
- detailed reasons why initial decision was taken to temporary relocate the Mariner Support Service and benefits to the learning and teaching of young people
- overview of the whole consultation process and timelines involved

Questions and statements:

- There were no questions from members of the attending public
- Both members of the public were in favour of the permanent relocation when asked if they would like to return to the Weedingshall location by Mr Greenhorn
- David McKellar was asked by Mr Greenhorn for his opinion on the staff's preference, answered that he thought they would all agree that the Laurieston Campus site was more conducive to the learning and teaching of young people.

There was a short discussion on the challenges of the Weedingshall location and building condition.

Mr Greenhorn thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.05pm

APPENDIX B: REPORT BY EDUCATION SCOTLAND

Consultation proposal by Falkirk Council:

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Falkirk Council to permanently relocate the Mariner Support Service from Weedingshall to the Laurieston Campus.

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 (as amended) (the 2010 Act)*. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of Falkirk Council's proposal to permanently relocate the Mariner Support Service from Weedingshall to the Laurieston Campus. 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 legislative 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 young people of the school; any other users; young people likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other 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 19 September 2017 in connection with the council's proposals;
- 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
- visits to the site of Weedingshall and the Laurieston Campus, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2 Consultation process

2.1 Falkirk Council undertook the consultation on its proposal with reference to the *Act 2010*.

2.2 The consultation ran from 23 August until 6 October 2017. The council announced the consultation in local press and information, including the proposal paper, was placed on the council website and in council buildings. Copies of the proposal were provided to parents. Stakeholders were invited to respond to the proposal through a proforma. A public meeting was held on 19 September 2017. Less than ten stakeholders attended. The council made appropriate



arrangements to consult with young people and staff. During the consultation period the council received less than ten responses from parents and stakeholders. All were in favour of the permanent relocation of the service.

3 Educational aspects of the proposal

- 3.1 The Mariner Support Service is a multi-professional education provision for young people of secondary age who are experiencing levels of social and emotional distress which affects their ability to access mainstream provision. The relocation from Weedingshall to the Laurieston Campus took place in August 2016.
- 3.2 HM Inspectors agree that the proposal is of educational benefit. The building at Weedingshall was not suitable to meet the wellbeing and learning needs of the young people. It did not provide staff with appropriate facilities for learning, teaching and professional learning. HM Inspectors agree with the view of the council that the Laurieston Campus provides better facilities. However, HM Inspectors noted that aspects of the Laurieston Campus require attention to ensure a quality environment for young people. In particular, improvements to the appearance of the inside of the building and services. There is not yet a sufficiency of facilities to ensure young people can progress their learning in all curricular areas.
- 3.3 Young people agree that Weedingshall was not an appropriate learning environment for them. They are more content with the Laurieston Campus. Parents who responded to the consultation and who met with HM Inspectors agree with the proposal. They view the Laurieston Campus as a more appropriate learning environment. However, they note that there are aspects of the buildings which require attention to bring them to an acceptable standard. HM Inspectors agree these observations are justified. All staff who spoke with HM Inspectors agree with the proposal. However, they also note that the Laurieston Campus and the resources within do not enable them to teach all areas of the curriculum as they would wish. Staff feel the buildings and outdoor areas are not yet of an acceptable standard to ensure the wellbeing of all young people. HM Inspectors agree these views are reasonable.

4 Summary

HM Inspectors believe that the proposal has educational benefit for young people, their families and staff. Weedingshall was not an appropriate environment. The Laurieston Campus provides improved classroom environments and a wider range of facilities. In its final paper, the council will need to reassure stakeholders that planned and other improvements will be made to the buildings in a timely manner to ensure young people receive their entitlement to an appropriately wide curriculum and benefit from a quality learning environment which meets their needs.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
October 2017**



APPENDIX C: PROPOSAL DOCUMENT



**PERMANENT RELOCATION OF THE MARINER SUPPORT SERVICE FROM WEEDINGSHALL
TO THE LAURIESTON CAMPUS**

A PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

Proposal Document

PROPOSAL

Background	<p>In February 2016, Children's Services bought the former Focus School in Laurieston, primarily for the purpose of relocating the Mariner Support Service from Weedingshall in Polmont.</p> <p>In August 2016, the Mariner Support Service was moved from Weedingshall to this new site, that is now called the Laurieston Campus.</p> <p>This move/decant was agreed by the Council's Education Executive to be on a temporary basis pending a formal statutory consultation on the matter. The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 requires that such a statutory consultation is undertaken for any proposal to relocate a school.</p>
Proposal	<p>It is proposed that the Mariner Support Service should permanently relocate to its current base at the Laurieston Campus.</p>
Who Would Be Affected?	<p>The proposal is <u>for the current arrangements to be made permanent</u> and that there are no changes proposed that would affect pupils, their families or staff.</p>
Outcome of the Proposed Change	<p>The permanent relocation will ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Laurieston Campus can continue to be developed to meet the needs of the Mariner Support Service; and• The former site at Weedingshall in Polmont can be formally declared surplus to requirements.
Educational Benefits	<p>The educational benefits of moving the Mariner Support service to the Laurieston Campus are numerous.</p> <p>The former location at Weedingshall was considered deficient in a number of areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is a very old building in poor condition and unsuitable for conversion/alteration to meet current modern teaching standards.• The rooms did not meet the needs of the Curriculum for Excellence.• There is no games hall or gym.• The narrow corridors and blind corners were considered a risk.• The access to the lower ground floor is steep, narrow and potentially hazardous.• The kitchen/dining space is limited to 8 pupils at a time.• There is limited breakout space for 1:1 or small group working.• There are limited meeting space/areas.• There is no tarmacked playground or recreational space.• Options for door security/entry systems were limited in the old building.• The building regularly suffered incidences of theft and vandalism over the years. Some of these incidents were major and directly impacted on the learning and teaching as power outages and water damages occurred.• Access to the building is via a narrow, single track road.• A cemetery is co-located on site which presents challenges when funerals are taking place.

Subsequently, it was the only Falkirk Council school to be given the lowest "Suitability" rating of D (Bad) in the 2015/16 School Estate Management Plan.

Proposal Document

There are significant benefits derived from the move to the Laurieston Campus:

(i) Building/Campus

The Mariner Support Service's new location at the Laurieston Campus has none of the shortcomings experienced at Weedingshall. It is a spacious building in good condition with the following:

- variety of classrooms/teaching areas;
- central reception area;
- gym hall;
- office accommodation;
- staff bases and support sections;
- playground area;
- security fencing around the whole site (significantly reducing vandalism/theft risk); and
- the available land in the grounds provide plenty of scope for potential expansion.

In the 2016/17 School Estate Management Plan the school was given a "Suitability" rating of B (Good) which compares favourably with the school estate throughout the Falkirk Council area.

(ii) Learning and Teaching Areas/Facilities

- Unlike Weedingshall, the Laurieston Campus provides an environment that resembles a mainstream school. This in itself helps the pupils to be more receptive to learning.
- There are more classroom areas and they are bright, airy and well equipped.
- They present a much better learning environment and staff/pupils no longer need to share spaces with the potential for disruption of lessons.
- Provision of PE is a curricular requirement that can now be offered on-site in the gym hall. Certificated PE courses can now be offered to pupils and there is no longer the expense and inconvenience of having to travel to other halls for PE.
- The central atrium provides a gathering and recreational area. It enables pupils to learn appropriate social skills while engaging with staff and each other. It teaches them that being in a slightly bigger group is manageable (with support) and allows assemblies to happen on a daily basis. This area also facilitates pupils using it for games and social space which assists social interaction in a calming environment.
- The smaller rooms are used for 1:1 teaching and support as well as having been identified as 'safe' places for pupils to go to in crisis.
- The new building also has a designated Nurture space called "the Nook".
- The teaching kitchen is better equipped with both gas and electric cookers, and has direct mains water provision which was not available at Weedingshall.
- The designated garden area has been developed by Family Support staff, parents and pupils and is a source of great pride for the pupils. Health and wellbeing benefits are numerous with everyone enjoying the practical, hands-on learning as well as the prospect of enjoying the fruits of their labour.
- The dining hall is large enough to accommodate all staff and pupils at once and has been equipped to look like a dining hall in a mainstream school. Lunchtimes are spent with teaching staff, and pupils are able to learn social and inter-personal skills such as eating at a table, using appropriate cutlery, taking turns, clearing up after themselves and wiping and putting away furniture.
- There is an outside play area (still under development) which enables pupils to learn to play together in team games.

Proposal Document

- The campus also has other areas which are still under development (the workshop and an extended nurture base) that will offer huge potential for improving the learning and teaching experience and widening out what can be offered to pupils on campus.

(iii) Staff Facilities

- There is now a designated staffroom. This allows staff to take time away if required, particularly after a crisis, and has the benefit of improving staff wellbeing.
- Staff also have office space which allows them to complete admin tasks in privacy.
- The training suite enables Mariner staff and partner agencies to receive training in an appropriate setting and due to it being away from the main pupil areas. This also means that training can now take place during school time.

(iv) Outcomes for Pupils

- The Laurieston Campus provides the pupils with a safer, more secure, much larger and vastly improved learning environment and space.
- This benefits the overall wellbeing of these young people, many of whom have had traumatic experiences, and is hugely beneficial to their education.

(v) Engagement and Involvement with Parents

- The training suite area is also very well used by parents and there is a well-attended and lively parents group who have peaceful surroundings to meet in.
- The move to the Laurieston Campus has had a very positive effect on parental involvement and engagement with the Mariner Support Service.

Proposal Document

CONSULTATION

Legislation	Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 A formal consultation is required for any proposal to relocate a school. This consultation fully accords with the requirements of this legislation.
Consultees	During the consultation period, and in accordance with legislative requirements, views are being sought from a range of interested parties including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• parents and carers of all Mariner Support Service pupils and also of any pupils that may access the Service in the coming 2 years;• the Parent Council;• school staff and trade unions;• pupils;• community councils in the Falkirk Council area;• elected members;• Education Scotland; and• any other Councils that may have pupils attending the Mariner Support Service.
Consultation Period	The consultation is taking place over an 6½ week period between 23 August and 6 October 2017
Public Meeting	<p>A public meeting to discuss the proposal will be held at the Laurieston Campus on Tuesday 19 September at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.</p> <p>Officers of the Council will be present to discuss this proposal and there will be an opportunity to ask questions at the meeting.</p>
How to Respond	<p>Interested parties are encouraged to complete and return the pro-forma attached with this proposal document. It asks some specific questions regarding the proposal, and provides the opportunity to detail any issues of concern. Separate written submissions regarding this proposal will also be accepted by letter or e-mail until Friday 6 October 2017 when the consultation period ends.</p> <p>We will be happy to discuss this proposal on the phone, but telephone conversations will not be recorded as part of the consultation and all submissions should be in writing.</p>
Contact Details	<p>If you would like to discuss these proposals or have any queries regarding the consultation process, please phone us on 01324 506621.</p> <p>When completed, please return the attached pro-forma and any further written submission regarding these proposals to:</p> <p><i>Mariner Support Service Consultation Children's Services Sealock House 2 Inchyra Road Grangemouth FK3 9XB</i></p> <p>or by e-mail to educ.consultation@falkirk.gov.uk</p>



Proposal Document

RESPONSE FORM

PROPOSAL FOR THE PERMANENT RELOCATION OF THE MARINER SUPPORT SERVICE

Name:

Address:

Contact Telephone Number:

Contact Email Address:

Name of Pupil(s) Concerned:
(where relevant)

Name of School(s) Attended:
(where relevant)

QU1: Do you agree with the proposal to permanently relocate the Mariner Support Service from Weedingshall to the Laurieston Campus? ☐ Yes ☐ No

QU 2: Do you have any further comments on this proposal? (please continue overleaf if necessary)

Please complete and return this form by **Friday 6 October 2017** to:

*Mariner Support Service Consultation
Children's Services
Sealock House, 2 Inchyra Road
Grangemouth FK3 9XB*

Or by e-mail to: educ.consultation@falkirk.gov.uk