

The background of the slide features a large, light blue outline 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: a cross, bottom-left: a sailing ship, bottom-right: an eagle), and a ribbon at the bottom with the motto 'ANE FOR A'.

Agenda Item 6

Statutory Consultation - Permanent Relocation of the Mariner Support Service

Falkirk Council

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

Meeting: Education Executive

Date: 13 June 2017

Submitted By: Director of Children's Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request a formal consultation 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 agree that:

- (1) a formal consultation takes place, as detailed in this report, on a proposal to permanently relocate the Mariner Support Service from Weedingshall to the Laurieston Campus; and**
- (2) a report back from this consultation will come to a future meeting of the Education Executive for a decision on the proposal.**

3. Background

- 3.1 At the Education Executive on 29th September 2015 it was agreed that the Director of Children's Services should progress with a bid to purchase the former Focus School site for the purposes of transferring the Mariner Support Service from their Weedingshall base.
- 3.2 In December 2015 Falkirk Council concluded the purchase and on 2nd February 2016 the Education Executive approved the temporary decant/move of the Mariner Support Service from Weedingshall to this new site, the Laurieston Campus. This move took place in August 2016.
- 3.3 Parents, pupils and staff were consulted on this proposal before the move took place and there was general support and enthusiasm for the relocation.
- 3.4 The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 requires that a statutory consultation is undertaken in order that the current temporary status of the move can be made permanent.

- 3.6 This report sets out the proposal to permanently relocate the Mariner Support Service to the Laurieston Campus and seeks approval to consult parents, pupils, staff and other stakeholders on this basis.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 The relocation of the Mariner Support Service from Weedingshall to the Laurieston Campus has been a successful one. There are currently 25 pupils and 20 staff based in the new campus however the site has the infrastructure potential to extend capacity further for both pupils and support services. The former Weedingshall site only had a capacity for 25 pupils, there was no room for expansion.

4.2 Limitations and Challenges faced with the Weedingshall site

Weedingshall was initially considered a temporary location for the Mariner Support Service pending identification of a permanent base for a number of reasons:-

- It is a very old building that cannot be converted to meet current modern teaching requirements.
- The rooms did not meet the needs of the modern Curriculum for Excellence requirements.
- There was no games hall or gym.
- The narrow corridors and blind corners present onsite risks.
- The lower ground floor access is steep, narrow and hazardous.
- The kitchen/dining space was limited to 8 pupils at a time.
- There was limited breakout space for 1:1 or small group work/engagement.
- There were limited meeting space/areas.
- There were limited options for door security/entry systems in the old building.
- There was a temporary electrical supply due to theft of electrical substation leading to regular power outages.
- The proximity to the cemetery created challenges, particularly when ceremonies were underway.
- The isolated site is vulnerable to theft and vandalism (lead had recently been stripped from the roof leading to water damage).
- There was no tarmacked playground or recreational space.
- There was no secure perimeter fencing.

- 4.3 The Education School Estate Management Plan 2015/16 ratings for Weedingshall were:-

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Condition C (Poor)- Suitability D (Bad) |
|--|

4.4 Benefits of the Laurieston 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
- Onsite parking

4.5 The Education School Estate Management Plan 2016/17 ratings for the Laurieston Campus are:-

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Condition A (Excellent)- Suitability B (Good) |
|--|

4.6 Strategic Considerations

If the permanent school relocation is agreed then the existing Weedingshall will be declared surplus to operational requirements by Children's Services and will be available for the Council to consider alternative use or disposal.

5. Consultation

5.1 Statutory Requirements

Formal consultation is required for any proposal to permanently relocate a school. The consultation will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

5.2 Consultation Period

It is proposed that the consultation takes place for a period of 6½ weeks between 23rd August 2017 and 6th October 2017. This meets and exceeds the legislative minimum period of 30 term-time days.

5.3 Publicity

To initiate the consultation, and in accordance with the legislation, a statutory notice will be placed in the Falkirk Herald, the Falkirk Advertiser and the Bo'ness Journal. In addition, the Council website will carry information on the consultation process.

5.5 Public Meeting

A public meeting is proposed at the Laurieston Campus on Tuesday 19 September 2017 at 6:30pm.

5.6 Proposal Document

The proposal document with a pro forma response form is attached as Appendix 1. This will be sent to all statutory consultees (see below) and will be made available during the consultation period on the Council website and at schools, Council offices, libraries, and one-stop shops.

5.7 Statutory Consultees

At the start of the consultation period, the proposal document with a covering letter will be sent to:-

- (i) parents and carers of all Mariner Support Service pupils and also of pupils that may access the Service in the coming 2 years;
- (ii) Parent Council;
- (iii) school staff and trade unions;
- (iv) Community Councils in the Falkirk Council area;
- (v) pupils;
- (vi) Elected Members;
- (vii) any other Councils that may have pupils attending Mariner Support Service.

5.8 Educational Benefits Statement

Each proposal must be accompanied by an Educational Benefit Statement that assesses the likely benefits for pupils that would be affected. The Educational Benefits Statement is contained within the Proposal Document attached as Appendix 1.

5.9 Involvement of Education Scotland

The involvement of Education Scotland is a requirement of the 2010 Act. Education Scotland will be invited to attend the public meeting and discuss the proposal with Children's Services during the consultation period

At the end of the consultation period, and in accordance with the requirements of the Act, a copy of all representations received will be forwarded to Education Scotland who are required to submit a report back to the Council within 3 weeks.

5.10 Preparation and Publication of the Consultation Report

Following receipt of the Education Scotland report, Children's Services will then prepare and publish a Consultation Report which will detail all responses to the consultation and include:-

- letters and e-mails received;
- a summary of pro forma responses;

- minutes of the public meeting held; and
- the report from Education Scotland.

The consultation report will be published on the Falkirk Council website and respondents to the consultation made aware of it at least 3 weeks before a decision to proceed with any changes (as proposed) is made.

5.11 Report Back to the Education Executive

Following the consultation and publication of the consultation report, a report will be brought back to the Education Executive which will summarise the consultation feedback and findings and will recommend a way forward.

6. Implications

6.1 Financial

None.

6.2 Resources

None.

6.3 Legal

The consultation will be in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

6.4 Risk

None.

6.5 Equalities

All stakeholders will be consulted and given equal opportunity to respond.

6.6 Sustainability/Environmental Impact

None.

8. Conclusions

- 7.1 A statutory consultation must be undertaken with all relevant stakeholders prior to any formal decision being made to make the Mariner Support Service move to the Laurieston Campus permanent.

Director of Children's Services

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Date: 26 May 2017

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Proposal Document

List of Background Papers:

None.



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

A PROPOSAL DOCUMENT



1 PROPOSAL

Background	<p>In February 2016, Children's Services bought the former Focus School in Laurieston from the Oakwood Education Trust, 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• 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; and• 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. <p>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.</p>



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; and
- Security fencing around the whole site (significantly reducing vandalism/theft risk).

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 and 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; and
- 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.



2 CONSULTATION

Legislation	<p>Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010</p> <p>A formal consultation is required for any proposal to relocate a school. This consultation fully accords with the requirements of this legislation.</p>
Consultees	<p>During the consultation period, and in accordance with legislative requirements, views are being sought from a range of interested parties including:</p> <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• Any other Councils that may have pupils attending the Mariner Support Service
Consultation Period	<p>The consultation is taking place over an 6½ week period between 23 August and 6 October 2017</p>
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>
Following the Consultation	<p>Education Scotland will receive details of consultation responses and the public meetings and will provide Children's Services with a report after the consultation.</p> <p>Children's Services will then prepare a consultation report which will be published on the council website and it will also be made available to read at the school, in libraries, council offices and at Children's Services HQ (Sealock House in Grangemouth).</p> <p>The consultation report will be discussed by councillors at the Education Executive later</p>



in the year where they will decide on the matter.

**Contact
Details**

If you would like to discuss these proposals or have any queries regarding the consultation process, please phone us on 01324 506621.

When completed, please return the attached pro-forma and any further written submission regarding these proposals 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



3 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