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To: Councillor Greig, Convener; Councillor Mennie, Vice Convener; Councillors Allard, Blake, Bouse, Brooks, Hazel Cameron, Fairfull, Grant, McLeod, Radley, MacGregor and Mrs Stewart and Ms Danielle Barclay (Parent Representative - Nursery / Primary), Mr Doug Haywood (Teacher Representative - Primary Schools), Ms Jacqueline Munro (Teacher Representative - Secondary Schools), Dr Alison Murray (Parent Representative - Secondary), Mr John Murray (Roman Catholic Religious Representative), Mr Madhav Regmi (Third Religious Representative) and Mrs Hilda Smith (Church of Scotland representative).

Town House,
ABERDEEN, 13 September 2024

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

The undernoted item is circulated in connection with the meeting of the **EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE** to be held in the **Council Chamber - Town House** on **TUESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2024 at 10.00 am**. This is a hybrid meeting and Members may also attend remotely.

The meeting will be webcast and a live stream can be viewed on the Council's website. <https://aberdeen.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

ALAN THOMSON
INTERIM CHIEF OFFICER - GOVERNANCE

BUSINESS

DEPUTATIONS

- 4.1 Deputations in respect of item 10.5 - Denominational Schools (Pages 3 - 6)

Elizabeth Spencer
Anthony Steppie
JJ Welsh and Lynsey Jordan

Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Steph Dunsmuir, sdunsmuir@aberdeencity.gov.uk

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Deputation from Elizabeth Spencer re Item 10.5

I am writing to request support in securing funding for Catholic primary schools in Aberdeen, specifically to refurbish the historic buildings that require extensive repairs. This would address urgent issues such as mould, cold drafts, and inadequate ventilation, ensuring that children can learn in safe and healthy environments. Additionally, I urge consideration for the construction of a Catholic secondary school in Aberdeen. As the only Scottish city without a Catholic secondary school, Aberdeen's growing need is evident, particularly given its diverse community. Many families, including workers in the energy sector, immigrant minority communities, and international students, choose to send their children to Catholic primary schools, regardless of their religious background.

Without a Catholic secondary school, these children may be separated from their friends and support systems, which could be particularly challenging for those on the autism spectrum and differently able children, of which we have many children in our school, and they rely on the stability and relationships they've built in their primary school years.

The absence of continuity in their education may negatively affect their mental health and overall well-being.

We have more than parents with multiple kids that would like to avail secondary catholic education and has signed a petition for the same.

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/need-for-a-secondary-catholic-school-in-aberdeen-uk>

Your assistance in addressing these needs would be greatly appreciated.

Kindest Regards,
Elizabeth Spencer
Senior Catechist & Sunday School Teacher (RC Diocese of Aberdeen)
Founder and Managing Director of Aberdeen Ethnic Minority Women's Group CIC

Deputation from Anthony Steppie re Item 10.5

To whom it may concern,

My name is Anthony (Tony) Steppie and I am the Chair of Holy Family RC Primary School's Parent Council.

I would like to make a request to make a deputation at Education and Children's Services Committee meeting on Tuesday 17th September on the subject of the feasibility study report of Denominational schools in Aberdeen.

The action I would like the committee to take is not to merge or close any Catholic Primary schools in the city of Aberdeen.

Kind regards,

Tony Steppie
Parent Council Chair of Holy Family RC Primary

Deputation from JJ Welsh and Lynsey Jordan re Item 10.5

Steph,

I understand that I can formally request to make a Deputation at the upcoming Aberdeen City Council Education and Children's Services Committee, by emailing yourself.

The Deputation would be from myself JJ Welsh, (PC Chair) and Lynsey Jordan (PC Vice-Chair) on behalf of St Joseph's RC Primary School Parent Council. (In relation to Item 10.5, Denominational Schools).

Regards,

JJ Welsh

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on behalf of St Joseph's RC Primary School Parent Council

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