

APPENDIX 2



CONSULTATION REPORT Milltimber School Relocation

This Consultation Report has been compiled in response to the recent public consultation on the proposal to relocate the current Milltimber School to a new two stream school building on an identified site within the Oldfold Farm development. The document summarises the responses received on the proposals set out below and Aberdeen City Council's response to the verbal and written comments submitted by interested parties, in compliance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.

Proposal:

- **To relocate the existing Milltimber Primary School to a new building on an identified site within the Oldfold Farm development, Aberdeen (see Annex A for location), with effect from August 2021 or as soon as possible thereafter.**

1. METHODOLOGY

This consultation was conducted in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended. All requirements of the legislation have been met.

2. INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS

2.1 Public Event

A public consultation event was held on 29 May 2019 to discuss the proposals. The event took place at Milltimber School commencing at 7.00pm. The event was attended by seven members of the public, two members of staff and a representative from Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber Community Council.

2.2 Comments Received

One completed paper comment form was received in response to this consultation, along with 23 online submissions via the Council's consultation portal.

Overall, 23 respondents indicated that they were in support of the proposal, and 1 indicated that they were not.

The submissions, anonymised as necessary, are available on the Council's website: www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations

2.3 Issues Raised

The main issues raised at the public meeting and in the written responses to the consultation, are summarised below.

- The majority of respondents acknowledged that the existing Milltimber School building is no longer fit for purpose, and in need of replacement, and that it does not have sufficient capacity to accommodate the number of pupils expected to be attending the school in the future.
- Some respondents asked about the timescales for the Council making a final decision to go ahead with the new school building, and about the process for designing the school. They asked if there was any risk that sufficient budget may not be available for the new school, and whether there were any other reasons why the school would not go ahead.
- One respondent asked why a new site had to be selected for the new school rather than redeveloping the existing site.
- Attendees at the consultation meeting asked what would happen to the existing site, after the new school is built. Others asked whether the existing school would be demolished soon after being vacated, to prevent vandalism and any risk of fire.
- There was a question about how the new school design will meet the future needs of pupils, and respondents also asked if there would be an opportunity for parents and pupils to comment on the designs. One respondent was concerned that the site identified for the new school would not be large enough and may not provide adequate space for outdoor education.

- Some consultees had a concern that there may be difficulty in recruiting the additional teachers needed at the school.
- There was also concern about possible traffic congestion on Binghill Road, and it was expressed that there was a need for adequate access to be made to the school site, along with adequate car parking to avoid congestion in nearby streets. It was suggested that safe walking and cycling access to the school would need to be put in place.
- One consultee also asked whether there would be adequate after school care provision at the new school.

2.4 Education Scotland Report

An essential element of the statutory consultation process is the involvement of Education Scotland whose report is provided as Annex B of this Consultation Report.

In its report, Education Scotland acknowledged that the existing Milltimber School building does not have the capacity required to accommodate the expected increase in pupil numbers, and that the location and layout of the school are not suitable and create challenges for pupils and staff. It noted that the Council has a strong case for relocating the school to a new site within the Oldfold Farm development.

The report noted that all pupils, parents and staff whom the inspector spoke to were supportive of the proposal, and it acknowledged the requests from staff to be involved in the design of the new school.

3. THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD AND CONTAINED WITHIN THE EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT

3.1 Timescales for the new school, budget and likelihood of it going ahead

It was confirmed at the consultation meeting that the decision on whether to proceed with the proposal outlined within this consultation would be made at the Education Operational Delivery Committee meeting in September 2019. It was also confirmed that an indicative budget for the new school had already been identified within the Council's capital programme, and that officers were not aware of any other reasons why the plans for the new school would not go ahead.

3.2 Use of and plans for the existing school site

It was explained that the existing school site is not large enough to accommodate a larger school with a modern design. It was also noted that the existing site is on a slope, and that the only access to the school is via a residential street, which creates traffic congestion, so it was acknowledged from an early stage that a new site would need to be found for the replacement school building.

Officers also explained that the existing building is likely to be declared surplus to requirement after the new school has opened, and that a process would be followed by the Council to identify possible alternative uses for the site. It was also acknowledged at the consultation meeting that the site has been identified for potential future housing development. Officers would take appropriate action to secure the site from potential

vandalism or fire raising as soon as it has been vacated, and any decision to demolish the building would be taken as early as possible, once the future of the site has been agreed.

3.3 School design and size of new site

It was explained at the consultation meeting that pupils at the school had already been given an opportunity to view and comment on the initial pre-planning design drawings for the new school, and that this process of engagement with stakeholders, including with staff and parents, would continue throughout the life of the project. The brief for the new school will take into account modern methods of curriculum delivery and as far as possible the future needs of pupils and staff. The new site for the proposed school has sufficient space for a larger two-stream building along with adequate outdoor space for PE and outdoor learning.

3.4 Recruitment of staff for the new school

Whilst the staffing allocation at the existing Milltimber School would be transferred over to the new building, it is acknowledged that the new school will be larger and over time will require more staff to work within it. Whilst recruiting new staff within Aberdeen City remains a challenge, a range of initiatives have been put in place in recent years to encourage more teachers to apply for posts in our schools, and the situation is improving as a result. Officers do not anticipate staffing shortages creating any difficulties in opening the new school.

3.5 Traffic congestion and travel to school

Arrangements for vehicle access to the new school will be considered as part of the ongoing design process, and stakeholders will have further opportunity to comment on this. The Planning Authority is also likely to lay down specific requirements with regards to access to the site and supporting safe travel to the school, which the Council will be required to have in place before the school can open.

3.6 Out of School Care Provision

The new school will be designed to include space for out of school care provision.

4. COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 9(1) OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 AND CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSALS

Following the conclusion of the consultation period, Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, requires the Council to review the relevant proposal, having had regard to any written representations that have been received by it during the consultation period, any oral representations made to it at the public meeting held on 29 May, and Education Scotland's report.

In terms of Section 10(2) (e) of the said Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, the Consultation Report is required to contain a statement explaining how the Council complied with its duty under the above Section 9(1) of the Act.

With relation to Section 9(1) of the 2010 Act and having considered all of the information received during the consultation process, officers are satisfied that no comments have been received which would have caused them to review the merits of the proposals to relocate the current Milltimber School to a new two stream school building on an identified site within the Oldfold Farm development.

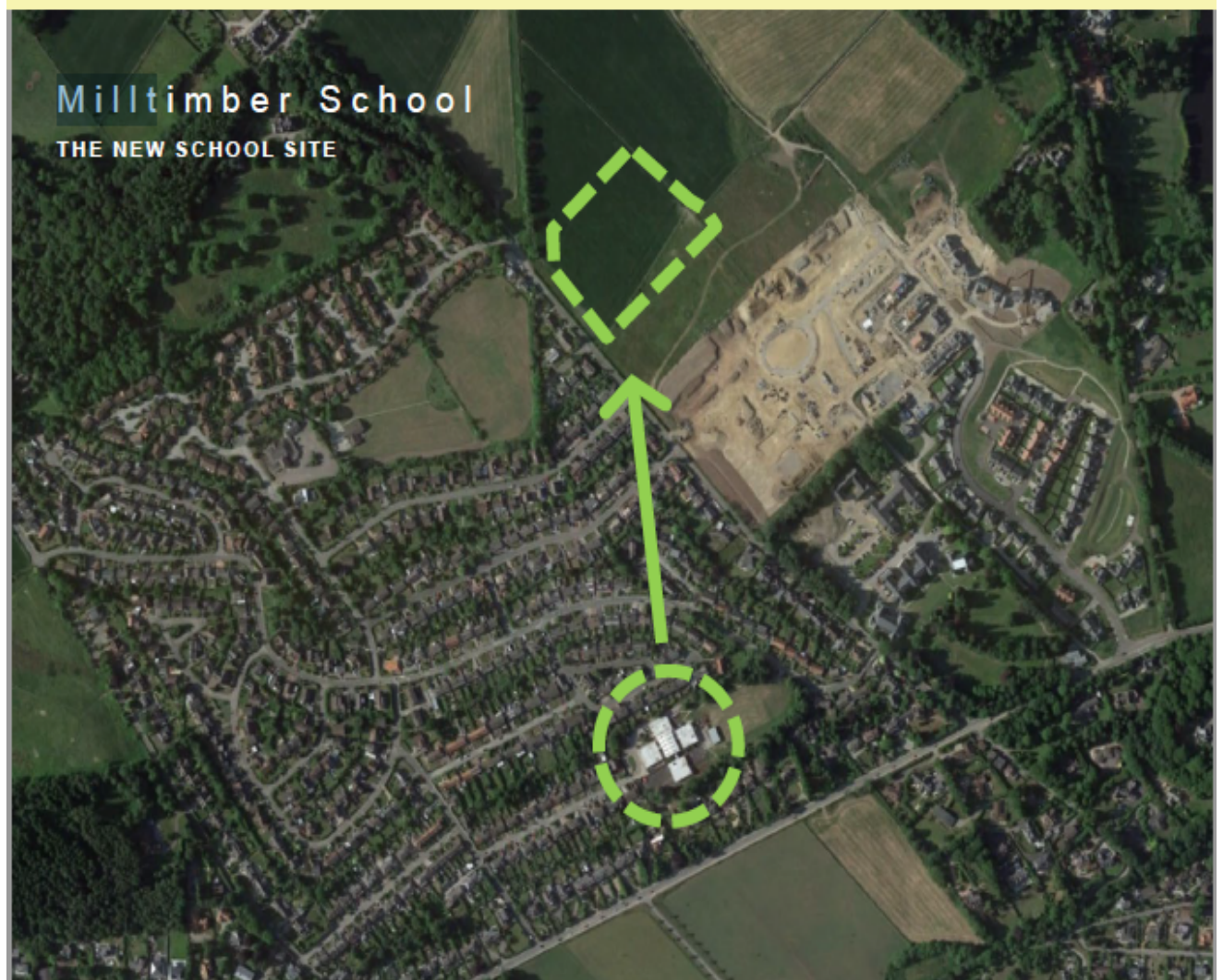
5. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Education Operational Delivery Committee agrees to implement the proposals to:

- **relocate the existing Milltimber Primary School to a new building on an identified site within the Oldfold Farm development, Aberdeen, with effect from August 2021 or as soon as possible thereafter.**

**Steve Whyte
Director of Resources
August 2019**

ANNEX A – Proposed Location of New School





Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Aberdeen City Council to relocate the existing Milltimber School to a new building within an identified site within the Oldfold Farm development with effect from August 2021.

June 2019

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](#) ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of Aberdeen City Council's proposal to relocate the existing Milltimber School to a new building within an identified site within the Oldfold Farm development with effect from August 2021. 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 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 statutory 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 children of the school; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children 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:

- 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 Milltimber School and the identified site at Oldfold Farm, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

2.1 Aberdeen City Council undertook the consultation on its proposal with reference to the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#).

2.2 The formal consultation ran from 22 April 2019 until 7 June 2019. The council posted the consultation document on its website. A copy of the proposal document was provided to key stakeholders including: Milltimber School parents, members of the Parent Council, pupils and staff. Copies of the proposal document were also made available at public libraries, Cults Academy, Marischal College and Milltimber Nursery. A public meeting was held on 29 May 2019. Discussion focused on construction of the new school, disposal of the existing site and further opportunities for consultation relating to safe access routes to the new school. The council received

23 responses to an online survey. Of these submissions 22 were supportive of the proposal. Almost all were of the view that Milltimber School was no longer fit for purpose and a replacement school to meet the increasing roll was long overdue. The one respondent who did not support the proposal did so on the basis that their local school should be replaced before Milltimber School.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The existing Milltimber School has a capacity of 270 pupils and is operating almost at capacity. The current roll is 266 (2019) and is forecast to rise to 342 by 2023. The current nursery has 40 part-time places. To meet early learning and childcare (ELC) entitlement by 2020 approximately 60 full-time early years' places will be required. The existing school building does not have the capacity or space to meet the envisaged increase in roll or early years places. Access to and through the current site, located in a residential street, is less than ideal. There is a significant build-up of traffic at the start and end of each day. This is having a negative impact on residents. The existing school is built on a slope. As a result there are several changes in floor level, linked by stairs. This creates challenges for children and staff with mobility difficulties. The existing school building has previously been extended. The building is not suitable for further extension. The school is rated 'B' (satisfactory) for its overall condition. The roof is rated 'C' (poor).

3.2 The council has set out a strong case for relocating Milltimber School to a new build site within the Oldfold Farm development. Based on a capacity of 434 the new school will be able to accommodate the forecast increase in the pupil roll. The current occupancy level of 266 (98%) is forecast to rise to 311 (115%) by 2021. The existing school site lacks the capacity to be expanded further without detriment to children's learning. Pupils at the new school will benefit from a purpose-built school for primary and pre-school stages. This will result in a much improved environment for the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence and improved outcomes for learners. In terms of value for money, current maintenance costs will be reduced. Effective teacher staffing levels will be maintained. Children will benefit from increased social interaction with a larger number of children and staff. ELC facilities will be increased and improved. The existing outdoor learning space at Milltimber School is limited. The proposed new site will provide enhanced outdoor play spaces and physical education facilities. This will improve health, fitness and wellbeing and provide better opportunities for outdoor learning and social interaction.

3.3 All children who met with HM Inspectors were supportive of the proposal. Children were of the view the existing school was in a poor state of repair and needed replacing. They recognised the benefits the new school would bring. These included an improved learning environment through increased space and improved heating and lighting and disability access. Security would be improved as would access to outside learning and play areas. Currently, P1 and P2 classes are located in a separate building and are not able to easily engage with the rest of the school. The children felt the new school would bring the whole school together.

3.4 All parents and staff who met with HM Inspectors were supportive of the proposal. They agreed the current site was not fit for purpose and in urgent need of replacement. Vehicle access into and around the school remains an ongoing problem. There is public access into the school grounds via a right of way. Mobility within the school is limited due to the changes in floor level requiring access via stairs. There are no disabled toilet facilities. Parents and staff recognised a number of clear benefits a new school would bring for children and staff alike. A more positive learning environment would be created. Heating and lighting would be improved as would access to IT. The proposed school would accommodate the projected increase in roll and allow the school to fully deliver its ELC entitlement. Opportunities for children to access and engage in outdoor learning would be improved. The proposed location was seen as a popular choice offering increased space and the potential to develop partnership working. Traffic access into and around the school would be improved. Both parents and staff were keen to ensure the proposal be

progressed without further delay. Should the proposal go ahead staff were keen to be involved in finalising the design and layout of the new school.

4. Summary

The council's proposal is of clear educational benefit. All children, parents, carers and school staff who met with HM Inspectors were supportive of the proposal. The council's proposal, should it proceed should see children benefit from a well-located site and well-designed building. Pupils at the new school will benefit from a purpose-built school for primary and pre-school stages. This will result in a much improved environment for the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence and improved outcomes for learners. Vehicle and pedestrian access to and from the school will be improved as will the safety and security of the children. The new school will be fully disability compliant. In terms of value for money, current maintenance costs will be reduced. Effective teacher staffing levels will be maintained. ELC facilities will be increased and improved. ELC entitlement targets will be achieved. The proposed new site will provide enhanced outdoor play spaces and physical education facilities. In taking forward the proposal, the council would benefit from involving school staff in the final design and layout of the new school.

HM Inspectors

June 2019