

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education, Culture and Sport
DATE	31 January 2013
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
TITLE OF REPORT	Nursery/Primary School Estate Review – Feedback from Engagement Exercise
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/13/004

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report describes the extent and content of the feedback received during informal engagement on Nursery and Primary School Estate, carried out between 24 September and 7 December 2012.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Committee

- notes the content of the report and in particular that the summary of the points raised in the facilitated discussion groups at the engagement events is placed on the Council website and that copies of all submissions are placed in the Members' Library and
- instructs officers to consider the major issues raised when formulating proposals on the development of the school estate which will be included in the report to a special meeting of Education, Culture and Sport Committee in February, 2013.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific revenue or capital implications for current and future years, any financial risk directly arising from this report. There may be significant financial implications if any of the proposals are taken forward.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal, resource, personnel, property, equipment, sustainability and environmental, health and safety and/or policy implications or risks related to this report.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

5.1 Background

Education, Culture and Sport Committee on 7/6/12 (item 8.1) instructed officers to bring a report to Committee that describes the feedback from the informal engagement on Review of the Nursery and Primary School Estate.

The format and extent of the engagement was planned with input from stakeholders, elected members and officers.

Headteachers were initially informed of the engagement in spring 2012 and again in August, 2012.

An information letter was provided for schools to circulate to parents and carers. A leaflet was circulated to schools, community centres and other public buildings to provide a synopsis of the engagement process.

Corporate communications were briefed on the process and a press release issued.

5.2 The Engagement Scope

The engagement consisted of two main strands: the provision of information to stakeholders and the opportunity for stakeholders to submit their views.

5.2.1 Provision of Information

A broad range of information was made available to stakeholders in the following ways:

- (i) a comprehensive section of the Aberdeen City Council website;
- (ii) the engagement document, available from the website or for consultation at school, community centres and other public buildings;
- (iii) displays at nineteen engagement events (Associated Schools Groups, denominational provision, Additional Support Needs, city-wide at Marischal College).

5.2.2 Submission of Views

Stakeholders were able to submit their views by a variety of means:

- (i) by completing the electronic survey accessible directly or via the Aberdeen City Council website;
- (ii) by submitting an email to a dedicated email address;
- (iii) by participating in the facilitated discussion groups at the engagement events;
- (iv) by completing a comment card at the engagement events or the city-wide, drop-in events;
- (v) by writing to the Council.

5.2.3 Summary of submissions

325 submissions via the electronic survey
298 emails were received
585 participants attended the engagement events*
17 comment cards
7 written letter submissions

Some submissions were made in more than one format.

*including parents/carers and staff (some of whom may also have been parents/carers). This figure does not include officers or Group Leaders attending the events.

5.2.4 General Points Raised

The majority of submissions concerned maintaining service delivery, unchanged, on a local basis. There was a significant number of suggestions which contributors felt would improve educational provision. These were often linked to continuing current provision, but suggesting changes to delivery where new housing developments were proposed or being delivered.

This was helpful and these will be considered when the report to Committee with proposals on named schools/ASGs is written.

There were few submissions on possible new approaches to delivery of education or on how to resolve issues on a city-wide basis.

5.2.5 Publicising the Feedback

A list of the recorded points raised by each of the facilitated discussion groups at all engagement events has been placed on the Council's website.

A folder containing a paper copy of all submissions received in any format has been placed in the Elected Members' Library.

6. IMPACT

Corporate - The first high-level priority within Smarter People (Social and Human Capital) of the administration's policy document '*Aberdeen – the Smarter City*' states,

'We will provide a high quality education service within our schools and communities which will improve attainment and life chances of our children and young people to achieve their full potential in education, employment or training'.

Members of the Committee will be interested in the submissions made by stakeholders and will use this information when considering the proposals in the Report on the Review of the Primary and Nursery Estate, which will be presented to Committee in February, 2013.

Public – There will be significant public interest in this report. Firstly, individuals will be keen to establish that their submissions are included. Secondly, there will be interest in the range of views submitted by other stakeholders.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1: Synopsis of Submissions

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Derek Samson
Service Manager, Schools (12-18) and Curriculum
dsamson@aberdeencity.gov.uk
(52)3817