

NEW OBAN HIGH SCHOOL – UPDATE

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**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report updates Members on the work undertaken since the identification of the preferred site for the new Oban High School to be taken forward for public consultation. The report sets out the process used to engage with the local community in respect of the preferred site.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members note:
- the detail of the recently completed public consultation exercise on the preferred site for the new Oban High School; and
  - the arrangements for reporting the result of the consultation exercise undertaken in accordance with the timescale set out in Paragraph 3.5 and Appendix 1 of this report.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 27 June 2013, the Council agreed the methodology for the detailed appraisal of sites for delivering a new Oban High School.

As part of this process, the Council delegated the detailed arrangements for the public consultation to the Executive Director of Community Services, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Education and Lifelong Learning, as it was then termed.

- 3.2 The sites that were finally subject to the detailed appraisal were:

	<b>Site</b>
1.	Glen Shellach – Land adjacent to Argyll College opposite the hospital
2.	Existing school and land behind Tweed Mill
2A	Existing school and land behind Tweed Mill and Dalintart and Glencruitten
3.	Dalintart and Glencruitten

	<b>Site</b>
4.	Land adjacent to Park Primary and Pennyfuir Cemetery

The appraisal process of the five sites was conducted in a workshop scenario by officers from different parts of the Council representing, amongst others, Education, Facility Services, Planning, Economic Development, Roads and Legal Services. The officers assessed each option against the pre-agreed criteria and assigned a 'score' in relation to impact, affordability, deliverability and risk. The result of that process was that Site 2A was identified as the preferred site for the new Oban High School.

At its meeting on Thursday 31 October 2013, the Council agreed that site 2A was the preferred site to be taken to public consultation to ascertain the views of the local community in accordance with the timeline as outlined in Appendix 1 hereof.

## Public Consultation

- 3.3 The Council, through the public consultation exercise, wanted to seek as broad and deep a view on the preferred site as possible. The objectives of the consultation were to provide:
- a presentation of all options from long list to shortlist;
  - a presentation on the appraisal process of the shortlisted options;
  - information on why option 2A is the most feasible and deliverable option and the other options are not considered suitable;
  - an opportunity for the public to make comment on the preferred site option.

Throughout the whole process, the clear message was designed to be a positive one; that the Council is proposing to provide a new Oban High School.

- 3.4 The public consultation exercise took place over a 3-week period commencing with a launch event, held in Oban High School on Monday 18 November, through until Sunday 8 December 2013 inclusive.

Notification of the consultation period was given through:

- adverts in the Oban Times newspaper;
- leaflets issued through a bag drop to all secondary and primary pupils; and
- a dedicated webpage on the Council website with a link also from the Oban High School website.

Oban High School management expressed a clear wish for the school to lead the process of public consultation with assistance from the project team. In this way the School would be, and be seen to be, the owners of and drivers of the process.

The consultation timeline was planned to include 3 open-day events and a separate focus group meeting for key stakeholders, held within the Corran Halls. These events were planned to give members of the local community and key stakeholders the opportunity to gain information and ask questions about each of the shortlisted sites and to share their views on the preferred site. These events were to be facilitated by the Head Teacher of Oban High School and project team members.

During the three week consultation period, all the shortlisted site details were made available through:

- a permanent display within Oban High School;
- the Council and Oban High School websites; and
- site information booklets available to view at the Corran Halls and Oban Library, and in each of Oban High School's associated primary schools.

In addition, the Head Teacher and a senior member of staff from Oban High School gave a considerable additional time commitment to the consultation process, by visiting every associated primary school to meet pupils, and their parents as requested.

Within Oban High School itself, information for pupils and discussion on the preferred site and other shortlisted sites was delivered through school assemblies and the tutor group periods. The AGM of the Oban High School Parent Council held on Thursday 21 November was also a focus of a presentation on the shortlisted sites and the preferred site.

- 3.5 The local community were asked, and encouraged throughout the consultation period, to share their views on the preferred site by submitting their comments on the form available at their local school, Corran Halls or Oban Library or through the dedicated email response form available on the council website.

At the end of the consultation period, the Project Team will collate the comments received from the response forms submitted in relation to the preferred site option. It is intended that the conclusions of the public consultation process for the preferred site for the new Oban High School will be reported to the Council at its meeting in January 2014.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The Council has previously made decisions in regard to the preferred site for the new Oban High School. A public consultation exercise to gather the views of the local community has been held and the result of that exercise is intended to be reported on to the Council at its meeting on Thursday 23 January 2014. At that meeting the Council will be asked to agree the preferred site for the new Oban High School.

## **5 IMPLICATIONS**

5.1	Policy	The public consultation exercise is in accordance with the Council's previous decision
5.2	Financial	None at present
5.3	Legal	None at present
5.4	HR	None at present
5.5	Equalities	None at present
5.6	Risk	None at present
5.7	Customer Service	None at present

Cleland Sneddon  
Executive Director of Community Services

## Appendix 1

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Council consideration of shortlist of options to take to public consultation	Thursday 31 October
Press advert	Friday 8 November
Press advert and feature	Friday 15 November
Leaflets distributed	w/b Monday 11 November
Council Website information, including direct e-mail address, and link to submit preferred view and comment. Oban HS School website to include link to Council website.	Information available through websites as from Monday 18 November throughout consultation period.
Public Consultation period	Monday 18 November – Sunday 8 December (3 weeks)
Consultation launch event, Oban High School,	Monday 18 November, 7pm – 9pm
Open days at the Corran Halls	Thursday 21 November (10am – 8pm); Friday 22 November – (11.30am – 4pm); Saturday 23 November (10am – 1pm)
Focus group meeting, Corran Halls	Friday 22 November (10am – 11am)
Display of site information: Council/Oban HS Websites Oban High Associated Primary Schools Corran Halls Oban Library	During consultation period November/December 2013
Reminder tweets	During consultation period November/December 2013
Closing date reminder tweet	Friday 6 December
Consultation period closes with return of comments forms available through: Council/Oban HS Websites Oban High Associated Primary Schools Corran Halls Oban Library Or by post to Kilmory	Sunday 8 December
Collation of consultation results	From Monday 9 December
Report to Council	Thursday 23 January 2014
Outcome press announcement	To follow Council meeting