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**Consultation on
the establishment
of nursery provision
in Auchinairn**



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Introduction

Following extensive consultation in January 2014, East Dunbartonshire Council decided to close Auchinairn and Woodhill primary schools, Auchinairn nursery class, and Cleddens Learning and Childcare Centre, and establish a new school and early years facility on the Woodhill Primary School site. In May 2014, the Scottish Government gave consent to the Council's decision, and the Council started work on the project.

One of the important questions raised in the consultation was whether it was reasonable to ask parents to travel from Auchinairn to Woodhill for nursery provision. There is no free transport provided to children in nursery, and Auchinairn nursery class is an important resource for the Auchinairn community.

Therefore, the Council intends to provide separate early learning and childcare in Auchinairn. This will be combined with a new community facility and family centre. You are being asked to take part in a statutory consultation process that will help the Council decide how best to proceed with this. Please read this document and return the form attached by 25 June 2015.

What is the purpose of this consultation?

This consultation is designed to gather your views on nursery provision in Auchinairn. The process is defined by the Schools Consultation Scotland Act 2010. The Act lays out a process which all Councils must follow if they wish to make a change to school or nursery provision.

What is the Council required to do?

The Council is required to publish a proposal document and allow 30 school days for consultees to respond. In that time, there must be at least one public meeting. The document must explain the educational benefits of the proposal. Education Scotland inspectors will visit the school or nursery involved, and assess the educational impact of the proposal. They will then provide a professional and independent report. The Council will publish a consultation report which includes the report by Education Scotland, as well as a summary of all of the responses received in the consultation. This report will also discuss if there should be any change to the proposal. Councillors will then vote to decide if the proposal will go ahead.

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Who is consulted?

As required by legislation, the following groups are consulted: the pupils, parents and parent councils of any affected school; the parents of any children expected by the education authority to attend any affected school within two years; the staff and relevant trades unions; the community council; the members of the community planning partnership; any other relevant education authorities; and any other relevant school users.

What are we proposing to do?

The Council is proposing to provide separate nursery provision in the Auchinairn area, and wants to:

- A) **As of the closure of the existing school in early 2017:** Establish provision of 48 three to five year old places, and 10 two to three year old places, from 8am to 6pm, 50 weeks of the year. This would be provided in accommodation to be located on the existing Auchinairn Primary School site.
- B) Develop a new, purpose built nursery building, as part of the Council's investment in a new community facility in Auchinairn.
- C) **As of spring 2018:** Relocate nursery provision in a new build facility, and expand to include a further 10 places for young children. Childcare and early years education will be an important part of the 'Place' work in Auchinairn, which will provide a wide range of services in one new build facility.

Detailed proposals and information on the educational benefits for children involved are included below. Outline cost estimates for the nursery element of the proposed new facility at Auchinairn have been included in the Council's capital programme. Exact costs will depend on the overall design of the centre.

What happens next?

The consultation will run from the 11 May to the 25 June 2015. There will be a public meeting held in Auchinairn Primary School on the 3 June 2015. In August 2015, Education Scotland will produce an independent report, and in late 2015, the Council will decide whether or not to go ahead with the proposal.

Nursery provision in the Auchinairn area.

At present, 58 nursery places are provided by the Auchinairn nursery class. These places are available in term-time only. Auchinairn primary school and the nursery class will close in early 2017, and move to the new build school and nursery facility at the Woodhill Primary School site. This nursery facility will provide 143 places for children aged six months to five years.

The Woodhill site is located 1.3 miles from the site of the current nursery class. This could increase barriers to families in Auchinairn accessing nursery provision, and potentially impact on the uptake of nursery places. To ensure that families in Auchinairn continue to have access to early learning and childcare, the Council proposes to establish a nursery on the Auchinairn Primary School site.

Community facility and family centre.

In addition to nursery provision, the Council is investing in support in Auchinairn. Auchinairn has some areas that are among the most deprived in East Dunbartonshire.

Nursery Information and Educational Benefits



Through the Place approach, the Council will work closely with community representatives to identify what changes in services will best support that community. So far, a number of key areas of work have been identified:

- The development of a 'Champions' group in the Auchinairn area to improve communication with the community.
- The development of a new community facility and family centre in Auchinairn to support families, health, sports and fitness and early years.
- Increased joint patrols between Police Scotland and Community Wardens across Auchinairn, potentially including Glasgow City Council officers.
- The creation of community gardens and allotments and the improvement of green spaces across Auchinairn to promote healthy lifestyles.
- A detailed review of barriers to employment in the area.

The exact design of the community centre will depend on the services provided. The recently completed Hillhead community centre includes:

- A large hall with sprung flooring which can be split into two smaller sections.
- Three large multipurpose rooms, one of which opens out onto an enclosed play area for young children.
- Three meeting rooms.
- Male and female changing and shower facilities.
- Office space.

Educational benefits

The availability of good early learning and childcare for young children is important and is seen as an essential basis for successful lifelong learning and personal and social development. This also has an impact on progression through school and into employment. This experience complements the central role of the family. Early learning and childcare has a long lasting impact for all children. A high quality, purpose build facility in Auchinairn will ensure that all families have access to this.

Auchinairn is an area which has a number of vulnerable families. Research suggests that children living in vulnerable families can be less likely to form positive attachment and may be less likely to be resilient in later life. There is evidence that access to early years education can reduce this risk and improve life chances. Increasing the availability and accessibility of nursery provision in Auchinairn is an important part of supporting vulnerable families.

The community centre will further support the health and wellbeing of families in Auchinairn, and would bring a wider group of users to the community facility. Families can combine early learning and childcare with health, parenting support, employability advice, community and social activities.

There is a clear demand for early learning and childcare provision in Auchinairn, and this proposal will ensure that provision continues to be available in Auchinairn. The combination of nursery provision and community services will provide an environment that will support families' needs. By bringing all of these services together, this proposal will make services more effective, more easy to use and will support all aspects of the development of young children. This will help ensure that all young people in Auchinairn are "safe, healthy and ready to learn".

**Consultation
response form**

Lined area for writing responses.