

**EDUCATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting of the Education Committee held on 8 November 2018 at 1.30 pm in Lisnagelvin Primary School

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| PRESENT | Rev R Herron (Chair) |
| Rev A Adams | Mr G Lundy |
| Mr D Cargo | Mr N McCausland |
| Mr J Craig | Dr A McMorran |
| Mr G Doran | Dr I McMorris |
| Mrs S Kelly | Mr O McMullan |
| Sir Gerry Loughran | |

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr J Collings (Interim Chief Executive), Mr M Baker, Mrs P Cooney, Mr J Unsworth, Mrs K Scott, Ms L McCall and for part of the meeting Mr S Bradley.

Ms A Campbell attended in her role as Board Room Apprentice.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Ms Á Andrews, Mrs M Culbert, Dr M Dynan, Ms S O'Connor, Miss R Rainey and Mr R Pollock.

The Chair extended the Committee's sympathy to Dr Dynan following a recent close family bereavement.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the requirement to declare interests, as appropriate, during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2018

On the proposal of Dr McMorris, seconded by Mr Cargo, the Committee agreed the minutes* (E/11/18/3) of the meeting held on 11 October 2018 subject to the following sentence being included within minute 7.2 relating to the review of post 16 provision in Ballymoney:

"The Committee also agreed that, in order to promote social cohesion in areas where sustainability issues impacted on a minority community, social cohesion should form part and parcel of EA's area planning considerations."

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 GOVERNOR TRAINING PROGRAMME - NOVEMBER 2018 TO JUNE 2019 (6.1)

The Chair reported that the Director of Finance and ICT had provided assurance to the Finance and General Purposes Committee, at its meeting on 6 November 2018, that adequate training and support around financial management training was being provided to Governors.

A Member said that the removal of a venue in the north west of the region was impacting on Governors being able to access training courses in that area. Mr Unsworth said EA had increased the number of induction courses available in light of the number of new Governors following reconstitution. He took the Member's comments on board.

Another Member indicated difficulties in securing a place on a programme for Governors around the Belfast area. Mr Unsworth said that additional courses had been arranged to accommodate high demand on some courses. Information on these additional courses would be issued to schools in the following week. He highlighted that EA had developed short on-line introductory courses for Governors to supplement face to face training.

Action: *Feedback from Members to be conveyed to the Head of Professional Learning Development.*

4.2 PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL LEADERS (6.2)

A Member said that as the General Teaching Council for NI (GTCNI) had been commissioned by DE to develop the new school leadership competencies framework, it would be beneficial to invite representatives from GTCNI to attend a future meeting of the Committee to provide an update on progress in developing that framework. The Committee agreed to this course of action.

Mr Unsworth said that he would convey the Committee's request to the next meeting of the Learning Leaders' Oversight Group.

Action: *Representatives from GTCNI to be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee to report on progress in developing the new school leadership competencies framework.*

5. CHAIR'S BUSINESS

The Chair extended the Committee's appreciation to the Principal and Board of Governors of Lisnagelvin Primary School for facilitating the two Committee meetings during the day.

6. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

6.1 GOVERNOR TRAINING PROGRAMME - EVALUATION REPORT FOR 2017/18

Mr Unsworth presented the evaluation report* (E/11/18/6.1) and drew attention to a number of recommendations in the report which would be taken forward by officers. He advised that Mr S Comer had been appointed Head of Professional Learning Development in May 2018. This post included responsibilities around Governor development.

A Member queried if audits were conducted on the uptake of training by Governors on a school by school basis. Mr Unsworth advised that approaches taken by the legacy education and library boards to record information on the uptake of Governor training had not been universal. The new single administration system however would provide good management information and assist in identifying schools where the uptake of training gave cause for concern. A Member pointed out that the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) had access to data on Governors who were trained in recruitment and selection procedures.

A Member commented on the evaluation provided by Governors following area planning training courses. Mrs Scott undertook to review these evaluation forms and to report back to the Committee on any issues arising.

The Committee noted the evaluation report.

Action: *Review the evaluation provided following area planning training courses and report back to the Committee on any issues arising.*

6.2 IRISH MEDIUM EDUCATION - LEARNING LEADERS' SUPPORT SCHEME 2018/19 AND BURSARIES

Mr Baker said that the paper* (E/11/18/6.2) outlined the approach to align the Irish medium (IM) bursary scheme with the Learning Leaders' Strategy. This process of change would start in 2018/19 and would continue over the next number of years.

Mr Bradley said that the bursary scheme had been reviewed by EA and CnaG to ensure that the funding would support programmes which were focused on school improvement outcomes and met the requirements of the Learning Leaders' Strategy. The scheme aimed to provide teacher professional learning opportunities for staff in IM schools through the provision of a range of immersive Irish language programmes. The scheme would be further developed in 2018/19 to better reflect the needs of IM schools in their approaches to school improvement activities. The bursary scheme, to be known as the IME Learning Leaders' Support Programme, would comprise two elements: the programme approval mechanism developed by EA in conjunction with CnaG, and the bursary application and payment mechanism. He said that programme providers would have to demonstrate how their programmes aligned to the Learning Leaders' Strategy. Applications submitted to principals of IM schools would be reviewed in line with particular considerations and subsequently forwarded to CnaG for further consideration in line with agreed criteria.

Mr Collings said that the model being developed would be transferrable to other aspects of work within the Education Directorate. The scheme would be used as a pilot to inform officers of how to commission effective professional learning from other providers.

A Member referred to EA's duty to encourage and facilitate IM education under Article 89 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1998. He queried whether consideration had been given by EA to parallel schemes for other cultural traditions. He also queried the Equality and Human Rights implications around not setting aside an equivalent amount for such parallel schemes.

The Chair queried the nature of the funding stream for the bursary scheme. Mr Baker said that this funding had been designated un-earmarked by DE from 2016/17. While un-earmarked allocations were at EA's discretion on how to use that funding, it was DE's expectation that the funding would be used in the interests of IM education. He said that EA did not have statutory duties specifically around encouraging and facilitating any other language. He said that while the previous IM bursary scheme had given focus to developing language competence, EA was now taking forward the bursary scheme to align with the Learning Leaders' Strategy. He undertook to speak to the Head of Equality and Human Rights around appropriate consideration to be given to parallel schemes for other cultural traditions.

The Chair said that EA supported schools through the school improvement agenda. EA had duties to support and develop the IM sector in the same way as English speaking schools.

The Member said that both the Irish language and the Ulster Scots language were recognised in the European Charter. He suggested that the Head of Equality and Human Rights could liaise with the Education Officer in the Ulster Scots Agency on the matter.

A Member said that EA operated within its statutory responsibilities. Policy matters were a matter for DE to consider. He said that officers should consult DE on the issue being raised.

A Member considered that the IM bursary scheme now reflected appropriate focus to be given to teaching and learning outcomes in the classroom in IM schools.

A Member queried plans to refine the scheme once the current industrial action in schools had been resolved. Mr Bradley outlined the process for teaching staff to develop a personal action plan with the professional learning team.

A Member queried the process to benchmark and to quality assure programmes. Mr Bradley said that it was intended that practitioners would be involved in quality assurance. A Member suggested that the ETI could be invited to provide objective assessment. In addition, the GTCNI could be asked to provide independent assessment.

Mrs Kelly left the meeting at 2.30 pm.

The Committee noted the arrangements to align the IM bursary scheme with the Learning Leaders' Strategy as set out in the paper. On the proposal of Mr Lundy, seconded by Rev Adams, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Board should approve the approach outlined in the paper for the allocation of £45k for IM bursaries.

Actions: *Proceed with arrangements to allocate £45k for IM bursaries; follow up Member's request around the consideration to be given to supporting parallel schemes for other cultural traditions; and ETI and GTCNI to be asked to support the programme approval mechanism within the IM bursary scheme.*

6.3 COUNCIL FOR CATHOLIC MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (CCMS) - ROLE OF THE CCMS EDUCATION OFFICER

Mr Baker presented a paper* (E/11/18/6.3) which had been prepared by CCMS to set out the role of its Education Officers in supporting schools pre-inspection and post-inspection. Mr Baker said that EA continued to work with CCMS on the draft Memorandum of Understanding and associated protocols around collaboration and responsibilities between the two organisations. It was intended that these documents would be presented to the Committee at a meeting in the new year when CCMS representatives would be in attendance.

A Member emphasised that protocols with sectoral partners should clearly set out the demarcation of duties between the organisations.

The Committee noted the CCMS paper.

6.4 DICKSON PLAN SCHOOLS - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Mr Collings said that the Chief Executive of the Controlled Schools' Support Council (CSSC) and he had been approached in early 2018 by the principals of the seven controlled post primary schools within the Dickson Plan with a view to facilitating discussions between the schools which would lead to improved working relationships and a revitalisation of the Dickson Plan. The draft Memorandum of Understanding* (E/11/18/6.4) was the outworking of that collaboration. It set out the respective roles and responsibilities of the seven schools and provided arrangements for a more formal partnership which would build on existing good practice and further develop collaborative activity. Each stakeholder was being asked to endorse the MoU, including CSSC and EA.

A Member said that the MoU would benefit from recognition of the connectivity of the Dickson Plan schools with the wider Area Learning Community, including the Further Education sector. Mr Collings said that it was intended that the MoU would be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Committee agreed to endorse the Memorandum of Understanding. It also agreed to recommend that the MoU, at its next stage of review by the group, should recognise the outward facing role and responsibilities of the Dickson Plan schools, for example the connectivity between the Dickson Plan schools with the wider Area Learning Community, including the Further Education sector and shared education.

Action: *At its next stage of review, the MoU to recognise the outward facing role and responsibilities of the Dickson Plan schools, for example the connectivity between the Dickson Plan schools with the wider Area Learning Community, including the Further Education sector and shared education.*

7. AREA PLANNING

7.1 STRATEGIC AREA PLAN FOR SCHOOL PROVISION 2017-2020 2019-20 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN - FIRST DRAFT

Mr Lundy declared an interest in St Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick.

Mrs Scott presented the first draft of the third annual action plan* (E/11/18/7.1) which set out work carried out by the three Area Planning Local Groups and the Area Planning Working Group. She said that the majority of work streams in the draft action plan focused on sustainability issues in primary schools with four teachers or less and sustainability issues in post primary schools with sixth forms with fewer than 100 pupils. She said that a number of primary and post primary schools had not been included in the action plan, following consideration at Area Planning Local Group meetings for specific reasons, as outlined in the paper. In addition, a further 34 work streams had been included across pre school, primary, post primary and special schools to reflect key issues and proposed actions published in the Strategic Plan for each local government district.

Mrs Scott said that all individual action plan proposals would be further developed through discussion with affected schools and then taken forward by the relevant managing authority through the development proposal process. She emphasised that the inclusion of an area or a named school did not automatically mean that a development proposal would result or that a development proposal would receive approval.

The anticipated timeframe for publication of the action plan for 2019-20 was March 2019. Mrs Scott said that once comments were received from Members, a final draft of the plan would be presented to the Committee, and the Board, for consideration. It was anticipated that, following endorsement of the plan by DE in January 2019, officers would engage with those schools named in or affected by the action plan during January to March 2019.

Mrs Scott said that officers continued to work with educational partners on the implementation of the second year's action plan.

A number of Members raised queries around specific work streams in the 2019-20 action plan. Mrs Scott undertook to report back to the Committee on a work stream around primary provision in the Belfast area. In addition, she undertook to engage directly with a Member to clarify a number of particular queries.

A Member queried how work streams associated with special school provision would be taken forward in the 2019-20 action plan. In addition, he considered that parental groups or organisations representing children and young people, eg the Children's

Commissioner, the Children's Law Centre, should be included as stakeholders on Area Planning Local Groups.

Mrs Scott said that work streams on special school provision would be carried forward from the 2018-19 action plan into the 2019-20 action plan (as evidenced in the RAG report for the 2018-19 action plan). The next iteration of the 2019-20 action plan would incorporate those special school work streams against each local government district. This report would be presented to the Committee at its next meeting. She reminded Members that the Children and Young People's Services Committee had established a project group to review the governance arrangements and the engagement strategy with parental groups and other key stakeholders on changes in special school provision. The structure agreed by the CYPS Committee had resulted in enhanced engagement and consultation arrangements with parents and the wider school community.

Mrs Scott said that representation of Area Planning Local Groups was set out in DE's guidance.

The Member said that DE should consider that established groups should have, among their membership, persons to represent children with special educational needs.

A Member agreed that the engagement strategy with parents was vital. The framework developed and agreed by the CYPS Committee included additional stages to engage and consult with parents. This framework agreed by the CYPS Committee was over and above the framework set out within area planning processes. He said that the Education Committee would consider, in due course, the out-workings of detailed special school area planning work from the CYPS Committee as a result of detailed consultation with parents and school communities.

Mr Lundy left the meeting temporarily at 3.02 pm and re-entered at 3.03 pm.

A Member queried the timeframe to allow Area Planning Groups to comment further on the 2019-20 action plan. Mrs Scott said that the groups would have opportunity to make further comment prior to the date of publication.

7.2 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2018-19 RAG REPORT AND DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Mrs Scott presented the report* (E/11/18/7.2) setting out the RAG (red, amber, green) status of every action contained in the 2018-19 action plan against agreed milestones.

A Member referred to the meeting with the Permanent Secretary on 24 October 2018 at which Members had highlighted that the capital programme should align to the area planning framework. He re-iterated that many area planning outcomes could not be delivered without some stream of guaranteed capital development. This was significant as communities were being asked to support programmes of work. He urged that this message should continue to be highlighted to DE through the area planning process.

Mrs Scott presented a paper* (E/11/18/7.2) outlining the proposed publication schedule for EA's actions within the 2018-19 action plan. She referred to challenges associated with progressing work streams aligned to the schedule due to limited staffing resources.

7.3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 573 - AUGHNACLOY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Proposal to increase the admissions and enrolment numbers from 17 to 26 and from 116 to 182 respectively with effect from 1 September 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mrs Scott presented the papers* (E/11/18/7.3) which set out the rationale for an increase in the school's admission and enrolment numbers.

Members considered the Case for Change and the summary paper. Mrs Scott pointed out that the out-workings of this proposal would require capital funding through the Minor Works programme. A Member commented on the data to support a seven class base. It was noted that this proposal was being taken forward within the same timeline as the proposal concerning the discontinuance of Lisfearny Primary School (to be considered later in the meeting).

On the proposal of Mr Lundy, seconded by Dr McMorran, the Committee agreed to recommend that EA would commence pre-publication consultation on the above proposal in accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

7.4 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 574 - CRAIGAVON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Proposal to operate on a single site, 26-34 Lurgan Road, Portadown, with effect from 1 September 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mrs Scott presented the papers* (E/11/18/7.4) which included the Case for Change and the summary paper. She drew attention to the split site locations, the pupil numbers attending both campuses, challenges associated with meeting statutory requirements of the Entitlement Framework as evidenced by a recent inspection report, outcomes for pupils attending the school in comparison to other similar schools, the school's financial situation, and health and safety considerations concerning the Lurgan campus.

Mrs Scott referred to the analysis given on the options to provide for medium term provision for Craigavon Senior High School that would meet the requirements of the development proposal. She referred to advantages and disadvantages within the three options. Taking account of all considerations, Mrs Scott said that option 3 was being recommended as the preferred option (as set out in the draft proposal detailed above). If approved, officers would engage in pre-publication consultation on the preferred option with governors, staff, parents, local affected schools, the local Council, and local political representatives. In response to Members' queries, Mrs Scott explained the parameters of the policy framework which required EA to consult at the formative stage and that, although three options were being presented, this did not preclude further options being considered as part of the consultation process. She emphasised that all options would be considered as part of the consultation process; however, it was important to share a preferred option. A detailed analysis of the outcome of the consultation would be provided to the Committee in due course. She said that, due to the Christmas period, the consultation period would be extended to 10 weeks and could be further extended should the community require a further period of time.

Members discussed the aspiration for the operation of Craigavon Senior High School in the longer term, including the possibility of 14-19 provision. Members highlighted that the benefits of connectivity with the FE sector should also be considered. Mrs Scott said that, in the longer term, a major capital investment for Craigavon Senior High School would be needed. She said that EA could prioritise a bid for capital funding in the next application for Strategic Priorities for Investment.

Members discussed the educational and extra-curricular experiences of the pupils attending the Craigavon Senior High School at both campuses. Members expressed significant concerns that the current status of provision was unacceptable at the Lurgan campus. Mr Collings said that EA had allocated funding in recent years to the Lurgan

campus to address health and safety concerns. In response to Members' queries, Mrs Scott said that all issues raised by stakeholders within the pre-consultation process would be considered and reviewed against the criteria set out in the Sustainable Schools' Policy. Mr Collings said that a number of meetings with political representatives had already been held in the area along with meetings with local community groups. The Case for Change presented to the Committee had been informed by these discussions within the local community over recent months.

A Member considered that the draft Development Proposal, ie a medium term option, would not improve the provision that was currently available at the school.

Mr McMullan proposed that EA would commence pre-publication consultation on the above proposal in accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. This was seconded by Mr Doran. The Chair requested the Committee to indicate its agreement to the proposal or otherwise. All Members of the Committee indicated their support to the proposal with the exception of three Members.

The Chair said that, by majority agreement, the Committee had agreed that EA would commence pre-publication consultation on the above proposal in accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

The three Members requested that their names be recorded in the minutes as not supporting the proposal. The three Members were Mr D Cargo, Mr J Craig and Mr N McCausland.

Mr McMullan left the meeting at 3.55 pm.

7.5 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 575 - ACADEMY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Proposal to increase the admissions and enrolment numbers from 56 to 58 and 395 to 406 respectively with effect from 1 September 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mrs Scott presented the papers* (E/11/18/7.5) which set out the rationale for an increase in the school's admission and enrolment numbers.

Members considered the Case for Change and the summary paper. Mrs Scott pointed out that no capital funding was necessary to meet the requirements of the proposal.

A Member said that this proposal was an example of a small non-controversial variation as had been raised with the Permanent Secretary at the meeting on 24 October. Mrs Scott said that this matter was being discussed with DE officials the following day.

On the proposal of Mr Lundy, seconded by Rev Adams, the Committee agreed to recommend that the EA would commence pre-publication consultation on the above proposal in accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

7.6 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 576 - KILLYLEAGH INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Proposal to decrease the admissions and enrolment numbers from 25 to 18 and 175 to 126 with effect from 1 September 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mrs Scott presented the papers* (E/11/18/7.6) which set out the rationale for moving forward with a decrease in admissions and enrolment numbers.

Members considered the Case for Change and the summary paper. A Member received clarity on the due diligence exercise carried out to inform the statistics in the paper.

On the proposal of Mr Craig, seconded by Dr McMorris, the Committee agreed to recommend that the EA would commence pre-publication consultation on the above proposal in accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

7.7 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 577 - LISFEARTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Proposal to discontinue with effect from 31 August 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mrs Scott presented the papers* (E/11/18/7.7) which set out the rationale in respect of the request to commence pre-publication consultation on the above proposal

Members considered the Case for Change and the summary paper.

On the proposal of Dr McMorran, seconded by Rev Adams, the Committee agreed to recommend that the EA would commence pre-publication consultation on the above proposal in accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

7.8 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 561 - HOLY TRINITY PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Proposal to decrease the admissions and enrolment numbers from 120 to 90 and 935 to 630 respectively with effect from 1 September 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mrs Scott presented the papers* (E/11/18/7.8) for publication and provided a summary of key areas for the Committee's consideration including that, in accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, EA had undertaken formal consultation with the Board of Governors and Trustees of schools which might be affected by the proposal.

Members considered the Case for Change and the summary paper, including arrangements for the Autism Unit and the Learning Support Centre.

On the proposal of Mr Lundy, seconded by Rev Adams, the Committee approved the response for submission to DE along with the publication of the Proposal.

7.9 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 568 SPIRES INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Proposal to establish a statutory nursery unit to provide 26 part-time nursery places with effect from 1 September 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mrs Scott presented the papers* (E/11/18/7.9) for publication and provided a summary of key areas for the Committee's consideration including that, in accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, the EA had undertaken formal consultation with the Board of Governors and Trustees of schools which might be affected by the proposal.

Members considered the Case for Change and summary paper. This included the rationale for the proposal, the impact of the proposal on schools in the locality and responses received to the consultation. Members noted that PEG did not support the proposal on the basis that there was already a single, consistent, substantial feeder to Spires Integrated Primary School which clearly supported and facilitated Integrated education in the area and presented no obstacles to the growth of the Integrated sector. Members considered EA's draft response which supported PEG's assessment of the proposal.

On the proposal of Mr Lundy, seconded by Mr Doran, the Committee approved the response for submission to DE along with the publication of the Proposal.

7.10 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 570 - STRANGFORD COLLEGE

Proposal to introduce the use of selection of children by reference to academic ability or aptitude for the annual admission of 35% of its Year 8 intake with effect from 1 September 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mrs Scott presented the papers* (E/11/18/7.10) for publication and provided a summary of key areas for the Committee's consideration including that, in accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, EA had undertaken formal consultation with the Board of Governors and Trustees of schools which might be affected by the proposal.

Members considered the Case for Change and summary paper. This included the rationale for the proposal, the impact of the proposal on schools in the locality and responses received to the consultation process. Members noted that Strangford College was oversubscribed with no unfilled places.

Mrs Scott said that work was continuing to develop proposals around the review of non-selective post primary provision in the greater Newtownards area. She drew attention to the increase in pupil numbers in the area in 2018/19 which had resulted in temporary variations in admission numbers being granted by DE for certain schools. This matter would require further consideration as statistics were again identifying an increase in pupil numbers for 2019/20 in this area. Mrs Scott said that a lessons learned report on this matter would be presented to the Committee at its January meeting. She said that proposals on the review of post primary provision in the greater Newtownards area would also be presented to the Committee in the new year. It was therefore suggested that although EA could not support DP No 570 at this time, this position should be revisited as part of a suite of proposals being considered for the greater Newtownards area. Mrs Scott said that it was important to consider DP No 570 and the issue of bilateralism in the context of these proposals.

A Member said that the ethos of Integrated education was multi-ability. He said that larger Integrated schools were interested in formalising arrangements around bilateralism within their schools. As they did not have the use of selection by academic ability currently, pupils seeking grammar school education were generally under-represented within Integrated education.

A Member commented that the introduction of 35% of selection by academic ability each year would impact on the uptake of places for selective education within the locality.

A Member said that EA's review would enable potential displacements for the locality to be mapped out.

The Chair confirmed that the Committee was not opposed in principle to the concept of bilateralism. However, it was necessary for EA to make informed decisions taking account of the findings of the strategic review of post primary provision in the area.

Members considered the draft EA response to the proposal for submission to DE and agreed that it should be amended to state: "It is recommended to not support Development Proposal No 570 at this stage but to revisit our position when considering the strategic review of post primary provision for the greater Ards area in the new year."

Subject to this amendment to the draft EA response, the Committee approved the response for submission to DE along with the publication of the Proposal on the proposal of Mr Craig and seconded by Dr McMorris.

Action: Proposals arising from the strategic review of post primary education in the Newtownards area to be presented to the Committee in the new year; the Committee's further consideration to be given to Development Proposal No 570 at that stage.

7.11 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 569 - GAELSCOIL ARD MHACHA

Proposal to establish a new grant aided co-educational other maintained Irish Medium Primary School in Armagh City with an intake of 12 Year 1 pupils in the first year and thereafter a minimum intake of 15 pupils with the enrolment number being increased on a phased basis to 105 with effect from 1 September 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter

Mrs Scott presented the papers* (E/11/18/7.11) for publication and provided a summary of key areas for the Committee's consideration including that, in accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, EA had undertaken formal consultation with the Board of Governors and Trustees of schools which might be affected by the proposal.

Members considered the Case for Change and the summary paper. This included the rationale for the proposal, the impact of the proposal on schools in the locality and responses received to the consultation process. A Member noted the support for an immersion model in the Armagh area.

A Member received clarity on funding arrangements to establish Irish medium provision.

Mrs Scott said that the strong opposition from schools in the area was referenced in EA's draft response for submission to DE. The response suggested that, prior to DE making a decision on the proposal, the Steering Committee of Gaelscoil Ard Mhacha should be encouraged by DE to engage directly with schools in the locality to answer issues raised in the consultation responses.

On the proposal of Mr Doran, seconded by Mr Lundy, the Committee approved EA's response for submission to DE along with the publication of the Proposal.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 10 January 2019. Any urgent business relating to the Committee would be dealt with by the Board at its meeting on 13 December 2018.

The meeting ended at 4.22 pm.

CHAIRPERSON

* Paper issued with agenda

DATE

** Paper tabled