Glasgow City Council

Report by Executive Director of Education

Early Learning and Childcare Expansion
Capital Investment Programme – Tollcross/West Shettleston

Purpose of Report:

This report seeks the views of stakeholders to allow Education Services to invest further in early learning and childcare as part of our approach to delivering 1140 hours of free early learning and childcare to 3 and 4 years olds and eligible 2 year olds by 2020/2021

Ward No(s): 19 Shettleston

Background

1.1. In 2017, the Scottish Government published the *'Blueprint for 2020'*, outlining proposals to deliver on the previously announced policy commitment to increase the statutory entitlement for early learning and childcare (ELC) from 600 to 1140 hours by August 2020. The *Blueprint* sets out requirements for local authorities to seek to deliver a service which prioritised quality, affordability, accessibility and flexibility.

1.2. In September 2017, Glasgow City Council submitted detailed plans to the Scottish Government, setting out proposals to deliver 1140 hours of statutory hours by August 2020. Our vision focusses on delivering the requirements set out in the *Blueprint*, with ELC settings moving to becoming all day, all year services, maximising choice and flexibility for parents and making better use of our resources and estate.

1.3. The Scottish Government confirmed on the 1st May 2018 that a capital award totalling £44.130m, which included £3.330m already committed from 2017/18, would be provided to undertake estate related projects in line with the expansion plans. The release of this capital was noted as being:

- 2017/18 - £3.330m
- 2018/19 - £13.7m
- 2019/20 – £16.0m
- 2020/21 – £11.1m

1.4. The offer of £44.130m was predicated on being used for specific works associated with the expansion plans. It does not make financial provision for investment outwith the scope of funded eligibility i.e. 3 and 4 year olds and eligible two's.

1.5. Glasgow City Council is the single biggest provider of ELC in Scotland – operating 110 nurseries directly as well as commissioning additional services from a further 114 Funded Partner Providers. Council nurseries are not aligned to catchment areas as there are more primary schools than nurseries in the city which means nurseries inevitably draw from a wider geographic area.

1.6. The Council has always recognised that families have varied needs with regard to childcare and parents choose services in line with availability, opening hours and costs as well as location. Some families choose nurseries close to home and some prefer to use services close to work or perhaps to the home of another family member who may be involved in collecting the child. For this reason, the long-standing policy in Glasgow has been to allow parents to apply to any nursery of their choice across the city. This is a flexible approach, aligned to family needs, however, it can present challenges in terms of service planning.

1.7. During 2017/18, Education Services took forward a number of projects to support the delivery of 1140 statutory hours by 2020.

- Major works (£2.2m) have been undertaken to repurpose a former social work property, Southbrae Centre, Scotstoun, to deliver 139 early learning and childcare spaces. The project has recently completed and a local third sector provider has re-located into the building increasing

capacity in an area of the city which has been identified as needing additional capacity.

- An extension of existing provision at Langside Nursery (£0.5m), located in Battlefield Primary School. This work has repurposed unused spaces to provide enhanced provision thereby increasing the readiness of the nursery to deliver the enhanced entitlement of 1140 hours to an increased number of children when it is phased in for this area.
- The development of the Blairtummock Childcare Centre of Excellence, a partnership between Rising Stars Childcare (Jobs & Business Glasgow) and Glasgow Kelvin College. The refurbishment was funded by Education Services (£159k). The centre provides nursery and after-school care for 70 children as well as an early learning and childcare teaching space for 85 students at any one time. The centre also includes extensive outdoor spaces, both in the grounds and in neighbouring woodland, offering enhanced outdoor learning opportunities and it is expected that children will spend at least 70% of their time in the outdoors.

2. Programme Development

2.1 Since the Scottish Government first announced the expansion programme, significant work has been undertaken to prepare information and develop Glasgow's response to the expansion plans across a wide range of workstreams, encompassing workforce, quality, communications, and partnership delivery. Property has been one of those key workstreams.

2.2 Detailed analysis of ELC provision has been undertaken across the city, comparing demand (number of children and families) to supply (statutory places across all providers), to ensure that capital is allocated where most required. This exercise has identified a range of neighbourhoods across the city, which would benefit from additional physical capacity to deliver the increase in statutory hours. Unlike schools, nurseries do not have catchment areas and parents and carers choose nurseries for a range of reasons: close to home, close to place of work, on route to work or close to other family with caring responsibilities, such as grandparents. Therefore, it is assumed that nurseries do not just serve the neighbourhood in which they are located.

2.3 Five themes have been identified within the capital programme under which individual projects are being developed:

- New Build Facilities
- Extensions
- Repurposing/Refurbishment Projects
- Minor Internal / External Alterations Projects
- Outdoor Developments

These also take into consideration the core phasing principles of Deprivation, Low Supply and Flexibility as agreed by the City Administration Committee in March 2018.

2.4 Scottish Government guidance on making best use of resources advise the creation of a hierarchy of approach:

- **Use what we have**: Making full use of existing resources / capacities
- **Use what we purchase**: Increase uptake of partner provision
- **Repurpose or extend**: Create additional capacity through modification of existing assets
- **New Build**: Create capacity through investment in new provision

3. Analysis of Neighbourhood

3.1 A detailed analysis of each area of the city has been undertaken to determine the current level of ELC provision and ensure that capital investment is directed to where it is needed most. The analysis has been carried out using the existing Glasgow Centre for Population Health Neighbourhoods. This has enabled the use of existing data sources to identify other appropriate measures and assist with monitoring of impact.

3.2 The analysis has investigated the supply of nursery provision across each neighbourhood, across both GCC and funded provider settings. It has also sought to determine the demand for places in each neighbourhood, through estimating the number of children in each area of the city eligible for a funded place (all 3 and 4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds).

3.3 The following existing provision exists within the Tollcross/West Shettleston neighbourhood:

- **Kirktonholme Nursery (Drumover)** (funded provider) – Funded private provider, registered to provide: 19 places for children aged 0-2 years old; 20 places for children aged 2-3 years old; and 40 places for children aged 3-5 years old. Over the last year, the Council has been purchasing 32 funded places. Services are available from 8am-6pm all year round.

- **Kirktonholme Nursery (Wellshot)** (funded provider) - Funded private provider, registered to provide: 18 places for children aged 0-2 years old; 13 places for children aged 2-3 years old; and 32 places for children aged 3-5 years old. Over the last year, the Council has been purchasing 35 funded places. Services are available from 8am-6pm all year round.

- **Parkhead Community Nursery** – Standalone GCC setting on a shared campus with Quarrybrae Primary School, registered to provide: 12 places for children aged 0-2 years old; 25 places for children aged 2-3 years old; and 60 places for children aged 3-5 years old. Services are available between 8am-6pm all year round.

- **Rising Stars Academy Street** (funded provider) – Funded provider, operated by Jobs & Business Glasgow, registered to provide: 5 places for children aged 0-2 years old; 7 places for children aged 2-3 years old; and 20 places for children aged 3-5 years old. Over the last year, the Council

has been purchasing 21 funded places. Services are available from 8am-6pm all year round.

- **St Paul's Nursery Class** – GCC setting, forming part of St Paul's Primary School, registered to provide 40 spaces in the 3-5 age group. Services are available between 8am-4pm throughout the school term.

3.4 Families in this neighbourhood access a range of different nursery provisions across the wider surrounding area. Analysis undertaken based on population estimates from the National Records of Scotland (NRS) indicates that further additional spaces will be required in the Tollcross/West Shettleston neighbourhood to ensure the Council is able to meet statutory obligations to provide 1140 hours for every eligible child by August 2020.

4 Proposal

4.1 In light of the above analysis, and discussions with both LES and the local community, it is proposed that a new build nursery be developed alongside the Winter Gardens site in Tollcross Park. A location map has been attached as Appendix 1.

4.2 The proposal would result in a new build setting providing at least 85 full time equivalent places, operating from 8am-6pm across 50 weeks of the year, as has been the case with the development of all new ELC Centres across the city for a number of years. This will ensure that families have access to a more flexible service, helping to support individual circumstances and offer a service which better meets the needs of the local community.

4.3 The Winter Gardens site is in an extensive state of disrepair and is currently unoccupied. Given the importance of the site as a landmark of the local community and a resource for the park, there have been a number of discussions with the Friends of Tollcross Park around the initial proposals for the development.

4.4 Whilst it is proposed that the site be redeveloped, the Winter Gardens remains an important, listed structure and therefore any development will be mindful of the site context. There are significant opportunities to redevelop the adjoined modern building as a purpose built nursery.

4.5 The Council has been working in partnership with the Scottish Government and Inspiring Scotland as part of the Government's commitment to increase the availability of appropriate outdoor spaces. As part of this work, the Council will be exploring the opportunities to develop innovative outdoor spaces, including through the use of existing parkland, such as in Tollcross Park.

5 Stakeholders

5.1 This paper has been sent to relevant stakeholders to ensure wide consultation on the proposals outlined above. Given the nature of the ELC service within Glasgow, with families able to access services where they best suit their circumstances, the consultation is being undertaken across the city as a whole.

5.2 The paper has been issued to the following groups city-wide:

- Glasgow City Council Elected Members
- Members of Parliament/Members of the Scottish Parliament
- Community Councils
- Area Partnerships
- Trade Unions
- Glasgow City Council education establishments
- Parent Councils & Groups
- Funded Provider Nurseries
- Out of School Care Providers
- GCVS
- Glasgow Life Venues (Libraries, Leisure Centres, etc)

5.3 The consultation period is from Monday 5th November 2018 to Sunday 2nd December 2018. Stakeholders can submit their views either by email to:

schoolconsultations@education.glasgow.gov.uk

or by post to:

ELC Expansion Consultation
Education Services
40 John St
Glasgow
G1 1JL

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Appendix 1 - Location map

