



Glasgow City Council
City Administration Committee

Item 1

27th January 2022

**Report by Councillor Chris Cunningham, City Convener for
Education, Skills and Early Years**

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**RESPONSE TO PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE CUTHBERTSON NURSERY
CLASS INTO THE NEW NURSERY IN THE GROUNDS OF CUTHBERTSON
PRIMARY SCHOOL ALONG WITH GOVANHILL NURSERY WHICH WILL BE
OPEN ALL YEAR AND PROVIDE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE FOR
CHILDREN FROM AGE TWO TO FIVE YEARS**

Purpose of Report:

To provide the Committee with a summary of the response to the consultation held under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

Recommendations:

The City Administration Committee is asked to approve the relocation of Cuthbertson Nursery Class into the new nursery at Cuthbertson Primary School.

Ward No(s): 8

Citywide:

Local member(s) advised: Yes No consulted: Yes No

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

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1 Background and Context

- 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 would be provided to undertake estate related projects in line with the expansion plans. 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.
- 1.4 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. 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 specific communities across the city, requiring additional physical capacity to deliver the increase in statutory hours.
- 1.5 A paper on capital plans was taken to the City Administration Committee on 30th August 2018. In line with the recommendations from the paper. A non-statutory consultation took place during November to seek the views of stakeholders on a range of proposals to extend early learning and childcare across the city. The response to the consultation is available on <https://glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17886>
- 1.6 The above consultation advised of the proposal to locate a new nursery in the grounds of Cuthbertson Primary School.

2 Current buildings

- 2.1 Cuthbertson Nursery Class is located within Cuthbertson Primary School and is open term-time from 8.30am to 4.30pm. It provides high quality early learning and childcare and in session 2021/22 it has 30 full-time equivalent places for 3 to 5 year olds.

- 2.2 Govanhill Nursery is open all year from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm. It provides high quality early learning and childcare for 80 full-time equivalent places for 3 to 5 year olds.

3 Consultation

- 3.1 The statutory consultation ran from 30 August 2021 to 20 October 2021. The council's proposal paper was made available in the press and a dedicated page was set up on the council website for both information and to enable interested parties to respond to the proposal. Settings and schools were asked to support families to respond where appropriate to ensure the views of everyone were gathered. Two stakeholders responded to the consultation, one in favour and one against the proposal. No reasons were stated either in support or against the proposal. A public meeting was held on 8 September 2021 where no stakeholders attended.
- 3.2 Prior to the statutory consultation the council carried out an initial consultation between December 2020 and February 2021 to seek views of stakeholders on the proposal to relocate Govanhill Nursery and Cuthbertson Primary School nursery class into a new nursery building. There were 32 responses to this consultation. Of the respondents 25 were in favour of the proposal and seven against.
- 3.3 In addition to the two consultation exercises and the public meeting, the Head of Early Learning & Childcare and another senior officer from the ELC Team, met with the staff teams at Cuthbertson Nursery Class and Govanhill Nursery to hear and discuss staff views. The Head of ELC also offered to meet with the Parent Council at Cuthbertson Primary School, however, they chose instead to submit a written response to the statutory consultation.

4 Responses to the consultation

- 4.1 A total of 34 responses were received across both consultation exercises. Almost all, 79%, were in favour of the proposals as set out in the consultation document.
- 4.2 Of those who opposed the proposal, the main reason for opposing was concern about the loss of playground space for Cuthbertson Primary School. Those in favour of the proposal also stated their wish for improvements to be made to the outdoor space at Cuthbertson Primary School.

5 Education Scotland report

- 5.1 The full response from Education Scotland is available on-line <https://glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=55403&p=0> as an appendix of the full response document. Overall, HM Inspectors felt that the proposal is of clear educational benefit for children aged 2-5 years. HM Inspectors agree there is potential for significantly greater choice and flexibility of ELC provision

in the immediate area if the proposal is taken forward and the existing nursery building remains as a nursery facility through flexible rental.

5.2 Education Scotland view

A major concern of families at Govanhill Nursery is the distance (c.0.6 of a mile) between their home and/or the school attended by siblings and the new nursery building.

Response from Education

Govanhill Nursery staff are working with families to view this as an opportunity, for example, through increased exercise to support wellbeing. A series of family walks will be offered in preparation for the move to demonstrate that the distance is not excessive and that the walk itself can be an enjoyable learning experience for children as they walk through their community.

Staff are also explaining to families, the increased flexibility and opportunity which will be available at the new nursery as an incentive for making the move. The new nursery is purpose designed for modern ELC and will provide improved learning environments, including quality outdoor space with free flow access. It will also offer places for children aged 2-3 years which is an additional service not currently available in the local area.

The existing nursery class space in Cuthbertson Primary School will become vacant for use by the school for learning and teaching for primary aged children offering increased flexibility for the delivery of quality learning and teaching.

The proposal therefore has the potential to provide children from nursery to primary aged with a wide range of quality learning building on the existing experiences at Cuthbertson Primary School, Cuthbertson Nursery Class and Govanhill Nursery.

5.3 Education Scotland view

A key consideration will be the timing of transition to the new building, balancing the needs of children and families and the need to provide continuity of provision. To support children and families it will be important that the timing of transition to the new building is as sensitive as possible. This includes children not having an additional transition to a new nursery immediately before they move onto primary school.

Response from Education

The new nursery building is expected to be finished in May / June of 2022. The decision has already been made to keep Cuthbertson Nursery Class operating as normal until the end of term in June, meaning that the new August intake will be the first children from the Cuthbertson setting to attend in the new building. Any Cuthbertson children who are returning to nursery in August will be supported in

their transition by regular visits to see the progress of the new build, discussion with them about what the new nursery may be like and the opportunity to meet some of the wider staff team who will be caring for them. Some of the existing Cuthbertson team may also transition to the new building once the staff model is set.

The children attending Govanhill Nursery attend in a mixture of patterns with some attending term-time and some all year. It is expected that the majority of the transition will take place over the summer months when the term-time children will not be attending nursery. The staff team are already supporting children and families to ensure a successful transition. Floor books have been created with the children to record progress of the build which they visit regularly and ongoing discussions taken place imagining and planning for their new nursery. The nursery also makes good use of social media to keep families up to date and have developed their own “transition mascot” with the children.

5.4 Education Scotland view

The main reason for those opposing the proposal was the concern about the loss of playground space for Cuthbertson Primary School. Those in favour of the proposal also stated their wish for improvements to be made to the outdoor space at Cuthbertson Primary School.

Response from Education

A programme of improvements has been agreed with the school and Parent Council and is already underway to develop and enhance the playground space, including a multi-use games area. Although the size of the outdoor area is reduced, these improvements will impact positively on the outdoor experiences of children at Cuthbertson Primary School. Staff at Cuthbertson Primary School also welcome the opportunity to work with a standalone nursery within the grounds of their school.

6. Date of implementation

- 6.1 It is proposed that the relocation of Govanhill Nursery to the new build nursery takes place on completion of the building in early summer 2022. Cuthbertson Nursery Class will follow in August 2022.
- 6.2 The existing Govanhill Nursery building will be made available for flexible rental with a timescale for entry of the new provider linked to the relocation of Govanhill Nursery. This will allow for as early an increase in places as possible.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1 The quality improvement officer with responsibility for Equalities carried out an Equality Impact Assessment screening for this response. The screening

process did not identify issues which would require a full Equality Impact Assessment being carried out. The full screening is available as an appendix to the full consultation document on-line <https://glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=55403&p=0> .

8 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	The consultation will be carried out within existing resources.
<i>Legal:</i>	Consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
<i>Personnel:</i>	N/A
<i>Procurement:</i>	N/A

Council Strategic Plan:

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

<i>Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25</i>	An EQIA was undertaken and is included in the response document.
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<i>What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?</i>	No impact was identified on the protected characteristics.
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<i>Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio economic disadvantage.</i>	The nursery will provide high quality early learning and childcare to all families. The admission policy prioritises families experiencing disadvantage.
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Sustainability Impacts:

<i>Environmental:</i>	The proposal should have limited environmental impact.
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<i>Social, including opportunities under Article 20 of the European Public</i>	The proposal should assist parents as there will be increased flexibility in the places available.
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*Procurement
Directive:*

Economic:

**Privacy and Data
Protection impacts:**

Responders were asked to provide name, age, address and reason(s) for responding. Young people under 16 have their personal details withheld in the response document. Those over 16 were offered the option of this. The data would only be used/held by Glasgow City Council for the purposes of consultation under the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010.

9 Recommendations

- 9.1 The City Administration Committee is asked to approve the relocation of Cuthbertson Nursery Class into the new nursery at Cuthbertson Primary School.