

Report on	Proposed Gael Scoil at Gortgonis site, Coalisland
Reporting Officer	Liam Glavin
Contact Officer	Oliver McShane

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	×

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek permission to engage Land and Property Services to value the proposed Gael Scoil site and associated costs at Gortgonis.
2.0	Background
2.1	In February 2017 Members approved that Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Developments for the Gortgonis Site, Coalisland be further progressed and that Council initiates the procurement process to appoint an ICT team to proceed with the design details for a new Council facility.
2.2	Also in February 2017 officers reported that the initial location of the Gaelscoil, as already approved by Council, was presenting technical problems from an engineering perspective in the actual construction of the site which was adding significantly to the construction costs. The original location also split the Gortgonis site which would have made future development by Council more difficult. Officers met with the Department of Education to discuss a revised location for the school to the front of the site. This will require the demolition of the existing building but will make better use of the site and remove the technical difficulties with the construction of the school at the back of the site.
2.3	Leisure and Technical Services are progressing the appointment of the ICT team.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Department of Education have come back to Council with a revised plan for the new school site. (Please see Appendix 1 which also includes a full site plan)
3.2	The indicative plans are for the Department of Education to take over the site as projected in September 2018 following Council approval. Council will carry out extensive consultation work with the local community to ascertain their needs before plans for the leisure aspects of the Gortgonis site are finalised.

3.3	The Council officers have been in discussions with the Woodland Trust regarding the trees on the site. The trees will have to be removed to facilitate the proposed school development as well as Council's Leisure plans for the site. The Woodland Trust will require Council to replant an equivalent area to that currently on the Gortgonis site elsewhere in a location that is publically accessible. Council officers are currently in the process of identifying suitable alternative sites.
3.4	There is a requirement for Land and Property Services (LPS) to put a valuation on the cost of the acquisition of this land and associated costs from Council. Officers are seeking permission to engage LPS to value the site and associated costs.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<u>Financial Implications</u> The cost of LPS valuations are in existing budgets. The cost of replanting the existing area of trees at an alternative location (estimated £8,000).
4.2	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> N/A
4.3	<u>Risk Management Implications</u> N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That members agree to Council engaging with the Woodland Trust to negotiate the relocation of an equivalent area of trees to a suitable location and that LPS carry out a valuation of the proposed school site and associated costs at Gortgonis, Coalisland.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix 1: Gortgonis site plans.