



Briefing Note: Results of consultation on potential relocation of schools in Kelston

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education		
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Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update you on the feedback of the consultation undertaken to strengthen the provision of education in Kelston, Auckland, and the proposed next steps.

Summary

- 1 Kelston principals, supported by the Ministry, have been collaborating to strengthen the future of schooling in Kelston. The Kerehana Vision Project (KVP), which was previously called the Kelston Vision Project, was established to strengthen educational and community outcomes in an environment where population growth and changes in enrolment patterns will mean more students will need to enrol locally.
- 2 The schools have developed the concept of a Kelston Learning Village. The village concept includes the possibility of co-locating Kelston Girls' College, Kelston Boys' High School and Kelston Intermediate School. Although co-located, it is envisioned that the schools would retain their own unique identities with enhanced opportunities for collaboration through shared facilities including an administration area, library, sports hub, wellbeing centre, technology hub and professional learning centre.
- 3 Following community engagement, four detailed options to support the concept of the learning village were developed, and Minister Hipkins agreed to consult on these options in August 2021. Minister Hipkins requested that consultation be delayed until 2022, due to COVID-19 pressures on schools. [METIS 1266031 refers].
- 4 The four options that were consulted on were:
 - Option 1: Kelston Boys' High School and Kelston Intermediate School relocate to the current Kelston Girls' College site.

- Option 2: Kelston Boys' High School relocates to the current Kelston Girls' College site. Kelston Intermediate School stays where it is.
- Option 3: Kelston Girls' College and Kelston Intermediate School relocate to the current Kelston Boys' High School site.
- Option 4: Kelston Girls' College relocates to the current Kelston Boys' High School site. Kelston Intermediate School stays where it is.
- 5 A total of 269 responses were received via the online survey and two responses via the paper survey. Overall, the community favoured co-locating the secondary schools on a single site while retaining them as separate schools with some shared facilities. They also favoured Kelston Intermediate School remaining separate from the secondary schools, as this is a steppingstone to secondary education.
 - 6 Kelston Boys' High School was narrowly identified by the community as the preferred location for the co-location of the two secondary schools. Among other benefits, it was noted that this site is close to other schools, including St Leonards Road School, Kelston Intermediate School, and Kelston Primary School. It was also noted that the field held particular significance for the community and that respondents consider the Boys' High School is the 'heart' of the community.
 - 7 The Kelston Girls' College site seems to be preferred by some due to its size, however this site includes Ko Taku Reo Deaf Education NZ, Kelston Primary School and Kelston Girls' College. Based on the information available, it is currently considered that co-locating on the Kelston Boys' High School site will limit the impact on the schools involved. Therefore, this is our preferred location for the co-location.
 - 8 After considering the feedback, we recommend that Kelston Intermediate School should remain on its current site. We consider that this is reflective of the wishes of both the secondary schools and the rest of the KVP, including Kelston Intermediate School.
 - 9 An initial recent assessment of the Kelston schools' property identified that the two secondary schools are in poor to average physical condition. Ministry investigations identified several deficiencies, including deterioration and weather tightness issues.
 - 10 For the proposed co-location to occur we are recommending that both secondary sites are master planned to determine the feasibility of co-location. Master planning will assess the suitability of both sites for the proposed co-location, and this will help us determine which site is preferable.
 - 11 Once master planning has concluded, full costings on the proposed relocation will be prepared. Investment will be required to provide a safe, robust, and fit for purpose quality learning environment which facilitates 21st century learning. As indicated in the previous report, when cost details are known we will progress funding requests through future budget rounds.
 - 12 It is likely that the two secondary schools will be on their individual sites for some time before co-location can occur. We note that in the meantime there is a requirement to complete remedial repair work to the existing buildings to ensure they remain habitable and fit for purpose.

Proactive Release

- a **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing in full once it has been considered by you.

Proactively Release / Not Release



Isabel Evans
Hautū | Deputy Secretary
Te Mahau | Te Tau Raro

02 / 02 / 2023



Hon Jan Tinetti
Minister of Education

03/02/2023

Background

- 1 Kelston is a community in West Auckland that is expecting continued population growth. It is located within a complex growth catchment area of the National Education Growth Plan (NEGP), and it is expected that there will be an additional 3,400 students by 2030.

- 2 The schools in this area are:

Secondary	Kelston Boys' High School (83) Kelston Girls' College (84)
Intermediate	Kelston Intermediate School (1330)
Primary (Y1-6)	St Leonards Road School (1499) Kelston School (1331)
Specialist	Ko Taku Reo Deaf Education NZ (903)

- 3 Currently many local Kelston students choose to attend schools in neighbouring areas, in part due to the perceived low quality of the local schooling provision, particularly at secondary level.
- 4 Kelston principals, supported by the Ministry, have been collaborating on how to strengthen the future schooling in Kelston. The Kerehana Vision Project (KVP) which was previously called the Kelston Vision Project, was established to strengthen educational and community outcomes.
- 5 The schools have developed the concept of a Kelston Learning Village (KLV). The schools involved in the KLV will have shared wellbeing strategies, and a shared future focused curriculum that provide inclusive, bicultural and immersion learning pathways.
- 6 The village concept includes the possibility of co-locating the two secondary schools and the intermediate school. Although potentially co-located, the schools would retain their own unique identities with enhanced opportunities for collaboration through shared facilities including an administration area, library, sports hub, wellbeing centre, technology hub and professional learning centre.
- 7 Following community engagement, four detailed options to support the concept of the learning village were developed, and in August 2021, Minister Hipkins agreed to consult on these options. Minister Hipkins requested that consultation be delayed until 2022, due to COVID-19 pressures on schools.
- 8 In September 2022, you and Minister Sepuloni met with the KVP to discuss the work undertaken to date on the visioning and the recent consultation process. Following this visit, further information was provided to you about property at the KVP schools and the next steps following the consultation.

Consultation

- 9 The consultation was facilitated by D&G Consulting, who were involved in the previous rounds of engagement. Consultation was undertaken with the community in early 2022. Surveys were available in Te Reo Māori, Samoan, and Tongan, with a New Zealand Sign Language version hosted on YouTube. Eight community facilitators also met with the community, provided information, and gathered responses.
- 10 The four options were consulted on:
- Option 1: Kelston Boys' High School and Kelston Intermediate School relocate to the current Kelston Girls' College site.
 - Option 2: Kelston Boys' High School relocates to the current Kelston Girls' College site. Kelston Intermediate School stays where it is.
 - Option 3: Kelston Girls' College and Kelston Intermediate School relocate to the current Kelston Boys' High School site.
 - Option 4: Kelston Girls' College relocates to the current Kelston Boys' High School site. Kelston Intermediate School stays where it is.
- 11 A total of 269 responses were received via the online survey and two responses via the paper survey. After these were screened for quality, 254 responses were analysed.
- 12 Both options that kept Kelston Intermediate School in its current location were preferred over the ones that co-located it with the secondary schools. Feedback noted that Kelston Intermediate School acts as a steppingstone from primary to secondary education, and there was concern that this could be lost.
- 13 Overall, the community preferred co-locating the secondary schools on a single site while retaining them as separate schools with some shared facilities.
- 14 The Girls' College site was preferred, by some, because:
- the site is bigger than the Boys' High School site;
 - there is good access to public transport ;
 - it is on a common route so easy for drop off and pick up;
 - the site is adjacent to Ko Taku Reo (which was not identified as moving in any of the options), so schooling on this site would enhance collaboration and inclusion with Ko Taku Reo akonga;
 - the site is close to several nearby facilities which make it appealing.
- 15 The Boys' High School site was preferred, by some, because:
- of its proximity to other schools which would support collaboration;
 - some people thought it had more modern facilities than the Girls' College;
 - the field holds particular significance for the school and community;
 - traffic congestion would be less than if the schools were on the Girls' College site;
 - some considered the Boys' High School to be the 'heart' of the community.

- 16 Kelston Boys' High School was narrowly identified as the preferred location for the co-location of the two secondary schools. Among other benefits, it was noted that this site is close to other schools, including St Leonards Road School, Kelston Intermediate School, and Kelston Primary School. It was also noted that the field held particular significance for the community and respondents consider the Boys' High School is the 'heart' of the community.

Preferred option of Kerehana Vision Project (KVP)

- 17 The consultation outcomes were shared with the KVP and their feedback was requested. The KVP responded that their preferred option was the co-location of Kelston Girls' College and Kelston Boys' High School on the Kelston Girls' site.
- 18 The KVP response noted:
- the wish of the Kelston Intermediate School community to stay on their site.
 - that the secondary schools would prefer to relocate to the Kelston Girls' site as it is larger.
 - that the Kelston Girls' site is more accessible to bus and train routes. However, the need for a safe drop off / pick up zone for students was identified.
 - that the Kelston Girls' site was the site of the *original Kelston High School so there is a sense of returning to the origin and towards a more positive rebuilding.*
- 19 There is a strong desire from the schools to retain the Kelston Boys' site after the co-location due to the historic nature of its sporting fields which are a great source of local pride. The KVP proposed that the Kelston Boys' site be developed as a sports hub to be shared with the intermediate and primary schools. Partnering with Sport Waitākere has also been discussed and is looked on favourably by the schools and Sport Waitākere.

Ministry response to the consultation

- 20 Options 2 and 4 that had Kelston Intermediate School remain on its current site were rated more favourably than options that would see the school included on the shared campus. Therefore, we will not be progressing with either Option 1 or 3.
- 21 The community favoured Options 2 and 4 which suggests co-locating the secondary schooling on a single site while remaining separate schools with some shared facilities.
- 22 Our preferred location for the co-location is the Kelston Boys' High School site. The Kelston Girls' College site seems to be preferred by some due to its size, however this includes Ko Taku Reo Deaf Education NZ, Kelston Primary School, and Kelston Girls' College. Based on the information available, it is considered that co-locating on the Boys' site will limit the impact on the schools involved and still provide collaborative schooling options.

Property details and options for colocation and relocation

- 23 Our preferred location for the co-location is the Kelston Boys' High School site. However, to make a fully informed assessment, master planning of the two secondary school sites will need to occur. Master planning will ensure that the site that is chosen can be developed to accommodate the co-location and future growth.
- 24 Once master planning has concluded, full costings of the proposed relocation will be able to be prepared. Investment will be required to provide a safe, robust, and fit for purpose quality learning environment which facilitates 21st century learning.
- 25 We have not yet sought funding for the relocation and once cost estimates are prepared (following the master planning) we will request funding for capital injections through future budget rounds.
- 26 It is likely that the schools will be on their current sites for some time before relocation and redevelopment / rebuilding can occur.
- 27 In the meantime, there may be a requirement to complete remedial repair work on the two schools to ensure they remain habitable and fit for purpose. An initial assessment of the Kelston schools' property condition has recently been undertaken. This identified that the two secondary school sites are in poor to average physical condition and identified several deficiencies, including deterioration and weather tightness issues.

Next Steps

- 28 The community favoured co-locating the secondary school on a single site while remaining separate schools with some shared facilities. Our preferred location for this to occur is the Kelston Boys' High School site.
- 29 To make a fully informed assessment master planning of the two secondary school sites will occur. Collaboration on concept of the learning village will be progressed with the two secondary schools co-locating and the Intermediate remaining on its current site.
- 30 We will work with the schools to prepare key messages they can share with staff, parents, families, and communities. We will also work with your office to prepare any communications you wish to make on this matter.