



**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**

**EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**CONSULTATION REPORT**

**REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION  
RELATING TO THE SECONDARY SCHOOL CATCHMENT  
AREA SERVING ARNGASK PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**31 MAY 2012**

This Consultation Report has been issued by Perth and Kinross Council in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

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**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**  
**EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

This report has been prepared following consultation on the proposal that:

The secondary school catchment area serving Arngask Primary School be amended from Perth Academy to Kinross High School from Monday 7 January 2013.

Having had regard (in particular) to:

- a) Relevant written representations received by the Council (from any person) during the consultation period;
- b) Oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meetings held on 13 March 2012 and 15 March 2012; and
- c) HMI's report on the proposal.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This is a consultation report prepared in compliance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 on the above proposal.

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide a record of the total number of written responses made during the Statutory Consultation period;
- Provide a summary of the written responses;
- Provide a summary of oral representations made at the public meetings held on 13 March 2012 and 15 March 2012;
- Provide a statement of the Council's response to those written and oral representations;
- Provide the full text of Her Majesty's Inspectorate report and a statement of the Council's response to this report;
- State how the Council reviewed the above proposal following the representations received during the Statutory Consultation period and the report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate;
- Provide details of any omission from, or inaccuracy in, the Proposal Paper and state how the Council acted upon it; and
- State how the Council has complied with Section 12 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 when reviewing the above proposals.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 For a number of years, a significant number of parents from the Arngask catchment area have been making successful placing requests for their children to attend the secondary school of their choice, Kinross High School. This number has steadily increased and the majority of pupils from the Arngask catchment area now attend Kinross High School rather than their catchment school of Perth Academy. As these pupils attend Kinross High School as the result of successful placing requests, parents are required to take full responsibility for all arrangements and costs associated with home to school transport.
- 2.2 The Parent Council for Arngask Primary School and Local Elected Member have made several approaches to Education and Children's Services to request that the secondary school catchment area serving Arngask Primary School is amended to Kinross High School which is the nearest secondary school to Arngask catchment area.
- 2.3 On 10 March 2011, the Lifelong Learning School Estate Sub-Committee of Perth and Kinross Council approved the report Asset Management and Capital Programme Update (Report 11/113 refers). This report recommended that statutory consultation take place regarding the proposal for Arngask Primary School catchment area feeding to Kinross High School (at Loch Leven Community Campus) rather than Perth Academy from August 2013 (or earlier following agreement through the statutory consultation).
- 2.4 On 11 January 2012, the Lifelong Learning Committee approved the report Statutory Consultation - Arngask Primary School Secondary School Catchment Area (Report 12/2 refers). The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) was instructed to formally consult the appropriate bodies and persons in relation to a review of the secondary school serving Arngask Primary School.
- 2.5 Lifelong Learning Committee reports and Proposal Paper referred to above are available on the Council's website [www.pkc.gov.uk](http://www.pkc.gov.uk).

## **3. CONSIDERATIONS**

The main considerations relating to the proposed amendment to the secondary school catchment area serving Arngask Primary School are fully explained in the proposal paper and the main points are highlighted overleaf:

- 3.1 Perth Academy is a 6 year secondary school and provides non denominational secondary education to pupils from the primary school catchment areas of Arngask, Balbeggie Collace, Goodlyburn, Guildtown, Letham, Robert Douglas Memorial and Viewlands Primary Schools and Oudenarde. Currently, 1005 pupils attend Perth Academy. There are currently 7 pupils from the Arngask catchment area attending Perth Academy. Of the 7 pupils attending Perth Academy from Arngask catchment area, all are entitled to home to school transport as they live more than 3 miles from the school.
- 3.2 Kinross High School is a 6 year secondary school and provides non denominational secondary education to pupils from the primary school catchment areas of Blairingone, Cleish, Fossoway, Kinross, Milnathort and Portmoak Primary Schools. Currently, 893 pupils attend Kinross High School. There are currently 53 pupils from the Arngask catchment area attending Kinross High School. Of the pupils attending Kinross High School from Arngask catchment area, none are entitled to home to school transport as they attend as the result of successful placing requests.
- 3.3 The children living within the Arngask Primary School catchment area, as it is currently drawn, are travelling approximately 12 miles to attend school in Perth and approximately 6 miles to attend school in Kinross.

#### **4. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS**

- 4.1 A Proposal Paper was considered and approved by Perth and Kinross Council's Lifelong Learning Committee at its meeting on 11 January 2012. The Proposal Paper was issued on 2 February 2012 to those individuals and bodies listed under Distribution within the document. The Proposal Paper was also published on the Council's website: [www.pkc.gov.uk](http://www.pkc.gov.uk).

The Proposal Paper made clear to consultees that the consultation period would run until Friday 30 March 2012 – a period of 40 school days in total which exceeds the required period of at least 30 school days.

- 4.2 The proposal on which consultation took place was that:

The secondary school catchment area serving Arngask Primary School be amended from Perth Academy to Kinross High School from Monday 7 January 2013.

4.3 The requirements for consulting on a relevant proposal relating to schools are set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

- A proposal paper was issued on 2 February 2012. A copy of this document was provided free of charge to the consultees listed within the document.
- The proposal paper was published on the Perth and Kinross Council website [www.pkc.gov.uk](http://www.pkc.gov.uk).
- Copies were also available at the Council Headquarters, Arngask Primary School, Perth Academy and Kinross High School.
- An advertisement ran in the Courier and Advertiser and Perthshire Advertiser newspapers on 2 and 3 February 2012.
- Two public meetings were held to discuss the proposal. The first was held at Perth Academy on 13 March 2012. The second was held on 15 March 2012 at Kinross High School.
- The Consultation period ended on 30 March 2012.
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate involvement consisted of: the proposal document being sent to them, attendance at the public meetings and meeting with a sample of pupils, staff and parents. They also received a copy of all written representations. They then prepared a report on the educational aspects of the proposal. This is attached as Appendix 4.

4.4 The affected schools were identified as Arngask Primary School, Perth Academy and Kinross High School. In accordance with statutory requirements, the following persons were consulted:

- The Parent Councils of the affected schools
- The parents of the pupils and children who may attend the affected schools.
- Parents of children expected to attend an affected school within two years of the date of publication of this proposal document.
- The teaching and ancillary staff at the affected schools.
- The trade union representatives of the above staff.
- The Community Councils.
- Relevant users of the affected schools.
- Elected Members of Perth and Kinross Council.
- The Constituency MSP and List MSPs covering the Constituency.
- The Constituency MP.
- The Executive Director, The Environment Service, Perth and Kinross Council.
- Tayside Contracts (providers of catering and cleaning services to schools).
- HMI.

4.5 The number of copies of the proposal paper issued was 2818.

- 4.6 During the consultation period representations were sought from interested parties, either in oral or written form or electronically. A specific email account was set up by the Council to receive enquiries on the proposal or representations.
- 4.7 This Consultation Report is the Council's response to the issues raised during the consultation period on the Proposal Paper.
- 4.8 This Consultation Report will be published for a period of six weeks before a final decision is taken by Perth and Kinross Council.

## **5. THE PUBLIC MEETINGS**

- 5.1 A public meeting was held in Perth Academy on Tuesday 13 March 2012. Two members of the public attended. A full note of the meeting is attached as Appendix 1 which details the questions and issues raised at the meeting.
- 5.2 A public meeting was held in Kinross High School on Thursday 15 March 2012. Sixteen members of the public attended. A full note of the meeting is attached as Appendix 2 which details the questions and issues raised at the meeting.
- 5.3 The small number of attendees at the public meetings and the questions and issues raised, indicate that almost all the parents and community members from Arngask, Perth Academy and Kinross have no concerns with the Council's proposal.

## **6. RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE**

In all, twenty six written responses were received during the consultation period. Twenty five representations support the proposal and one representation opposes the proposal. The breakdown of the respondent groups is contained within the Summary of Consultation Responses, attached as Appendix 3.

In summary, the written and oral responses can be grouped broadly as follows:

- Overall support for the proposal.
- Arrangements for school transport and shorter travel distance to Kinross from Glenfarg.
- Reassurance that pupils attending currently Perth Academy would be able to continue to attend school there and have transport provided by the Council.
- Concern regarding current uncertainty of placing requests being granted for Kinross High School.



- Strong links to Kinross community and use of facilities at Kinross High School.
- The role of the Lifelong Learning Committee and the decision making process.
- Concern regarding increased class sizes at Kinross High School.
- Complaint regarding the cost of the consultation exercise.

## **7. EDUCATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO WRITTEN AND ORAL REPRESENTATIONS**

### **7.1 Impact on pupils wishing to continue to attend Perth Academy**

Any pupil from Arngask catchment area currently attending Perth Academy will be able to continue to attend the school until such time as they decide to leave school. Transport will continue to be provided for these pupils to attend Perth Academy until they leave school. No pupil will be required to change schools as a result of this proposal.

### **7.2 Transport Issues**

Councils are required by law to provide free home to school transport for pupils who attend their catchment school and live more than the statutory walking distance from that school. In secondary schools, that is 3 miles.

If the proposal is approved, free home to school transport would be provided for all pupils from the Arngask catchment area to attend Kinross High School. This would be effective from 7 January 2013. In addition, provision would be made to continue to transport pupils who would be directly affected by the proposal who are currently entitled to, and receive, free home to school transport to Perth Academy should their parents wish for them to remain at the same school they currently attend.

### **7.3 The cost of the consultation exercise**

There is a legal requirement for Local Authorities to undertake a statutory consultation when proposing any change to a school catchment area in order to reach as many people affected as possible. The process being followed by Perth and Kinross is thorough, transparent, inclusive and appropriate for such an important proposal.

The cost of the statutory consultation exercise in relation to the secondary school catchment area serving Arngask Primary School being amended from Perth Academy to Kinross High School was £4446.93.

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 sets out in law how an education authority must consult on relevant proposals relating to any school.

It sets out the requirements placed on education authorities to prepare and publish a proposal paper and also determines the relevant consultees who are to be consulted in proposing a relevant change to a school. The transfer from primary to secondary school arrangements and admission arrangements, which include any proposal to vary a catchment area of a school must comply with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

This proposal was notified by means of a Public Notice advert in the local press and is published on Perth and Kinross Council's website. This is in addition to the proposal paper which was issued to all relevant consultees. Two public meetings were held to explain the proposal and gather views and any representations. Any actual or deemed failing to comply with this process including any relevant consultee being excluded from the consultation could result in the consultation being deemed to have been flawed and, consequently, could result in the whole exercise having to be undertaken again properly.

Within Perth and Kinross, it has been agreed that a robust and thorough process would be undertaken to mitigate against the consultation being deemed to have been flawed or the possibility of any relevant consultees not having the opportunity to participate in the consultation and ensure their views are made known and are considered in the important decision making process which affects their child's school.

7.4 **I believe the class sizes will enlarge which will affect the education of my child. I firmly believe that Perth and Kinross Council will not make teaching staff redundant at Perth Academy, and take on more staff at Kinross High School, which will result in enlarged class sizes at Kinross.**

All schools in Perth and Kinross are staffed according to the number of pupils attending each school. There would be no requirement to make any staff redundant at Perth Academy as a result of this proposal as there will be no reduction in pupils attending that school. Currently, the majority of pupils from the Arngask catchment area already attend Kinross High School and Kinross High School is already appropriately staffed to manage the total number of pupils in the school. Therefore, class sizes at Kinross High School will not increase as a result of this proposal.

## **8. HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE (HMI) REPORT**

- 8.1 In accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, a report was produced by HMI on the educational aspects of the proposal.

- 8.2 HMI visited Arngask Primary School and Kinross High School to speak to pupils, parents and staff. HMI also undertook a discussion with the headteacher of Perth Academy. HMI attended the public meetings on 13 March 2012 and 15 March 2012 and had the opportunity to review in detail the proposal paper and a summary of the twenty six written responses.
- 8.3 The HMI report is reproduced in full (Appendix 4).
- 8.4 The report broadly supports the proposals and is summarised below:
- HMI acknowledge that the proposal sets out clearly the rationale for the amendment to the secondary school and the transition arrangements for those affected by the proposal (HMI para 4.1).
  - HMI indicate that there is considerable support from parents, staff and children for the proposal to be implemented (HMI para 4.1).
  - HMI noted that almost all of the submissions received during the consultation process supported the Council's proposal (HMI para 2.2).
  - HMI point out that the Council needs to strengthen the educational benefits statement within its final report to ensure greater clarity for parents (HMI para 4.2).
  - HMI indicate that the Council needs to clarify the home to school transport arrangements for those young people who currently attend Kinross High School and who formerly attended Arngask Primary School (HMI para 4.3).

8.5 **Perth and Kinross Council's Response to HMI's Report**

The Council welcomes the report from HMI and accepts its findings.

In response to the findings contained within the HMI report, Perth and Kinross response is as follows:

**The Council needs to strengthen the educational benefits statement within its final report to ensure greater clarity for parents.**

The educational benefits statement for the proposal initially identified the following benefits:

- The proposal would give all the families in the Arngask Primary School catchment area the opportunity to have their children attend the nearest secondary school.

- The site lies within the boundary area of Kinross and Kinross-shire.
- The majority of families living within the Arngask catchment area access all their required services and facilities in Kinross.
- The proposal would have the additional benefits:
  - Support for a community identity for the Glenfarg householders
  - Long term placement certainty for families
  - Support for effective school/community links including entitlement to access events and activities organised by the Community Link Worker

In addition to the benefits noted above, the proposal would offer the opportunity for extended transition arrangements for pupils transferring to secondary school. Currently, pupils at Arngask Primary School do not access the full transition programme experienced by their peers in other primary schools associated with Kinross High School. This is because the outcome of their placing request application is not determined at the time many transition activities take place and, therefore, these pupils have not secured a place at Kinross High School for secondary education. These activities include residential trips, transition events and curriculum projects. The proposal would allow schools to work in a more formalised and planned in aspects of learning, teaching and the curriculum ensuring improved continuity and progression for pupils in their learning.

A strong identity with the Kinross community was gained from accessing a range of local services such as library and health services, as well as sporting and cultural activities provides opportunities to expand friendship groups and increase confidence.

The proposal would also reduce the levels of anxiety experienced by pupils attending Arngask Primary School awaiting the outcome of their placing request applications for Kinross High School. This would, in turn, improve the personal, social and emotional wellbeing of pupils.

**The Council needs to clarify the home to school transport arrangements for those young people who currently attend Kinross High School and who formerly attended Arngask Primary School.**

If the proposal was accepted, this would result in all pupils who live within the catchment area of Arngask Primary School becoming entitled to free home to school transport to Kinross High School. This includes all pupils who currently attend Kinross High School as a result of a successful placing request from Arngask catchment area.

Therefore, the 53 pupils who are currently attending Kinross High School as placing requests, would become entitled to attend Kinross High School and, consequently, entitled to free home to school transport. This would be in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy. This policy states that all secondary school pupils attending their catchment school, who live more than 3 miles from their catchment school, will be entitled to free home to school transport.

## **9. ALLEGED OMISSIONS OR INACCURACIES**

- 9.1 Section (10) (3) of the 2010 Act also places a requirement on the Council to provide details of any inaccuracy or omission within the proposal paper which has either been identified by the Council or raised by consultees. This section of the 2010 Act also requires the Council to provide a statement on the action taken in respect of the inaccuracy or omission, or, if no action was taken, to state that fact and why.
- 9.2 In the course of the consultation exercise, there were no areas identified by respondents as being inaccurate or omitted from the proposal paper during the consultation period.

## **10. COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 9(1) OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010**

- 10.1 Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 states that:

*After the Education Authority has received HMI's report, the Authority is to review the relevant proposal having regard (in particular) to:*

- (i) written representations received by the Authority (from any person) during the consultation period,*
  - (ii) oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting,*
  - (iii) HMI's report.*
- 10.2 Following receipt of twenty six written representations and consideration of oral representations made at a public meeting held during the consultation period, officers reviewed the proposals.
- 10.3 The feedback from the consultation was considered by a range of officers. This ensured that the Council met the requirements of sections 9(1), 12 and 13(3) (b) of the 2010 Act.

10.4 Officers of the Education Authority have listened carefully to the points made at the public meetings and have considered equally carefully the written representations, including the HMI report. Having reviewed the feedback from consultees, officers conclude that the basis of the original proposal remained the best solution to provide an appropriate and effective secondary school catchment area to serve Arngask Primary School.

## **11. LEGAL ISSUES**

11.1 The Council has complied in full with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 throughout this statutory consultation.

11.2 The Council is mindful of its duties in respect of equality and the Equality Impact Assessment did not identify that any parent, child or young person would be treated less favourably as a result of this proposal.

11.3 Under the terms of the Schools (Scotland) (Consultation) Act 2010, it is a legal requirement that the Council should not reach any formal decision without:

- having reviewed the relevant proposal having regard, in particular, to:
  - a) relevant written representations received from any person during the consultation period;
  - b) oral representation made to it by any person at the public meetings held on 13 March 2012 and 15 March 2012;
  - c) the HMI report;
- preparing a Consultation Report; and
- waiting until a period of three weeks starting on the day on which this Consultation Report is published in electronic and printed form has expired.

11.4 As it is the intention that this Consultation Report should be published, both electronically and in written form, on Thursday 31 May 2012 until Thursday 12 July 2012, this exceeds the statutory requirement to publish this report more than three weeks before consideration of the proposal by Lifelong Learning Committee in August 2012.

## **12. PERSONNEL ISSUES**

There would be no compulsory redundancies of Education and Children's Services staff as a consequence of these proposals.

### **13. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

A detailed assessment of the environmental impact and sustainability of the proposal would be undertaken if approval is granted. It is unlikely there will be any increase in carbon level as a result of increased use of school transport as pupils are currently travelling to both Perth Academy and Kinross High School. However, in time, as pupils no longer transfer to Perth Academy for secondary education, the requirement for providing transport from Glenfarg to Perth Academy will eventually cease once the existing pupils have completed their education at Perth Academy. This will decrease carbon levels as a result of transport no longer operating from Glenfarg to Perth.

### **14. CONCLUSION**

14.1 The Council now has 3 broad options to consider, namely:

- a) adopt the proposal;
- b) abandon the proposal and leave the catchment areas to remain unchanged; or
- c) amend the proposal in some way and undertake a further consultation exercise on a new proposal.

14.2 In abandoning the proposal, the Council would be failing to recognise or respond to the considerable support from parents, staff and pupils for the proposal to be approved. HMI has identified that the proposal would lead to clear educational benefits for young people. This includes enhanced transition arrangements, addressing the levels of anxiety experienced by children and reducing the distance pupils have to travel to secondary school.

14.3 There are no obvious or sensible ways to amend the proposal which will provide the same educational benefits as the arrangements outlined in the original Proposal Paper.

14.4 If the Council adopts the proposal, it would be on the basis that the educational benefits set out in the Proposal Paper would materialise. There would also be a requirement that close joint planning with parents, staff and pupils is well managed in ways which are supportive to the pupils concerned, and in their long term interests.

14.5 The key issues that have been highlighted during the consultation period are as follows:

- Almost all the respondents support the Council's proposal.
- The majority of secondary pupils from the Arngask catchment area already attend Kinross High School as a result of successful placing requests.
- The uncertainty and anxiety of securing a secondary school place at Kinross High School for pupils moving on from Arngask Primary School would be removed if the proposal was accepted.
- There would be improved travel arrangements and shorter travel distances for pupils if the proposal was accepted.
- Free home to school transport would be provided for all pupils currently living within the Arngask Primary School catchment area to enable them to attend Kinross High School.
- There would be additional transportation arrangements required if the proposal was accepted.
- The Council's proposals have been generally supported by parents, staff and the wider community.
- The report from HMI acknowledges that the proposal would lead to clear educational benefits for young people attending Arngask Primary School.

14.6 On the basis of the feedback received and taking account of the educational and social benefits of the proposal, it is concluded that the proposal remains the most suitable option.

John Fyffe  
Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)

31 May 2012





Perth & Kinross Council  
Education and Children's Services  
Statutory Consultation Public Meeting

Minute of meeting held on Tuesday 13 March 2012

At 7 pm in Perth Academy, Perth

**Present**

Councillor Bob Band  
Tina Yule

Vice - Convener, Lifelong Learning Committee  
Head of Corporate Business Change and  
Information Technology  
Service Manager - Business and Operations

Karen Robertson

**In Attendance**

Carolyn Noble – Minutes  
Fiona Robertson  
Andy Smith

Inspector, HMI  
Headteacher, Perth Academy

2 members of the public

**WHO**

1. **Welcome and Introductions**  
Councillor Band opened the meeting and welcomed the members of public in attendance to the Statutory Consultation Public Meeting. Councillor Band introduced himself and the panel to the members of the public and thanked them for attending.
2. **Format of meeting**  
Councillor Band explained the format the meeting would follow.
3. **The proposal**  
Councillor Band outlined the consultation proposal to the attendees. The Secondary School catchment area serving Arngask Primary School amended from Perth Academy to Kinross High School from Monday 7 January 2013. There followed two presentations explaining the consultation in further detail.
4. **Presentations**  
**Background**  
Tina Yule gave a presentation explaining the background of the review of school estates and the factors considered when reviewing a catchment area. There has already been strong representation to change the secondary school catchment area for Arngask PS.

### Statutory Consultation Process

Karen Robertson highlighted the proposed catchment areas via a map to the members of the public. An explanation was also provided on the statutory consultation process, including the legal framework; consideration by the Lifelong Learning Committee; the proposal paper including Educational Benefits statement; statutory consultation period, representatives from interested parties; involvement of HMI; preparation of the consultation report and the decision made by the Lifelong Learning Committee. It was noted that the consultation closes on 30 March 2012. KR encouraged all views to be made known thus allowing Elected Members to make a fully informed decision.

Councillor Band then opened up the meeting to any questions or observations from the floor.

### 5. Questions

**Q. The Guardian of a pupil affected wanted re-assurance that a place at Perth Academy and transport will still be provided if the proposal is accepted.**

**A.** The Vice –Convener confirmed this will still be in place and under no circumstance will pupils' education be affected.

### 6. Close and Thanks

Tina Yule thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.



**Perth & Kinross Council  
Education and Children's Services  
Statutory Consultation Public Meeting**

**Minute of meeting held on Thursday 15 March 2012**

**At 7pm in Kinross High School**

**Present**

Councillor George Hayton, Vice Convenor, Lifelong Learning Committee  
Tine Yule, Head of Corporate Business Change and Information Technology  
Karen Robertson, Service Manager, Business and Operational Support

**In Attendance**

Cheryl Gahan – Minutes  
Councillor Kathleen Baird, Perth and Kinross Council  
Dick Keatings, Headteacher, Kinross High School  
Fiona Robertson, Inspector, HMI

16 members of the public

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**WHO**

Councillor George Hayton opened the meeting and welcomed members of the public in attendance to the Statutory Consultation Public Meeting. Councillor Hayton introduced himself.

**2. Format of meeting**

Councillor Hayton explained the format of the meeting.

**3. The proposal**

Tina Yule outlined the proposal to the attendees.  
The secondary school catchment area serving Arngask Primary School should be amended from Perth Academy to Kinross High School from 7 January 2013.

**4. Presentations**

## **Background**

Tina Yule gave a presentation on the factors which were considered when reviewing the catchment area. Tina advised that there are currently 53 children from Arngask Ps who attend Kinross High School. 7 children are currently attending Perth Academy. The old Kinross High School did not have capacity to take children from Arngask (capacity of 675, with roll of 939). The capacity of the new campus which was opened in October 2009 is 1286 with a current roll of 895. This means there is significant capacity for expansion.

There has been strong representation to change the catchment which is mainly focused around distance and transport.

Tina reminded the meeting that we are only in the consultation stage and no decision has been made.

## **Statutory Consultation Process**

Karen Robertson explained that new consultation legislation came into place in 2010. In March 2011 Lifelong Learning School Estate Sub Committee considered the request to start statutory consultation on review of catchment and permission was granted.

In January 2012 the proposal was put to Elected Members and almost 3000 proposal papers were issued which set out the detail/implementation/benefits statement and outlined the transition arrangements.

The Council is required to consult for at least 30 days and we are consulting for 40 days from 2 February 2012 – 30 March 2012. Public meetings are being held in the middle of the consultation period to allow members of the public to hear the rationale behind the review and have time to submit representations.

At the end of the consultation period the proposal and all representations will be sent to HMI who will prepare a report on the proposal. HMI will have 3 weeks to complete and return to Local Authority to review. The Local Authority will publish a report in a further 3 weeks and it is at this point that the report will go to Lifelong Learning Committee for a decision. The first Lifelong Learning Committee following the completion of the consultation exercise will be August 2012.

## **5. Questions**

### **Q: What is the current capacity of Perth Academy?**

A: Tina advised current roll is 1014 with a capacity of 1200.

### **Q: What do parents need to do to get the change to the catchment made?**

A: Karen explained the consultation process requires to be followed from start to finish. (see above)

**Q: What happens to the 53 pupils who already attend Kinross High School if the proposal doesn't go ahead?**

A: Karen explained arrangements would remain the same, pupils can continue to attend Kinross High School as Placing Requests and parents/carers would be responsible for providing transport.

**Q: Who makes up the Lifelong Learning Committee?**

A: Councillor Hayton explained there is a political balance of Councillors, Teachers and Church Representatives.

**Q: Is the Lifelong Learning Committee open to the public?**

A: Councillor Hayton advised anyone can attend the meeting unless a private paper is being discussed.

**Q: Why would Councillors have a political view on a catchment review?**

A: Councillor Baird advised that this only affects pupils in Arngask and she cannot see anyone objecting to this proposal. She advised she is aware that there was not a great representation at the Perth Academy meeting.

**Q: Is silence accepted?**

A: Karen advised that if members of the public do not make a representation to make the Council aware of their views then the Council would take this as acceptance of the proposal.

**Q: Has there been a lot of objections?**

A: Karen advised that to date no objections have been received. However, the consultation period is still open until 30 March 2012.

**Q: Concern raised regarding political agenda?**

A: Councillor Hayton explained that members of the Lifelong Learning Committee would not stand in the way of parental votes. Councillor Hayton advised the Council wants to know what parents/carers want.

*Comment – Councillor Baird advised that all members of the Lifelong Learning Committee supported the review going out for consultation at the January 2012 meeting.*

**Q: What will the HMI report include?**

A: Karen advised this will focus on the educational benefits such as community identity, enhanced transition as a result of places at Kinross High School being guaranteed and ease of travel for pupils.

**Q: When will parents find out the results of the August Lifelong Learning Committee?**

A: Karen advised that the outcome will be known immediately as this is an open meeting.

**Q: Effective dates?**

A: Karen advised the proposal is to change from 7 January 2013. Generally the Council would not make a change to a catchment area mid session, however the reason for this date is to enable P7s transferring to S1 in August 2013 to know the catchment school at the time of transition in January 2013.

**Q: When will transport come into place?**

A: Karen advised that if the proposal is accepted then transport would be provided from 7 January 2013.

*Comment – We can assume that the 53 people who already sent their children to Kinross High School are in favour and have already voted with their feet.*

**Q: Is it worth us as a community going to individual parents/carers to get acceptance? Some people may not have responded as no pre paid envelope.**

A: Karen said the community could do this if they wish and advised that members of the public can submit representations by email rather than post should they wish as detailed in the proposal paper.

**Q: Is there a risk that a new administration will change the goal posts?**

A: Councillor Hayton explained there is no risk. There would still have to be a Lifelong Learning Committee who will make the final decision on the proposal.

**6. Close and Thanks**

Dick Keatings confirmed that the proposed change and effective date are good for the school and will help with transition greatly and pupils could get the benefit of a bus. Dick advised parents this is your opportunity to tell us what you want.

There was a show of hands and all were in favour of the change.

Councillor Hayton thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.



**Perth & Kinross Council**  
**Education and Children's Services**  
**Arngask Primary School**  
**Summary of Consultation Responses**

The statutory consultation on the proposal regarding the secondary school catchment area for Arngask Primary School commenced on 2 February 2012 and closed on 30 March 2012.

The proposal document was issued to the list of consultees contained within the Proposal Paper. 2818 copies of the Proposal Paper were issued. The Proposal Paper was also published on the Council website.

A specific email address was set up for representations and enquiries. This was in addition to the usual methods of submitting representations. There were 4 enquiries made asking for clarification why they had been sent the proposal paper.

26 written submissions were received during the consultation period.

<b>RESPONDENT GROUP</b>	<b>NUMBER OF RESPONSES</b>
Parents	19
Pupils	1
Staff	3
Elected Members	1
Parent Councils	1
Community Councils	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>

Twenty five representations support the proposal and one representation opposes the proposal.

The Council held two public meetings to discuss the proposal. The first was in Perth Academy on Tuesday 13 March 2012. Two members of the public attended this meeting. The second was held in Kinross High School on Thursday 15 March 2012. Sixteen members of the public attended this meeting. The proposal was supported by all members of the public who attended both the public meetings with no objections voiced.

The following points summarise the written responses to the Proposal Paper:

- Great idea!
- I fully agree with the proposal as I already transport 1 child and have transported another for the last 6 years.
- My primary age children already attend Kinross Primary School and we intend to attend Kinross High School in due course. We feel as a family part of the Kinross Community.
- I am in favour of this proposed change.
- I am in favour of this proposed change.



- Agree with proposal.
- The amendment for the catchment area is long overdue. It makes common sense to change it to Kinross High School. It is closer by far and easier to get to. Also cheaper for transport to/from so in turn will save money and be better for the environment.
- I support the change to Kinross High School. I have a child already there and have to pay £1.20 daily for the bus whereas pupils travelling further to Perth are not paying at all. I have 3 younger children and will find it very expensive having to pay for these journeys too. It makes sense to change.
- I wholeheartedly support the proposal to amend the catchment area as a parent of a child attending Arngask Primary.
- I fully support this proposal as a parent of a child at Kinross High School.
- I agree with this proposal.
- I have read the consultation document. I do not object to the proposal. I am a parent of a pupil at Kinross High School.
- I object to the changes in catchment area. I believe that class sizes will enlarge which will effect the education of my child. I firmly believe that Perth and Kinross Council will not make teaching staff redundant at Perth Academy, and take on more staff at Kinross High School, which will result in enlarged class sizes at Kinross.
- It is closer and easier to get to Kinross High School. In an emergency I can get home quicker. It is a new school with brilliant facilities – we would not want to travel further to an older school knowing that Kinross has such a lot to offer. We support the change from Perth Academy to Kinross High School.
- We wholeheartedly support the proposal to change catchment area of Arngask Primary School. It is the nearest secondary school logistically. Our children use the Campus and Kinross Out of School and at weekends. There are no guarantees about placing requests.
- At the meeting of the Glenfarg Community Council on 5 March 2012 it was agreed that we would pass on our support of this proposal to the committee. The community council has always been in favour of such a change.
- I consider this proposal would have a positive effect on the majority of families associated with Arngask School as it would remove their tension when applying for a place at KHS.
- Proposal to use Kinross HS rather than Perth Academy should be accepted.
- As the parent of a child in Arngask School Nursery, I am fully in favour of the catchment area school changing from Perth Academy to Kinross High School. I would look to send my child to Kinross High School even if the change did not take place.
- I fully support the above proposal. Glenfarg (Arngask) is now part of Ward 8 Kinross-shire and change of catchment area seems to be next step. Majority of pupils have attended Kinross on placing requests. Parents and pupils have lived with the uncertainty of not knowing if place would be granted. Kinross is so much nearer.

Free home to school transport would be beneficial to those who have in the past had to pay through placing request. As a Councillor many parents have approached me on this issue.

- Glenfarg has strong links with Kinross basin sharing bus routes and folk festivals. Many children already come to Kinross High. I advertise concerts in Kinross and I always put a poster in Glenfarg. It would seem obvious to make a formal change to match what is happening already.
- As parent of 2 children who both attended Arngask primary and then went on to Kinross High, I fully support this proposal on the grounds of: - financial support with school transport, reducing safety risks for children waiting for long periods for service buses and multiple vehicles accessing school to drop children off and reduction of carbon emissions.
- This should be about the best approach for the children. The Glenfarg community has more links with Kinross than Perth, with reference to clubs, out of school activities etc. Both secondary schools have good reputations, but I feel the children would benefit from an official transition to Loch Leven Comm Campus.
- I refer to your consultation document and whilst I live in Glenfarg, my two children currently attend Kinross Primary School by application; I have every intention to make application for them to attend Kinross High School and certainly not to attend the appropriate school in Perth. They are in P1 and P6 respectively and have attended nursery, school nursery and primary school in Kinross. They also use the facilities at Loch Leven campus. We have no connection with Perth and to put them in a situation where they would be attending as effectively strangers to such an area makes no sense at whatsoever. In practical terms, Kinross is much closer to home (as we're responsible for our own transport). The educational benefits etc outlined in your document also add to the compelling nature of the proposed change. Consequently, the notion of amending the catchment area to allow them to attend Kinross High School by right is one that we wholeheartedly support.
- My son and daughter are due to start High School in 2013. At present all their after school activities take place in Kinross where they have made friends. They would like to continue these friendships which have been built up over a few years and this would not be possible if they had to attend their current catchment school of Perth Academy. In bad weather it would seem sensible that my children would attend their nearest school which is Kinross at 6 miles from Glenfarg as opposed to Perth 12 miles in the opposite direction. Over the last few years all but a small handful of children from Arngask have opted to go to Kinross High, My children still play in the village with these children and would settle better if they attended a high school where there are familiar faces, as opposed to Perth they know nobody.

- While the proposed boundary change has no impact whatsoever on our children and little impact on their secondary school (Perth Academy) I felt the need to contact you with regard to the cost of this exercise. I understand the legal requirement to have a consultation period and the corresponding public meetings. (Despite the fact that, unless I am mistaken, the numbers we are talking about are relatively small). I fail to understand however why, in this technological age, we rely on the very expensive postal system to communicate. The cost of paper, ink, postage, printing and human man hours must be prohibitive. Could the bulk of this not be done electronically? The majority of council tax payers and affected parents surely have access to some form of PC and have their own email address? At the very least most folk have a Facebook profile - could the council not have used a link to their own profile to disseminate this information? All of us pay council tax and I for one feel very strongly that this has NOT been a useful use of these funds. The money spent on this could have been allocated elsewhere to better effect I am sure. Under a freedom of information request I would like to know exactly what the cost of this paper based exercise actually has been. I would be grateful for a response to this specific point as I do intend to raise this further with the higher echelons of the council finance department.

## Consultation proposal by Perth and Kinross Council

**Report by Education Scotland, addressing educational aspects of the proposal to amend the secondary school catchment area serving Arngask Primary School from Perth Academy to Kinross High School from Monday 7 January 2013.**

### 1. Introduction

1.1 Perth and Kinross Council proposes to amend the secondary school catchment area serving Arngask Primary School from Perth Academy to Kinross High School from Monday 7 January 2013.

1.2 The report from Education Scotland is required under the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*. It has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the Act.

1.3 HM Inspectors undertook the following activities in considering the educational aspects of the proposal:

- attendance at the public meetings held on 13 and 15 March 2012 in connection with the council's proposal;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others;
- visits to the site of Arngask Primary School and Kinross High School, including discussion with relevant consultees; and
- discussion with the headteacher of Perth Academy.

1.4 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children of Arngask Primary School and for those young people currently attending Perth Academy and Kinross High School; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and

- benefits which the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

## **2. Consultation process**

2.1 Perth and Kinross Council undertook the initial consultation on its proposals with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*.

2.2 The consultation proposal document was circulated to a wide range of stakeholders including parents, parent councils, staff and members of the wider community. Public meetings were held at Perth Academy and Kinross High School on 13 and 15 March 2012 respectively. The proposal document was circulated widely, including the parents of children currently attending Perth Academy and Kinross High School.

2.3 Almost all of the submissions received during the consultation period supported the proposal. Only two members of the public attended the public meeting held at Perth Academy. The guardian of a pupil affected sought reassurance that a place at Perth Academy and free home to school transport will still be provided if the proposal is accepted. The Vice-Convenor, Lifelong Learning Committee, confirmed that free home to school transport would still be provided for young people who currently attend Perth Academy if the proposal is accepted. Sixteen members of the public attended the public meeting held at Kinross High School. All in attendance were very much in favour of the proposal going ahead.

2.4 For a number of years, most parents from the Arngask catchment area have made placing requests for their children to attend Kinross High School. There are currently, from the Arngask catchment area, seven pupils who attend Perth Academy and fifty-three pupils who attend Kinross High School. Parents of all of the eight children currently in P7 at Arngask Primary School have submitted a placing request to the council for their child to attend Kinross High School from August 2012. The Parent Council for Arngask Primary School and local councillors have made several approaches to Education and Children's Services to request that the secondary school catchment area serving Arngask Primary School is amended to Kinross High School.

2.5 Parents of children at Arngask Primary School and Kinross High School who met with HM Inspectors were satisfied with the consultation process. They believed that the proposal would provide long-term placement certainty for families. They recognise the benefits for their child of attending the nearest secondary school and receiving free home to school transport. Parents of children already attending Kinross High School were unclear as to whether or not they would receive free home to school transport for their child if the proposal was approved.

2.6 Staff at Arngask Primary School, Perth Academy and Kinross High School were satisfied with the consultation process and recognised the educational benefits of the proposal.

2.7 Children and young people were very positive about the proposal. Children in Arngask Primary School felt they would be able to continue friendships made with former pupils as well as those made from their participation in Kinross clubs and activities. Those already attending Kinross High School were pleased about the proposal to receive free home to school transport and hoped that this resulted in an earlier pick up time at the end of the school day than currently provided.

### **3. Educational aspects of the proposal**

3.1 The proposal by Perth and Kinross Council to amend the secondary school catchment area for Arngask Primary School would offer educational benefits for children.

3.2 Currently, due to parental placing requests, children at Arngask Primary School do not access fully the transition programme experienced by their peers in other primaries associated with Perth Academy or Kinross High School. This includes P7 residential trips, transition events and curriculum projects. Children and young people at all stages within Arngask Primary School and Kinross High School would benefit from more formalised and effective school/community links. These benefits include the entitlement to access events and activities organised by the Community Link Worker.

3.3 A number of parents recognised that their child could attend after-school activities and events more easily at Kinross High School as their child was only required to make one journey home on public transport as opposed to two journeys from Perth Academy. Parents report a stronger identity with the Kinross community gained from accessing a range of local services, such as, the library and health centre. Their child's involvement in a range of sporting and cultural activities within the Kinross community provided opportunities for their child to extend friendship groups beyond the Arngask catchment area. Parents felt these extended friendship groups enabled their child to transfer to Kinross High School with greater confidence.

3.4 All of the staff who met with HM Inspectors recognised the educational benefits of the proposal. Within Arngask Primary School, staff felt that the certainty of transition to Kinross High School would have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of children. Currently, from January until May, staff devote a considerable amount of time to the personal, social and emotional wellbeing of P7 children who await the result of their parents' placement request. All of the P7 and S1 pupils who met with HM Inspectors were able to describe the range of emotions they experienced during this time. The council's proposal would do much to address the levels of anxiety experienced by children. Staff at both the primary school and Kinross High School felt that there would be significant educational benefits from being able to work together in a more formalised and planned way in aspects of learning, teaching and the curriculum.

This would also ensure pupils experienced improved continuity and progression in their learning from 3-18.

#### **4. Summary**

4.1 The council's proposal sets out clearly the rationale for the amendment to the secondary school catchment area for Arngask Primary School and the transitional arrangements for those affected by the proposal. There is considerable support from parents, staff and children for the proposal to be approved.

4.2 The council's proposal would lead to clear educational benefits for young people. This includes reducing the distance pupils would have to travel to their secondary school. However, not all parents are clear about the educational benefits. The council needs to strengthen the educational benefits statement within its final report to ensure greater clarity for parents.

4.3 In its final report, the council needs to clarify the home to school transport arrangements for those young people who currently attend Kinross High School and who formerly attended Arngask Primary School.

**HM Inspectors  
Education Scotland  
April 2012**