



PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

CONSULTATION REPORT

**REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION
RELATING TO THE CATCHMENT AREA OF LOGIEALMOND
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 catchment area of Logiealmond Primary School be extended to subsume the delineated area of Glenalmond College site with a corresponding reduction in the catchment area of Methven Primary 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 23 February 2012 and 28 February 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 23 February 2012 and 28 February 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 In conducting a review of the school estate, Logiealmond Primary School was identified as one of four primary schools that met the criteria for further appraisal. At its meeting on 25 August 2010, the Lifelong Learning Committee of Perth and Kinross Council approved the report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) Review of School Estate – Logiealmond Primary School Report (10/428 refers). It agreed to proceed with undertaking an Options Appraisal, and, if appropriate, produce a Proposal Paper containing an Educational Benefits Statement in respect of Logiealmond Primary School.
- 2.2 On 31 August 2011, the Lifelong Learning Committee of Perth and Kinross Council approved the report Review of School Estate – Logiealmond Primary School Option Appraisal Report (Report 11/428 refers). This report advised of the outcome of the Options Appraisal undertaken in respect of Logiealmond Primary School.
- 2.3 In undertaking the Options Appraisal for Logiealmond Primary School, representation was received from Logiealmond Parent Council on the possibility of undertaking a limited review of the catchment area within the Glenalmond College site.
- 2.4 On 11 January 2012, the Lifelong Learning Committee approved the report Statutory Consultation - Logiealmond Primary School Catchment Area (Report 12/1 refers). The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) was instructed to formally consult the appropriate bodies and persons in relation to a limited review of the catchment area for Logiealmond Primary School.
- 2.5 Lifelong Learning Committee reports, Options Appraisal Report and Proposal Paper referred to above are available on the Council's website www.pkc.gov.uk.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

The main considerations relating to the proposed amendment to the catchment area of Logiealmond Primary School are fully explained in the proposal paper and the main points are highlighted below:

- 3.1 The Logiealmond Primary School catchment area, as it is currently drawn, splits the Glenalmond College site with school pupils being included in either Logiealmond Primary School or Methven Primary School catchment areas.

- 3.2 Due to operational reasons at Glenalmond College, families can be requested to move to different accommodation and thus the primary school aged pupils can then find themselves falling in to a different primary school catchment area. This can cause school and transport difficulties for families seeking continuity of education at one primary school for their children. The proposal considers enveloping the whole of the curtilage of Glenalmond College site within one primary school catchment area.

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 25 January 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.

The Proposal Paper made clear to consultees that the consultation period would run until Friday 23 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 catchment area of Logiealmond Primary School be extended to subsume the delineated area of Glenalmond College site with a corresponding reduction in the catchment area of Methven Primary 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 25 January 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.
- Copies were also available at the Council Headquarters, Logiealmond Primary School and Methven Primary School.
- An advertisement ran in the Courier and Advertiser and Perthshire Advertiser newspapers on 25 and 27 January 2012.
- Two public meetings were held to discuss the proposal. The first was held at Chapelhill Hall on 23 February 2012. The second was held on 28 February 2012 at Methven Primary School.
- The Consultation period ended on 23 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 Logiealmond Primary School and Methven Primary 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 268.

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 Chapelhill Hall on Thursday 23 February 2012. Four 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 Methven Primary School on Tuesday 28 February 2012. Three 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 both Logiealmond and Methven have no concerns with the Council's proposal.

6. RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE

In all, six written responses were received during the consultation period. The six written responses represent three families.

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

- arrangements for school transport.
- the benefits for Logiealmond Primary School and parents of Glenalmond College.
- concern regarding privately owned properties within the affected area which have no connection to Glenalmond College.
- query regarding the Council's projected roll figures.
- concern that future house building would increase school rolls and it may be necessary to revisit catchment areas again.
- concern that Logiealmond Primary School is not currently supported by the local community with the majority of parents sending their children to other schools.
- concern regarding the future of Logiealmond Primary School being uncertain due to falling pupil numbers.

7. EDUCATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO WRITTEN AND ORAL REPRESENTATIONS

7.1 Future Pupil Numbers and Roll Projections

The future of Logiealmond appears uncertain and is dependant on the school achieving the projected level of pupil numbers. Already the school roll has not achieved the projected pupil numbers and therefore could be subject to future consideration for closure.

The whole school estate across Perth and Kinross is reviewed on an annual basis looking at criteria such as current pupil rolls, projected pupil rolls, occupancy levels, number and location of future housing developments, occupancy and distance of nearest neighbouring schools.

The Council is aware that the pupil roll at Logiealmond Primary School has fallen significantly since the start of school session 2011/2012, when approval was given to commence formal consultations on the proposal to undertake a limited review of the catchment area. The school roll has decreased by almost 30% since August 2011. This information will be carefully considered by the Council as part of the annual School Estate Review.

A concern was raised that the projected roll figures are wrong.

The pupil roll at Logiealmond Primary School at the time of calculating the projected rolls was 14 pupils. The projected rolls are calculated using an agreed formula of average Primary 1 intakes over a period of 5 years to calculate the Primary 1 intake figures past the figures which are known. The projected rolls within Perth and Kinross Council are consistently accurate to within 0.3% - 0.4% on an annual basis.

However, the projected rolls are checked and updated annually once the following year's Census figures are published. This allows the Council to check the projections against the actual number of pupils on Census day. This ensures that any spikes or dips in the pupil numbers which have occurred during the school session, which may not have been foreseen, are then accounted for when the projected roll figures are updated and rolled forward for future years. It will be necessary to recalculate the projected rolls for Logiealmond Primary School as it is now known that a significant number of pupils have left since the Census was published and the Primary 1 intake for August 2012 has not reached the projected level. This will have an impact on the projected rolls from 2012 – 2018.

Logiealmond PS does not appear to be supported by the local community with only 36% of the pupils living within the catchment area attending the school.

The Council is aware of 16 children who live in Logiealmond catchment area but whose parents have chosen to send them to other schools. This represents 64% of the children living in the catchment area for Logiealmond Primary School. It is the parents' legal right to send their child to the school of their choice and Councils are required by law to grant these requests wherever possible.

Councils may only refuse placing requests where there is a specific legal reason for doing so, and this decision is not taken lightly as parents have a statutory right of appeal to an Appeal Committee and the Sheriff Court if their request is refused by the Council.

7.2 Proposed Boundary Change

How many private houses are owned within Glenalmond College site?

Of the 21 properties within the site, 9 houses are privately owned and have no connection to Glenalmond College.

A concern was raised regarding the proposed boundary change. This would affect all the private houses in the area that have no connection to Glenalmond College. This equates to nearly 45% of the properties in the area.

It is agreed that this is a valid point which requires to be carefully considered by the Lifelong Learning Committee. All school catchments require to have clearly defined boundaries and that it would be difficult to draw a boundary line which included only Glenalmond College properties when these were intermixed with private properties in the same area.

It was suggested that the boundary line should only encompass the college owned properties.

Both schools require to have clearly defined catchment areas which will not alter on the basis of property ownership. The privately owned properties and the college owned properties are intermixed within the proposed area for change and, therefore, it is not possible to draw a clear boundary line which only encompasses college owned properties.

How many children would be affected by the proposal from private housing in the Glenalmond College site?

At this time, the proposal would affect 4 pupils from private housing who currently live within the catchment area for Methven Primary School. There are currently 4 pupils from Glenalmond College properties who would be affected by the proposal. These pupils are already attending Logiealmond Primary School as a result of successful placing requests.

7.3 Transport Issues

How can pupils in the Logiealmond catchment area catch the school bus to Methven?

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 primary schools, that is 2 miles. In rural areas it is often the case that there is no public transport and taxis require to be used in some cases.

Where pupils are not entitled to be provided with transport by the Council, the Council's policy allows consideration to be given to the allocation of concessionary seats on school contract vehicles which have spare seats where non entitled pupils attend schools as the result of successful placing requests.

If the proposal is approved, free home to school transport would be provided for all entitled pupils to attend their catchment schools. 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 Methven Primary School should their parents wish for them to remain at the same school they currently attend.

7.4 **House building and School Capacities**

In future, there could be more houses with more children per household increasing the pupil roll at either or both schools. What would be the process for this?

Within Perth and Kinross, the whole school estate is reviewed on an annual basis so increasing school rolls are identified along with any capacity issues. These are reported to the School Estate Sub Committee of the Lifelong Learning Committee where action is, or may be, required to be taken to address capacity issues. This could include building works required or reducing school catchment areas to manage pupil numbers.

7.5 **Miscellaneous**

The cost of the consultation exercise was commented upon.

Councils are legally required 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.

Are objections available to the public to consider?

Representations are restricted to Council Officers, Elected Members and HMI. The final consultation report will have all views reported in a summary including reasons for agreeing and objecting to the proposal.

What happens when the report goes to Lifelong Learning Committee? Is that it?

The decision of the Lifelong Learning Committee will be final. However, the school estate is under continual review. House building in the area is currently static although this may not be the case in the future. Parental choice is a significant factor affecting school rolls and the Council keeps this under continual review.

Can schools make a representation?

Staff in both affected schools were sent copies of the proposal paper and were able to make representations.

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 Logiealmond Primary School and Methven Primary School to speak to pupils, parents and staff. They attended the public meetings on 23 February 2012 and 28 February 2012 and had the opportunity to review in detail the proposal paper and the 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, overall, the proposal is likely to lead to educational benefit as it would ensure continuity for families living in properties owned by Glenalmond College (HMI para 4.1).
- HMI noted that almost all staff, families and children are supportive of the Council's proposal (HMI para 2.2).
- In addition, it is noted that the Council should ensure families are clear about the transition arrangements, particularly in relation to transport. The Council should also endeavour to minimise disruption for families who do not live in Glenalmond owned properties. Also, if the proposal is taken forward, the Council should consider implementing the proposal from August 2012 to ensure continuity from the start of the school session (HMI para 4.2).

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 should ensure families are clear about the transition arrangements, particularly in relation to transport.

The Council recognises that changes to school catchment areas can raise particular issues for some families. Changes could mean that a younger child is deemed to have a different catchment school from their elder sibling attending school under a previous arrangement.

There are special transitional arrangements proposed to support any families who may be in this situation.

The transitional arrangements are proposed to give flexibility and choice for families directly affected by the proposed change to the catchment area. These arrangements would last for a limited period of time.

For children of families who currently live in the area affected by the proposed change of catchment school, it is proposed that the following arrangements would apply during the transitional period:

- If the offer of a place at Methven Primary School has already been made by the time of the Council decision, these will be honoured by the Council.
- Children would continue to attend Methven Primary School until they finish their education there unless parents/carers choose to transfer them to their new catchment school, Logiealmond Primary School.
- If these children are currently entitled to, and receive, free home to school transport to Methven Primary School, that arrangement would continue.
- Younger brothers or sisters of a child currently attending their existing catchment school of Methven Primary School would be given priority to attend the same school, where requested, and where possible. This status is retained as long as there is an older brother or sister attending the school. This will support children in the same family to go to the same school, where possible.

It is not proposed that assistance with school transport would specifically be made available for siblings to attend Methven Primary School from the affected area. In some instances, transport may be available for siblings of existing school pupils on a concessionary basis for the period of the transitional arrangements but this could not be guaranteed.

The Council should also endeavour to minimise disruption for families who do not live in Glenalmond owned properties.

The Council acknowledges the concerns of families who do not live in Glenalmond owned properties and the impact this proposal may have, if implemented. The Council is committed to supporting these families by ensuring that no child will be required to change schools should this proposal be implemented. Children currently attending Methven Primary School from the affected area will be able to continue to attend Methven Primary School and the Council will continue to transport these pupils until they finish their education there.

If the proposal is taken forward, the Council should consider implementing the proposal from August 2012 to ensure continuity from the start of the school session.

It is not possible to consider implementing this proposal from August 2012. The proposal paper outlined the timeframe for the statutory consultation process and the final consideration by Elected Members of the Lifelong Learning Committee will not take place before the start of the new school session in August 2012. Therefore a decision on this proposal will not have been made to allow the proposal to be implemented from August 2012. To ensure continuity from the start of a school session, the Council would require to consider the implementation date, if approved, being August 2013.

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 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 fit for purpose catchment areas for both Logiealmond Primary School and Methven 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 23 February 2012 and 28 February 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 transport is currently serving both Logiealmond Primary School and Methven Primary School.

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 recognising that one family has raised an objection to the proposal.

14.3 The one obvious way to amend the proposal is to change the affected area. The Council also has to be mindful of increasing the number of pupils who may be affected by the proposed change and recognises that to increase or amend the affected area would require further consultation, which may not be acceptable to other parents.

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:

- There has been limited representation made in response to the Council's proposal. Almost all the parents in the catchment area for Logiealmond Primary School have opted to send their children to larger neighbouring schools by means of successful placing requests and, therefore, are not affected by the proposal.

- The proposed boundary change will be beneficial to Glenalmond College staff living in properties owned by Glenalmond College.
- There are a large number of properties contained within the affected area (45%) which are privately owned and have no connection with Glenalmond College.
- It is not possible to redraw the boundary line to include only Glenalmond College owned properties.
- The school roll at Logiealmond Primary School has decreased by almost 30% since approval was given to commence formal consultations on the review of the catchment area. Logiealmond Primary School occupancy is now operating at 20.8%.
- Free home to school transport would be provided for pupils currently living within the existing Methven Primary School catchment area to enable them to continue to attend Methven Primary School.
- There would be some additional transportation arrangements required if the proposal was accepted.
- The Council's proposals have been generally unopposed by parents and the wider community.
- The report from HMI acknowledges that the proposal is likely to lead to educational benefits to children who attend Logiealmond Primary School in terms of ensuring continuity for families living in properties owned by Glenalmond College.

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 Thursday 23 February 2012

At 7 pm in Chapelhill Hall, Chapelhill

Present

Councillor Elizabeth Grant	Convener, Lifelong Learning Committee
Tina Yule	Head of Corporate Business Change and IT
Karen Robertson	Service Manager - Business and Operations

In Attendance

Pamela Bicocchi – Minutes	
Jacqueline Horsburgh	Inspector, HMI
Joan Murray	Headteacher, Logiealmond Primary School

4 members of the public

WHO

1. Welcome and Introductions

Councillor Grant opened the meeting and welcomed members of public in attendance to the Statutory Consultation Public Meeting. Councillor Grant introduced herself, the other speakers and explained who the members of Lifelong Learning Committee are and the role of the Committee.

2. Format of meeting

Councillor Grant explained the format the meeting would follow.

3. The proposal

Councillor Grant clarified the proposal is that the catchment area of Logiealmond Primary School be extended to subsume the delineated area of Glenalmond College site with a corresponding reduction in the catchment area of Methven Primary School from Monday 7 January 2013.

4. Presentations

Background

Tina Yule gave a presentation on the background of the review of school estates and the factors considered. It was noted that this consultation is a review of the Glenalmond College site only as current catchment areas within the Glenalmond College site are dependant on the location of the property.

Statutory Consultation Process

Karen Robertson gave a presentation on the legal framework, the proposal paper, each stage of the statutory consultation process and the timescales for each of these stages. It was noted that the consultation closes on 23 March 2012. KR encouraged all views to be made known thus allowing Elected Members to make a fully informed decision.

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

5. Questions

Q. The cost of the consultation exercise was commented upon.

A. KR explained that a statutory consultation must be undertaken 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 and inclusive. Councillor Grant noted that following a consultation process allows the Council's actions to be audited.

Q. Are objections available to the public to consider?

A. KR advised that representations are restricted to Council Officers, Elected Members and HMI. The final consultation report will have all views reported in a summary including reasons for agreeing and objecting to the proposal. It was noted that as there are 21 properties in the affected area there may be some concern with regard to the longer term transition arrangements.

Q. How can pupils in the Logiealmond catchment area catch the school bus to Methven?

A. KR explained the Council's policy with regard to allocation of concessionary seats.

Q. What happens when the report goes to Lifelong Learning Committee? Is that it?

A. Councillor Grant stated yes; that the decision of the Lifelong Learning Committee will be final. However, the school estate is under continual review. House building is currently static although this may not be the case in the future. Parental choice is a significant factor affecting school rolls. A member of the public noted that lack of after school care was often stated as an issue, however, facilities were now available in the area so it was hoped that this would change.

Q. Can schools make a representation?

KR informed the meeting that staff in both affected schools had been sent copies of the proposal paper and were able to make representations.

6. Close and Thanks

Councillor Grant thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.50pm.



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

Minute of meeting held on Tuesday 28 February 2012

At 7 pm in Methven Primary School, Methven

Present

Councillor George Hayton	Vice - Convener, Lifelong Learning Committee
Tina Yule	Head of Corporate Business Change and Information Technology
Sheena Devlin	Head of Education - Early Years & Primary
Karen Robertson	Service Manager - Business and Operations

In Attendance

Carolyn Noble – Minutes	
Councillor Wilma Lumsden	Perth and Kinross Council
Jacqueline Horsburgh	Inspector, HMI
Linda Findlay	Headteacher, Methven Primary School

3 members of the public

WHO

1. Welcome and Introductions

Councillor Hayton opened the meeting and welcomed the members of public in attendance to the Statutory Consultation Public Meeting. Councillor Hayton introduced himself and the panel to the members of the public and thanked them for attending.

2. Format of meeting

Councillor Hayton explained the format the meeting would follow.

3. The proposal

Karen Robertson explained the consultation proposal to the attendees. The catchment area of Logiealmond Primary School be extended to subsume the delineated area of Glenalmond College site with a corresponding reduction in the catchment area of Methven Primary School from Monday 7 January 2013. There were two presentations explaining the consultation in further detail.

4. Presentations

Background

Tina Yule gave a presentation on the background of the review of school estates and the factors considered. It was noted that the consultation is a review of the Glenalmond College site only as current catchment areas within the Glenalmond College site are dependant on the location of the property.

In relation to the map shown on the presentation, a question was asked by a member of the public regarding how many private houses are owned within Glenalmond College site. KR advised that of the 21 properties within the site, 9 houses are privately owned.

Statutory Consultation Process

Karen Robertson gave a presentation on each stage of the statutory consultation process including the legal framework, the Proposal Paper including the Education Benefits and the timescales for each of these stages. It was noted that the consultation closes on 23 March 2012. KR encouraged all views to be made known thus allowing Elected Members to make a fully informed decision.

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

5. Questions

- Q. A concern was raised regarding the proposed boundary change. This would affect all the private houses in the area that have no connection to Glenalmond College. This equates to nearly 45% of the properties in the area.**
- A.**

It was agreed that this was a valid point to feedback to the Lifelong Learning Committee. It was explained that it would be difficult to draw a boundary line which included only Glenalmond College properties when these were intermixed with private properties in the same area. However, it was noted by KR that all school catchments require to have clearly defined boundaries.

A discussion took place regarding transport issues. KR explained the Council's policy with regard to the allocation of concessionary seats and transport issues where non entitled pupils attend schools as the result of successful placing requests.

- Q. How many children would be affected by the proposal from private housing in the Glenalmond College site?**

- A.** The panel advised that this figure would be checked and feedback provided to Councillor Lumsden. Following the meeting this figure was advised as 4 pupils.

- Q. In future, there could be more houses with more children per household increasing the pupil roll at either or both schools. What would be the process for this?**
- A.**

The meeting was advised that the whole school estate is reviewed on an annual basis so increasing school rolls are identified along with any capacity issues. These are reported to the School Estate Sub Committee of the Lifelong Learning Committee where action is required to be taken to address capacity issues. This could include building works required or reducing school catchment areas to manage pupil numbers.

6. **Close and Thanks**

Councillor Hayton reminded the attendees if they have any further questions they should direct these to the contact details given earlier in the meeting.

Councillor Hayton thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.



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

The statutory consultation on the proposal regarding the catchment area for Logiealmond Primary School commenced on 25 January 2012 and closed on 23 March 2012.

The proposal document was issued to the list of consultees contained within the Proposal Paper. 268 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 no enquiries made requesting additional information. Six written submissions were received.

RESPONDENT GROUP	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Parents	4
Pupils	2
Total	6

These six responses represent 3 families.

FAMILY	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Family 1	3
Family 2	2
Family 3	1
Total	6

The Council held two public meetings to discuss the proposal. The first was in Chapelhill Hall on Thursday 23 February 2012. Four members of the public attended this meeting. The second was held in Methven Primary School on Tuesday 28 February 2012. Three members of the public attended this meeting.

The following points summarise the verbal issues raised at the meeting and in the written response to the Proposal Paper:

- The boundary change will be beneficial for a significant proportion of both current and future pupils at Logiealmond and the school in general.
- The proposed boundary change makes excellent sense as it will benefit Logiealmond Primary School and the pupils that attend. It will also have no appreciable negative impact for Methven PS.

- This change appears very sensible, in giving college staff a quick answer to the catchment they will be residing in no matter where they reside on the college estate. Also on the plus side it increases Logiealmond's catchment which can only be a good thing.
- I would like the families to become part of our school.
- I would like to go on the bus like my friends.
- The cost of undertaking the consultation exercise was commented upon.
- Will individual objections be available to the public to consider?
- What will the arrangements for transport be if this proposal is accepted?
- Is the decision of the Lifelong Learning Committee final?
- The privately owned properties within the affected area have no connection with Glenalmond College. This equates to nearly 45% of the properties in the affected area.
- It was suggested that the boundary line should only encompass the college owned properties.
- There was concern that future house building would increase the pupil rolls and it may be necessary to revisit catchment areas again in the future.
- Logiealmond PS does not appear to be supported by the local community with only 36% of the pupils living within the catchment area attending the school.
- The future of Logiealmond appears uncertain and is dependant on the school achieving the projected level of pupil numbers. Already the school roll has not achieved the projected pupil numbers and therefore could be subject to future consideration for closure.

Consultation proposal by Perth and Kinross Council

Report by Education Scotland, addressing educational aspects of the proposal to extend the catchment area of Logiealmond Primary School.

1. Introduction

1.1 Perth and Kinross Council proposes to extend the catchment area of Logiealmond Primary School.

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 23 and 28 February 2012 in connection with the council's proposals;
- 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;
- consideration of further information on all schools affected; and
- visits to the site of Logiealmond Primary School and Methven Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

1.4 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of Logiealmond Primary School and Methven Primary 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 Almost all staff, families and children in both Logiealmond and Methven Primary Schools are supportive of the proposals. Staff consider that the increased numbers of children at Logiealmond Primary School would enhance opportunities for children to socialise and learn alongside more children of their own age. It was felt that the slight fall in numbers at Methven Primary School would not be detrimental to children's learning.

2.3 Staff and parents in both schools felt that the proposals would provide stability and certainty for parents living in Glenalmond College properties.

2.4 A few children attending Logiealmond Primary School were pleased about the proposals as they would be able to travel to school on the bus with their friends.

2.5 A few respondents queried why the proposals extended beyond the Glenalmond College properties to include other housing in the area.

2.6 A number of staff and parents considered that it would have been preferable if the proposals could have taken effect from the beginning of the school year 2012/2013 in August 2012. It was considered that this would have reduced changes for the children as they would all be able to travel together from the start of the session.

2.7 A few respondents were concerned that any child who began the school year 2012/2013 attending Methven Primary School and being eligible for school transport may no longer be eligible in January 2013.

3. Educational aspects of the proposal

3.1 Logiealmond Primary School staff welcome the possible increase in the school roll as suggested by the proposal as this could enable the school to consider options for class organisation and the delivery of the curriculum. It may also increase opportunities for children to work collaboratively with peers of a similar age, stage and gender.

3.2 The proposed extended catchment area may result in an increase in numbers of members of the community who are able to support the school, for example, in helping with projects, outings and initiatives. This may enhance learners' experience.

3.3 The proposal would simplify travel arrangements for some families and enable children living in Glenalmond College owned properties to travel together to Logiealmond Primary School.

3.4 It would also provide children with the opportunity to learn and socialise with a larger number of children of a similar age.

4. Summary

Perth and Kinross Council has set out a positive, well-reasoned case for its proposal to extend the catchment area of Logiealmond Primary School. Overall, the proposal is likely to lead to educational benefit as it would ensure continuity for families living in properties owned by Glenalmond College. In taking forward the proposal the council should ensure that all families living in the area are clear about the transition arrangements particularly in relation to transport. They should also endeavour to minimise disruption for families who do not live in Glenalmond owned properties. If the proposals are taken forward the council should consider implementing them from August 2012 in order to ensure continuity from the start of the school session.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
April 2012**