



PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

CONSULTATION REPORT

**REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION
RELATING TO THE RELOCATION OF THE EXISTING CRIEFF
PRIMARY SCHOOL TO A NEW SCHOOL ON A SITE
ADJACENT TO STRATHEARN COMMUNITY CAMPUS**

27 JUNE 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:

Education provision at the existing Crieff Primary School is relocated to a new school on a site adjacent to Strathearn Community Campus with effect from Tuesday 19 August 2014, or as soon as possible thereafter.

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 11 December 2012 and 10 January 2013; 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 11 December 2012 and 10 January 2013;
- 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 On 30 June 2010, the Council approved the report Securing the Future – Towards 2015 and Beyond (Report 10/357 refers). This report set out its continuing strategy for securing the future, aiming to support the delivery of savings through revised service delivery models and ongoing improvement activities in the Council. Education and Children’s Service’s Service Review Programme within this report contains a re-design project to “review the school estate”.
- 2.2 The buildings at Crieff Primary School have evolved over the past century with additional accommodation being added to the original building. The existing Crieff Primary School building rates as C in terms of condition and C in terms of suitability as outlined in the Core Facts returns that are submitted to the Scottish Government as part of Perth and Kinross Council’s School Estate Management Plan.
- 2.3 Funding for a replacement Crieff Primary School was approved by Perth and Kinross Council in March 2012 to proceed with the capital building project.
- 2.4 On 8 March 2012, the Lifelong Learning School Estate Sub-Committee approved the report Capital Programme 2012/13 – 2016/17 (Report 12/114 refers). Contained within this report was the recommendation to approve a statutory consultation takes place regarding the proposal to relocate the existing Crieff Primary School to a new school on a site adjacent to Strathearn Community Campus from Tuesday 19 August 2014.
- 2.5 On 31 October 2012, the Lifelong Learning Committee approved the report Statutory Consultation - Relocation of Crieff Primary School (Report 12/486 refers). The Executive Director (Education and Children’s Services) was instructed to formally consult the appropriate bodies and persons in relation to the proposal to relocate the existing Crieff Primary School to a new school on a new site.
- 2.6 Lifelong Learning Committee reports 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 proposal that education provision at the existing Crieff Primary School is relocated to a new school on a site adjacent to Strathearn Community Campus are fully explained in the proposal paper and the main points are highlighted overleaf:

- 3.1 The roll at Crieff Primary School is predicted to rise in future years.
- 3.2 The new Crieff Primary School will be built with a capacity for 434 primary pupils initially, but with sufficient core areas that additional accommodation could be provided for future generations. A nursery with 40 places in the morning and 40 places in the afternoon will be provided. The nursery will be designed so it can provide an extended number of places in the future.
- 3.3 Perth and Kinross Council is committed to delivering entitlements to learners in the 21st century according to a Curriculum for Excellence.
- 3.4 A new Crieff Primary School will provide a high quality learning environment offering greater flexibility for all school activities. The suitability of the new school building will be at the heart of the design process. It should be an attractive place to learn that inspires pupils to engage with the curriculum.
- 3.5 The new building could adapt to future learning requirements, and the design process will ensure that all spaces support the learning and teaching styles of the 21st Century.
- 3.6 The condition of the building will be a significant improvement on the current school, making the environment more attractive to learners.
- 3.7 The new school will provide more space per pupil; will be fully accessible and equipped with modern ICT solutions to ensure that the best learning opportunity is afforded to every pupil.
- 3.8 It is believed that this proposal will not have an adverse impact on pupils of any other schools in the authority's area. There are no changes being proposed to the catchment area serving the new school and, therefore, will not impact on admission arrangements for children living in adjacent catchment areas. It is recognised that there is the potential for parents of pupils living in other catchment areas to consider submitting placing requests for their child to attend the new school. However, parents currently already have the same right to make such requests at the moment for the existing Crieff Primary School.
- 3.9 Owing to the short distance between the existing school and the proposed site of the new school there should be no detrimental impact on existing users of Crieff Primary School. The improved quality of facilities and improved access for community use will not adversely impact on existing users of Crieff Primary School.

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 31 October 2012. An electronic link to the Proposal Paper was issued by letter on 16 November 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 25 January 2013 – a period of 38 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:

Education provision at the existing Crieff Primary School is relocated to a new school on a site adjacent to Strathearn Community Campus with effect from Tuesday 19 August 2014, or as soon as possible thereafter.

- 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 16 November 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 Pullar House, the Council Headquarters at 2 High Street, Crieff Primary School, Strathearn Community Library and local Council area offices in the vicinity.
 - An advertisement ran in the Courier and Advertiser, Perthshire Advertiser and Strathearn Herald newspapers on 16 and 20 November 2012.
 - Two public meetings were held to discuss the proposal. The first was held at Strathearn Community Campus on 11 December 2012. The second was held on 10 January 2013 at Strathearn Community Campus
 - The Consultation period ended on 25 January 2013.
 - Her Majesty's Inspectorate involvement consisted of: the proposal document being sent to them, attendance at the public meeting on 10 January 2013 and meeting with a sample of pupils, staff and parents on 19 February 2013. 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 school was identified as Crieff Primary School. In accordance with statutory requirements, the following persons were consulted:

- The Parent Council of the affected school.
- The parents of the pupils and children who may attend the affected school.
- 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 school.
- The trade union representatives of the above staff.
- The Community Council.
- Relevant users of the affected school.
- 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 letters issued with details of the proposal paper was 614.

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 five weeks before a final decision is taken by Perth and Kinross Council.

5. THE PUBLIC MEETINGS

5.1 A public meeting was held in Strathearn Community Campus on Tuesday 11 December 2012. Eleven 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 Strathearn Community Campus on Thursday 10 January 2013. Twenty one 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 attendees at the public meetings and the questions and issues raised, indicate that almost all the parents and community members from Crieff Primary School have no concerns with the Council's proposal to relocate the existing Crieff Primary School to a new school on a site adjacent to the Strathearn Community Campus.

6. RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE

In all, two written responses were received during the consultation period. Both representations support the proposal and no representations were made opposing 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:

- Concerns regarding the safety and lighting of Broich Road. Increased road traffic, traffic congestion and speed limit concerns in the area. Car parking and bus bay provision. Road infrastructure and improvements. Safe access for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Plans for wraparound care in the new school and continuation of breakfast club and reintroduction of out of school care clubs.
- Use of shared facilities with the campus and the requirement for green space at the new primary school.
- Queries regarding the chosen architects and use of HubCo to design and build the new school. Confidence in use of HubCo and best value for the Council. Timescale for the project to be completed.
- Query regarding St Dominic's RC Primary School moving to the new school/merging with Crieff Primary School. Possibility of a new sports pavilion between the campus and the new primary school. Concern regarding possible Police Station at campus.
- The role of the User Reference Group and representation on the group. The disposal and use of the current school building. Future capacity of the new school and pupil roll numbers.

7. EDUCATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO WRITTEN AND ORAL REPRESENTATIONS

- 7.1 **Concerns regarding road safety, traffic congestion, road infrastructure, parking and safe access for pedestrians and cyclists**

The Council agrees these issues are a concern and the Council will be working with the architects on the design of the new school and road infrastructure. All comments made during the consultation period and feedback from the User Reference Group will be taken on board to ensure these are considered. There will be representation from Roads Services on the User Reference Group to ensure their full involvement in the design of the new primary school. This will allow the requirements for the new primary school and past issues which were not addressed at the time to be fully considered as part of this project.

7.2 Plans for wraparound care in the new school and continuation of breakfast club and reintroduction of out of school care clubs

This will be considered by the User Reference Group in taking forward the proposal. All current facilities provided by Crieff Primary School will continue in the new school. Any additional provision will require to be considered by the Head of Education and Early Years.

7.3 Use of shared facilities with the campus and the requirement for green space at the new primary school

The new primary school will have access to the facilities at the community campus. One of the main advantages of for the new site is the proximity to the community campus and the primary school being able to use the campus sports and leisure facilities, which the pupils will benefit highly from. The new primary school will have its own green space.

7.4 Queries regarding the chosen architects and use of HubCo to design and build the new school

The Council is working with HubCo (set up by the Scottish Government) which is a private sector partnership to develop and construct the new school in Crieff as well as Oakbank Primary School. There are currently sixty consultants and further information can be found on the HubCo website. Perth and Kinross is not the first or only Council to use HubCo and there are no concerns contracting them for the new school at Crieff. The Council is confident that that it will get best value for money using HubCo and prices will be confirmed when the designs for the new school are created. The indicative timescale for the project is very ambitious and will be confirmed when procurement to facilitate the construction element of the project is undertaken.

7.5 Query regarding St Dominic's RC Primary School moving to the new school/merging with Crieff Primary School

There are no plans for merging Crieff Primary School and St Dominic's RC Primary School together. St Dominic's RC Primary School will not be moving to the new Crieff Primary School. Discussions had taken place previously as part of the initial planning which had included both primary schools.

However, this was not agreed by St Dominic's RC Primary School or the Roman Catholic Church representatives when they were consulted

7.6 Possibility of a new sports pavilion between the campus and the new primary school

This suggestion should be referred to the User Reference Group in due course for consideration.

7.7 Concern regarding possible Police Station at campus

The Police Force is currently consulting on this matter. It is possible, but that decision would not be taken by the Council. The Police Scotland website can provide further information on the consultation.

7.8 The role of the User Reference Group and representation on the group

There will be a range of representation on the group from all local interest groups, including the Parent Council, and the representative of parents will usually be the Chairperson of the Parent Council. Once the designs are created, the User Reference Group will meet to discuss these. The school and the Parent Council will continue to work with parents to gather views and ensure feedback of all issues to the User Reference Group.

7.9 The disposal and use of the current school building

At this point in time it is unknown what will happen with the current school building. Education and Children's Services will liaise with other services in the Council to establish if the building is required for any new projects in accordance with the Council's Disposal Policy. If it is not required, it is likely the building will go on the property market.

7.10 Future capacity of the new school and pupil roll numbers

The current pupil roll at Crieff Primary School is 336 pupils and the highest anticipated roll is 436 pupils. The new school will be built with capacity for 434 pupils initially but with sufficient core areas that additional accommodation could be provided for future generations. A nursery with 40 places in the morning and 40 places in the afternoon will be provided. The nursery will be designed so it can provide an extended number of places in the future, if required. The school will be built in phases in accordance with the projected school roll. The current analysis shows that a double stream school and associated facilities will be required from the outset. This will then be developed up to a triple stream school, in line with any revised projected roll as more information relating to the housing output rate is known.

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 Crieff Primary School to speak to pupils, parents and staff. HMI attended the public meeting on 10 January 2013 and had the opportunity to review in detail the proposal paper and a summary of the 2 written responses and oral responses.

8.3 The HMI report is reproduced in full (Appendix 4).

8.4 The report broadly supports the proposal and is summarised below:

- HMI indicate that there is general agreement amongst stakeholders that the current Crieff Primary School building is no longer an appropriate learning environment for children in the 21st century. There is agreement that this cannot be achieved by modification of the existing building (HMI para 4.1).
- HMI advise that the proposed site for the new school has clear educational benefits for children and these have been identified and agreed by school staff, parents and the children (HMI para 4.2).
- HMI noted that all stakeholders agree that having a new school will bring educational benefits for children. An improved learning environment will benefit children and enhance opportunities for learning and teaching. Transition will be enhanced by the adjacent locations and children with autism will benefit through having appropriately designed facilities (HMI para 4.3).
- HMI point out that the Council needs to ensure that concerns about vehicular access are addressed as the design for the school is developed (HMI para 4.4).
- HMI indicate that the Council needs to ensure that parents are kept aware of how these concerns are being addressed as the development proceeds (HMI para 4.4).

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 make sure that the concerns about vehicular access to the school are addressed as the design for the school and its surroundings are developed.

The Council's Road Services department was represented at the public meetings to establish first hand the concerns of parents and wider stakeholders regarding concerns relating to road access, road safety issues, increased volume of traffic, congestion and parking. Road Services will be fully involved at all stages of the design and development process to ensure these concerns are appropriately dealt with.

Road Services will be represented on the User Reference Group which has been established by Education and Children's Services. The User Reference Group includes representatives of all stakeholder groups including parents, community council, elected members and school staff.

The Council needs to ensure that parents are kept aware of how these concerns are being addressed as the development proceeds.

A communications plan is developed with the User Reference Group to ensure that parents are kept informed at each key stage throughout the project. The Council will work with the headteacher to ensure parents are kept aware of how these concerns are being addressed. In addition to the usual communication channels, there will also be an opportunity for parents to attend a drop-in session which will allow the Council to share information directly with parents.

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 two 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 appropriate and effective education provision to serve Crieff Primary School.

10.5 The Lifelong Learning School Estate Sub-Committee was provided with an update report on the School Estate Capital Programme progress on 6 June 2013 (Report 13/281 refers). This report advised on progress and proposals for delivering the current capital projects within Education and Children's Services school estate programme and recent procurement activity which had taken place to facilitate the construction element of the projects. Elected Members were advised that it is now anticipated that construction work on the new Crieff Primary School will be completed in the summer of 2015.

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 11 December 2012 and 10 January 2013;
 - 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 Monday 8 July 2013 until Friday 9 August 2013, this exceeds the statutory requirement to publish this report more than three weeks before consideration of the proposal by Lifelong Learning Committee.

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 staff travel arrangements or increased use of school transport as pupils are currently travelling to Crieff 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 Crieff Primary School 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 providing a high quality learning environment offering greater flexibility for all school activities, a greater amount of space provided for each pupil, greatly improved facilities for regular outdoor learning, an indoor environment which is much more conducive to modern teaching and learning and the new school will be better equipped with interactive technology. All children will benefit from better facilities within the school and ready access to the facilities of the community campus.
- 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. HMI identified that the existing Crieff Primary School building is no longer an appropriate learning environment for children in the 21st century. Equally, there is agreement that this cannot be achieved by modification, however extensive or well-funded, of the existing building, which has limited available footprint with minimal access to safe outdoor play areas and no green space.
- 14.4 An options appraisal on a number of suitable sites was carried out at an earlier stage in the planning process for this school and the land has now been acquired.
- 14.5 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.
- 14.6 The key issues that have been highlighted during the consultation period are as follows:
- All the respondents support the Council's proposal.
 - 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 Crieff Primary School.

14.7 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)

27 June 2013



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

Minute of meeting held on Tuesday 11 December 2012

At 7 pm in Strathearn Community Campus

Present

Councillor Bob Band	Convener, Lifelong Learning Committee
Tina Yule	Head of Corporate Business Change and Information Technology
Karen Robertson	Service Manager - Business and Operations

In Attendance

Councillor Ann Cowan	Perth and Kinross Council
Councillor Ann Younger	Perth and Kinross Council
Councillor Rhona Brock	Perth and Kinross Council
Carol Taylor	Service Manager – Corporate Change
Chic Haggart	Roads Manager, The Environment Service
Annette Beaton	Headteacher, Crieff Primary School
Elizabeth Hunter	Headteacher, St Dominic's RC Primary School
Trevor Rae	Business Manager – Strathearn Community Campus
Carolyn Noble – Minutes	Perth and Kinross Council

11 members of the public

WHO

- 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.
- Format of meeting**
Councillor Band explained the format the meeting would follow.
- The proposal**
Councillor Band explained the consultation proposal to the attendees:
“Education provision at the existing Crieff Primary School is relocated to a new school on a site adjacent to Strathearn Community Campus with effect from Tuesday 19 August 2014, or as soon as possible thereafter”.

A period of formal consultation will be undertaken in line with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act from **Friday 16 November 2012** until **Friday 25 January 2013**.

There were two presentations explaining the consultation in further detail.

4. **Presentations**

Background

Tina Yule gave a presentation on the background to the proposal for the new school. The presentation outlined how the school estate is reviewed and how schools are assessed in terms of condition and suitability. Tina Yule outlined that the existing Crieff Primary School is currently assessed as condition C. This indicates that the school is in need of refurbishment. Tina Yule also advised of work undertaken in purchasing and investigating the site for the new school. Details were provided regarding what new accommodation and facilities will be included in the new school and what the next steps are in terms of the creation and purpose of a User Reference Group and timescales.

For further information on these areas please contact:

Crieff Primary School Consultation
Education & Children's Services
Pullar House
35 Kinnoull Street
Perth & Kinross Council PH1 5GD
Telephone: 01738 476200
Email: ECSStatutoryconsultations@pkc.gov.uk

Statutory Consultation Process

Karen Robertson gave a presentation on the statutory consultation process including the legal framework, consideration by the Lifelong Learning Committee, the content of the proposal paper including the Educational Benefits statement, statutory consultation period, representation from interested parties as the first part of the consultation process. Karen Robertson then went on to explain the next stages which includes the involvement of HMI, the preparation and publication of a detailed consultation report and the decision made by the Lifelong Learning Committee.

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

5. **Questions**

Q. A concern was raised regarding Broich Road situated outside Strathearn Community Campus (*this road will transfer pupils to the new primary school for those who walk*). There is no street lighting and it is dark at 5pm when after school activities finish. How will pupils access the new school safely?

A. C Haggart agreed the road is a concern and that the Council will be working with the architects on the design of the new school and road. C Haggart will take on board these comments along with feedback from the User Reference Group for the primary school to ensure this is considered.

Q. Why was this road not looked at when the community campus was being designed?

A. C Haggart reiterated that the Roads Department are fully involved in the design of the new primary school and will be in a position to influence the work required for the new primary school in the future and ensure past issues which were not addressed at that time can be considered as part of this.

A suggestion was made that the school buses should be taken off this road completely and introduce a brand new pavement for pupils. There should be one bus route for the campus and a new bus route for the primary school to keep traffic congestion separate. Councillor Band confirmed these suggestions will be noted and forwarded onto the User Reference Group.

Q. A point was raised regarding the current car parking facilities at the campus and how this is going to affect the new primary school car parking. A suggestion was made that there should be two entries to the new school to keep traffic moving with no delays.

A. Councillor Bob Band confirmed these suggestions will be noted and forwarded onto the User Reference Group.

Q. The road traffic will increase; will the whole area of traffic congestion be taken into account?

A. C Haggart confirmed that it will be taken into account. The whole site will be looked at to ensure these concerns are dealt with.

Q. Is there enough land between the campus and new primary school to build a new sports pavilion?

A. Councillor Bob Band agreed this was an excellent idea and this suggestion will be taken forward to the User Reference Group. It was suggested that the Community Trust also joins the User Reference Group.

Councillor Ann Cowan agreed with all the issues raised concerning the Broich Road and parking concerns and noted that this is the best time to raise these to ensure these concerns are taken forward and dealt with.

Q. Can a 30mph speed limit be placed on Broich Road?

A. Councillor Band confirmed this is something that can be taken forward, however, he advised that it might take some time for this proposal to be legally approved before the new school is built.

Q. Will the new primary school be run like the campus?

A. T Yule confirmed this will not be the case. The new primary school will be owned and funded by the Council. Therefore the Council will have full responsibility of the school and how it operates.

Q. Will the new primary school be able to use the campus facilities?

A. Councillor Band confirmed that the new school will have access to the facilities at the campus.

Q. Will St Dominic's Primary School be moving into the new Crieff Primary School?

A. Councillor Band confirmed that there are no plans for merging the two primary schools together and confirmed that St Dominic's will not be moving to the new Crieff Primary School.

A discussion took place regarding the discussions which had taken place previously as part of the initial planning which had included both primary schools. Councillor Band advised that this was not agreed by St Dominic's or the Roman Catholic Church representatives when they were consulted.

Q. Can a merge of the two primary schools happen in the future?

A. Councillor Band confirmed that this would not happen.

Q. A point was raised in relation to the overall parking at the campus and how this will be solved once the new primary school is built.

A. Councillor Band confirmed the parking facilities will be looked into as part of the new design of the primary school.

Trevor Rae supported all the points raised regarding the existing parking facilities, Broich Road concerns and the bus bays at the campus.

A member of the public also suggested that the town bus drop off passengers at the front of the campus to support those passengers who are disabled. This was agreed to be noted as part of the minute and to be raised with the User Reference Group.

Q. Another comment raised was regarding the parallel pavement on route to the campus is never used. Can this be looked into for the new design of parking/bus bay?

A. This was agreed to be noted as part of the minute and to be raised with the User Reference Group.

6. Close and Thanks

Councillor Band reminded the attendees if they have any further questions they are most welcome to come along to the 2nd meeting which will be held on 10 January 2013 at 7pm in Strathearn Community Campus.

Councillor Band 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 10 January 2013

At 7 pm in Strathearn Community Campus

Present

Councillor Bob Band	Convener, Lifelong Learning Committee
Tina Yule	Head of Corporate Business Change and Information Technology
Karen Robertson	Service Manager - Business and Operations

In Attendance

Councillor Ann Younger	Perth and Kinross Council
Carol Taylor	Service Manager – Corporate Change
Chic Haggart	Roads Manager, The Environment Service
Anne Dalziel	Quality Improvement Officer – Education Services
Ken McAra	HMI District Inspector
Annette Beaton	Headteacher, Crieff Primary School
Carolyn Noble – Minutes	Perth and Kinross Council

21 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 explained the consultation proposal to the attendees:

“Education provision at the existing Crieff Primary School is relocated to a new school on a site adjacent to Strathearn Community Campus with effect from Tuesday 19 August 2014, or as soon as possible thereafter”.

A period of formal consultation will be undertaken in line with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act from **Friday 16 November 2012** until **Friday 25 January 2013**.

There were two presentations explaining the consultation in further detail.

4. **Presentations**

Background

Tina Yule gave a presentation on the background to the proposal for the new school. The presentation outlined how the school estate is reviewed and how schools are assessed in terms of condition and suitability. Tina Yule outlined that the existing Crieff Primary School is currently assessed as condition C. This indicates that the school is in need of refurbishment. Tina Yule also advised of work undertaken in purchasing and investigating the site for the new school. Details were provided regarding what new accommodation and facilities will be included in the new school and what the next steps are in terms of the creation and purpose of a User Reference Group and timescales.

For further information on these areas please contact:

Crieff Primary School Consultation
Education & Children's Services
Pullar House
35 Kinnoull Street
Perth & Kinross Council PH1 5GD
Telephone: 01738 476200
Email: ECSStatutoryconsultations@pkc.gov.uk

Statutory Consultation Process

Karen Robertson gave a presentation on the statutory consultation process including the legal framework, consideration by the Lifelong Learning Committee, the content of the proposal paper including the Educational Benefits statement, statutory consultation period, representation from interested parties as the first part of the consultation process. Karen Robertson then went on to explain the next stages which includes the involvement of HMI, the preparation and publication of a detailed consultation report and the decision made by the Lifelong Learning Committee.

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

5. **Questions**

Q. Have architects been appointed yet to develop the new school?

A. Yes this is in process. The Council are working with Hubco (set up by the Scottish Government) which is a private sector partnership to develop and construct the new school in Crieff as well as Oakbank Primary School.

Q. What is the shortlist for architects?

A. There are currently sixty consultants. Further information can be found on the Hubco website.

Q. Has the User Reference Group been set up yet?

A. No. This will be established by the Spring.

Q. How are you confident that the Council is getting best value for money when using Hubco?

A. The prices are still to be confirmed as designs for the new school are yet to be created.

Q. When does the User Reference Group become involved?

A. Once the designs are created the User Reference Group will meet to discuss these.

Q. Will a representative from the Parent Council be involved in the User Reference Group?

A. Yes there will be a range of representation on the group from all local interest groups, including the Parent Council, and the representative will usually be the Chairperson of the Parent Council. However this is still to be confirmed.

At this point of the meeting, Crieff Primary School Headteacher advised that that the next Parent Council meeting is due to take place on 14 January 2013 for anyone to come along and share their concerns and thoughts on the consultation.

Q. Is the purpose of the consultation to agree the move of the primary school?

A. Yes, this is the time to raise concerns and share thoughts on the proposal for the proposed new school.

Q. Regarding Broich Road, will all three schools continue to use this? Will the speed limits be reduced?

A. All road concerns will be noted and considered. It is anticipated that there will be 20mph limit, however, this has still to be confirmed.

Q. Is there provision to look at the road infrastructure?

A. This is all part of the planning process.

A discussion took place regarding road concerns, pavements, traffic lights, volume of traffic and the overall safety of pupils.

Q. Has the council got enough funding for road improvement?

A. The Council may need to work in partnership with Tesco together for the funding of the road improvement.

Q. What is happening with the old school?

A. At this point in time it is unknown at the moment. Education and Children's Services will liaise with other services in the Council to establish if the building is required for any new projects. If not, it is likely the building will go on the property market.

Q. Will there not be any dining hall or kitchen facilities in the new school?

A. Yes, these will be included in the new school.

Q. Will the new school have shared facilities i.e. sports facilities within the campus?

A. Yes, one of the advantages for the new site is being able to use the campus sports and leisure facilities. The pupils will benefit highly from this.

Q. Will the new school have its own green space for sports days etc?

A. Yes, there will be space available for this.

Q. Will the school have a capacity based on what is required now?

A. The school will be built with the potential for expansion in the future depending on the local housing development plan.

Q. What are the plans for wraparound care?

A. This has not yet been agreed and will be considered by the User Reference Group.

Q. Will be an agenda published in advance for User Reference Group meetings?

A. Yes, this will be available through the Headteacher.

Q. Will breakfast clubs continue?

A. Yes, all current facilities will continue.

Q. Will the out of school clubs start up again?

A. Any additional provisions will require to be considered by the Head of Education and Early Years.

Q. What is the current school pupil roll and what will the future roll be?

A. The current roll is 336 pupils and the highest anticipated roll will be 436 pupils.

Q. If nursery pupils are not included in the roll, how will the Council know if the facility will be big enough?

A. The school is being built for a larger capacity which includes nursery pupils.

Q. Will there be a police station on campus?

A. The Police Force is currently consulting on this matter. It is possible, but that decision would not be taken by the Council. Tayside Police website can provide further information on the consultation.

Q. Is there any reason to why the blue area on the map is not included in the site proposal?

A. This will be confirmed and notified in the minute.

Clarification - in relation to the triangular area of land shown on the map, the following information has been provided:

This was required to improve visibility splays for vehicular access. Given proposed development in this area there is a need to have clear lines of sight to separate pedestrian and vehicular access to ensure safe routes to school.

Q. What is a realistic date for the new school to be ready?

It is possible to meet the timescale of August 2014, however, it is a tight timescale. The Council is not concerned about the current timescale.

Q. Has HubCo been used by other Local Authorities?

A. Yes it has. Perth and Kinross is not the first or only Council to use HubCo and there are no concerns regarding contracting them for the new school at Crieff.

6. Close and Thanks

Councillor Band thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.



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

The statutory consultation on the proposal regarding the proposed new school for Crieff Primary School commenced on 16 November 2012 and closed on 25 January 2013.

Details of the proposal document were issued to the list of consultees contained within the Proposal Paper. 614 letters were issued with a link to the proposal paper and details of where and how to obtain a paper copy. 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 two enquiries made requesting additional information. Two written submissions were received.

RESPONDENT GROUP	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Parents	1
Community Member	1
Total	2

These 2 responses represent 2 separate individuals.

The Council held two public meetings to discuss the proposal. The first was in Strathearn Community Campus on Tuesday 11 December 2012. Eleven members of the public attended this meeting. The second was held in Strathearn Community Campus on Thursday 10 January 2013. Twenty one 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:

- 8 Concerns regarding the safety and lighting of Broich Road.
- 9 Issues with car parking at the current campus and when the new school is built.
- 10 Increased road traffic and traffic congestion in the area.
- 11 Speed limit concerns on Broich Road.
- 12 Parking and bus bay provision.
- 13 Road infrastructure and improvements.
- 14 The use of the campus for the new primary school.
- 15 Query regarding St Dominic's RC Primary School moving to the new school/merging with Crieff Primary School.
- 16 Possibility of a new sports pavilion between the campus and the new primary school.
- 17 Queries regarding the chosen architects and use of HubCo to design and build the new school.
- 18 Confidence in use of HubCo and best value for the Council.
- 19 Timescale for the project to be completed.

- 20 The role of the User Reference Group and representation on the group.
- 21 The disposal and use of the current school building.
- 22 Use of shared facilities with the campus and the requirement for green space at the new primary school.
- 23 Future capacity of the new school and pupil roll numbers.
- 24 Plans for wraparound care in the new school.
- 25 Continuation of breakfast club and reintroduction of out of school care clubs.
- 26 Concern regarding possible Police Station at campus.

Consultation proposal by Perth and Kinross Council

Report by Education Scotland, addressing educational aspects of the proposal to relocate Crieff Primary School to a new school on a site adjacent to Strathearn Community Campus.

1. Introduction

1.1 Perth and Kinross Council proposes to relocate education provision at the existing Crieff Primary School to a new school on a site adjacent to Strathearn Community Campus with effect from Tuesday 19 August 2014, or as soon as possible thereafter.

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 meeting held on 10 January 2013 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; and
- visit to the site of Crieff Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

1.4 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the school; any other users and children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper;
- 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 Parents are in favour of the proposal and would like their children to be able to attend a school which has better facilities. They are very aware of the lack of space for children to play and would like them to have easy access to grass and garden areas for physical activity and outdoor learning. They see advantages in their children having ready access to facilities at the community campus such as the library. They also feel that transition arrangements will work better when nursery, primary and secondary schools are located nearer to each other. They have concerns about access routes to the proposed location of the new school building and feel that the main road is very narrow, particularly in relation to the increased volume of traffic which will travel along it at busy times. They have some concerns about the development of a supermarket on a neighbouring site, as well as the proposed relocation of a police station to this area. They also feel that it will be important to incorporate a bus bay and drop-off point into the plans. Parents have already been involved in initial consultation discussions about what should be included in the specification for the proposed new school building.

2.3 Children are excited at the prospect of a new, custom-built school. They find some of the current classrooms cramped and do not think that computer equipment always works well. Arrangements for school lunches do not work well in their current school as they need to use a small, separate building as well as the gym hall. They are looking forward to access to sports and music facilities in and around the community campus as well as space to play safely around the school. There are no appropriate changing facilities in their current school.

2.4 Staff are keen to work in a modern, purpose-built school with good facilities. Current classrooms make the use of interactive technology difficult and there is little space available to display children's work. Staff would welcome a building which can be used more flexibly to allow classes to work separately or together, sharing learning resources when appropriate. They are also keen to gain easier access to the wide range of facilities at the community campus, which currently involves significant planning and travel time for staff and children. Nursery staff would like to be able to offer better access to outdoor play for children as the current school only has a small tarmac area available for this.

2.5 Senior managers in the school enthusiastically support the proposal. They are keen to make sure that the proposed new school building is designed with the needs of all children in mind, including those who are on the autistic spectrum. They are aware that the current building is not best suited to their particular needs and that the number of children with autism in the school is projected to rise in future years. They feel that the new school design should allow flexibility for learning and teaching approaches and meeting spaces for visiting specialists such as health visitors. They also know that being closer to the community campus will also give the school

better access to a range of partner agencies. They understand that transition procedures between pre-school, primary and secondary will be enhanced by their greater proximity to each other.

3. Educational aspects of the proposal

3.1 A new Crieff Primary School will provide a high quality learning environment offering greater flexibility for all school activities. It will be built with sufficient capacity for its projected roll but with the possibility of later extension incorporated into the design, as well as the capacity to provide a greater number of nursery places. A greater amount of space will be provided for each pupil, and the new school will be better equipped with interactive technology.

3.2 Children who attend Crieff Primary School will undoubtedly benefit from a new, purpose-built school. The current main building is a listed mid 19th century gothic building which was a former Presbyterian church. It is currently rated as category C ('poor'). This building was extended in 1937 to provide additional classrooms. A later extension to the main building now houses the nursery which has access to a small safe play area immediately outside. The new school will be designed and built according to a brief which will be agreed with the representative User Reference Group, including custom-built provision for children who have autism. All children will benefit from better facilities within the school and ready access to the facilities of the community campus. Children who attend the nursery and the primary school will have greatly improved facilities for regular outdoor learning and an indoor environment which is much more conducive to modern teaching and learning approaches.

3.3 There will be a slight increase in travelling distance for some individuals attending the new school. However, the council believes that the improved quality of facilities and improved access for community use will outweigh most of this inconvenience. Children who currently attend Crieff Primary School agree that it will be further away for some but more convenient for others. They were also clear that this should not be a barrier to proceeding with the new school.

3.4 There is no anticipated impact of this proposal on other users. There has been no community use of the facilities for a number of years, which is a reflection of their limited nature.

3.5 The council believes that this proposal will not have an adverse impact on pupils of any other schools in the authority's area. There are no changes being proposed to the catchment area serving the new school and, therefore, it will not impact on admission arrangements for children living in adjacent catchment areas. Whilst there is the potential for parents of pupils living in other catchment areas to consider submitting placing requests for their child to attend the new school, they currently have this right for the existing Crieff Primary School.

3.6 A number of parents have concerns that the access roads to the proposed site for the new school are too narrow for the increased volume of traffic which is expected. They are also concerned about other initiatives which could make these roads busier still. The council's road services department will be fully involved at all points during the development process to ensure that the concerns relating to access to the new school are appropriately dealt with. They will also be represented on the User Reference Group, which will include representatives of different stakeholders including parents, community council, elected members and school staff. The school Parent Council has already carried out a consultation event to explore what parents think are the most important considerations.

4. Summary

4.1 There is general agreement amongst stakeholders that the current Crieff Primary School building is no longer an appropriate learning environment for children in the twenty-first century. Equally, there is agreement that this cannot be achieved by modification, however extensive and well-funded, of the existing building, which has a limited available 'footprint' with minimal access to safe outdoor play areas and no green space whatsoever. The council has therefore proposed that a new building is required on a different site.

4.2 The location of the proposed site for the new school has clear educational benefits for children and these have been identified and agreed by school staff, parents and the children themselves. However, a number of concerns have been raised by parents in relation to the road access to the school, its perceived limitations and the need for a safe drop-off and pick-up zone for parents to be included in the design along with dedicated access for buses. There are also concerns in relation to potential increase in traffic due to the development of a supermarket on a neighbouring site and the possible relocation of a police station to the community campus site.

4.3 All stakeholders agree that having a new school will bring educational benefits for the children. An improved learning environment within and outwith the school, along with integrated interactive technology and easy access to the facilities of the community campus will clearly benefit children and enhance opportunities for learning and teaching. Similarly, transition between pre-school and primary, as well as between primary and secondary, will be enhanced by their adjacent locations. Children with autism will particularly benefit through having appropriately designed facilities.

4.4 This proposal is timely for the school. The council has been careful to ensure that stakeholders will continue to be involved in the design and build process through their involvement in the User Reference Group. The council will, however, need to make sure that the concerns about vehicular access to the school are addressed as the design for the school and its

surroundings is developed. It also needs to ensure that parents are kept aware of how these concerns are being addressed as the development proceeds.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
March 2013**