

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**Lifelong Learning Committee****4 November 2015****Establishment of a New Secondary School in Perth****Report by Director (Education and Children's Services)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This Report seeks approval from the Lifelong Learning Committee to establish a new secondary school on a preferred site at Bertha Park, Perth from August 2019 and approve the arrangements to establish a new catchment area for the school and transfer arrangements for primary pupils attached as Appendix A.

1. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 Education Authorities have a statutory duty in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to make adequate and efficient provision of school education across their area. This duty applies in respect of both the current school population and anticipated pattern of demand. In addition, Councils have a statutory duty to secure best value in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

Most importantly, the Education Authority would wish to optimise the educational experience for every pupil by providing:

- a range of social and emotional experiences
- an enriched and broad learning experience
- the best possible education which meets the needs of all learners

- 1.2 The Council's School Estate Management Plan, approved by the Lifelong Learning Committee of Perth and Kinross Council in March 2014, (Report No [14/96](#) refers) provides information on the whole of the school estate and provides information about overall objectives and future priorities within Perth and Kinross Council.

- 1.3 In July 2012, the Council bid successfully for £15.333m of funding towards the construction of a proposed new secondary school from the Scottish Government. Additional funding of £7.667m was approved by the Council in December 2012 (Report No [12/586](#) refers). A condition of the funding was that the new school would be complete and operational by March 2018.

- 1.4 A meeting of the Lifelong Learning Executive Sub-Committee in February 2013 noted Bertha Park, Perth as the preferred location of the new secondary school subject to statutory consultation (Report No [13/67](#) refers).
- 1.5 The Council approved the options appraisal for the establishment of a new secondary school for Perth City on 7 May 2014 (Report No [14/193](#) refers) and agreed that statutory consultation was to be undertaken in respect of the preferred option 1f.

Option 1f proposed including catchment primary schools from Perth High School to the south west and south of Perth including Dunbarney, Forteviot, Forgandenny and Oudenarde. This provides a solution for Perth High School capacity issues and has less impact on Perth Grammar School pupil numbers. This option allows Dunbarney and Oudenarde pupils to attend the same secondary school.

- 1.6 On 25 June 2014, a Special Lifelong Learning Committee approved the report Statutory Consultation – Establishment of a New Secondary School in Perth (Report No [14/298](#) 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 establish a new secondary school on a preferred site at Bertha Park, Perth, as well as varying the admission and transfer arrangements for identified schools to establish a catchment area and accommodate the phased population of the new school. It also sought approval of the Proposal Paper.
- 1.7 The Executive Director (Education and Children’s Services) was instructed to report back to the Committee on the outcome of these consultations no earlier than May 2015.
- 1.8 On 27 May 2015, Lifelong Learning Committee considered the responses and comments which were received from stakeholders during the public consultation exercise on the establishment of a new secondary school in Perth, and to recommend an appropriate course of action having had regard to relevant written and oral representations, Education Scotland’s report, and relevant responses received. Lifelong Learning Committee also approved the publication of the Consultation Report (Report [15/210](#) refers).

In response to the consultation feedback, it was proposed to set a revised opening date of August 2018 for the new school, subject to approval of Lifelong Learning Committee. The Scottish Futures Trust was approached regarding the funding offer in place for the new secondary school. The original funding agreement had required the new secondary school to be operational no later than 31 March 2018.

- 1.9 The Consultation Report was published electronically for public scrutiny from 3 June until 15 July 2015 on the Council’s website: www.pkc.gov.uk. This allowed for more than the required full three week review of the document prior to a final Committee decision, and complies with Section 9 (3) and Section 11 of the 2010 Act. There were no comments received during the publication period.

- 1.10 On 26 August 2015, Lifelong Learning Committee was advised that a report on the outcomes of the consultation had been expected on 26 August 2015. However, an Executive Sub-Committee of Strategic Policy & Resources had agreed on 30 July 2015 to re-phase the secondary school to open in August 2019 instead of August 2018.

This did not require the statutory consultation exercise to be redone, however, further engagement with parents of the prospective pupils directly affected by the change in date was to be undertaken so that the final proposal decision reported to Lifelong Learning Committee could take into account their feedback. The Revised Transition Arrangements were published for parents (attached as Appendix A). It was advised that the outcome of the consultation would be reported back to the next meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee in November 2015.

2. PARENTAL FEEDBACK

- 2.1 As part of the Council's commitment to further engagement on the proposal, a meeting was also held on Wednesday 11 March 2015 for parents/carers of the first proposed cohort of pupils to attend the new school. The purpose of this meeting was to provide further information to parents on concerns raised during the consultation. There were 27 parents in attendance at this meeting.

- 2.2 Following the meeting of Lifelong Learning Committee on 26 August 2015, two meetings were held on the evening of 26 August 2015 for parents/carers who were directly affected by the decision to re-phase the secondary school to open in August 2019. There were 32 parents in attendance at the first meeting and 17 attended the second meeting.

- 2.3 In order to allow parents/carers to provide feedback on the revised date for the opening of the new secondary school and the revised transition arrangements, or to amend their feedback in light of this decision, the Council re-opened its online consultation response form from 27 August 2015 until 9 October 2015. Four enquiries were received seeking information about the meeting held on 26 August and one written response was made during this time. The feedback can be broadly summarised as follows:

- Disappointment that the opening of the new school has been delayed.
- Concern that the news of the re-phasing was announced on social media just prior to the parents meetings. The announcement caused distress to parents of directly affected children.
- The re-phasing by a year is significant and the effect on children must not be underestimated.
- The transition arrangements sound appropriate and have been well thought out.
- Concern about more changes to the project plan in the future and how they will be handled.
- Parents are seeking certainty and clarity on achieving the revised opening date and further stakeholder engagement opportunities are welcomed.

2.4 A meeting has also been arranged to be held on Monday 2 November 2015 for parents/carers of the new first cohort of pupils to attend the new school. The purpose of this meeting is to provide further information to parents on specific aspects raised during the consultation.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 A comprehensive Proposal Paper containing an Educational Benefits Statement was produced. This allowed for informed consideration to be given to the proposal to establish a new Secondary School in Perth through formal consultation with key stakeholders. The outcome and findings of the statutory consultation exercise were published in the Consultation Report. Further informal engagement has also been undertaken with directly affected parents.

3.2 Revised Transition Arrangements have been published to reflect the decision to re-phase the opening date of the new secondary school to August 2019 and further comments sought from the parents of directly affected pupils.

3.3 The Council has held 8 statutory consultation meetings and 4 further meetings with directly affected parents to ensure parents views have been fully considered and information has been shared with parents regarding the re-phasing of the new secondary school.

3.4 The feedback obtained during the statutory consultation process, which was published in the Consultation Report, has had no material changes submitted during the extended consultation period.

3.5 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Approves the establishment of a new secondary school on a preferred site at Bertha Park, Perth from August 2019 and approves the arrangements to establish a new catchment area for the school and transfer arrangements for primary pupils outlined in Appendix A.

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Approved

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	No
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	No
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	No
Strategic Environmental Assessment	No
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	No
Legal and Governance	Yes
Risk	No
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

1.1 The Perth and Kinross Community Plan 2013-2023 and Perth and Kinross Council Corporate Plan 2013/2018 set out five strategic objectives:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to Objective No (ii).

1.2 The report also links to the Education & Children's Services Policy Framework in respect of the following key policy area: Change and Improvement

2. Resource Implications

Financial

2.1 There were no financial implications relating to the statutory consultation exercise as this mainly related to staff time.

Workforce

2.2 N/A

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

2.3 N/A

3. Assessments

3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

The procedure presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

(i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA

Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

The matters presented in this report were considered under the Act, however no further action is required as they do not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

3.3 N/A

Legal and Governance

3.4 This consultation exercise has been undertaken in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and with the full involvement of Legal Services throughout the process.

Risk

3.5 N/A

4. Consultation

Internal

4.1 The Head of Democratic Services and Head of Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report. Consultation on this proposal was also undertaken with key stakeholders as part of the statutory consultation exercise.

External

- 4.2 The full details of the Statutory Consultation exercise undertaken in respect of this proposal were fully detailed in the Consultation Report. Further engagement with directly affected parents has also been undertaken.

5. Communication

- 5.1 The Consultation Report contained the details of the communication and engagement undertaken in respect of this proposal.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 2.1 No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

3. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Revised Transition Arrangements



PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

REVISED TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

**NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL
BERTHA PARK, PERTH**

26 AUGUST 2015

1. CATCHMENT AREA FOR NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL

- 1.1 The proposal for the new secondary school catchment area is to:
- Include pupils from new Local Development Plan housing areas at Bertha Park, Almond Valley and Perth West;
 - Include the primary school catchment areas serving Auchtergaven, Logiealmond, Methven, Pitcairn and Ruthvenfield, which are currently included in Perth Grammar School catchment area;
 - Include the catchment serving Oudenarde, which is currently included in Perth Academy catchment area; and
 - Include the primary school catchment areas serving Forgandenny, Forteviot and Dunbarney, which are currently included in Perth High School catchment area.

2. NEW TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND SECONDARY SCHOOL

- 2.1 Parents/carers of children who are to transfer to secondary school in August of any one year will receive a letter from Perth & Kinross Council during the month of January offering a place to their child at the secondary school in whose catchment area he/she lives.
- 2.2 The offer of a secondary school place is determined by the child's home address at the time of allocating secondary school places.
- 2.3 It is proposed to populate the new secondary school with pupils from the following existing primary school catchment areas; Methven, Logiealmond, Pitcairn, Ruthvenfield, Auchtergaven, Dunbarney, Forteviot, Forgandenny and pupils residing in Oudenarde.
- 2.4 In addition, pupils from the new developments/strategic sites at Bertha Park, Almond Valley and Perth West will form part of the school catchment.
- 2.5 The current policies on School Admission and Placing Requests would continue to apply to the new school.
- 2.6 From August 2018 the S1 pupils from the proposed new catchment area will be allocated a place at the new secondary school. Until the new school building is operational in August 2019, this year group will be located at the designated host secondary school in Perth.
- 2.7 The designated host secondary school will be located within an existing Perth secondary school and this has been provisionally identified as Perth Grammar School.

- 2.8 Parents will continue to have the right to make a Placing Request for another secondary school of their choice if they do not wish their child to transfer temporarily to the designated host school or to the new secondary school when completed. Parents who make successful placing requests for their child(ren) to attend a school of their choice are required to accept full responsibility for all arrangements and costs relating to transporting them to school.

3. TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN 2018/2019 AND 2023/2024

- 3.1 The Council is fully committed to working with parents to support choices for their child's place of education during the transition period of populating the new school. The Council recognises that in populating the new secondary school on a phased basis, this may have implications for parents who have children already in attendance at secondary school who have younger siblings yet to commence secondary school.
- 3.2 Pupils living in the affected area who have already commenced their secondary education at the time of the new secondary school opening can remain in their chosen secondary school. No existing secondary school pupils will be required to move school after the new secondary school opens unless that is by parental choice and that year group is operational in the new school.
- 3.3 Pupils living in the proposed new catchment area who have an older sibling(s) in attendance at their previously designated secondary school will be permitted to attend the previously designated secondary school if parents wish siblings to attend the same school until the new school is fully operational in 2023/2024.
- 3.4 Older siblings of pupils attending the new secondary school will be unable to transfer to the new secondary school unless their year group is operational in the new secondary school.
- 3.5 Families moving into the proposed new catchment area with secondary school age children in a year group not yet operating in the new secondary school will be allocated a place in the existing designated secondary school.
- 3.6 Placing requests for older pupils living outwith the proposed new catchment area to attend the new secondary school will not be possible until such time as their year group is operational in the new secondary school.
- 3.7 Families moving into the area during the school session with children in more than one year group who cannot all be accommodated in the new secondary school will have the option to send all their children to the existing designated secondary school serving the older pupils, where possible.

- 3.8 As it is proposed that the new secondary school will be populated on a phased basis with S1 and S2 pupils from August 2019, the designated secondary school for older secondary pupils living in, or moving into the proposed catchment area for the new secondary school is shown in Appendix 1.

4. TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1 The Council is fully committed to ensuring continuity of provision for young people who will be affected by the proposals. The need for improved transition is recognised both nationally and locally and is central to continuity of education and progression through the curriculum.
- 4.2 A transition programme for pupils will be established with the aim of creating and developing a positive school ethos. The establishment of a new school offers a unique and rich context for learning. The programme will include a range of activities such as joint learning themes, excursions, social and sporting events.
- 4.3 In addition, a high level of engagement activities will be planned with parents, pupils and staff from the earliest stages of the development of the new school to enhance stakeholder engagement which are known to contribute to smooth transitions for young people as they move from one school to another. Pupil Support staff will liaise to ensure that the learning, pastoral and social needs of children are fully supported during the transition process. In full consultation with all the associated schools, and supported by Education Services, a transition programme will be produced specifying clear targets and agreed timescales.

In order to populate the new secondary school there will be a phased approach to the transition of pupils from existing schools to the new school.

Year 1 Session 2018/2019

- In August 2018 S1 pupils from the proposed new catchment schools will be brought together as one group. It is proposed that these pupils will be temporarily located in one of the existing Perth City secondary schools and timetabled together.
- In August 2019 the new school will be open and that pupil group will transfer to the new school as S2 pupils.
- A buddying/mentoring programme will be led by senior pupils from the Perth City Campus to support transition.
- Staffing levels and timetabling arrangements will be adjusted within the host school to ensure that this model is successfully implemented with the increased number of pupils.
- A Transitional Leadership Team of the host school will assume responsibility for the initial S1 group and prepare them and support them through the transition to the new school.
- This group of pupils will be actively involved in consultations about their new school.

- Opportunities for parental involvement and engagement will be established, including the setting up of a new Parent Council.

Year 2 Session 2019/2020

- In August 2019 the new S1 pupils from the proposed new catchment area attend the new school along with the S2 pupils.
- A buddying/mentoring programme led by senior pupils from Perth City Campus and S2 pupils will continue to support transition.
- In August 2019 Perth City Campus senior phase subjects will have been identified which will be delivered in the new school. This will develop ethos and citizenship and provide the same peer support opportunities for younger pupils. Senior pupils undertaking those subjects will attend the new school when appropriate at times throughout the week.
- The new secondary school Leadership Team will have been established and operational for the start of the new school session in August 2019.
- The new school will have appropriate levels of teaching and support staff in place which will be adjusted as the school roll grows. Staffing levels will continue to link to the Perth & Kinross Council Staffing Standard.

Year 3 Session 2020/2021

- In August 2020 the school will be populated by years S1-S3 (Curriculum for Excellence Broad General Education for Secondary) and the Perth City Campus senior pupils attending for their particular curriculum choices.

Year 4-6 Session 2021 - 2023

- By August 2023 the school will be fully populated ie S1-S6 as pupils advance through the school and Perth City Campus senior pupils.

5. NEW SCHOOL TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS

- 5.1 Perth & Kinross Council will continue to provide free school transport for pupils who attend Perth & Kinross Council schools in accordance with its existing policy.
- 5.2 Parents who make successful placing requests for their children to attend schools other than their catchment school have to make their own transport arrangements and meet the costs thereof.
- 5.3 Pupils living in the proposed new catchment area will be provided with home to school transport to attend the new secondary school where the pupil's home address is more than 3 miles from the new school:
 - Auchtergaven
 - Dunbarney
 - Forgandenny
 - Forteviot
 - Logiealmond
 - Methven

- Oudenarde
- Pitcairn
- Ruthvenfield

- 5.4 Transport is provided from a suitable point on the public highway which may be up to three miles (for secondary pupils) from the pupil's home.
- 5.5 Pupils from the above areas who have already commenced their secondary education at their designated secondary school, and are currently entitled to receive home to school transport, will continue to be provided with transport until their secondary education is completed.
- 5.6 Pupils living in the proposed new catchment area who have an older sibling in attendance at their previously designated secondary school who elect to send their S1 child to the same school as their older sibling, will be provided with home to school transport for the duration of their education to attend the same school as their sibling. This arrangement will operate until Session 2023/24 when the new secondary school will be fully operational across S1 to S6 stages.
- 5.7 School Travel Plans are an essential part of Perth & Kinross Council's strategy to tackle issues related to school transport. School Travel Plans also include the promotion of initiatives to increase the number of school children and staff who walk, cycle or use public transport to get to their school.
- 5.8 A School Travel Plan is a strategy developed by each school to encourage and promote more active journeys to school for both pupils and staff. The role of the School Travel Plan is to make alternatives to driving easier and safer, and to give parents/carers and staff plenty of information about the options. A School Travel Plan can help to improve the school run, reduce congestion and increase road safety, make school pupils and staff healthier, make routes to school safer and look after our environment.
- 5.9 A School Travel Plan for the new secondary school will be developed in consultation with pupils, parents and staff.

Appendix 1

Designated Secondary Schools

Pupils from Pitcairn, Ruthvenfield, Methven, Logiealmond and Auchtergaven catchment areas plus strategic development sites of Bertha Park, Almond Valley and Perth West

School Session	S1 pupils	S2 Pupils	S3 Pupils	S4 Pupils	S5 Pupils	S6 Pupils
2018/2019	Host Secondary School (Aug-Jun)	Perth Grammar School	Perth Grammar School	Perth Grammar School	Perth Grammar School	Perth Grammar School
2019/2020	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Grammar School	Perth Grammar School	Perth Grammar School	Perth Grammar School
2020/2021	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Grammar School	Perth Grammar School	Perth Grammar School
2021/2022	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Grammar School	Perth Grammar School
2022/2023	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Grammar School
2023/2024	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School

Pupils from Dunbarney, Forgandenny and Forteviot catchment areas

School Session	S1 pupils	S2 Pupils	S3 Pupils	S4 Pupils	S5 Pupils	S6 Pupils
2018/2019	Host Secondary School (Aug-Jun)	Perth High School	Perth High School	Perth High School	Perth High School	Perth High School
2019/2020	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth High School	Perth High School	Perth High School	Perth High School
2020/2021	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth High School	Perth High School	Perth High School
2021/2022	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth High School	Perth High School
2022/2023	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth High School
2023/2024	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School

Pupils from Oudenarde catchment area

School Session	S1 pupils	S2 Pupils	S3 Pupils	S4 Pupils	S5 Pupils	S6 Pupils
2018/2019	Host Secondary School (Aug-Jun)	Perth Academy	Perth Academy	Perth Academy	Perth Academy	Perth Academy
2019/2020	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Academy	Perth Academy	Perth Academy	Perth Academy
2020/2021	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Academy	Perth Academy	Perth Academy
2021/2022	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Academy	Perth Academy
2022/2023	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Academy
2023/2024	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School

Designated Secondary Schools

Pupils from Auchtergaven, Logiealmond, Methven, Pitcairn and Ruthvenfield catchment areas plus strategic development sites of Bertha Park, Almond Valley and Perth West

Pupils from Dunbarney, Forgandenny and Forteviot catchment areas

Pupils from Oudenarde catchment area

School Session	S1 pupils	S2 Pupils	S3 Pupils	S4 Pupils	S5 Pupils	S6 Pupils
2018/2019	Host Secondary School (Aug-Jun)	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy
2019/2020	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy
2020/2021	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy
2021/2022	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy
2022/2023	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy
2023/2024	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School