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PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

PROPOSAL PAPER

The following schools are affected by this proposal document:

- **Struan Primary School**
- **Blair Atholl Primary School**

This document has been issued by Perth and Kinross Council for proposal in terms of The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

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A copy of this document is available on the Perth and Kinross Council website: www.pkc.gov.uk

A copy of this document will be provided to:

- The Parent Council (if any) of the affected schools
- The parents of the pupils and children at the affected schools
- Parents of children expected to attend an affected school within 2 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 Director, The Environment Service, Perth and Kinross Council
- The Director, Social Work, Perth & Kinross Council
- Tayside Contracts
- Education Scotland

A copy of this document is also available from:

- Education and Children's Services, Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth, PH1 5GD
- Blair Atholl Primary School, St Adamnan Road, Bridge of Tilt, Pitlochry, PH18 5TB

This document is available in alternative formats or in translated form for readers whose first language is not English. Please apply to Education and Children's Services, Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth, PH1 5GD by telephone on 01738 476200; or by e-mail: ECSGeneralEnquiries@pkc.gov.uk

SUMMARY OF PROCESS FOR THIS PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

1. Consideration by the Lifelong Learning Committee

This proposal document has been issued as a result of a decision on 25 May 2016 of the Lifelong Learning Committee of Perth and Kinross Council. This is to seek views on the proposals in this paper.

2. Proposal document issued to consultees and published on Council website

A link to a copy of this document will then be issued free of charge to the consultees listed on the preceding page, and it will also be published on the Council website: www.pkc.gov.uk

3. Publication of advertisement in local newspapers

An advertisement will be placed in the relevant local newspapers. In addition, there may be announcements related to the Proposal process on the local radio station, Radio Tay.

4. Length of consultation period

An advertisement will be placed in local newspapers on 17 August 2016. The consultation will thereafter run until close of business on 28 September 2016, which includes a period of 31 school days.

5. Public meeting

A public meeting will be held, the details of which are given on Page 6 of this document.

6. Involvement of Education Scotland

When the proposal document is published, a copy will also be sent to Education Scotland by the Education Authority. Education Scotland will also receive a copy of any relevant written representations received by the Authority from any person during the consultation period or, if Education Scotland agree, a summary of them. Education Scotland will further receive a summary of any oral representations made to the Authority at the public meeting which will be held and, as available (and so far as otherwise practicable), a copy of any other relevant documentation.

Education Scotland will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal not later than 3 weeks after the Authority has sent them all representations and documents mentioned above. For the avoidance of doubt, the 3 week period will not start until after the consultation period has ended.

In preparing their report, Education Scotland may enter the affected schools and make such reasonable enquiries of such people there as they consider appropriate and may make such reasonable enquiries of such other people as they consider appropriate.

7. Preparation of consultation report

The Education Authority will review the proposal having regard to the Education Scotland Report, written representations that it has received and oral representations made to it by any person at the public meeting.

It will then prepare a consultation report. This report will be published in electronic and printed formats and will be published on the Council website. It will be available on the Council website and from Education & Children's Services at Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, free of charge. Anyone who made written representations to the Authority during the consultation period will also be informed about the report.

The report will include:

- a record of the total number of written representations made to the Authority during the consultation period;
- a summary of the written representations;
- a summary of the oral representations made at the public meeting;
- the Authority's response to the Education Scotland Report as well as any written or oral representations it has received, together with a copy of the Education Scotland Report and any other relevant information, including details of any alleged inaccuracies and how these have been handled; and
- a statement explaining how the Authority complied with the requirement to review the proposal in light of the Education Scotland Report and representations (both written and oral) that it received.

The consultation report will be published and available for further consideration for a period of 3 weeks.

8. Decision

This report together with any other relevant documentation will be considered by the Lifelong Learning Committee of Perth and Kinross Council, who will come to a decision about whether to implement the proposal.

9. Note on Corrections

If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this proposal document, either by the Council or any person, the Council must investigate and decide what, if any, action is required.

If relevant information has been omitted or there has been an inaccuracy, the Council will then take appropriate action which may include the issue of a correction notice, the publishing of a corrected proposal paper or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period if appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and Education Scotland will be advised. The Authority must inform the person who made the allegation and what action it has taken.

10. Scottish Ministers Call-in

When the Education Authority has made a final decision to implement the proposal, it will require to notify the Scottish Ministers of that decision, and provide them with a copy of the proposal document and consultation report. This must be done within 6 working days of that decision. The Education Authority must also publish on its website the fact that it has notified Scottish Ministers of its decision and of the period during which consultees have the opportunity to make representations to Ministers. For rural school closures, the Education Authority must also give notice of the reasons why the council is satisfied that closure is the most appropriate response to the reasons for bringing forward the proposal.

The Scottish Ministers have an 8 week period from the date of that final decision to decide if they will call-in the proposal. Within the first 3 weeks of that 8 week period, the Scottish Ministers will take account of any relevant representations made to them by any person. Until the outcome of the 8 week call-in process is known, the Authority cannot proceed to implement the proposal.

If Scottish Ministers decide to call in a closure proposal, they must refer it to the Convener of the School Closure Review Panels for determination by a School Closure Review Panel. The authority may not implement the proposal (wholly or partly) unless the Panel has granted consent to it (with or without conditions) and either the period for making an appeal to the sheriff has expired or, if an appeal has been made, it has either been abandoned or the sheriff has confirmed the Panel's decision.

The School Closure Review Panel may refuse to consent to the proposal, refuse consent and remit the proposal back to the Authority or grant their consent to the proposal subject to conditions or unconditionally.

- Ministers have a power to call in a closure decision, but only where it appears to Ministers that the council has failed in a significant regard to comply with the Act's requirements or, in coming to its decision, has failed to take proper account of a material consideration relevant to the proposal. Ministers have up to eight weeks from the date of the Council's decision to decide whether or not to issue a call-in notice.
- During the first three weeks of this period, anyone is able to make representations to Ministers on whether the decision should be called-in.

- During the call-in period, the Council may not proceed further, in whole or part, with the proposed closure. Ministers may come to a decision sooner than eight weeks (but not before the three weeks for representations to be made to them has elapsed).
- The Act, as amended, gives Ministers and School Closure Review Panels the right to call on advice from Education Scotland in relation to a proposal at the call-in or determination stage.

11. Note

This consultation is being conducted having regard to the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting will be held to discuss these proposals. Anyone wishing to attend the public meeting is invited to do so. The meeting, which will be convened by the Education Authority, will be addressed by the Director (Education and Children's Services), or other senior officers of the Council.

The meeting will be an opportunity for interested parties to:

- Hear more about the proposal
- Ask questions about the proposal
- Have their views recorded so that they can be taken into account as part of the consultation process.

The meeting will be held on:

Venue – Blair Atholl Primary School

Date – Tuesday 20 September 2016

Time – 7.00 pm

A note will be taken at the meeting of questions and views. This note will be published on the Council website, and a printed copy will be made available upon request.

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

THIS IS A PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

Proposal :

That subject to the outcome of this proposal exercise :

- Education provision at Struan Primary School be permanently discontinued with effect from 31 March 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter;
- That the pupils of Struan Primary School catchment area permanently receive their education at Blair Atholl Primary School, from 1 April 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter; and
- That the delineated area of Blair Atholl Primary School be permanently extended to subsume the whole delineated area of Struan Primary School from 1 April 2017.

1. REASONS FOR FORMULATING THE PROPOSAL

- 1.1 Struan Primary School is a single teacher school located in the village of Calvine and is a feeder primary school for Pitlochry High School. Struan Primary School is located 5.0 miles from Blair Atholl Primary School and pupils have been zoned to Blair Atholl Primary School since the school was mothballed in August 2011.
- 1.2 The provision of primary education within Struan needs to be considered in the context of the needs of the pupils and the local community, both now and in the future.
- 1.3 Information was collated on pupil numbers, housebuilding, finances, the school, travel arrangements, environmental impact and the local area and community to inform the options. As part of the review, a pre-consultation exercise was carried out with the local community.
- 1.4 Future pupil projections have been considered using aggregated GP registration data and both Blair Atholl Primary School and Struan Primary School pupil numbers are projected to remain static over the next 4 years with little house building planned. The highest projected occupancy level, including house building, for future years at Blair Atholl Primary School is 50% in 2018/19. Pupil projections in the catchment area do not indicate that the potential pupil numbers will increase in the future and there is no suggestion going forward that this is likely to change.

- 1.5 This presents a diminished and unsustainable school pupil population for Struan Primary School with no foreseeable prospect of an increased, stable pupil population based on a significantly reduced birth rate over a sustained period of time.
- 1.6 The low pupil roll at Struan Primary School presented challenges in providing a breadth of social and emotional experiences required to meet the social and emotional needs of pupils.
- 1.7 The proposal for pupils from Struan to attend Blair Atholl Primary School has strong educational benefits for pupils from Struan catchment area. It will increase pupils' resilience through being part of a larger school community and will also help promote their social and emotional development by providing greater challenge as well as the opportunity to be part of a wider, age-appropriate peer group.
- 1.8 Prior to Struan Primary School being mothballed, a number of parents had already made placing requests for their children to be educated in Pitlochry Primary School and Kinloch Rannoch Primary School.
- 1.9 Pupils from the Struan Primary School catchment area have been zoned to Blair Atholl Primary School for nearly 5 years. Blair Atholl Primary School offers a learning environment that encourages high levels of achievement and provides a wide range of opportunities for children to achieve their full potential as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.
- 1.10 The Council has engaged with stakeholders and has considered other uses for the premises prior to formulating this proposal. The details of the other options are detailed in this report.
- 1.11 Parents still retain the right to make a placing request for another school of their choice as outlined in the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, as amended.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Struan Primary School is a single teacher primary school serving the village of Calvine and the surrounding area. The capacity of Struan Primary School is 47 pupils. The Struan Primary School roll at September 2009 was 4 pupils and at September 2010 was 3 pupils, with all 3 of these children living in the catchment area. There were 7 pupils in total lived within the catchment area for Struan Primary School, however 4 of these pupils attended schools outwith their catchment area as a result of successful placing requests made by the parents.
- 2.2 The situation at Struan Primary School had been carefully monitored and kept under review by the Head of Education Services in terms of pupil numbers, the very small number of pupils in attendance and requests for future pupil enrolments.

As the pupil roll at Struan Primary School was due to be 3 pupils at the start of academic session 2011/2012, the decision was taken by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services), in consultation with the Convener of the Lifelong Learning Committee, that Struan Primary School would be mothballed from August 2011. This is a term which means provision in a school is suspended with pupils zoned to another catchment area. Mutually agreed arrangements were made with the parents of the remaining pupils for session 2011/12.

- 2.3 The pupil roll at Struan Primary School has continued to decline over a period of years and only 3 pupils were due to be in attendance during school session 2011/2012.
- 2.4 Struan Primary School catchment area has been temporarily rezoned to Blair Atholl Primary School for the period where Struan Primary School remains "mothballed".
- 2.5 Blair Atholl Primary School has a roll of 24 pupils (as at Census 2015) and capacity for 72 pupils. Blair Atholl Primary School is situated 5.0 miles from Struan Primary School.
- 2.6 At its meeting on 25 August 2010, the Lifelong Learning Committee of Perth and Kinross Council approved Report 10/427 by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services). It agreed to an Options Appraisal in relation to the future of Struan Primary School. Authority was given by Lifelong Learning Committee to commence formal consultation on a proposal paper to close Struan Primary School in June 2011 ([Report 11/255](#) refers).
- 2.7 The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning then announced the setting up of a Commission for the Delivery of Rural Education and requested a moratorium on rural school closures for one year. The moratorium was proposed to run from 20 June 2011 until 20 June 2012.
- 2.8 On 31 August 2011, Lifelong Learning Committee agreed that the decision to commence formal consultations on the proposals to close Struan Primary School would be deferred until the outcome of the Commission on the Delivery of Rural Education was reported ([Report 11/430](#) refers).
- 2.9 The Commission concluded its work and published its report on 19 April 2013. The report made 38 recommendations relevant to the delivery of education in rural areas.
- 2.10 As a result of the recommendations made by the Commission, the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 was amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. Most of the amendments came into force on 1 August 2014. The final part of those amendments relating to the School Closure Review Panel were introduced and came into force on 30 March 2015.

- 2.11 The 2010 Act's principal purpose is to provide strong, accountable statutory consultation practices and procedures that local authorities must apply to their handling of all proposals for school closures and other major changes to schools. These consultation processes are expected to be robust, open, transparent and fair, and seen to be so. They are also expected to be consistent across Scotland.
- 2.12 The 2010 Act makes special arrangements in regard to rural schools, establishing in effect a presumption against the closure of rural schools. The result of this is that education authorities must have special regard to a number of factors before formalising a proposal to close a rural school and in consulting on and reaching a decision as to whether to implement a rural school closure proposal.
- 2.13 The new duties are outlined in the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010 and the accompanying Statutory Guidance](#).
- 2.14 In addition, the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 sets out a new right for community organisations to request the transfer of local assets into local community ownership/management. Public bodies including Councils must consider such requests and respond within a reasonable timescale to them.
- 2.15 The previously agreed arrangements to mothball Struan Primary School from 15 August 2011 have continued during this period as all operational arrangements concerning pupils and staff were progressed and completed by July 2011 in preparation for the school to be mothballed from 15 August 2011.
- 2.16 On 4 November 2015, the Lifelong Learning Committee approved the report Proposals for Straloch and Struan Primary Schools ([Report No 15/514](#) refers). This report sought approval to review and update the Options Appraisal for Struan Primary School, and also to report back to the Committee on the findings and future proposals for Struan Primary School.
- 2.17 A review and update of the Options Appraisal was therefore undertaken. This has been submitted to Lifelong Learning Committee to determine the basis under which any statutory consultation will proceed.
- 2.18 The consultation process to be carried out in consequence of the Committee's decision, and involving Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (Education Scotland) and the general public, will be in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

3. PROPOSAL

3.1 It is therefore proposed that:

Proposal :

- Education provision at Struan Primary School be permanently discontinued with effect from 31 March 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter;
- That pupils from Struan Primary School catchment area have their education permanently provided at Blair Atholl Primary School, from 1 April 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter; and
- The delineated area of Blair Atholl Primary School be permanently extended to subsume the whole catchment area of Struan Primary School from 1 April 2017.

4. STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Councils have a statutory duty in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to make adequate and efficient provision of school education across their entire area for the current school population and future pattern of demand. The Council's School Estate Management Plan, approved by the Lifelong Learning Committee of Perth and Kinross Council in November 2007, provides information on the whole of the school estate and provides information about overall objectives and future priorities within Perth and Kinross Council.

4.2 Councils also have a statutory responsibility in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 to achieve best value. In doing so, consideration must be given to occupancy as buildings are expensive resources. To achieve best value and optimum efficiency, the minimum number of buildings is required to deliver Council services to a particular locality. The organisation of the school estate is therefore kept under regular review, including the need for school provision and other factors, such as altering catchment areas and the implementation of shared headships.

5. VISION

5.1 Perth and Kinross Council works to enhance quality of life, make best use of public resources and ensure continuously improving services. Perth and Kinross Council's corporate strategy "Securing the Future" aims to ensure that individuals, families and communities experience the best possible outcomes from a range of services.

Perth and Kinross Council has a strong identity and clear priorities which everyone works together to achieve, creating areas which are vibrant and successful; safe, secure, healthy and sustainable environments; educated, responsible and informed citizens; confident and active communities; and places where people are nurtured and supported.

- 5.2 This approach reflects the Single Outcome Agreement National Outcome 15 that “Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people’s needs”, and the Local Outcome that “Our services will be responsive, of high quality and continually improving”. This report also links with the School Estate Management Plan, Education and Children’s Services Policy Framework Maximising Resources and with the Education and Children’s Services objective to develop the range and quality learning experiences for all.

6. CALVINE AND THE LOCAL AREA

- 6.1 Struan Primary School is located in the village of Calvine, approximately 5 miles west of Blair Atholl, and lies just off the A9. It lies within the Cairngorms National Park area close to the village of Old Struan and near to the confluence of the River Garry and Errochty Water.
- 6.2 The area is sparsely populated and the village is a small rural settlement sitting amidst beautiful scenery, farming and estate land. It lies on the national cycle network and is on the ancient route to Badenoch, with a track from Calvine linking to the Minigaig Pass.
- 6.3 Calvine Holiday Park as well as various holiday cottages and bed and breakfast establishments accommodate visitors to this picturesque area. Hotel accommodation is found in Blair Atholl and Bridge of Tilt as well as Pitlochry. The two Struan Bridges are unusual in that the road bridge that crosses the River Garry is itself crossed by a three arched stone railway viaduct. Struan Church attracts visitors with its Pictish decorated stone, and in the field behind, the historically important remains of an ancient fort and the magical well of Tobar Faolan. Other attractions accessible from the area include Falls of Bruar, fishing, mountain biking, wilderness walking, golfing (Blair Atholl) and accessible Munros.
- 6.4 The Struan Inn located in Calvine has 5 bedrooms and a restaurant. Struan Hall has however been converted into a private home. The small shop and garage in Calvine was closed several years prior to the mothballing of the school in 2011 and is in some disrepair. Nearby Old Struan is a settlement of houses, including holiday cottages. House of Bruar is a successful independent store which sells country clothing, food and homeware. It is located 1.2m from Calvine and is a key local employer.
- 6.5 The A9 dualling project will impact on Calvine and Pitagowan but as yet, local access has not been determined.

- 6.6 The Struan Hall Trust administers funds on behalf of the Struan community and arranges events throughout the year. The Trust previously used the school for community events such as Christmas parties. Some events are now held in Blair Atholl rather than Calvine. The Struan Inn can be used for events but there are limitations in terms of numbers and times when it can be used. In 2010/11 the Trust booked the school on 8 occasions for 2 quiz nights, the children's Christmas party and 5 meetings.
- 6.7 In terms of potential new business ventures in the area, there have been no enquiries to the Council's Business Development team. They have advised that there are unlikely to be any significant changes to the population, as a result of new business, relative to the Struan Primary School catchment area.
- 6.8 The TAYplan, which informs the LDP, sets out a hierarchical approach to directing new development to existing settlements and identifies Aberfeldy and Pitlochry as proposed second tier settlements which would take the largest proportion of any new development. Areas considered for the landward housing requirement in the Highland area are Ballinluig, Birnam, Croftinloan, Fearnan, Kenmore and Kinloch Rannoch. Any other development identified in the area is likely to be small scale (less than 5 houses).
- 6.9 A new TAYplan is currently under preparation. This will set revised housing land requirements for the next LDP. In the proposed TAYplan the annual number of houses required in the Highland Perthshire area is 90 per year. There is a possibility however that this could increase to 100 per annum, depending on the outcome of the examination into the Proposed TAYplan. In terms of pupil numbers, 90 houses would equate to 24.3 children, across Highland Perthshire.
- 6.10 There are no significant developments present in the 2015 Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan for Calvine, Blair Atholl, or Bruar and Pitgowan.

7. STRUAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 7.1 Struan Primary School provides non denominational primary education to pupils from the village of Calvine and surrounding area. Appendix 1 (attached) shows the present school catchment area for Struan Primary School. The school site for Struan Primary School is attached as Appendix 3. Struan Primary School is a single teacher school serving the village of Calvine and the local area. The catchment area for the school covers an area of 323.684 square kilometres (124.975 square miles).
- 7.2 Prior to mothballing, the school structure had 1 composite class across Primary 1 – 7.

- 7.3 Historical and projected pupil roll data for Struan Primary School is attached at Appendix 5. This data shows that the roll of Struan Primary School has been falling over the last decade, with pupil numbers unlikely to increase above their present level. The current population of the area¹, as indicated by the 2011 census, is 157. From 2001 to 2011 the population of the area¹ grew by 19 people. The majority of this increase was in the over 45 population. The 0-14 population declined slightly from 22 to 20.
- 7.4 A number of children in the catchment area attended other primary schools by way of placing request.
- 7.5 If the school were to re-open in August 2016, the maximum pupil numbers from the catchment would be 8. There are no P1 pupils anticipated for 2016 currently. It is highly unlikely that any of the pupils from the Struan Primary School catchment area would return to the school were it to re-open based on feedback from the pre-consultation sessions however. This would leave the school roll at between 3 and 4 pupils, assuming new pupils all attended Struan Primary School if it re-opens.
- 7.6 Struan Primary School is classed as a “remote rural” school under Section 14 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The classification of rural and remote rural is based on two main criteria, settlement size and accessibility based on drive time. For Struan Primary School the classification criteria is “settlements of fewer than 3,000 people and with a drive time of between 30 and 60 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more”.
- 7.7 Prior to mothballing, Struan Primary School had a shared Headship with Kinloch Rannoch Primary School supported by a principal teacher, Headteacher support, auxiliary/typist/clerical, support for learning assistant, janitorial assistance, cleaner and visiting specialists for expressive arts and physical education.
- 7.8 Of the pupils who attended Struan Primary School, all were entitled to home to school transport as they lived more than 2 miles from the school.
- 7.9 Struan Primary School is a traditionally built 1900s building with a larger two storey 1960s extension. The building has a mixture of block and rendered walls with double glazed upvc windows under a pitched slated roof. The heating is electric. Staff within the school noted there was a difficulty in controlling the temperatures within the building due to the large areas of windows. Other buildings on site include a traditional built shelter with rendered stone walls under a pitched metal sheet roof.
- 7.10 The school offers the following accommodation; 2 classrooms for primary education, small hall, toilets, staffroom, office and a kitchen. Site plans of the school are attached as Appendix 2.

¹ Census Output Area - S00126309.

- 7.11 The school grounds are mainly hard landscaping and the local estate made an area of land available to the rear of the school which provides a soft landscape play area.
- 7.12 The former schoolhouse, which adjoins the grounds of Struan Primary School, was sold in 1990, and there are shared utilities.
- 7.13 In terms of asset management, the Struan Primary School building has been assessed by Perth and Kinross Council Property Services as in a satisfactory condition with some remedial works required to the first floor rooms, the skylights and the boundary walls.
- 7.14 Throughout Scotland, core facts are gathered and published on school buildings. The definition and assessment categorisations are set by the Scottish Government as follows:

Condition ⁽¹⁾ -is an assessment of the physical condition of the school and its grounds. Categorisation is as follows:

- A: Good – Performing well and operating efficiently
- B: - Satisfactory – Performing adequately but showing minor deterioration
- C: Poor – Showing major defect and/or not operating adequately
- D: Bad – Life expired and/or serious risk of imminent failure

Suitability ⁽²⁾ -is an assessment of the school as a whole, its buildings and its grounds and of the impact these have on learning and teaching, leisure and social activities and the health and well-being of all users. Categorisation is as follows:

- A: Good – Performing well and operating efficiently
- B: Satisfactory – Performing well but with minor problems
- C: Poor – Showing major problems and/or not operating optimally
- D: Poor – Does not support the delivery of services to children and communities

Sufficiency ⁽¹⁾ -states the occupancy – pupil roll divided by capacity expressed as a percentage.

Source: (1) *Core Facts Building Our Future: Scotland's School Estate 2003*
 (2) *The Suitability Core Fact: Scotland's School Estate 2008*

- 7.15 A condition survey was carried out on the building in January 2016 and the overall site is rated as condition 'B' (performing adequately but showing minor deterioration). Condition is an assessment of the physical condition of the school and its grounds.

- 7.16 The suitability of Struan Primary School prior to mothballing was categorised as 'B' (performing well but with minor problems). Suitability is an assessment of the school as a whole, its buildings and its grounds and the impact these have on learning and teaching, leisure and social activities and the health and wellbeing of all users.
- 7.17 Expenditure/investment within the buildings at Struan Primary School over the period 2007 - 2010 is given below:

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
£'s	10,802	7,734	4,451

These figures reflect minor repairs, servicing and maintenance costs at Struan Primary School. The slightly larger figure in 2007/08 reflects replacement units and worktops in the kitchen to comply with current standards and works in the boys toilets which included repairing the wall and replacing urinals.

- 7.18 There is a title restriction whereby, when the school building ceases to be used as a school or for educational purposes, it must be offered back to the original Estate (Duke of Atholl).
- 7.19 Prior to mothballing, there were some community lets held within Struan Primary School. The Struan Hall Trust previously used Struan Primary School for various activities and in 2010/11 the Trust booked the school on 8 occasions for 2 quiz nights, the children's Christmas party and 5 other meetings.

8. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 8.1 A number of options are considered for the future of Struan Primary School as part of the Options Appraisal with the local communities:
- a) Re-open Struan Primary School with its existing catchment area.
 - b) Continued mothballing of Struan Primary School with the pupils zoned to Blair Atholl Primary School.
 - c) Re-open Struan Primary School and redelineate the catchment area to increase pupil numbers.
 - d) Close Struan Primary School and zone any pupils to Blair Atholl Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.
 - e) Close Blair Atholl Primary School and transfer the pupils to Struan Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.

- f) Close Struan Primary School and transfer the pupils to Kinloch Rannoch Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.
- g) Close Struan Primary School and transfer the pupils to Pitlochry Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.

9. ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS

The detail of the assessment of each option is included within the Options Appraisal.

9.1 Re-open Struan Primary School with its existing catchment area.

- 9.1.1 Numbers of primary school age children for the Struan Primary School catchment area are low and are not projected to rise between 2016 and 2020. This ties in with the decrease in the pre-school and 5-14 population across the LCPP over a number of years (census 2001- census 2011). There is no major house building planned in the area which would greatly impact on the pupil numbers. There is no suggestion going forward that this is likely to change.
- 9.1.2 It is highly unlikely that any of the pupils from the catchment area would return to the school should it re-open, based on the feedback of the 6 parents who attended the community meetings. The pupil projections in the catchment area do not indicate that the potential pupil numbers will increase in the future.
- 9.1.3 The travel arrangements for pupils have been in place for nearly 5 years. Although adverse weather is a factor in Highland Perthshire, one of the routes from Struan Primary School to Blair Atholl Primary School is via the A9, which is a priority for clearing. The time to travel from Struan Primary School to Blair Atholl Primary School is 11 minutes (Google Maps), which is not unreasonable.
- 9.1.4 The approximate cost to bring the property into an acceptable condition for re-opening is £155,392 for fabric and mechanical and electrical works. It should be noted there may be potentially further costs for structural works if the building were to re-open permanently and be used into the long term. A visual structural survey has been undertaken
- 9.1.5 There is a view from some of the members of the community who attended the meetings that the future of the community is dependent on the school. This is not evidenced by the parents attending the meeting, some of whom had moved to the area since the school was mothballed.
- 9.1.6 There are however challenges for the whole of the LCPP associated with the falling birth rate, a lack of house building or planned house building and limited employment opportunities.

It is for this reason that the LCPP, the CLD team and other networks are working together to create opportunities within the area.

9.1.7 Based on the information above this option is not considered a reasonable option.

9.2 Continued mothballing of Struan Primary School with the pupils zoned to Blair Atholl Primary School.

9.2.1 The school has been mothballed for 5 years which is in excess of the Statutory Guidance timescale of 3 years. Pupil numbers are not projected to increase in the next 4-5 years on the basis of pre-school children living in the area. The community is not supportive of the continued mothballing of the school, they either want it re-opened or the opportunity to have it used for something else.

9.2.2 In summary, continued mothballing, is not viewed as a reasonable option due to the potential for the school operation being suspended for up to 10 years in total, awaiting an increase in pupil numbers. Any increase would be contrary to the downward trend in population for young people in the LCPP. This option also denies the community the opportunity for the school building to be developed into a facility which could benefit the community.

9.2.3 If Struan Primary School was left mothballed on an indefinite basis, Perth and Kinross Council would incur annual costs to maintain the building. Unoccupied buildings can deteriorate more rapidly than operational premises and can become a focus for opportunistic crimes and/or targets for vandalism whether the premises are located in urban or rural areas.

9.2.4 On the basis that pupil numbers will not increase, mothballing is not a good use of resources and the building could be used to benefit the community. Therefore, continued mothballing is not viewed as a reasonable option.

9.3 Re-open Struan Primary School and redelineate the catchment area to increase pupil numbers.

9.3.1 Following a mapping exercise it is unlikely the catchment area could be made more sustainable with the options examined. This is primarily because there are only small numbers of pupils living outwith the main settlements of Blair Atholl and Pitlochry. In addition the pupils who do live outside the main settlements live closer to other schools i.e. Kinloch Rannoch, Blair Atholl and Pitlochry. This is therefore not a reasonable option.

9.3.2 **Pitlochry Primary School:** the majority of primary pupils in Pitlochry live in the town or close to the town. Those who live near the Struan Primary School catchment would have to travel to the A9 and past Blair Atholl to attend Struan Primary School. This would have a minimal effect on the occupancy level of Pitlochry Primary School. There are not enough pupils to significantly increase the roll of Struan Primary School.

9.3.3 **Blair Atholl Primary School:** many of the pupils attending Blair Atholl Primary School live in the village or close to the village. Moving the catchment area significantly would result in pupils from the village of Blair Atholl being transported to the village of Calvine to attend school.

9.3.4 **Kinloch Rannoch Primary School:** there are a very small number of pupils who could be accommodated at Struan Primary School without significantly increasing their travel distance. Therefore there would not be sufficient numbers of pupils to make Struan Primary School more sustainable.

9.4 Close Struan Primary School and zone any pupils to Blair Atholl Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.

9.4.1 Blair Atholl Primary School currently accommodates pupils from Struan Primary and the pupil numbers are not projected to increase. Pupil numbers at Blair Atholl have reduced since 2011 and are projected to remain static for the next 4 years. Blair Atholl Primary has capacity to continue to accommodate the projected pupil numbers. This option is considered to be reasonable and further detail is provided in relation to educational benefits, travel, environmental impact, community impact and financial impact in Section 15.

9.4.2 Blair Atholl Primary School currently accommodates pupils from the Struan Primary School catchment area as a result of the mothballing in 2011. The pupil numbers in the Struan Primary School catchment are not projected to increase and Blair Atholl Primary School has capacity to accommodate these pupils.

9.4.3 It should be noted that the pupil numbers at Blair Atholl have reduced slightly since 2011 and are likely to remain the same for at least the next 5 years. In 2000, there were 60 pupils at the school in Blair Atholl.

9.4.4 The current occupancy rate for Blair Atholl Primary school including current pupils from Struan Primary School catchment is 48%.

9.4.5 The travel distance from Struan primary school to Blair Atholl primary school is 5.0 miles, although pupils in the Struan catchment area travel distances of between 5.0 miles and 16.3 miles to Blair Atholl. The additional travel time for the route between Struan Primary School and Blair Atholl Primary School is 11 minutes (Google Maps).

9.4.6 This option is considered to be reasonable and further detail is provided in relation to educational benefits, travel, environmental impact, community impact and financial impact in Sections 12 -14 below.

9.5 Close Blair Atholl Primary School and transfer the pupils to Struan Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.

9.5.1 With this option 19 pupils would have to travel to Calvine, this includes 18 pupils who are currently within walking distance of Blair Atholl School. Only 5 pupils currently travel to Blair Atholl from Struan Primary catchment area. This is therefore not considered a reasonable option.

9.5.2 This option was not considered in 2011. It is likely that it was not considered because the number of pupils in the Blair Atholl Primary catchment (26) exceeded the number of pupils in the Struan Primary School catchment (3) and it was not considered reasonable that the majority of pupils had to travel.

9.5.3 There are currently 5 pupils attend Blair Atholl Primary from Struan. There are 19 pupils in the Blair Atholl Primary School catchment including placing requests. It is not considered reasonable that 19 pupils attending Blair Atholl Primary School would have to travel to Calvine rather than 5 pupils travel to Blair Atholl from the Struan Primary School catchment.

9.6 Close Struan Primary School and transfer the pupils to Kinloch Rannoch Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.

9.6.1 In the options appraisal carried out in 2011 the option of Kinloch Rannoch Primary School as a possible alternative for pupils from Struan was discounted. The following reasons were given:

- The travel distance between primary schools at Struan and Kinloch Rannoch is 12.7 miles (26 minutes travel time) [google maps]
- Struan Primary School's feeder secondary school is Pitlochry High School and Kinloch Rannoch Primary School's feeder secondary school is Breadalbane Academy.

9.6.2 This situation is unchanged and therefore Kinloch Rannoch is still considered an unreasonable option and this option was not put forward for discussion at the community meetings, nor was it raised.

9.7 Close Struan Primary School and transfer the pupils to Pitlochry Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.

9.7.1 Due to the reasons stated below, which are still valid, and taking into account the fact that the majority of pupils from the Struan Primary School catchment have been attending Blair Atholl Primary School for 5 years, this is not considered a reasonable option. This option was not put forward for discussion at the community meetings, nor was it raised.

9.7.2 In the options appraisal carried out in 2011 the option of Pitlochry Primary School as a possible alternative for pupils from Struan was discounted. The following reasons were given:

- The travel distance between primary schools at Struan and Pitlochry is 12.5 miles, 20 minutes travel time (12.6 miles return journey) [Google maps].
- There were capacity issues at Pitlochry, with some stages at the school already full. The potential capacity was anticipated to rise to 89% and in the longer term, accommodation for pupils from Struan could not be guaranteed.

10. THE OPTION FOR CONSULTATION FROM OPTIONS APPRAISAL

10.1 The Options Appraisal has demonstrated that the option for the permanent closure of Struan Primary School is the only reasonable option and represents the best value for education purposes.

11. BLAIR ATHOLL PRIMARY SCHOOL

11.1 Blair Atholl Primary School provides non-denominational primary education to pupils from the village of Blair Atholl and surrounding area. Appendix 2 (attached) shows the present school catchment area for Blair Atholl Primary School. The school site for Blair Atholl Primary School is attached as Appendix 4.

11.2 Blair Atholl Primary is managed under a shared headship arrangement with Logierait Primary School. In addition to the Headteacher, there is a principal teacher, teacher, principal teacher relief, classroom assistant, 2 support for learning assistants, early childhood practitioner, clerical assistant and visiting specialists for physical education, music and art. The catchment area for the school covers an area of 168.584 square kilometres (65.090 square miles) and is highlighted on the map below:

11.3 Blair Atholl Primary School is classed as a “remote rural” school under Section 14 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The classification of rural and remote rural is based on two main criteria, settlement size and accessibility based on drive time. For Blair Atholl Primary School the classification criteria is “settlements of fewer than 3,000 people and with a drive time of between 30 and 60 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more”.

11.4 Currently (April 2015), 24 pupils attend Blair Atholl Primary School.

- 11.5 The school structure currently has 2 composite classes made up as follows:
- Primary 1 - 3
Primary 4 - 7
- 11.6 Historical and projected pupil roll data for Blair Atholl Primary School is attached at Appendix 6.
- 11.7 The main school building is a single storey building of mixed block work, rendered and glazed curtain walling with concealed internal rainwater downpipes. The windows and external doors are double glazed upvc. The heating system is oil fired.
- 11.8 The following facilities and accommodation are offered:
- 2 classrooms for primary education
 - nursery
 - toileting facilities
 - staff room
 - general purpose room/hall
 - dining area
 - kitchen
 - office
 - Storage
- 11.9 The core facts for the school categorise both the building's condition and suitability as B (Satisfactory). The sufficiency (occupancy) based on the 2010 school census is 50.0%.
- 11.10 The impact of new housing in the Blair Atholl Primary School catchment area was examined and future pupil projections have been considered using aggregated GP registration data. Both Blair Atholl Primary School and Struan Primary School pupil numbers are projected to remain static over the next 4 years with little house building planned. The highest projected occupancy level, including house building, for future years at Blair Atholl Primary School is 50% in 2018/19. Pupil projections in the catchment area do not indicate that the potential pupil numbers will increase in the future and there is no suggestion going forward that this is likely to change.

12. EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

This statement is focused on Blair Atholl Primary School as children from Struan Primary School catchment area have been attending the school since 2011.

Learning and Teaching

- i) Curriculum for Excellence is designed to achieve a transformation in education in Scotland by providing a coherent, more flexible and enriched curriculum from 3 to 18.

Every school curriculum includes the totality of experiences which are planned for children and young people through their education, wherever they are being educated.

The curriculum aims to ensure that all children and young people develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they will need if they are to flourish in life, learning and work, now and in the future, and to appreciate their place in the world.

- ii) Blair Atholl Primary School offers a learning environment that encourages high levels of achievement and provides a wide range of opportunities for children to achieve their full potential as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.
- iii) There is a continual challenge for all schools to deliver a quality improvement agenda and deliver effectively the principles and outcomes of Curriculum for Excellence to enhance the educational experience for the children.
- iv) The principles of Curriculum for Excellence recognise the professionalism of teachers and the importance of this in exercising the freedom and responsibility associated with broader guidance. This means that schools are able to design their curriculum to meet the specific needs of their children and community.
- v) Blair Atholl and Logierait Primary Schools are part of a Shared Headship arrangement and are led and managed by the same headteacher
- vi) At Blair Atholl Primary School, staff are challenged and supported through a range of continuous professional development and review opportunities gained by working and learning with a range of colleagues. These are offered through a planned programme of development activities and opportunities for quality professional dialogue on an ongoing basis with staff from Logierait Primary School.
- vii) A collegiate approach to professional engagement amongst all staff, including visiting specialist teachers, is evident within the school. They come together regularly to review and improve practice as a school, with partner services and other schools in the Local Management Group.

This enhances the quality of learning and teaching through shared opportunities to develop effective approaches to learning and teaching and to share and moderate standards.

- viii) In recent years children in Blair Atholl Primary School have been taught in two classes. Currently the two classes consist of pupils from P1 to P3 and P4 to P7. Work is differentiated to adapt to pupils' needs and pupils benefit from being able to work on co-operative learning tasks with others. When pupils move from the infant classroom to the senior classroom staff set up a number of opportunities prior to the summer holidays to assist the transition. The inclusion of pupils from the Struan Primary School catchment area has supported staffing for two composite classes.
- ix) Children benefit from being part of a social context, in a shared Headship setting, in which they can build relationships with different groups and individuals, develop social skills, meet challenges and exercise responsibilities as members of a social group. They are able to interact and socialise with groups of children of their own age and gender, take part in team activities and move with their peers to secondary school.
- x) The co-location of the nursery and primary classes within the same campus enhances the transition process for the children moving from nursery into primary one through joint educational programmes and liaison between the two settings. There is a well-established "soft start" programme which links nursery and infant classes in the primary department. The nursery was one of the facilities mentioned by parents at the community meetings as making Blair Atholl attractive **"not just the school but also nursery, after school care i.e. childminder, kids clubs, school clubs, etc – need wraparound childcare"**

Outcomes

- xi) In the primary classes, appropriate standards in English language and mathematics have been maintained over the last three years. Most children achieve appropriate levels in reading, writing and mathematics with some achieving these earlier than might be expected.
- xii) There are processes and procedures for monitoring the quality of provision for all children to ensure that the needs of all learners are being met. In consultation with the Inclusion Team and the Headteacher, the Principal Teacher for Blair Atholl and Logierait has the strategic responsibility for pupils with identified additional support needs.

- xiii) Achievement is celebrated in a range of ways, from “Golden Tickets” presented at weekly assemblies, to the “Star Pupil” trophy which is given for a specific achievement in a particular area of the curriculum. There is a weekly “Secret Student” challenge, where pupils from all class groups are encouraged to demonstrate aspects of general citizenship within the school community. Pupils also use open events to showcase their ongoing work with parents and friends of the school.
- xiv) As part of the Education and Children’s Services School Improvement Framework, the school team work together to produce an annual school improvement plan based on the findings of ongoing self-evaluation processes, which identify key priorities for development and improvement.

Experiences - Broadening the range of Opportunities

- xv) Children are offered a broad range of active, well-planned experiences which help them develop the knowledge and understanding, skills, capabilities and attributes which they need for their mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing both now and in the future. Children’s learning needs are identified and supported.
- xvi) The nursery class enrolls children from the age of three years. The nursery is a vibrant stimulating learning environment, with a range of structured play activities, which includes outside play. A Pupil Profile is kept for every child, detailing their progress, skills, and interests. Staff know the children very well and are sensitive to their individual needs.
- xvii) Children are developing a sense of responsibility and citizenship through participating in activities such as junior road safety officers, eco and health committees.

The school follows the “Bounce Back” resilience programme as part of its Health and Wellbeing programme. Senior pupils were given the opportunity to become young leaders by being made prefects this year.

- xviii) Children have access to a range of extra-curricular activities at both school and Authority level. In the past year, the school has provided a range of clubs and activities including for example curling, cycling, netball, astronomy, cookery, art and music.
- xix) All parents and children have the opportunity to participate in, and benefit from the work of the Parent Council at Blair Atholl Primary School.

Environment for Learning

- xx) At Blair Atholl Primary School the children benefit from a range of facilities and resources. As well as up to date class and ICT resources there is a separate dining area.

There is an extensive outdoor area which includes a large grassy section, an orchard and a children's wood which all facilitates eco learning and promote health and wellbeing through play and team games.

- xxi) The whole outdoor area is enclosed for children to learn and play together during curricular and play times. There is a separate area for nursery children which is also enclosed and has a garden area. The school makes very good use of the school grounds and the local area for outdoor learning in curriculum areas such as science, mathematics and art.

- xxii) Children benefit from access to a range of community facilities which are in close proximity to Blair Atholl Primary School, including the local museum, the shop and local businesses and Blair Castle and grounds.

In summary:

The children and parents of Struan Primary School will have access to an educational establishment which has a well planned and committed approach to taking forward improvement. There is more than enough capacity at Blair Atholl Primary School to fully meet the needs of the Struan Primary School children without disrupting the learning of the Blair Atholl Primary School children.

13. LIKELY EFFECT ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

As Struan Primary School is a rural school, special regard was paid to the rural school factors. These were considered fully in the Options Appraisal stage and the focus of the pre-consultation with the community.

- 13.1 Struan Primary School is located in the village of Calvine, approximately 5 miles west of Blair Atholl, and lies just off the A9. The area is sparsely populated and the village is a small rural settlement sitting. There are few facilities in Calvine and Struan other than the Struan Inn.

- 13.2 The Struan Hall Trust administers funds on behalf of the Struan community and arranges events throughout the year. The Trust previously used the school for community events such as Christmas parties. Some events are now held in Blair Atholl rather than Calvine. The Struan Inn can be used for events but there are limitations in terms of numbers and times when it can be used.

- 13.3 Lets at Struan Primary School were previously arranged for community activities and events. There were 8 recorded lets for community use by the Struan Hall Trust in 2010/2011. Lets at Blair Atholl Primary School are also normally arranged for parental activities such as Parent Council meetings, parent evenings and school activities.
- 13.4 During the pre-consultation events with the local community, members of the community indicated their disappointment that some events have to take place outwith the settlement. There was also a view from some residents that there would be a negative impact, in particular, the opportunity to attract young families to the area.
- 13.5 There is a view from some of the members of the community who attended the meetings that the future of the community is dependent on the school. This is not evidenced by the parents attending the meeting, some of whom had moved to the area since the school was mothballed. It is highly unlikely that any of the pupils from the catchment area would return to the school should it re-open, based on the feedback of the parents who attended the community meetings.
- 13.6 There were also suggestions that the building could be used for other purposes such as a shop, small institute or community hall for local events if it did not re-open as a school. However, there were also views that the area could not sustain a community building.
- 13.7 The Council has a Community Learning and Development (CLD) Team working in the area, whose role is to help people build the skills, confidence, networks and resources they need to make positive changes in their communities.
- 13.8 There are however challenges for the whole of the LCPP associated with the falling birth rate, a lack of house building or planned house building and limited employment opportunities. It is for this reason that the LCPP, the CLD Team and other networks are working together to create opportunities within the area.
- 13.9 Highland Perthshire Communities Partnership (HPCP) is a collaboration of local businesses and organisations, and community councils working together for the benefit of Highland Perthshire working on their priorities of broadband access, A9 dualling, rural transport and local resilience plans.
- 13.10 The Hipshire Network brings together local voluntary, community and statutory organisations to identify and address local needs in an annual action plan around the themes of health and wellbeing, early years, employability and stronger communities.
- 13.11 Many parks play areas and community halls and facilities in the area are now owned or managed by local committees. A number of groups are also investigating opportunities for community asset transfer.

- 13.12 There may be a title restriction whereby, when the school building ceases to be used as a school or for educational purposes, it must be offered back to the original Estate (Duke of Atholl).
- 13.13 As the distance to Blair Atholl Primary School is 5.0 miles, it is believed that there will be no significant impact for the wider community from Struan Primary School catchment area to access the range of activities which are located at Blair Atholl.

14. LIKELY EFFECT CAUSED BY DIFFERENT TRAVELLING ARRANGEMENTS

As Struan Primary School is a rural school, special regard was paid to the rural school factors. These were considered fully in the Options Appraisal stage and the focus of the pre-consultation with the community.

- 14.1 The travel distance from school to school is 5.0 miles, although pupils in the Struan catchment area travel distances of between 5.0 miles and 16.3 miles to Blair Atholl. The time to travel the additional distance between the two schools is 11 minutes (Google Maps). Pupils from this area also travel to Pitlochry, which is 12.5 miles from Struan Primary School (12.6 miles return journey).

These travel arrangements have been in place for almost 5 years.

- 14.2 Travelling for primary school education is common across Perth and Kinross because of the geography of the area. Prior to the closure of Struan Primary School, a number of pupils were already travelling to Pitlochry. However, it is recognised that adverse weather in the winter currently impacts on travel arrangements in this area. It is not unusual for rural schools in Highland Perthshire to be affected by severe weather. Headteachers take into account the local circumstances when deciding to close the school and/or send pupils home early. All schools in Perth and Kinross have an emergency closure plan for severe weather in place which is drawn up by the Headteacher following a risk assessment.

It should be noted that one of the routes from Struan Primary School to Blair Atholl Primary School is via the A9, which is a priority for clearing.

- 14.3 The environmental impact of the preferred option if Struan Primary School was to close and pupils transfer to Blair Atholl Primary School would be an environmental impact from the transporting of approximately 8 pupils which is already currently in place. However, this has been offset by the requirement to only run Struan Primary School as a mothballed building rather than as an operational building. At Blair Atholl Primary School, the pupils can be accommodated without any significant additional impact.

- 14.4 There were a small number of community lets by external groups held within Struan Primary School prior to the school being mothballed. Should there be a requirement for community lets in the future, this could involve people travelling to Blair Atholl, although this number is difficult to quantify at this stage. In any event, the distance is relatively small and the local community is used to travelling to Blair Atholl to access other services.

15. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 The annual recurring savings of the preferred option is made up of staff costs and building running costs. The financial implications of this proposal are as follows:

OPTION	SAVINGS
Cease education provision at Struan Primary School and integrate within Blair Atholl Primary School	£93,496

- 15.2 Financial savings generated from mothballing Struan Primary School amount to £93,496 on an annual basis. This saving is predominantly made up of staff costs and building running costs. The 2014/15 annual running cost for electricity and property maintenance was £846. See Appendix 8 for detailed financial information.
- 15.3 The approximate cost to bring the property into an acceptable condition for re-opening is £155,392 for fabric and mechanical and electrical works. It should be noted there may be potentially further costs for structural works if the building were to re-open permanently and be used into the long term. A visual structural survey has been undertaken
- 15.4 On 30 June 2010, the Council approved the report Securing the Future – Towards 2015 and Beyond (Report 10/357 refers). This report set out our 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 Services Service Review Programme within this report contains a re-design project to “review the school estate”.
- 15.5 Therefore, any savings arising from the proposed option to close Struan Primary School will be allocated against Education and Children’s Services budget savings targets which have currently been set for the period 2016/17 – 2018/19. This will mitigate against making alternative budget reductions within other areas of Education and children’s Services, with a corresponding reduction in service delivery in that area.

- 15.6 The annual budget is built reflecting cost drivers such as the number of schools, buildings, staff and pupils. If Struan Primary School were to be closed then future years' budgets would not contain any allowance for staffing Struan Primary School and there would be reduced property costs (and possibly no costs should the building be declared surplus to the Council's requirements). Any per capita budgets relating to individual pupils would continue to be budgeted against the school that these pupils would attend following the closure of Struan Primary School.
- 15.7 It is envisaged that the existing Struan Primary School will be declared surplus to the requirements of Perth and Kinross Council. This will minimise the risks associated with vacant buildings.

16. OTHER ISSUES

Management of Proposals

- 16.1 It is intended that pupils from Struan Primary School will be permanently integrated within Blair Atholl Primary School from 1 April 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter. This will allow the Council to conduct the necessary consultation in accordance with the relevant statutory frameworks.

17. CONCLUSION

- 17.1 In summary, it is proposed that a statutory consultation exercise takes place on a proposal to close Struan Primary School and zone pupils to Blair Atholl Primary School and redelineate the catchment area of Struan Primary School to Blair Atholl Primary School.
- 17.2 Future pupil projections have been considered and Blair Atholl Primary School can accommodate all projected and potential pupils from the combined catchment areas. A higher occupancy level maximises use of the school estate and represents good asset management.
- 17.3 Travel distance to the neighbouring school is not excessive and pupils attending Blair Atholl Primary School already make this journey. However, it is recognised that adverse weather in the winter currently impacts on travel arrangements in this area.
- 17.4 Environmental impacts have been summarised and detailed work will be done as part of the environmental assessment for this proposal.

18. RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSAL

- 18.1 Interested parties are invited to respond to the proposal by making written, electronic or online submissions on the proposal.

Online: www.pkc.gov.uk

By e-mail: ECStatutoryConsultations@pkc.gov.uk

In writing: Struan Primary School Consultation, Education and Children's Services, Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth, PH1 5GD

no later than close of business on Wednesday 28 September 2016.

- 18.2 A form is provided at Appendix 7 for the convenience of those wishing to respond.

Its use is not compulsory. However, those wishing to respond are invited to state their relationship with the school – for example, “pupil”, “parent”, “grandparent”, “former pupil”, “teacher in school”, “member of the Community” etc. Responses from the Parent Councils, staff, and Pupil Council are particularly welcome.

- 18.3 Those sending in a response, whether by letter or electronically should know that their response will be open to public scrutiny and may have to be supplied to anyone making a reasonable request to see it.
- 18.4 If they do not wish their response to be publicly available, they should clearly write on the document: “I wish my response to be considered as confidential with access restricted to elected members and council officers of Perth and Kinross Council.” Otherwise, it will be assumed that the person making the response agrees to it being made publicly available.

19. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 19.1 The Lifelong Learning Committee of Perth and Kinross Council agrees to adopt, for the purpose of consultation, the proposal that:

- (i) Education provision at Struan Primary School be permanently discontinued with effect from 31 March 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter;
- (ii) Further that the pupils of Struan Primary School catchment area receive their primary school education permanently at Blair Atholl Primary School, from 1 April 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- (iii) The delineated area of Blair Atholl Primary School be permanently extended to subsume the whole delineated area of Struan Primary School from 1 April 2017;

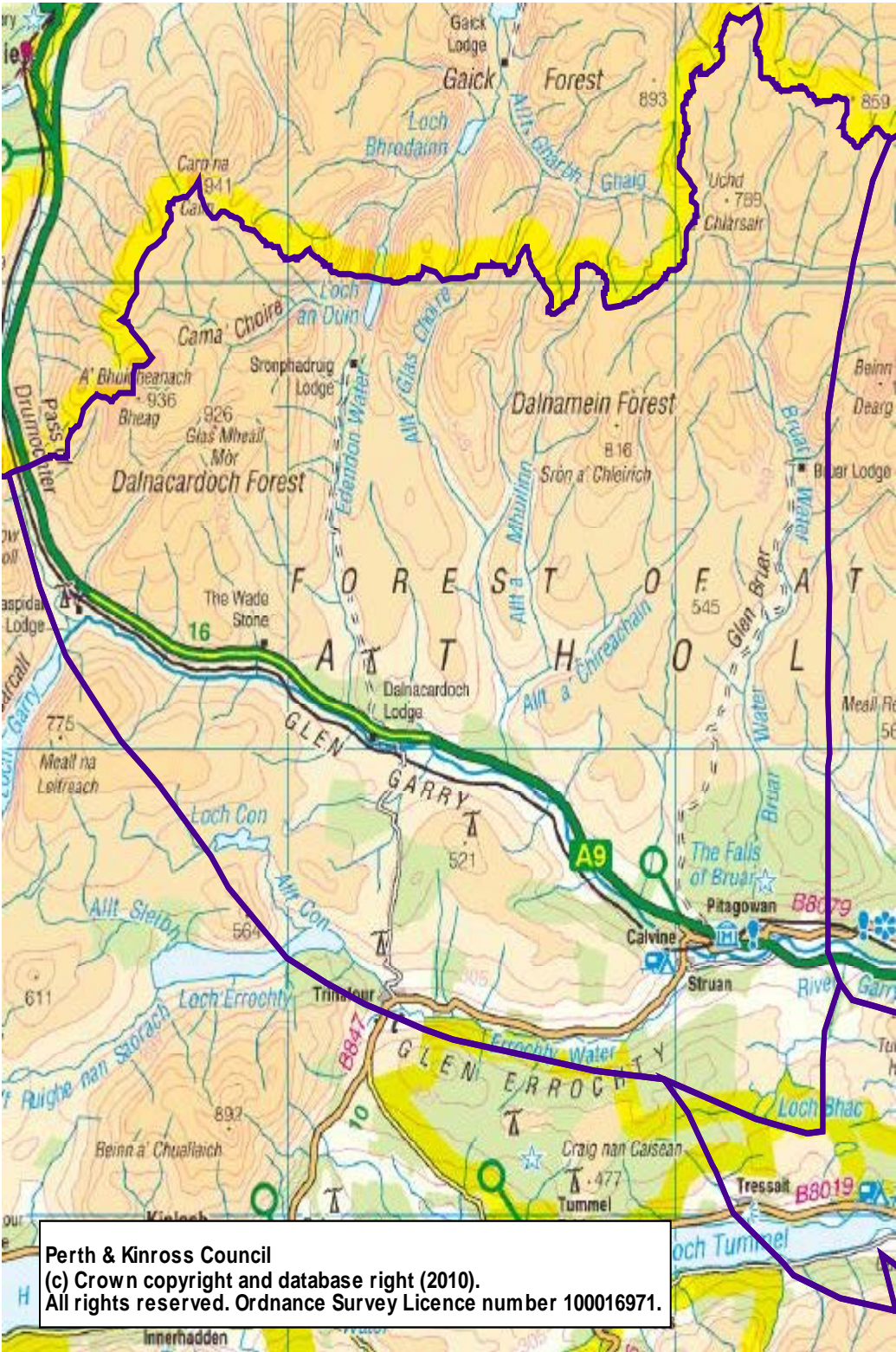
- (ii) Instructs the Director (Education and Children's Services) to formally consult the appropriate bodies and persons in relation to the proposal, in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010;
- (iii) Delegates authority to the Director (Education and Children's Services) to investigate and manage any alleged omissions or inaccuracies during the consultation process and to take appropriate action in accordance with The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010; and
- (iv) Instructs the Director (Education and Children's Services) to prepare a report on the results of the consultation and report back to the Committee on the outcome of these consultations at a future meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee.

19.2 The Lifelong Learning Committee will not make a decision nor put any changes into effect until it has consulted all interested parties.

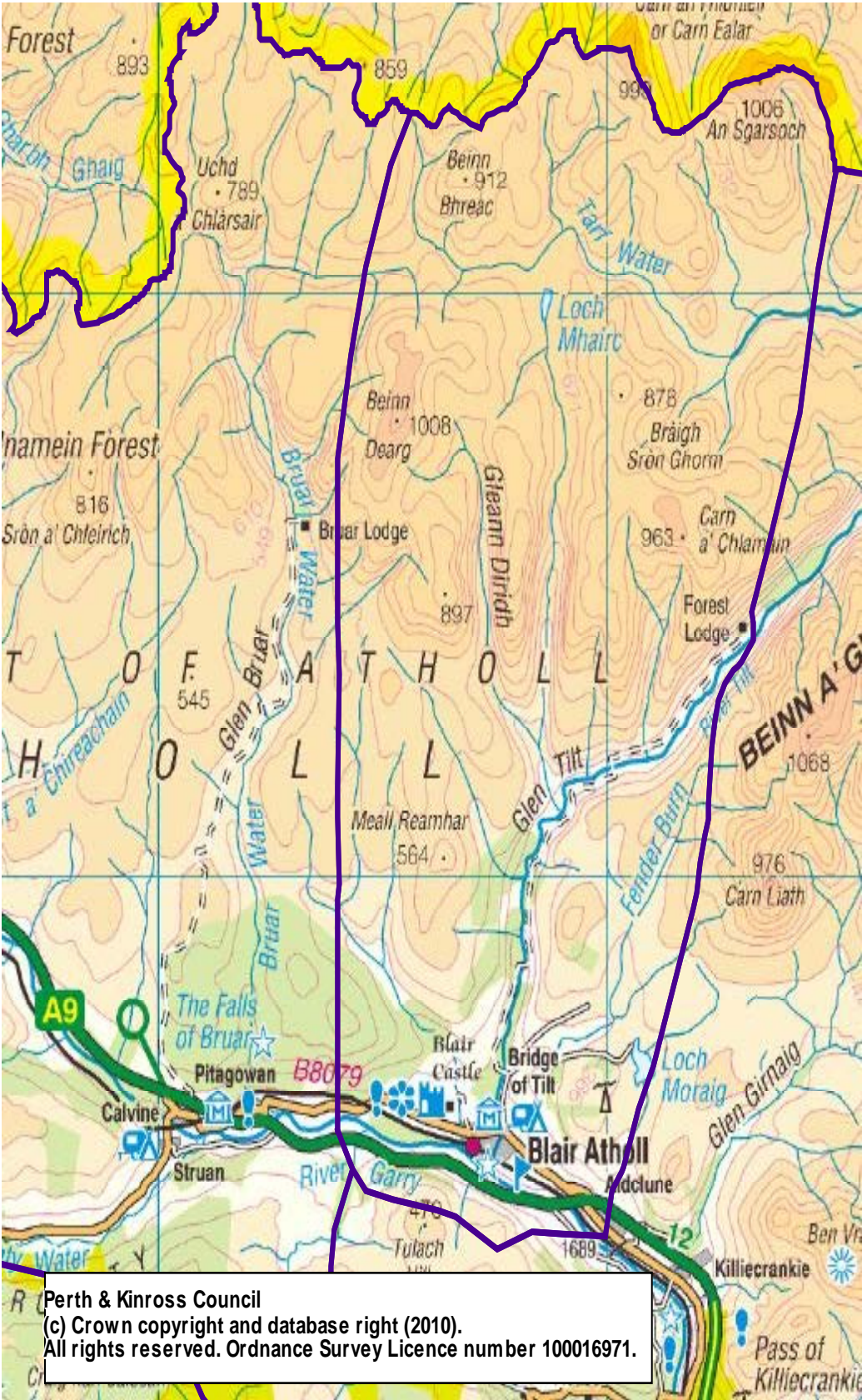
25 April 2016

Sheena Devlin
Director (Education and Children's Services)

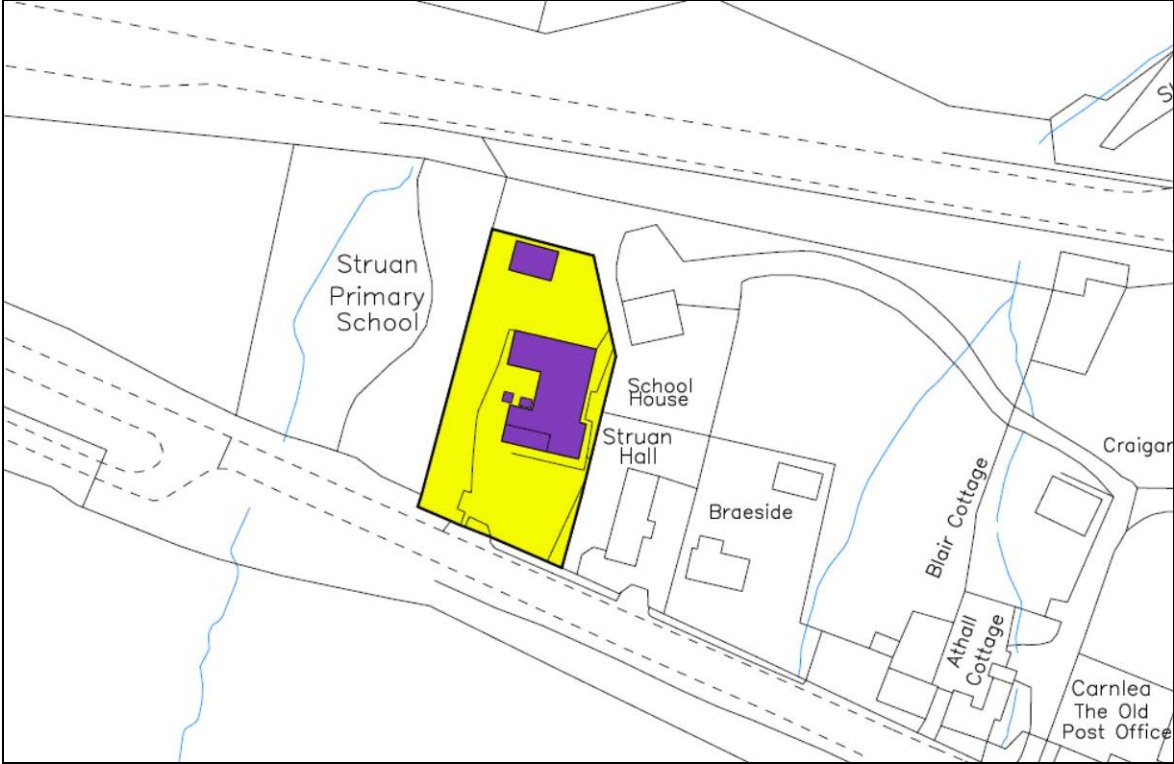
CATCHMENT AREA OF STRUAN PRIMARY SCHOOL



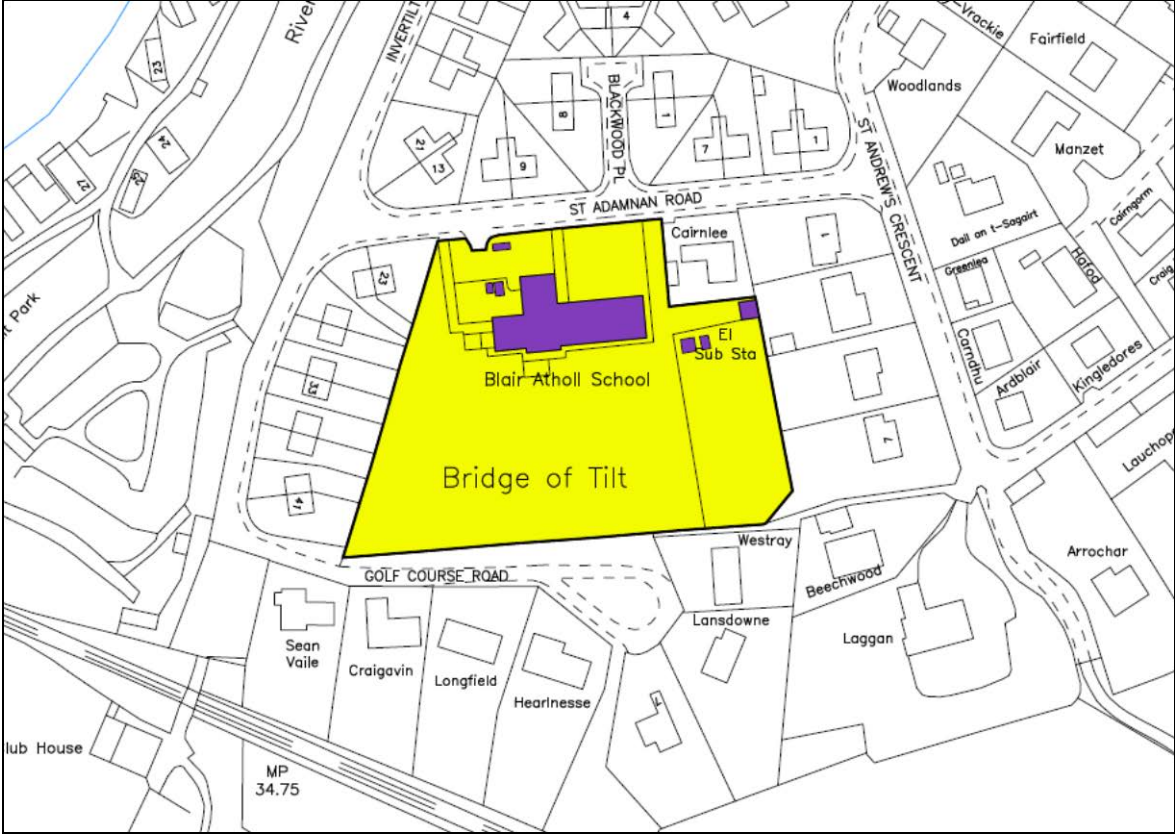
CATCHMENT AREA OF BLAIR ATHOLL PRIMARY SCHOOL



OUTLINE OF STRUAN PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING AND THE SCHOOL GROUNDS



OUTLINE OF BLAIR ATHOLL PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING AND THE SCHOOL GROUNDS



APPENDIX 5

HISTORICAL AND PROJECTED PUPIL ROLL DATA FOR STRUAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
9	6	7	15	17	16	16	14	6	3	4
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015					
3	0	0	0	0	0					

Source: [Scottish Government – School Education - Datasets](#)

PROJECTED PUPIL NUMBERS

Struan Primary	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020
Approved Capacity	47	47	47	47
Roll Projection Total (with house building)	8	9	8	9

ANALYSIS OF SCHOOL/PUPIL INFORMATION

School	Capacity	Condition Rating	Suitability Rating
Struan	47	B	B

APPENDIX 6

HISTORICAL AND PROJECTED PUPIL ROLL DATA FOR BLAIR ATHOLL PRIMARY SCHOOL

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
56	60	59	51	42	34	27	26	27	22	26
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015					
25	19	18	19	22	19					

Source: [Scottish Government – School Education - Datasets](#)

PROJECTED PUPIL NUMBERS

Blair Atholl Primary (Census Sept 2015)	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020
Approved Capacity	50	50	50	50	50
Blair Atholl Roll Projection Total (with house building)	19	18	16	18	17
Struan Primary Roll Projection Total (with house building) *	5	5	7	7	8
Total Roll Projection Total (with house building) *	24	23	23	25	25

ANALYSIS OF SCHOOL/PUPIL INFORMATION

School	Capacity	Condition Rating	Suitability Rating
Blair Atholl	50	B	B



**Education and Children's Services
Consultation Response Form**

Consultation Proposal:

- Education provision at Struan Primary School be discontinued with effect from 31 March 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter;
- That pupils from Struan have their education provided at Blair Atholl Primary School, from 1 April 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter; and
- That the delineated area of Blair Atholl Primary School be extended to subsume the whole delineated area of Struan Primary School from 1 April 2017.

Please tick the response which applies to you/your organisation

- I agree with the proposals as outlined in this consultation.....
- I disagree with the proposals as outlined in this consultation

I would like to make the following representation for consideration:
(if required, please continue on the other side of this sheet)

This part of the form must be completed for a valid response:

Name: _____ Address: _____

 Postcode: _____
 Email: _____

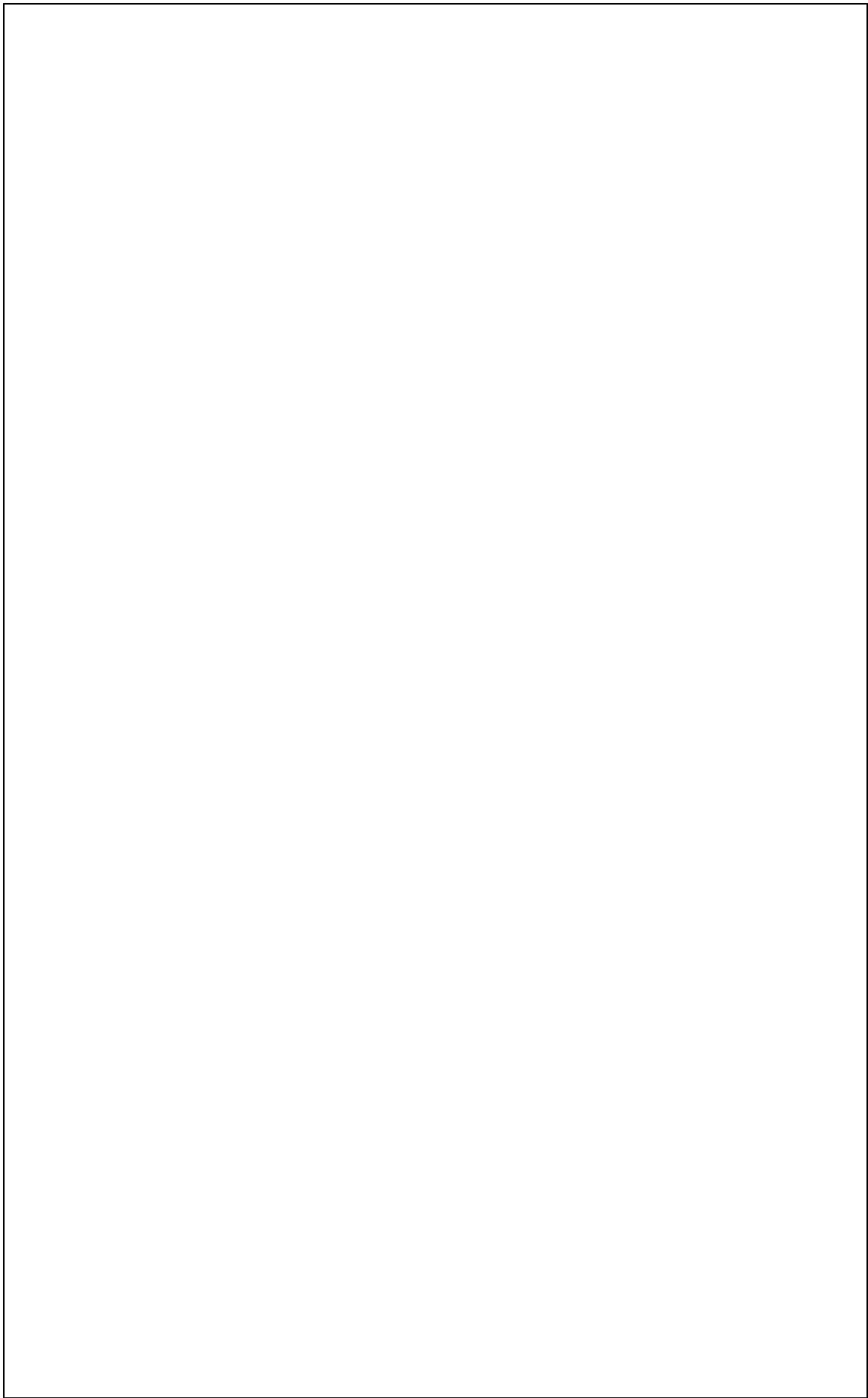
Your Interest: (please tick)

Parent Child / Young Person Staff Other *

*Other: (please specify) _____

Elected Member / MSP / MP Member of Community Council

I wish my response to be considered as confidential with access restricted to
 Elected Members and Council Officers of Perth & Kinross Council



APPENDIX 8

Current revenue costs for school proposed for closure			
Name of School Struan Primary School	Costs for full financial year (2016-17)	Additional financial impact on receiving school [Blair Atholl]	Annual recurring savings (column 2 minus column 3)
School costs			
<i>Employee costs</i>			
teaching staff	£ 67,821.00	£ -	£ 67,821.00
support staff	£ 18,384.00	£ -	£ 18,384.00
teaching staff training (CPD etc)	£ 238.00	£ -	£ 238.00
support staff training	£ -	£ -	£ -
Supply costs	£ 1,204.00	£ -	£ 1,204.00
Building costs:			
property insurance	£ -	£ -	£ -
non domestic rates	£ -	£ -	£ -
water & sewerage charges	£ 777.00	£ -	£ 777.00
energy costs	£ 4,740.00	£ -	£ 4,740.00
cleaning (contract or inhouse)	£ 8,722.00	£ -	£ 8,722.00
building repair & maintenance	£ 1,198.00	£ -	£ 1,198.00

Table 2			
Capital costs	School proposed for closure	Receiving school	
Capital Life Cycle cost	£ -	£ -	
Third party contributions to capital costs	£ -	£ -	

Table 3	
Annual Property costs incurred (moth-balling) until disposal	
property insurance	£ -
non domestic rates	£ -
water & sewerage charges	£ -
energy costs	£ 364.00

grounds maintenance	£ 750.00	£ -	£ 750.00
facilities management costs - note 6	£ -	£ -	£ -
revenue costs arising from capital	£ -	£ -	£ -
other	£ 490.00	£ -	£ 490.00
School operational costs:			
learning materials	£ 549.00	£ 356.80	£ 192.20
catering (contract or inhouse)	£ -	£ -	£ -
SQA costs	£ -	£ -	£ -
other school operational costs (e.g. licences)	£ -	£ -	£ -
Transport costs			
home to school	£ 17,824.00	£ 24,819.70	£ 6,995.70
other pupil transport costs	£ -	£ -	£ -
staff travel	£ 640.00	£ -	£ 640.00
SCHOOL COSTS SUB-TOTAL	£ 123,337.00	£ 25,176.50	£ 98,160.50
Income:			
Sale of meals	£ -		£ -
Lets	£ -		£ -
External care provider	£ -		£ -
Other	£ -		£ -

cleaning (contract or inhouse)	£ -
security costs	£ -
building repair & maintenance	£ 482.00
grounds maintenance	£ -
facilities management costs	£ -
other	£ -
TOTAL ANNUAL COST UNTIL DISPOSAL	£ 846.00

Table 4

Non-recurring revenue costs	
Property Costs (fabric, mechanical and electrical)p	£ 155,392.00
TOTAL NON-RECURRING REVENUE COSTS	£ 155,392.00

Table 5

Impact on GAE	
based on pupils going to Pitlochry PS	£ 4,665.00
GAE IMPACT	£

SCHOOL INCOME SUB-TOTAL	£ -		£ -
TOTAL COSTS MINUS INCOME FOR SCHOOL	£ 123,337.00	£ 25,176.50	£ 98,160.50

	4,665.00
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UNIT COST PER PUPIL PER YEAR	£ 15,417.13	£ 3,147.06	£ 12,270.06
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