

# THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT



## PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

### EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

#### PROPOSAL PAPER

The following schools are affected by this proposal document:

- **Straloch Primary School**
- **Kirkmichael 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 link to an electronic version of this document will be provided by letter 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
- Kirkmichael Primary School, Kirkmichael, Blairgowrie, PH10 7NX

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](mailto: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 to the consultees listed on the preceding page, and it will also be published on the Council website: [www.pkc.gov.uk](http://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 – Kirkmichael Primary School**

**Date – Tuesday 13 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 Straloch Primary School be permanently discontinued with effect from 31 March 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter;
- That the pupils of Straloch Primary School catchment area permanently receive their education at Kirkmichael Primary School, from 1 April 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter; and
- That the delineated area of Kirkmichael Primary School be permanently extended to subsume the whole delineated area of Straloch Primary School from 1 April 2017.

**1. REASONS FOR FORMULATING THE PROPOSAL**

- 1.1 Straloch Primary School is a single teacher school serving the village of Straloch and the surrounding area and is a feeder primary school for Blairgowrie High School. Straloch Primary School is located 3.5 miles from Kirkmichael Primary School and pupils have been zoned to Kirkmichael Primary School since the school was mothballed in August 2011.
- 1.2 The provision of primary education within Straloch 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 Kirkmichael Primary School and Straloch Primary School pupil numbers are projected to decrease slightly over the next 4 years with little house building planned. The highest projected occupancy level, including house building, for future years at Kirkmichael Primary School is 79% in 2017/18. 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 Straloch 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 Straloch 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 Straloch to attend Kirkmichael Primary School has strong educational benefits for pupils from Straloch 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 Straloch Primary School being mothballed, a number of parents had already made placing requests for their children to be educated in Kirkmichael Primary School and Pitlochry Primary School.
- 1.9 Pupils from the Straloch Primary School catchment area have been zoned to Kirkmichael Primary School for nearly 5 years. Kirkmichael 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 of 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.
- 1.12 The school has now been mothballed for 5 years and the community have a view that it is 'wasteful', and that resources within the school and the school itself should have a future. At the community events, people were clear about the challenges which faced their community, less employment, fewer families, fewer pupils and more holiday homes or weekenders. However, they were positive about the possibilities and opportunities which could be created, if the school building were developed or sold.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Straloch Primary School is a single teacher primary school serving the village of Straloch and the surrounding area. The capacity of Straloch Primary School is 22 pupils. The Straloch Primary School pupil roll at September 2009 Census was 5 pupils and at September 2010 Census was 8 pupils.



As at May 2011, there were 6 pupils attending Straloch Primary School, 3 from within the catchment and 3 placing requests. (Report 10/426 refers).

- 2.2 The situation at Straloch 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 Straloch Primary School was to fall to 2 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 Straloch 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.
- 2.3 Both of the remaining pupils attended Straloch Primary School as a result of successful placing requests and did not live within the catchment area for the school. Mutually agreed arrangements were made with the parents of the remaining pupils for session 2011/12.
- 2.4 At May 2011, another 7 primary pupils lived within the Straloch Primary School catchment area but, as a result of successful placing requests made by the parents, attended Kirkmichael Primary School and Pitlochry Primary School. These parents were advised of the arrangements to be implemented from August 2011.
- 2.5 The pupil roll at Straloch Primary School continued to decline over a period of years and only 2 pupils were due to be in attendance during school session 2011/2012.
- 2.6 Straloch Primary School catchment area has been temporarily rezoned to Kirkmichael Primary School for the period where Straloch Primary School remains "mothballed".
- 2.7 Kirkmichael Primary School has a roll of 49 pupils (as at Census 2015) and capacity for 72 pupils. Kirkmichael Primary School is situated 3.5 miles from Straloch Primary School.
- 2.8 At its meeting on 25 August 2010, the Lifelong Learning Committee of Perth and Kinross Council approved Report 10/426 by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services). It agreed to an Options Appraisal in relation to the future of Straloch Primary School. Authority was given by Lifelong Learning Committee to commence formal consultation on a proposal paper to close Straloch Primary School in June 2011 ([Report 11/254](#) refers) .
- 2.9 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.

- 2.10 On 31 August 2011, Lifelong Learning Committee agreed that the decision to commence formal consultations on the proposals to close Straloch Primary School would be deferred until the outcome of the Commission on the Delivery of Rural Education was reported (Report [11/430](#) refers).
- 2.11 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.
- 2.12 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.
- 2.13 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.
- 2.14 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.
- 2.15 The new duties are outlined in the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010 and the accompanying Statutory Guidance](#).
- 2.16 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.
- 2.17 The previously agreed arrangements to mothball Straloch 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.
- 2.18 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 Straloch Primary School, and also to report back to the

Committee on the findings and future proposals for Straloch Primary School.

- 2.19 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.
- 2.20 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 Straloch Primary School be permanently discontinued with effect from 31 March 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter;
- That pupils from Straloch Primary School catchment area have their education permanently provided at Kirkmichael Primary School, from 1 April 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter; and
- The delineated area of Kirkmichael Primary School be permanently extended to subsume the whole catchment area of Straloch 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 (Report No 07/776 refers), 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 of learning experiences for all.

## **6. STRALOCH AND THE LOCAL AREA**

- 6.1 The catchment area for Straloch Primary School sits primarily within the locality of Eastern Perthshire. Eastern Perthshire covers a geographical area of approximately 468km<sup>2</sup>. The locality includes Blairgowrie and Rattray, Perthshire's largest town, and where nearly half of all Eastern Perthshire residents live. There are also a number of smaller villages including Alyth, Coupar Angus and Burrelton.
- 6.2 Straloch and the local area are sparsely populated. Straloch is a small dispersed village lying at the foot of the Cairngorm mountain range. It lies within the Forest of Clunie Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Protection Area (SPA) that covers many of the farms and estates within the area. Scottish Natural Heritage actively promote moorland management locally and Forest of Clunie is of outstanding interest for a variety of upland breeding birds and is internationally important for hen harrier, osprey, short-eared owl and merlin and is nationally important for black grouse. Many areas around Straloch are designated SSSI for their diversity of grassland flora.

- 6.3 There are various holiday cottages and bed and breakfast establishments which accommodate visitors to this picturesque area throughout the year with the nearby winter sporting facilities at Glenshee. Kindrogan Field Studies Centre is an environmental centre that provides a range of learning opportunities for pupils, individuals and families as well as professional development for environmental professionals, teachers and outdoor leaders. This field studies centre lies less than two miles from Straloch Primary School. Attractions accessible from the area include fishing, mountain biking, walking and golfing (Blairgowrie and Alyth).
- 6.4 There are a number of halls in the area available for community use; located at Kirkmichael, Bridge of Cally, Ballintuim and Blackwater. The Session House at Kirkmichael is available for community activities. There are other facilities available including Kindrogan Field Centre which provides a range of learning opportunities for all.
- 6.5 The school was not used for community events latterly when it was open, for example there were no external bookings for 2010/11. The pupils had close links with the community however and neighbours were invited to visit the school for events on a regular basis.
- 6.6 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 relative to the Straloch Primary School catchment area as a result of business growth.
- 6.7 In the proposed TAYplan the annual number of houses required in the Strathmore & the Glens area is 145 per year. There is a possibility however that this could increase but if it does this would most likely be to 160 per annum, depending on the outcome of the examination into the proposed TAYplan. In terms of pupil numbers, 145 houses would equate to 39.15 pupils per annum. The houses and therefore the pupils will be largely within Blairgowrie, Rattray, Alyth and Coupar Angus as in line with the TAYplan, little development is likely to be identified outwith these settlements in the landward areas and any such development is likely to be of smaller scale.

## **7. STRALOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

- 7.1 Straloch Primary School provides non-denominational primary education to pupils from the village of Straloch and surrounding area. Appendix 1 (attached) shows the present school catchment area for Straloch Primary School. The school site for Straloch Primary School is attached as Appendix 3. Straloch Primary School is a single teacher school serving the village of Straloch and the local area. The catchment area for the school covers an area of 186 square kilometres (71.81 square miles). The capacity of the school is 22 pupils.

7.2 At the start of the 2010/2011 academic year, Straloch Primary School was operational with 8 pupils, 5 catchment and 3 placing requests, attending the school and 5 other pupils within the Straloch Primary School catchment area attending Kirkmichael Primary School and Pitlochry Primary School as a result of placing requests. The school structure had 1 composite class across Primary 1-7. The school roll was to fall to 2 pupils at the start of academic session 2011/2012.

7.3 Historical and projected pupil roll data for Straloch Primary School is attached at Appendix 5. This data shows that the roll of Straloch Primary School has been falling over the last decade, with pupil numbers unlikely to increase above their present level. Population information based on the 2011 census shows a decrease of nearly 50% in the 20-29 age group, which is likely to impact on the birth rates.

As highlighted in paragraph 1.3, the remaining 2 pupils prior to mothballing were enrolled by way of placing request and did not live within the catchment area for Straloch Primary School. A number of children in the catchment area attended other primary schools by way of placing request.

7.4 If the school were to re-open in August 2016, the maximum pupil numbers from the catchment would be 7. Pupils currently within the catchment attend Kirkmichael and Pitlochry Primary Schools – there is 1 P1 pupil anticipated to start school in 2016 from within the catchment. It is not certain that any of the pupils from the Straloch Primary School catchment area would return to the school were it to re-open. In addition, pupil numbers over the next 4 years, based on aggregated birth data are not projected to rise significantly.

7.5 Straloch 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 Straloch 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”.

7.6 At Straloch Primary School there was a full time Headteacher and there was part-time Headteacher support, classroom assistant, and auxiliary/clerical assistant. The school received visiting teacher support for Art and PE and janitorial assistance. PE was undertaken at Kirkmichael Village Hall and the all-weather pitch at Kirkmichael Primary School and also at the Bannerfield. The school also took pupils skiing at Glenshee each year, conditions permitting.

7.7 Straloch Primary School was part of the single teacher school network where, three times per year, groups of single teacher schools meet to give pupils wider access to a range of social activities.

- 7.8 Of the pupils who were attending Straloch Primary School in Session 2010/2011, 3 were entitled to home to school transport as they lived within catchment and were more than 2 miles from the school.
- 7.9 Straloch Primary School main building is single storey attached to a two storey former school house, now part of the school accommodation. The building was built around 1875 and is of roughly squared stone under a pitched roof. The most recent adaptation to the building (1995) was the demolition of the external toilet block and garage. The facilities were replaced with a toilet for disabled people, boys' toilets, girls' toilets, a cleaner's store and another store room being built onto the main building.
- 7.10 The building is a Grade C listed building. The listing includes the school building, previous schoolhouse and post box. Site plans of the school are attached as Appendix 2.
- 7.11 The ground floor of the school contains a classroom, a GP room, a library, staffroom, office, cloakroom and toilet provision. The first floor accommodation was used by the school for storage of learning resources and other materials.
- 7.12 The school grounds are mainly hard landscaping and the local estate has made an area of land available to the rear of the school which provides a soft landscape play area.
- 7.13 In terms of asset management, the Straloch 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 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.
- 7.15 The suitability of Straloch 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.
- 7.16 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 <sup>(1)</sup> -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 <sup>(2)</sup> -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 <sup>(1)</sup> -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*

7.17 The condition surveys are undertaken on a three year rolling programme by a Perth and Kinross Council building surveyor team led by a chartered building surveyor. The suitability assessment is undertaken by the Headteacher and validated by Senior Managers within Education and Children's Services. These assessments were undertaken annually until 2010, but it has now been agreed that these will be undertaken every three years unless significant building or operational change has occurred within the school.

7.18 The core facts for Straloch Primary School categorise both the building's condition and suitability as B (Satisfactory). The sufficiency (occupancy) of the school at the September 2010 school census was 36.4%.

7.19 Expenditure/investment within the buildings at Straloch Primary School over the period 2007 - 2010 is given below:

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
£'s	1,655.13	3,943.66	3,758.95

These figures reflect minor repairs, servicing and maintenance costs at Straloch Primary School.

7.20 There were no external community lets; the school was used in the evenings for parents' evenings and events organised by the school. The annual school ceilidh took place at Kindrogan Field Studies Centre.



## **8. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

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

- 9.1.1 Numbers of primary school age children for the Straloch Primary School catchment area are low, 6 as at September 2015 census, and are not projected to rise by 2019/20. It is not certain whether any of the children from the catchment area who are presently in other schools would return to the school should it re-open. So it is possible if it re-opened in August 2016 that there would be no pupils. Pupil projections in the catchment area do not indicate that the potential pupil numbers will increase in the future.
- 9.1.2 The majority of people who attended the pre consultation meetings were in not in favour of re-opening Straloch Primary School. There were a small number of people who expressed a preference for the school to reopen.
- 9.1.3 The travel arrangements for the pupils who been rezoned during the mothballing period have been in place for nearly 5 years. The travel distance from Straloch Primary School to Kirkmichael Primary School is 3.5 miles. The time taken to travel between the two schools is approximately 7 minutes in fair weather (Google Maps).

An additional 7 minutes is not an unreasonable time to expect children to travel for primary school education in rural areas. Adverse weather is a factor in this area, however all local schools are generally impacted by winter weather.

9.1.4 The approximate cost to bring the property into an acceptable condition for re-opening is £104,004 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 Based on the fact that there would potentially be no pupils in August 2016, an unsustainable pupil roll going forward, the school was not previously used as a community facility, and the community are keen to find an alternative use for the building, this is not considered a reasonable option.

## **9.2 Continued mothballing of Straloch Primary School with the pupils zoned to Kirkmichael 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 rise in terms of pre-school children living within the catchment and there is no planned house building.

9.2.2 At the community meetings, people were disappointed that the school was still mothballed and that resources were being 'wasted' instead of being used at Kirkmichael or more widely for education within Perth and Kinross.

9.2.3 The community, based on the meetings, view the future development or sale of the building as an opportunity. There were a large number of suggestions as to the future of the building, which was in fact the key discussion topic at all 3 meetings.

9.2.4 If Straloch 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.

9.2.5 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 Straloch Primary School and redelineate the catchment area**

9.3.1 Following a mapping exercise it is unlikely the catchment area could be made more sustainable. This is because most pupils in the neighbouring catchment areas live either in Kirkmichael or Pitlochry.

- 9.3.2 Pitlochry Primary School: the majority of primary pupils in Pitlochry live in the town or close to the town. There are few pupils that live in the area between Pitlochry Primary School and the catchment area for Straloch Primary School. The catchment for Straloch would need to take into account Pitlochry town in order for significant numbers to make Straloch more sustainable.
- 9.3.3 Kirkmichael Primary School: many of the pupils attending Kirkmichael Primary School live in the village or close to the village. Moving the catchment area significantly would result in pupils from the village of Kirkmichael being transported to Straloch to attend school.
- 9.3.4 A large part of each of these catchment areas are sparsely populated because of the terrain and options in relation to travel are also limited. This is therefore not a reasonable option.
- 9.4 Close Straloch Primary School and zone any pupils to Kirkmichael Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.**
- 9.4.1 Kirkmichael Primary School currently accommodates pupils from Straloch Primary and the pupil numbers are not projected to increase significantly. Kirkmichael Primary has capacity to continue to accommodate the projected pupil numbers.
- 9.4.2 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 Kirkmichael Primary School and transfer the pupils to Straloch Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.**
- 9.5.1 This option was not included in the 2011 options appraisal. It is likely that it was not considered because the number of pupils in the Kirkmichael Primary catchment (39 at the September 2010 census) exceeded the capacity of Straloch Primary School which is 22 pupils. In addition pupils would be travelling higher into the glen, which would cause issues in adverse weather. This option was not discussed at the Community Engagement events, nor was it raised.
- 9.5.2 This is not considered a reasonable option as it would not be possible to accommodate all pupils from the Kirkmichael and Straloch catchment areas at Straloch Primary School. It is included for 'completeness' of the options appraisal.
- 9.6 Close Straloch Primary School and transfer the pupils to Pitlochry Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.**
- 9.6.1 In the options appraisal carried out in 2011, the option of Pitlochry Primary School as a possible alternative for pupils from Straloch was discounted. The following reasons were given:

- The travel distance between primary schools at Straloch and Pitlochry is 8.6 miles i.e. it is 5.1 miles greater than the distance between Kirkmichael and Straloch.
- There were capacity issues at Pitlochry in 2011, with some stages at the school already full.
- Straloch Primary School's feeder secondary school is Blairgowrie High School and Pitlochry Primary School's feeder secondary school is Pitlochry High School.

9.6.2 Pupils have been zoned to Kirkmichael for 5 years. At the community meetings, there was a view that this had benefitted Kirkmichael Primary School through resources, teaching staff and unifying the communities. It is unlikely that Pitlochry Primary School or Pitlochry would benefit in the same way. For these reasons and the reasons which were stated in 2011, this is not considered a reasonable option.

## **10. THE OPTION FOR CONSULTATION FROM OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

10.1 The Options Appraisal has demonstrated that the option for the permanent closure of Straloch Primary School with the pupils zoned to Kirkmichael Primary School is the only reasonable option and represents the best value for education purposes.

## **11. KIRKMICHAEL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

11.1 Kirkmichael Primary School provides non-denominational primary education to pupils from the village of Kirkmichael and surrounding area. Appendix 2 (attached) shows the present school catchment area for Kirkmichael Primary School. The catchment area for the school covers an area of 257 square kilometres (99.22 square miles).

11.2 In May 2011, 36 pupils attended Kirkmichael Primary School. After a Statutory Consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, Scottish Ministers gave approval in October 2011 for Perth and Kinross Council to proceed with the permanent closure of Strone of Cally Primary School. The school officially closed on 27 June 2012. All pupils from Strone of Cally were already attending Kirkmichael Primary School through submitting successful placing requests.

11.3 Kirkmichael Primary School is classed as a "remote rural" school under Section 14 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The classification of rural is based on two main criteria settlement size and accessibility based on drive time. For Kirkmichael 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 In addition to the Headteacher, there is a principal teacher, 2 class teachers, pupil support teacher, primary school support worker, 2 primary school support assistants, early childhood practitioner, nursery play assistant, peripatetic nursery teacher and a visiting specialist for PE. The school also receives janitorial support.
- 11.5 The school structure currently has 3 composite classes made up as follows:
- Primary 1/2
  - Primary 3/4
  - Primary 5/6/7
- 11.6 Historical and projected pupil roll data for Kirkmichael Primary School is attached at Appendix 6.
- 11.7 The main school building is a pre-1919 two storey stone building under a pitched slate roof with cast iron gutters and downpipes. The building sits below road level and the site overlooks the river. There is also a 2 classroom annexe situated within the site to the south west of the main building which houses the nursery and early years class. There is a large outdoor area with a mix of hard and soft landscaping and a multi-use games area. The heating is electric.
- 11.8 Site plans of Kirkmichael Primary School are attached in Appendix 4. The following facilities and accommodation are offered: 3 classrooms for primary education, nursery, toilets, staff/resources room, dining/general purpose room, offices and storage.
- 11.9 A condition survey was carried out on the building in October 2013 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.
- 11.10 A suitability assessment was undertaken in February 2013 and the overall rating is B (performing adequately 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.
- 11.11 The roll of Kirkmichael Primary School at Census 2015 was 49 pupils, 5 of these pupils live in the Straloch catchment area.
- 11.12 Investment in 2007/08 provided a two room extension at Kirkmichael Primary School that resulted from a recommendation for improving the accommodation at Kirkmichael Primary School in the Education Scotland report in November 2001. This accommodation houses a nursery class and a primary one class.
- 11.13 The most recent inspection carried out by HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) in August 2010 can be accessed via the following link. [HMIE Report](#)

## 12. EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

This statement is focused on Kirkmichael Primary School as children from Straloch 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) Kirkmichael 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 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. At Kirkmichael 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.
- v) These are offered through a planned programme of development activities and opportunities for quality professional dialogue on an ongoing basis. All teachers have been actively involved in key school developments. Curricular frameworks are being created for Numeracy, Literacy, Science and Health and Wellbeing. A teacher at Kirkmichael has taken on a leadership role in the Teacher Learning Communities, where good practice is shared with colleagues from other schools.
- vi) In recent years children in Kirkmichael Primary School have been taught in three classes composed of a number of children from more than one year group.

They benefit from being part of a social context 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.

- vii) 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 1, through joint educational programmes and liaison between the two settings.

### **Outcomes**

- viii) Meeting the needs of every child continues to be a priority and teachers carefully plan and assess to ensure each child has the opportunity to reach their potential.
- ix) An assurance programme is planned throughout the year to monitor learning and teaching. This includes professional dialogue with teachers, learning discussions with children, classroom observations and careful tracking of pupils' progress in learning. Where appropriate, intervention is put in place working effectively with other agencies and parents to ensure the needs of each child are met.
- x) In the primary classes, standards in attainment have been maintained over the last 3 years. Most children are achieving national expectations in reading, writing, listening, talking and mathematics. Reading attainment across the school is particularly strong, with strategies from 'Muckle Reading' helping to maintain motivation. Big Maths is being introduced throughout the school to challenge pupils and to allow clearer progression. All pupils have developed the use of VCOP strategies (Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation) to support their writing.
- xi) All round achievement is an important aspect of each child's development. The school's Wall of Achievement displays children's personal successes which are celebrated at a special assembly every year. Through the Stepping Stones Challenges, which have recently been introduced in some classes, children receive recognition and certificates for completing a range of activities some in school and some with the support of parents

### **Experiences - Broadening the range of Opportunities**

- xii) 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.

- xiii) In the nursery class children enjoy a range of experiences. Staff know the children very well and are sensitive to their individual needs.
- xiv) Pupils from Nursery to P7 have taken on responsibilities which enhance the development of a positive ethos across the school. Children are provided with a variety of experiences to develop their sense of responsibility, independence, confidence and enterprising attitude.

These include:

- Topic related trips to Verdant Works, Edinburgh Zoo, Wallace Monument and Blair Castle
  - Skiing lessons for P4-5
  - A residential experience for P7 pupils in Scarborough
  - Art and Craft workshops organised by a member of the community and displayed in the Session House to share with the community
  - Links with the local community to Pitcarmick Estate for P1-P3
- xv) Parents and the Parent Teacher Association have assisted the school with trips and experiences and financially supported them through fundraising and social events.

### **Environment for Learning**

- xvi) At Kirkmichael Primary School the children benefit from a range of facilities and resources. As well as up to date class and IT resources there is a separate dining area and an extensive outdoor area which includes a large grassy section, a woodland garden and a multi-use games area which facilitate eco learning and promote health and wellbeing through play and team games.
- xvii) The whole outdoor area is enclosed for children to learn and play together during curricular and play times. 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.
- xviii) Children also benefit from access to a range of community facilities which are in close proximity to Kirkmichael Primary School including the village hall, the session house, the shop and local businesses.



In summary:

The children and parents of Straloch Primary School will have access to an educational establishment which meets the needs of all children and which has a comprehensive and well planned approach to taking forward improvement. There is more than enough capacity at Kirkmichael Primary School to fully meet the needs of the children from Straloch Primary School catchment area.

### **13. LIKELY EFFECT ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

As Straloch 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 Straloch Primary School is situated within a small rural community and it is believed that this proposal will not adversely impact on local, social or economic activities. Prior to mothballing, the school was used for school related events. There are no recorded instances of the school being used for any community events prior to mothballing.
- 13.2 During the pre-consultation events with the local community, members of the community identified that there is a sense of a loss of social connection which was maintained by them being invited to school events at Straloch. However, people were clear about the challenges which faced their community - less employment, fewer families, less pupils and more holiday homes or weekenders.
- 13.3 There were a large number of suggestions as to a use of the building which would benefit the community if it did not re-open as a school and one or two suggestions that the building could still be used for education. There were also views that the area could not sustain another community building. They were positive about the possibilities and opportunities which could be created, if the school building were developed or sold and did not see Straloch Primary School as being critical to the future of the community.
- 13.4 The Council's Community Learning and Development Team work with communities across Perth and Kinross. In addition, this area is supported by the Mount Blair Community Development Trust which works on a range of projects to benefit the community e.g. the café, shop and garage at Kirkmichael, which is a community enterprise.
- 13.5 Across Eastern Perthshire, there are numerous Community groups and organisations from Bridge Clubs and Lunch Clubs, to theatre and dance groups to Community Councils, Development Trusts and Community Youth Organisations.

These organisations sometimes meet in community or Council operated buildings occasionally meeting as a stand-alone group, offering service whereas others work with other community groups to create change within their communities. Community Learning and Development (CLD) often work with these groups to support their activities.

Through many of the youth programmes and organisations young people are supported to influence decisions that affect them locally and address issues within their community. In 2015 a local young person was elected as a member of the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP).

- 13.6 The recently opened Community Connect@Rattray offers a range of activities for community groups and Community Planning Partnership services to reflect the needs of local people. A recently completed building in the Wellmeadow, Blairgowrie will provide a focus for young people in the Eastern Perthshire area, as well as job opportunities.
- 13.7 The facilities within the Kirkmichael Primary School building are suitable for the promotion of community use outside school hours. There are a number of halls in the area available for community use located at Kirkmichael, Bridge of Cally, Ballintuim and Blackwater. The Session House at Kirkmichael is available for community activities. There are also other facilities available including Kindrogan Field Centre which provides a range of learning opportunities for all. As the distance to Kirkmichael Primary School is 3.5 miles, it is believed that there will be no significant impact for the community to access the range of activities which could be located at Kirkmichael Primary School.

#### **14. LIKELY EFFECT CAUSED BY DIFFERENT TRAVELLING ARRANGEMENTS**

As Straloch 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 Straloch Primary School to Kirkmichael Primary School is 3.5 miles. The time taken to travel between the two schools is approximately 7 minutes (Google Maps). Pupils in the Straloch catchment area currently travel distances of between 2.17 miles and 3.15 miles to Kirkmichael and travel 8.6 miles to Pitlochry Primary School (Location Centre).

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

- 14.2 A travel distance of 3.5 miles is not an unreasonable distance to expect children to travel for primary school education in rural areas. Other catchment areas in Perth & Kinross also have such a travel distance within them. However, it is recognised that adverse weather in the winter currently impacts on travel arrangements in this area.

In terms of adverse weather, Straloch Primary School would generally be affected more than Kirkmichael, however there are always likely to be issues in this area because of the location. 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.

- 14.3 Staff who were employed at Straloch Primary School were redeployed during the mothballing and there was no significant impact on travel arrangements for staff.
- 14.4 The environmental impact of the preferred option if Straloch Primary School was to close and the pupils transfer to Kirkmichael Primary School, would be an environmental impact from the transporting of approximately 5 pupils. However, this would be offset by the need no longer to run the Primary School as a mothballed building rather than an operational building. At Kirkmichael Primary School, the pupils can be accommodated without any significant additional impact.
- 14.5 There are currently no community lets by external groups held within Straloch Primary School. Should there be a requirement for community lets in the future, this could involve people travelling to Kirkmichael, although this number is difficult to quantify at this stage as there has been no demand to date. In any event, the distance is small and the local community is used to travelling to Kirkmichael 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 Straloch Primary School and integrate within Kirkmichael Primary School	£89,057

- 15.2 Financial savings generated from mothballing Straloch Primary School amount to £89,057 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 £4,033. See Appendix 8 for detailed financial information.
- 15.3 The approximate cost to bring the property into an acceptable condition for re-opening is £104,004 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.

- 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 Straloch 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 Straloch Primary School were to be closed then future years’ budgets would not contain any allowance for staffing Straloch Primary School and there would be reduced property costs (and possibly no costs should the building be sold in the future). 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 Straloch Primary School.
- 15.7 It is envisaged that the existing Straloch 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 Straloch Primary School will be permanently integrated within Kirkmichael 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 Straloch Primary School, zone pupils to Kirkmichael Primary School, and redelineate the catchment area of Straloch Primary School to Kirkmichael Primary School.

- 17.2 Future pupil projections have been considered and Kirkmichael 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 Kirkmichael 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.
- 17.5 Local external community groups did not rely on using accommodation in Straloch Primary School for holding community events and closure of the school would have no impact on this. Community capacity building can assist to maintain community contacts. The sustainability of the community would, therefore, not be significantly impacted by the 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](http://www.pkc.gov.uk)

By e-mail: [ECSStatutoryConsultations@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:ECSStatutoryConsultations@pkc.gov.uk)

In writing: Straloch 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 Straloch Primary School be permanently discontinued with effect from 31 March 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter;
- (ii) Further that the pupils of Straloch Primary School catchment area receive their primary school education permanently at Kirkmichael Primary School, from 1 April 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter;
- (iii) The delineated area of Kirkmichael Primary School be permanently extended to subsume the whole delineated area of Straloch 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.

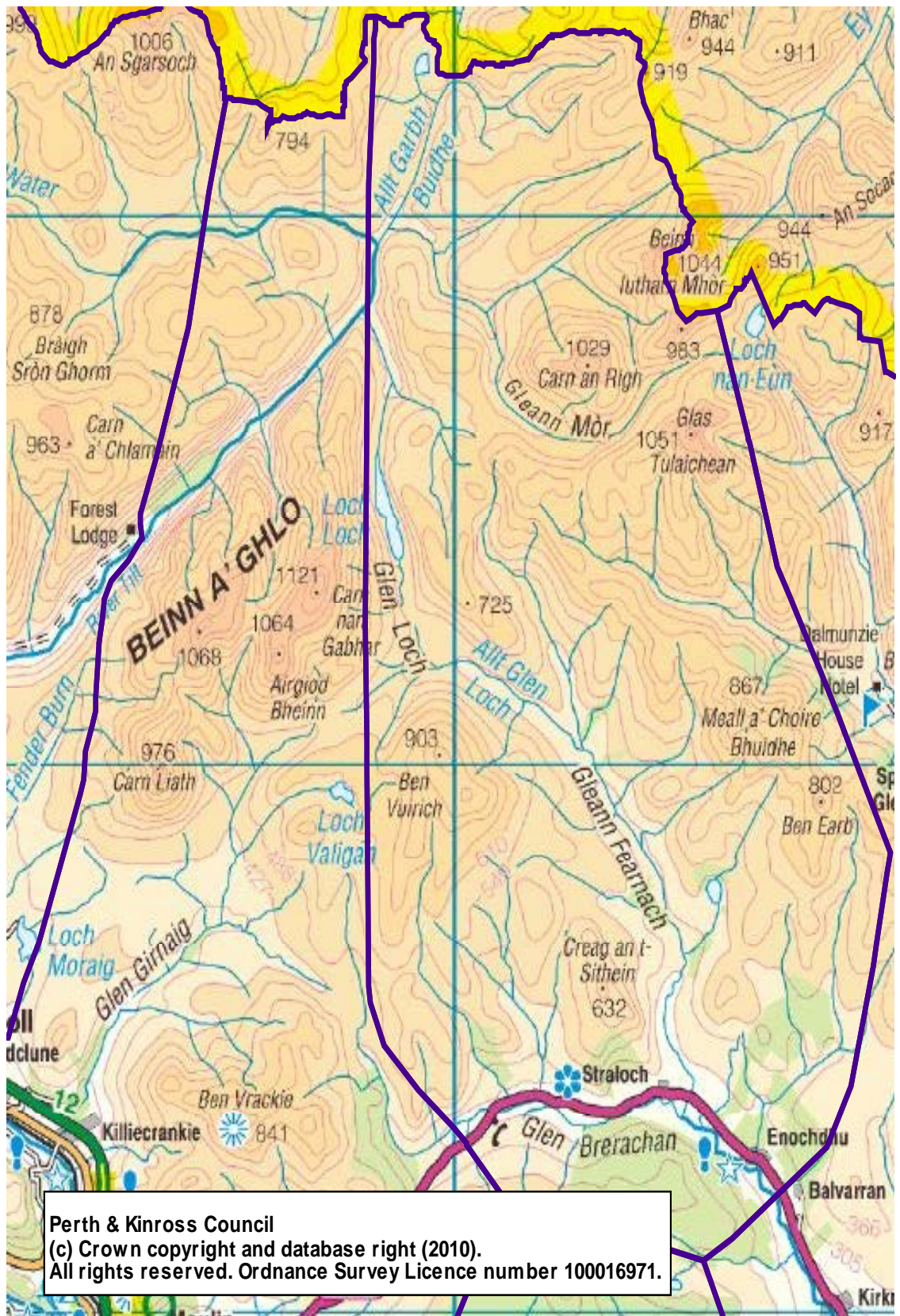
19.2 The Lifelong Learning Committee will not make a decision nor put any changes into effect until it has consulted all interested parties.

25 April 2016

Sheena Devlin  
Director (Education and Children's Services)

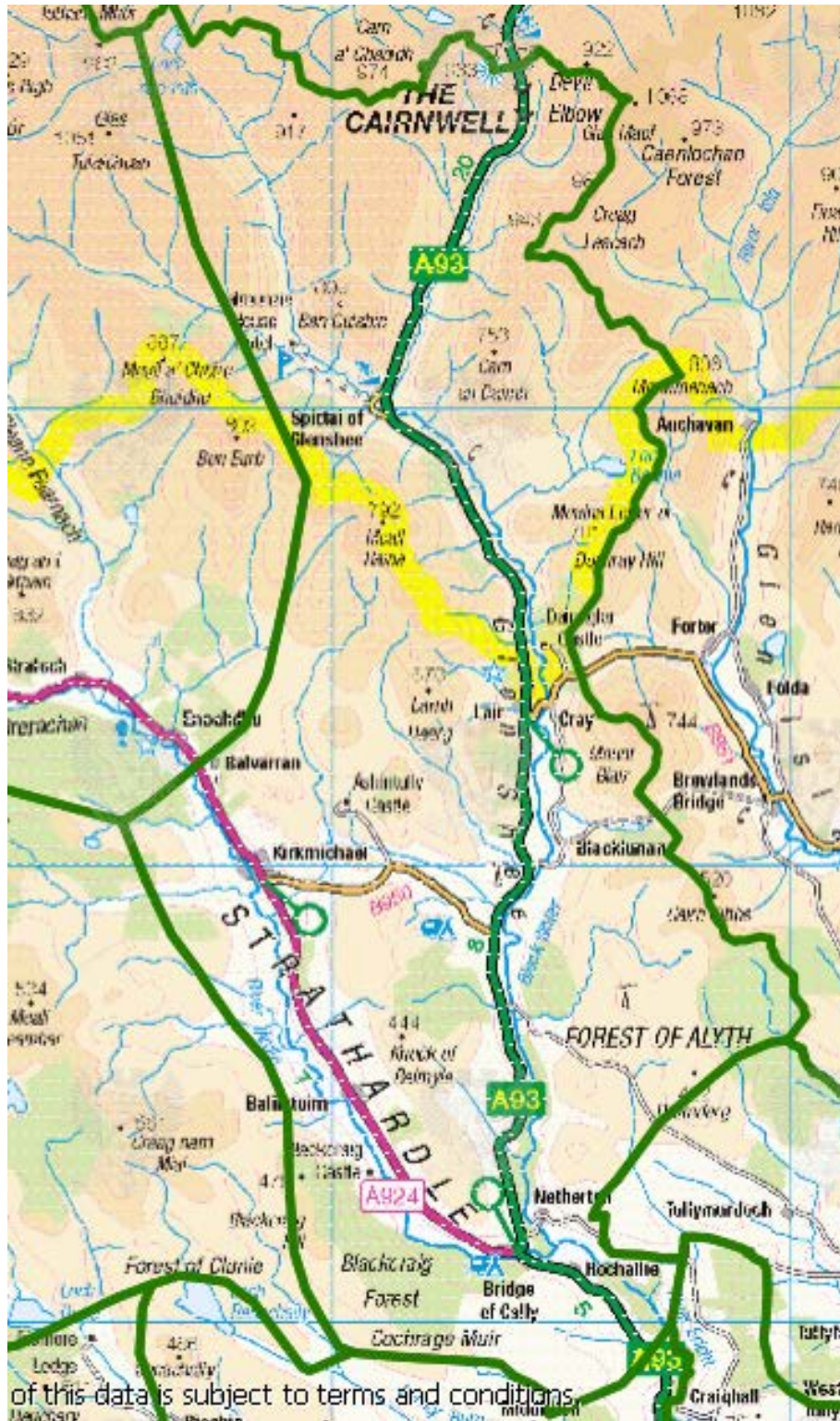


CATCHMENT AREA OF STRALOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL



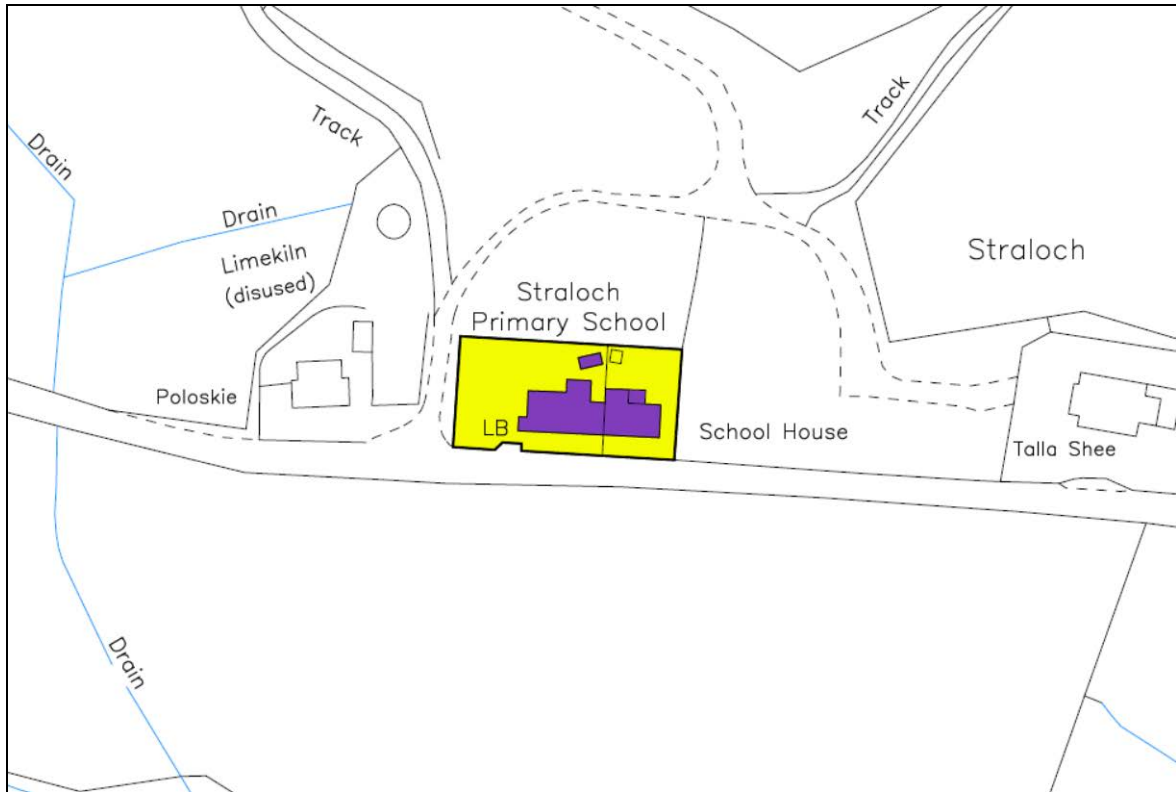


CATCHMENT AREA OF KIRKMICHAEL PRIMARY SCHOOL



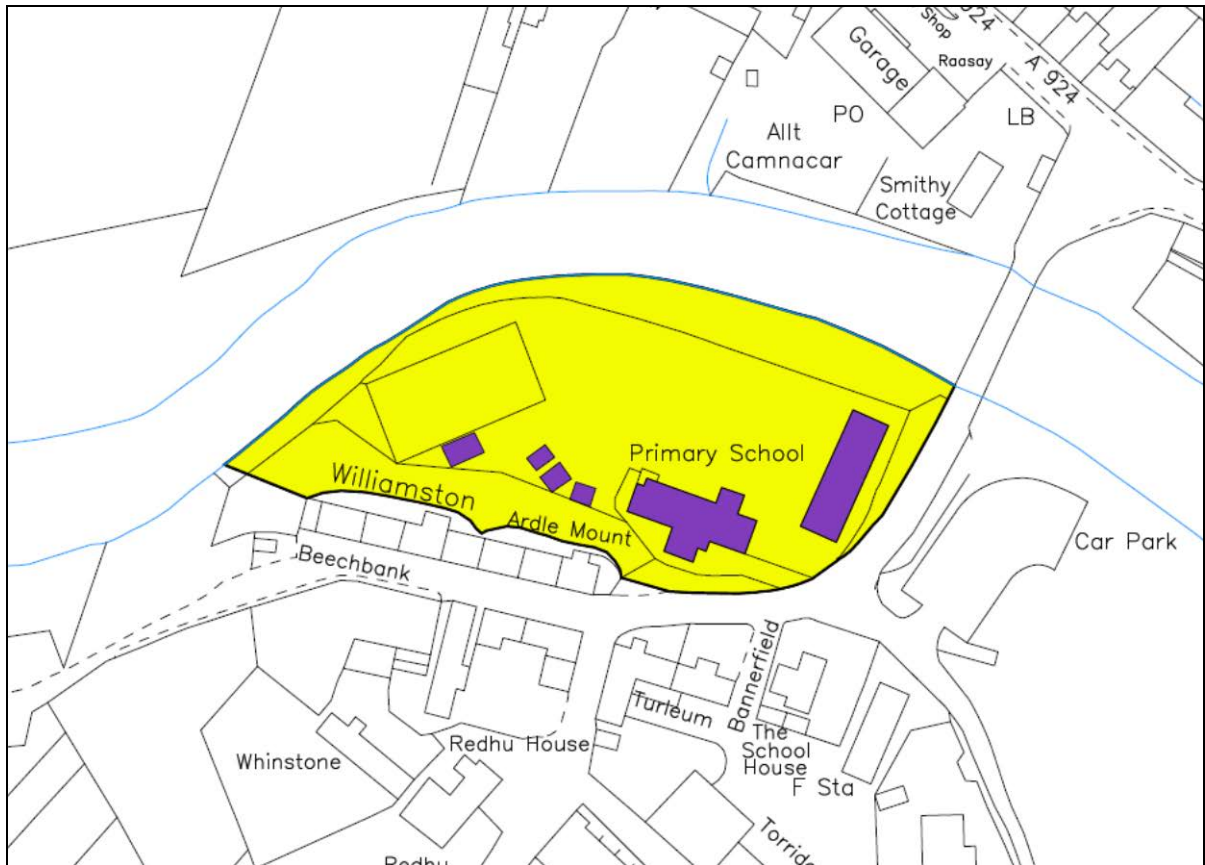


OUTLINE OF STRALOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING AND THE SCHOOL GROUNDS



## APPENDIX 4

### OUTLINE OF KIRKMICHAEL PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING AND THE SCHOOL GROUNDS



## APPENDIX 5

### HISTORICAL AND PROJECTED PUPIL ROLL DATA FOR STRALOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
11	11	11	11	10	7	12	9	8	5	5

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
8	0	0	0	0	0

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

### PROJECTED PUPIL NUMBERS

<b>Straloch Primary (Census Sept 2015)</b>	<b>2015/ 2016</b>	<b>2016/ 2017</b>	<b>2017/ 2018</b>	<b>2018/ 2019</b>	<b>2019/ 2020</b>
<b>Approved Capacity</b>	22	22	22	22	22
<b>Roll Projection Total (with house building)</b>	6	7	6	5	6

### ANALYSIS OF SCHOOL INFORMATION

<b>School</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Condition Rating</b>	<b>Suitability Rating</b>
Straloch	22	B	B

## APPENDIX 6

### HISTORICAL AND PROJECTED PUPIL ROLL DATA FOR KIRKMICHAEL PRIMARY SCHOOL

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
37	35	42	45	44	44	42	44	46	47	37

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
39	33	28	43	45	44

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

### PROJECTED PUPIL NUMBERS

Kirkmichael Primary	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020
<b>Approved Capacity</b>	72	72	72	72	72
<b>Kirkmichael Roll Projection Total (with house building)</b>	44	44	46	40	41
<b>Straloch Primary Roll Projection Total (with house building)</b>	5	6	5	5	6
<b>Total Roll Projection Total (with house building)</b>	49	50	51	45	47

### ANALYSIS OF SCHOOL INFORMATION

School	Capacity	Condition Rating	Suitability Rating
Kirkmichael	72	B	B



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

**Consultation Proposal:**

- Education provision at Straloch Primary School be permanently discontinued with effect from 31 March 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter;
- That pupils from Straloch Primary School have their education provided at Kirkmichael Primary School, from 1 April 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter; and
- That the delineated area of Kirkmichael Primary School be permanently extended to subsume the whole delineated area of Straloch 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

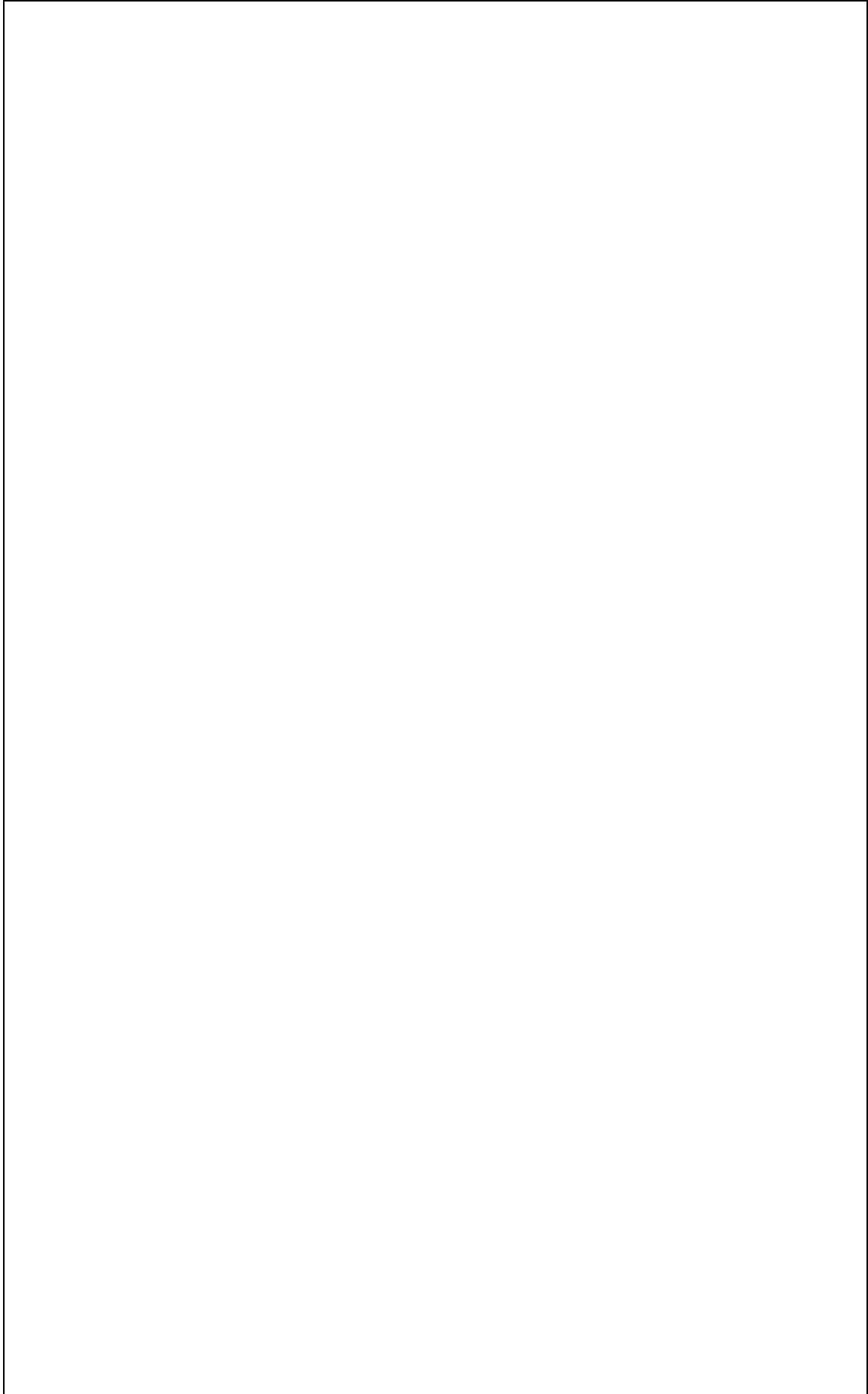
**Your Interest: (please tick)**

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 Straloch Primary School	Costs for full financial year (2016-17)	Additional financial impact on receiving school [Kirkmichael PS]	Annual recurring savings (column 2 minus column 3)
<b>School costs</b>			
<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
<b>Building costs:</b>			
property insurance	£ -	£ -	£ -
non domestic rates	£ -	£ -	£ -
water & sewerage charges	£ -	£ -	£ -
energy costs	£ 4,722.00	£ -	£ 4,722.00
cleaning (contract or inhouse)	£ 5,338.00	£ -	£ 5,338.00
building repair & maintenance	£ 1,313.00	£ -	£ 1,313.00
grounds maintenance	£ 3,275.00	£ -	£ 3,275.00

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	£ 3,221.00
cleaning (contract or inhouse)	£ -

facilities management costs	£ -	£ -	£ -
revenue costs arising from capital	£ -	£ -	£ -
other	£ 490.00	£ -	£ 490.00
<b>School operational costs:</b>			
learning materials	£ 473.00	£ 267.60	£ 205.40
catering (contract or inhouse)	£ -	£ -	£ -
SQA costs	£ -	£ -	£ -
other school operational costs (e.g. licences)	£ -	£ -	£ -
<b>Transport costs:</b>			
home to school	£ -	£ 13,018.80	£ 13,018.80
other pupil transport costs	£ -	£ -	£ -
staff travel	£ 640.00	£ -	£ 640.00
<b>SCHOOL COSTS SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 103,898.00</b>	<b>£ 13,286.40</b>	<b>£ 90,611.60</b>
<b>Income:</b>			
Sale of meals	£ -		£ -
Lets	£ -		£ -
External care provider	£ -		£ -
Other	£ -		£ -
<b>SCHOOL INCOME SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>£ -</b>		<b>£ -</b>
<b>TOTAL COSTS MINUS INCOME FOR SCHOOL</b>	<b>£ 103,898.00</b>	<b>£ 13,286.40</b>	<b>£ 90,611.60</b>
<b>UNIT COST PER PUPIL PER YEAR</b>	<b>£ 17,316.33</b>	<b>£ 2,214.40</b>	<b>£ 15,101.93</b>

security costs	£ -
building repair & maintenance	£ 812.00
grounds maintenance	£ -
facilities management costs	£ -
other	£ -
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL COST UNTIL DISPOSAL</b>	<b>£ 4,033.00</b>

**Table 4**

<b>Non-recurring revenue costs</b>	
Property Costs (fabric, mechanical and electrical)	£ 104,004.00
<b>TOTAL NON-RECURRING REVENUE COSTS</b>	<b>£ 104,004.00</b>

**Table 5**

<b>Impact on GAE</b>	
based on pupils going to Pitlochry PS	£ 1,555.00
<b>GAE IMPACT</b>	<b>£ 1,555.00</b>



