

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:

- **Forteviot Primary School**
- **Forgandenny 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 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
- The 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 Executive Director, The Environment Service, Perth and Kinross Council
- The Director, Housing and Community Safety, Perth & Kinross Council
- Tayside Contracts
- LiveActive Leisure
- Education Scotland

A copy of this document is also available from:

- Education and Children's Services, 2 High Street, Perth, PH1 5PH
- Forgandenny Primary School, Forgandenny, PH2 9EL

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, 2 High Street, Perth, PH1 5PH by telephone on 01738 476200; or by e-mail: ECSGeneralEnquiries@pkc.gov.uk

CONSULTATION WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Pupils will be consulted about the proposal in school and further information about this will be provided to parents/carers.

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 24 January 2018 of the Lifelong Learning Committee of Perth and Kinross Council ([Report No 18/14](#) refers). 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 by Monday 19 March 2018. The consultation will run from Monday 19 March 2018 until close of business on Thursday 17 May 2018, 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 2 High Street, Perth 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 whether 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 Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) 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 8 weeks from the date of the Council's decision to decide whether or not to issue a call-in notice.
- During the first 3 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 8 weeks (but not before the 3 weeks for representations to be made to them has elapsed).
- The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) 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 the proposal. 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 Executive 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 – Forgandenny Primary School, Forgandenny, PH2 9EL
Date – Thursday 26 April 2018
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:

- Education provision at Forteviot Primary School be permanently discontinued with effect from 28 June 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter;
- That the pupils of Forteviot Primary School catchment area permanently receive their education at Forgandenny Primary School, from 1 July 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter; and
- That the delineated catchment area of Forgandenny Primary School be permanently extended to subsume the whole delineated catchment area of Forteviot Primary School from 1 July 2019.

This Proposal Paper should be read in conjunction with the [Options Appraisal](#) as it contains more detail regarding the options considered and rejected and community feedback.

1. REASONS FOR FORMULATING THE PROPOSAL

- 1.1 On 2 November 2016, the Council approved the report "Securing the Future of the School Estate – Next Steps" ([Report 16/485 refers](#)). This report detailed the outcome of the high level review and proposed to proceed with further work on the schools which did not meet the suitability, condition or occupancy principles. In this report, it was agreed that an options appraisal should be carried out on Forteviot Primary School due to under-occupancy. At that time, the school had a pupil roll of 14 at Census 2015 and an approved capacity of 50 giving an occupancy level of 28%.
- 1.2 Forteviot Primary School is a single teacher primary school serving the village of Forteviot and the surrounding area and is a feeder primary school for Perth High School currently. Bertha Park High School is the associated secondary school for Forteviot from August 2018.
- 1.3 The capacity of Forteviot Primary School is 50 pupils. The Forteviot Primary School roll at Census 2013 was 24 pupils and at Census 2016 was 5 pupils, with only 3 of these children living in the catchment area.

- 1.4 The situation at Forteviot Primary School had been carefully monitored and kept under review by the Council in terms of pupil numbers, the very small number of pupils in attendance and requests for future pupil enrolments.

The pupil roll at Forteviot Primary School was due to be 3 pupils by October 2016 (6% occupancy), and following concerns raised by the parents of these children, the decision was taken that Forteviot Primary School would be mothballed from October 2016. This means provision in a school is suspended with pupils temporarily zoned to another catchment area. Mutually agreed arrangements were made with the parents of the remaining pupils for session 2016/17 and pupils have been temporarily zoned to Forgandenny Primary School since then.

- 1.5 There were 14 pupils in total who lived within the catchment area for Forteviot Primary School at Census 2016, however 11 of these pupils attended schools outwith their catchment area as a result of successful placing requests made by their parents. The Headteacher at Forteviot Primary School made practical efforts to promote the school within the community and encourage parents within the catchment area to attend the school. This included writing individually to residents of new houses in and around the catchment area to encourage parents to consider the school for their children.
- 1.6 Forteviot Primary School and Forgandenny Primary School had a close relationship prior to the mothballing as the result of a shared headship. Whilst a shared headship provided a means of improving cost effectiveness, it did not address the wider population issues within the Forteviot area.
- 1.7 There has been a downward trend in the number of pupils under the age of 16 years living in the catchment area in recent years and the number of pre-school pupils in the catchment area is very small. Members of the community noted during the pre-consultation that the dynamics of the village had changed over the years with fewer families coming to live in the area which was considered to be due to the lack of employment and affordable housing.
- 1.8 There are 3 years out of the last 6 years where there were no children under 1 year old, living in the Forteviot catchment area, registered with GPs.
- 1.9 The provision of primary education within Forteviot needs to be considered in the context of the needs of the pupils and the local community, both now and in the future.
- 1.10 Future pupil projections have been considered using aggregated GP registration data and both Forgandenny Primary School and Forteviot Primary School pupil numbers are projected to remain static over the next 4 years.

There are very low numbers of pre-school children in the Forteviot catchment area over the next 4 years with no house building planned in the area. 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.

- 1.11 These circumstances result in a diminished and unsustainable school pupil population for Forteviot Primary School. There is no foreseeable prospect of an increased, stable pupil population, based on a significantly reduced birth rate over a sustained period of time.
- 1.12 As part of an [options appraisal](#), information was collated on pupil numbers, housebuilding, finances, the school, travel arrangements, environmental impact and the local area and community to inform the options. A pre-consultation exercise was also carried out with the local community to inform the options appraisal.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 2 November 2016, the Lifelong Learning Committee of Perth and Kinross Council approved [Report No 16/485](#) by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services). It approved the development of an options appraisal in relation to the future of Forteviot Primary School. On 24 January 2018, Lifelong Learning Committee considered the options appraisal and agreed to commence formal consultation on a proposal to close Forteviot Primary School ([Report No 18/14](#) refers) in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 The 2010 Act makes special arrangements in relation to rural schools, and establishes 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.
- 2.4 These duties are outlined in the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010 and the accompanying Statutory Guidance](#).

3. STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 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.

Education and Children's Services Service Asset Management Plan 2016 (incorporating School Estate Management Plan), approved by the Lifelong Learning Committee on 9 March 2016 ([Report No. 16/108](#) refers), provides information on the whole of the school estate and the overall objectives and future priorities within Perth and Kinross Council.

- 3.2 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 matters, such as catchment areas and the implementation of shared headships.
- 3.3 The Education (Scotland) Act 2016 amends the Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000 by adding in new duties to address inequality of outcome. These duties apply in different ways to both Scottish Ministers and education authorities.

Where the education authority is making or implementing strategic decisions about school education, it is required to have due regard to the need to carry out its functions in a way which is designed to reduce inequalities of outcome. This is particularly directed in the Act towards pupils who experience those inequalities through socio-economic disadvantage, but there is also a power to extend the range of pupils who are covered by this duty.

- 3.4 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.

4. VISION

- 4.1 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.

- 4.2 The Council's Transformation Strategy 2015-2020 'Building Ambition' and Organisational Development Framework were approved by Council on 1 July 2015 ([Report No. 15/292 refers](#)). They detail how Perth and Kinross Council will deliver transformation over the next five years. Accompanying the strategy is a programme of major reviews which are considered to be key drivers and enablers of transformation across the organisation. On 24 August 2016, Lifelong Learning Committee ([Report No. 16/347 refers](#)) approved principles to be used as a basis for the transformation review, 'Securing the Future of the School Estate'.
- 4.3 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.

5. FORTEVIOT AND THE LOCAL AREA

- 5.1 The school is located in the centre of the village of Forteviot. Forteviot lies approximately 7 miles south west of Perth on the B935 in a rural area surrounded by the Dupplin Estate. Forteviot is within a short drive of the M90 and A9 which are the main arterial routes serving most of the country. A school has been in the village since 1839 and has been situated on the present site since the mid-1920s. The school lies approximately 2.7 miles from Forgandenny Primary School and approximately 3.2 miles from Dunning Primary School.
- 5.2 The population of Forteviot is approximately 200¹ people.
- 5.3 Forteviot is in the Almond and Earn Council ward which contains a number of small communities which follow the course of the River Almond and the lower course of the River Earn. The main settlements are close to Perth City. The area is mostly rural, containing many farms and hamlets. The various settlements tend to look to Perth for services rather than Kinross or each other. There are three Community Councils in Almond and Earn Ward. Forteviot is represented on Earn Community Council. Earn Community Council is part of the Kinross-shire, Almond & Earn Action Partnership

¹ Local Development Plan

- 5.4 Forteviot was previously the site of the Pictish capital of Scotland and has a unique and important history. The village was rebuilt in the 1920s as a model village by the 1st Baron Forteviot in the style of an English garden city.
- 5.5 Forteviot has a church, village hall and bowling club. The church is a 5 minute walk from the school and sits next to the village hall. The church is in the parish of Aberdalgie and Forteviot which was constituted in 2014. Joint church services take place every 2nd week in Forteviot.
- 5.6 The nearest General Practitioner (GP) surgery is in Dunning and the nearest dental surgery is in Perth. There are post offices/small convenience stores in Dunning and in Forgandenny.
- 5.7 Dupplin Estate is a working estate with residential properties, farming operations, forestry and trout fishing. In addition to the Dupplin Estate there are two specialist businesses in Forteviot, a bespoke kitchen showroom and a showroom for fine stone and timber flooring.
- 5.8 The community hold events in the village hall including Strawberry Teas, Children's Parties and Summer and Christmas Fayres.
- 5.9 Data on pre-school children registered with GP practices living in the Forteviot catchment shows a downward trend from 2011. There are 3 years out of the last 6 where there were no children under 1 year old, living in the Forteviot catchment area, registered with GPs.
- 5.10 The TAYplan sets out a hierarchical approach to directing new development to existing settlements and identifies Perth Core Area as the tier 1 settlement which should take the majority of new development. There is no planned house building for the Forteviot area contained within the Local Development Plan (LDP) or Housing Land Audit (HLA).

The Proposed LDP2 was approved for consultation by Council on 22 November 2017 ([Report No. 17/387](#) refers). The aspiration is to have a final LDP to adopt by Spring 2019. There are no changes proposed for Forteviot in the LDP2.

- 5.11 Information received from Perth and Kinross Council Business Development Team indicated that there were no new business activities planned for the Forteviot Primary School area which would create employment and impact the population of the area significantly.

6. FORTEVIOT PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 6.1 Forteviot Primary School provides non-denominational education to pupils from P1 - P7 from the village of Forteviot and surrounding area. There is no nursery provision at Forteviot Primary School. Appendix 1 shows the present school catchment area for Forteviot Primary School. A plan of the school site for Forteviot Primary School is attached as Appendix 3.

- 6.2 Prior to mothballing, the school structure had 1 composite class across stages Primary 1 – 7.
- 6.3 Historical and projected pupil roll data for Forteviot Primary School is attached at Appendix 5. This data shows that the roll of Forteviot Primary School has been falling over the last 5 years, with pupil numbers unlikely to increase above their present level.
- 6.4 The majority of children in the catchment area attended other primary schools rather than Forteviot Primary by way of placing request.
- 6.5 If the school were to re-open in August 2018, the maximum pupil numbers from the catchment would be 2. There are no P1 pupils anticipated for 2018 currently. It is highly unlikely that any of the pupils from the Forteviot Primary School catchment area would return to the school were it to re-open, based on feedback from the pre-consultation sessions. This would leave the school roll at between 2 and 4 pupils for the period 2018 - 2022, assuming all new P1 pupils living in Forteviot catchment area attended Forteviot Primary School if it re-opens.
- 6.6 Forteviot Primary School is classed as an “accessible rural” school under Section 14 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The classification is based on two main criteria, settlement size and accessibility based on drive time. For Forteviot Primary School the classification criteria is “areas with a population of less than 3,000 people and within a 30 minute drive time of a settlement of 10,000 or more” (Source: Scottish Government Rural School List 2017).
- 6.7 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*

- 6.8 A condition survey was carried out on the building in January 2017 and the overall site is rated as condition 'C' (Poor - showing major defects and/or not operating adequately). Condition is an assessment of the physical condition of the school and its grounds.
- 6.9 The overall suitability of Forteviot Primary School building prior to mothballing was categorised as 'B' (performing well but with minor problems). The internal social spaces are rated as suitability "C". 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.
- 6.10 Planned and unplanned maintenance on the school building in the last 3 financial years cost £27,062.
- The approximate cost to bring the property into an acceptable condition for re-opening is £396,281 for building fabric, mechanical and electrical works.
- 6.11 The school site and the school building are owned by Perth and Kinross Council.
- 6.12 Prior to mothballing, there were no community lets held within Forteviot Primary School. Community events are held in the village hall.

7. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 7.1 In arriving at the proposal set out within this Proposal Paper, the Council has considered a number of alternative options for the future of Forteviot Primary School as part of the options appraisal:
- Option 1 – School remains open but continue with mothballing of Forteviot Primary School – pupils attend Forgandenny Primary School.
 - Option 2 - Consider closing school – pupils attend Forgandenny Primary School.

- Option 3 - Consider closing school – pupils attend alternative primary school to Forgandenny Primary School.
- Option 4 - Catchment area is reviewed to determine whether this would increase the school roll sufficiently to ensure the future sustainability of the school.

7.2 Immediate re-opening of the school was not considered to be a reasonable option, given the very small number of children resident in the catchment area. If the school were to re-open in August 2018, the maximum pupil numbers from the catchment would be 2. There are no P1 pupils anticipated for 2018 currently. It is highly unlikely that any of the pupils from the Forteviot Primary School catchment area would return to the school were it to re-open, based on feedback from the pre-consultation sessions. Even assuming all new P1 pupils living in Forteviot catchment area were to attend Forteviot Primary School if it were to re-open, the school roll would only reach between 2 and 4 pupils for the period 2018 - 2022. This was therefore not included as an option for consideration.

8. ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS

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

8.1 School remains open but continue with mothballing of Forteviot Primary School – pupils attend Forgandenny Primary School.

- 8.1.1 The school has been mothballed since October 2016. Leaving the school open but with continued mothballing of the school is only a reasonable option if there are likely to be changes within the catchment area in the next 2-3 years which would result in an increase in the pupil roll.
- 8.1.2 Pupil numbers are not projected to increase in the next 4 years. There has been a downward trend in the number of people under 16 living in the catchment area in recent years. The number of children of pre-school age living in the catchment area is very small, and in recent years there have been occasions where there have been no P1 age children in the catchment area. There are no significant housing or other developments which are likely to impact positively on the size of the pupil population in the next 2-3 years.
- 8.1.3 If the school remains mothballed, the building would remain out of use awaiting a potential reopening or final closure. While the school is mothballed, there is a possibility of it reopening, which could be viewed as a positive. However, continued mothballing creates continued uncertainty for parents and the community.

In addition, there are no opportunities to progress alternative uses for the building, which may include community asset transfer, lease or sale of the building, all of which may benefit the wider community. Therefore, on balance, it is considered that continued mothballing is more likely to be a negative than a positive, in terms of community impact.

- 8.1.4 If Forteviot 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.
- 8.1.5 In summary, on the basis that there is no indication that pupil numbers will increase in the next 2-3 years, mothballing is not considered a good use of resources and would prevent the building being used to benefit the community. Therefore, continued mothballing is not viewed as a reasonable alternative.

8.2 Consider closing school – pupils attend Forgandenny Primary School.

- 8.2.1 Forgandenny Primary School currently accommodates pupils from Forteviot Primary as a result of the mothballing. Pupil numbers at Forgandenny are projected to remain static for the next 4 years. Forgandenny Primary has capacity to continue to accommodate the projected pupil numbers should Forteviot Primary School be closed. 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 -16.
- 8.2.2 Forteviot Primary School and Forgandenny Primary School already had links with each other prior to the mothballing and pupils who moved there in October 2016 following the mothballing are now settled at Forgandenny Primary School.
- 8.2.3 Travel arrangements for pupils and staff have been in place since October 2016 and there are no known issues with that. Some of the pupils have a shorter distance to travel.
- 8.2.4 There are environmental benefits to Forteviot Primary School pupils being transferred to Forgandenny Primary School in that they are being transported by the Council rather than travelling individually as they did through placing requests.
- 8.2.5 Pupil numbers at Forteviot Primary School have been reducing year on year since 2009/10 due to a reduction in school age children living in the catchment area. Community feedback is that there is limited employment in the area compared to previously and that housing is not affordable for families. These are factors which are likely to have had an impact on the number of children living in the catchment area.

- 8.2.6 Pupil numbers have also decreased due to parents requesting placements at other local schools.

These placing requests out of the area have in the past been offset to some degree by placing requests into Forteviot Primary School; however this has not been enough to sustain the roll latterly.

- 8.2.7 If the school was to close there would be no significant impact on the community in terms of access to facilities for community events: other facilities such as the hall are available within Forteviot for community use and are currently well used by the community. The school was not used for lets latterly.
- 8.2.8 It is not considered that the closure of the school would have a negative impact on the sustainability of the community. Forteviot is located 7 miles south west of Perth and is approximately 2.7 miles from Forteviot and approximately 3.2 miles from Dunning. The community currently travel to access health, retail and leisure facilities.
- 8.2.9 The Council has received requests from a business for the use of the school should it close. Closure of the school would provide opportunities for the building to be used for the benefit of the community, either for business or residential use, or for community use if a suitable plan was identified.
- 8.2.10 Pupil numbers at Forgandenny Primary School (not including Forteviot Primary School pupils) have been reducing over recent years and the positive impact of Forteviot pupils on the school roll supports the sustainability of Forgandenny Primary School which is also in a rural location and is a rural school.
- 8.2.11 It is considered that closure of the school is the most appropriate response to the issue of decreasing numbers of young children living in the catchment area.

This, coupled with parents choosing to place their children at other primary schools, has led to the school being mothballed.

There is no indication that the roll will increase in future years as pre-school children numbers are very low and are likely to remain so. This option also has the benefit of supporting the sustainability of Forgandenny Primary School, which is approximately 2.7 miles from Forteviot Primary School and is also a small rural school. There is no evidence to indicate that this option would have an adverse impact on the community, travelling arrangements or the environment.

8.3 Consider closing school – pupils attend alternative primary school to Forgandenny Primary School.

- 8.3.1 The closest alternative to Forgandenny Primary School for Forteviot pupils is Dunning Primary School which is approximately 3.2 miles away from Forteviot Primary School.

This is the only neighbouring school which could reasonably be considered as an alternative, as it is the closest school other than Forgandenny Primary School. It would not benefit pupils to attend any school other than the nearest neighbouring school in terms of increased travel time.

- 8.3.2 Dunning Primary School has a capacity of 125 pupils compared with the capacity of 50 pupils at Forteviot Primary School. The pupil roll at Dunning Primary School at Census 2017 is 117; therefore there is not enough capacity at Dunning Primary School to accommodate all 13 of the primary children who reside in the Forteviot Primary School catchment area as at Census 2017. It would not be good practice to make changes to a catchment area where the number of available places in the school was such that all pupils residing in the area could not be accommodated at that school.
- 8.3.3 Dunning Primary School is close to capacity and could not accommodate all of the Forteviot catchment pupils at this point. The roll at Dunning Primary School will continue to be high and therefore this is unlikely to be an option which could be considered in the near future.
- 8.3.4 The pupils from Forteviot Primary School have settled in well to Forgandenny Primary School. Forteviot Primary School and Forgandenny Primary School had a close relationship prior to the mothballing, including a shared headship, joint outdoor learning, workshops, P7 trips and shared transition days for secondary school. The pupils also live nearer to Forgandenny than Dunning and have less distance to travel.
- 8.3.5 Prior to mothballing, parents from Forteviot have generally chosen to request places at Forgandenny Primary School rather than Dunning Primary School. There are 9 pupils who reside in the Forteviot catchment area at Forgandenny Primary School (Census 2017). Two of these pupils went to Forgandenny Primary School when the school was mothballed but the remainder attended Forgandenny following successful placing requests.
- 8.3.6 Pupils attending Forgandenny Primary School from Forteviot make Forgandenny Primary School, which is a small rural school, more sustainable by increasing pupil numbers.
- 8.3.7 In summary, it is therefore considered that the option of closing Forteviot Primary with the pupils attending another neighbouring school, other than Forgandenny, is not a reasonable alternative. Dunning Primary School cannot accommodate all the pupils from Forteviot. Dunning is also further to travel for most pupils in the Forteviot catchment.

8.4 Catchment area is reviewed to determine whether this would increase the school roll sufficiently to ensure the future sustainability of the school.

- 8.4.1 A catchment review can, in principle, be a reasonable option in some cases to increase the potential roll, and therefore sustainability, of a school.

An in-depth analysis is required in each case to ascertain if a sustainable increase in school roll could be achieved and a detrimental impact on neighbouring schools is not created as a result.

- 8.4.2 Following a mapping exercise it is considered unlikely that the catchment area could be made more sustainable by implementing any of the options examined. This is primarily because there are only small numbers of pupils living outwith the main settlements surrounding the catchment area which are Forgandenny, Dunning and Bridge of Earn. In addition, the pupils who do live outside the main settlements live closer to other schools.
- 8.4.3 There are limited numbers of pupils living in the catchment areas surrounding Forteviot Primary School catchment area and the boundaries would have to be moved in a number of directions to make a new catchment potentially sustainable. It is also likely that the majority of current primary school pupils would continue to attend their current school, so in the short term there would be little benefit to the Forteviot roll.
- 8.4.4 If all new P1's from the combined adjusted catchment areas proposed within the options appraisal attended Forteviot Primary School, this would equate to 10 pupils in the next 4 years. However, even with an additional 10 pupils, the school roll would only be 13 pupils by 2021.
- 8.4.5 In addition, a number of the potential boundary changes would have a detrimental impact on pupils in those catchment areas in relation to increased travel distance. In some cases pupils would have to travel past existing primary schools to reach Forteviot, therefore not accessing their nearest primary school.
- 8.4.6 A suggestion was made from members of the community that pupils from Oudenarde could be accommodated at Forteviot Primary School. There are currently 57 primary school pupils living in Oudenarde who are zoned to attend Inch View Primary School in Perth, although a number of these pupils attend a number of different schools as a result of successful placing requests. Oudenarde pupils are currently accommodated at Inch View Primary School until a new school is built at Oudenarde.

Accommodating children from Oudenarde at Forteviot Primary School would create a number of practical difficulties. These include increased distance and travel time. The most significant difficulty would be that Forteviot Primary School cannot accommodate the current number of primary pupils living in Oudenarde, let alone increasing numbers through further planned housebuilding at Oudenarde.

- 8.4.7 In summary, it is unlikely that increasing the catchment area in a number of directions will create a sustainable catchment for Forteviot Primary School, due to the small numbers of children living in these areas. Furthermore, these changes would likely be detrimental to those children as a result of increased travel distance.

A number of schools adjoining the Forteviot catchment are also rural schools, and so there is also a risk that the sustainability of the rolls for some of those schools would be adversely affected if their catchment area were to be reduced.

9. THE OPTION FOR CONSULTATION FROM OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 9.1 The Options Appraisal has demonstrated that the option for the permanent closure of Forteviot Primary School, with the pupils instead attending Forgandenny Primary School, is the only reasonable alternative in response to the unsustainable school roll and represents the best value for education purposes. The following sections now consider that option in more depth.

10. FORGANDENNY PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 10.1 Forgandenny Primary School provides non-denominational primary education to P1 – P7 pupils from the village of Forgandenny and surrounding area. There is no nursery provision at Forgandenny Primary School. Appendix 2 shows the present school catchment area for Forgandenny Primary School. A plan of the school site for Forgandenny Primary School is attached as Appendix 4.
- 10.2 Forgandenny Primary School has a capacity of 67 pupils. The pupil roll is 55 pupils (Census 2017) at Forgandenny Primary School. The occupancy based on the Census 2017 is 82%.
- 10.3 Forgandenny Primary School is classed as an “accessible 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 Forgandenny Primary School the classification criteria is “areas with a population of less than 3,000 people and within a 30 minute drive time to a settlement of 10,000 or more”.
- 10.4 The school structure currently has 3 composite classes.
- 10.5 Historical and projected pupil roll data for Forgandenny Primary School is attached at Appendix 6.
- 10.6 The following facilities and accommodation are offered at Forgandenny Primary School:

- 3 classrooms for primary education
- hall
- kitchen
- toilets
- administration area

- 10.7 Forgardenny Primary School has been graded 'A' for suitability (Good – Performing well and operating efficiently - the school buildings and grounds support the delivery of services to children and communities). Forgardenny Primary School was surveyed on 15 February 2017 and was graded condition 'B' (Satisfactory – performing adequately but showing minor deterioration).
- 10.8 The impact on the school roll of new housing in the Forgardenny Primary School catchment area has been examined and future pupil projections have been considered using aggregated GP registration data. Both Forgardenny Primary School and Forteviot 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 Forgardenny Primary School is 79% in 2020/21. 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.

11. EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

- 11.1 This Educational Benefits Statement is written from the perspective of benefits, should the preferred option outlined in the options appraisal subsequently be implemented. This statement is focused on the educational benefits for pupils attending Forgardenny Primary School.

Learning and Teaching

- 11.2 The Education Scotland inspection report, which was published in August 2016, stated that Forgardenny Primary School provides a "...rich and broad curriculum which is firmly grounded in the principles of Curriculum for Excellence."

This is recognition that the school provides high quality learning experiences across the four contexts for learning. Contexts for learning are very relevant to the children and are explored by them through tasks and activities which they find engaging. An example of this would be the whole school project "The Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design" that had a strong focus on science, technology and engineering. Education Scotland highlighted in this report that pupils at Forgardenny were ambitious and eager to do well at school and in the future.

- 11.3 Literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing are the central aspects of all learning, and while planning learning is a shared activity, which is led by class teachers, the pupils are involved at a high level with the planning.

Work is differentiated to adapt to pupils' needs and pupils benefit from being able to work on co-operative learning tasks with others. Class teachers plan effectively so that tasks and activities are matched to children's varying needs. Support staff are skilled and very well deployed to meet identified needs for individuals and groups of children.

- 11.4 Forgardenny Primary School has provision for 1.75 days consultancy led support from a Pupil Support Teacher, allowing group work to take place if required, which not only benefits pupils with Additional Support Needs, but all other pupils, who can work in these groups, and benefit from short term support.
- 11.5 At Forgardenny Primary School, there are pupils of all age groups within the school which affords all pupils the opportunity to work in groups, at peer level and across all stages in the school and in mixed sex groups. It also allows the sharing of ideas, peer support, informal mentoring and relationship building, all of which contribute to the whole school experience for all pupils.
- 11.6 A collegiate approach to professional engagement amongst all staff 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. Access to peer support and development allows staff to engage in professional learning opportunities more readily, enabling them to deliver a high quality of teaching to the pupils, with the benefit to the pupils of having committed, enthusiastic and forward thinking teachers.
- 11.7 Having three composite classes that straddle over early, first and second levels of curriculum for excellence, means that at Forgardenny Primary School there is a collaborative approach to teaching, which creates links in learning across stages on a termly basis, creating a wealth of opportunities for collaborative/co-operative learning, for all pupils.
- 11.8 Outdoor learning was also highlighted by Education Scotland as an important strength. Work with Strathallan School and links with the Parish Church were cited as effective partnerships which enhance the curriculum.

Environment for Learning

- 11.9 The original building built circa 1840 is traditional, part two storey building with sandstone walls under pitched slate roofs. The building was extended circa 1960 with a single storey traditional building with render and stone walls.
- 11.10 The school grounds and adjacent park at Forgardenny provide a wide range of opportunities for the pupils to experience a range of team and individual sports, such as football, cricket, netball and athletics in the summer term.

- 11.11 There is a shared break out space at Forgandenny Primary School, allowing children to work outwith their classrooms, independently, on progressing school improvement through their committee work, such as the Penguin Parliament, which is the pupil council.
- 11.12 Forgandenny Primary School has a small kitchen area for use of all pupils, contributing to their learning in health, wellbeing and social skills.

Experiences and Opportunities

- 11.13 Forgandenny Primary School has pupils of both sexes at each stage, allowing all pupils to interact and socialise with groups of children their own age and sex, at appropriate levels. The benefit to pupils is that they are given opportunities to widen their social circle, allowing them to foster positive relationships and tolerance.
- 11.14 Pupils from Forteviot have already become an integral part of the school community at Forgandenny Primary School.
- 11.15 Pupils are given a range of opportunities to be involved in improving their school, such as being Buddies, where older children work with younger ones, and Responsibility Groups, which focus on Global Goals, to help improve the environment. Most recently the school achieved its second Eco Schools Scotland Green Flag.
- 11.16 At Forgandenny parents play a key role in the leadership and ethos of the school. The Parent Forum organises a range of social and fundraising events to support the school. In addition, the school has an active Parent Council. Parents are welcomed into school and encouraged to be involved in their children's learning, including attendance at pupil-led events. The positive relationships fostered with parents with the school, allows them to further support their children in their learning at school.
- 11.17 Forgandenny Primary School involves children in the formal parental consultation evenings with the aim of opening up learning conversations between teacher, parent and pupil
- 11.18 After school there are sports activities run by parents and the close proximity to Strathallan School allows pupils the opportunity to participate in a range of after school clubs. This provides the pupils with activities that are local to them, reducing travel times and reliance on parent transport, but also giving them opportunities to build on school relationships by continued interaction with their peer group. The benefits of healthy activities and sports have an impact on the pupils' health and wellbeing, which in turn improves their readiness to learn.
- 11.19 The local park is used for the school's Daily Mile, providing all children and staff in the school the benefit of daily exercise and fresh air, which in turn helps to improve focus, concentration and behaviour in class and embeds physical activity into the school's approach to Health & Wellbeing.

- 11.20 Transition from P7 to secondary school is supported by the larger number of pupils in Forgandenny Primary School, offering peer support and friendship groups.

Summary of Educational Benefits

- 11.21 Re-designating the Forteviot Primary School catchment area to Forgandenny Primary School will allow all pupils access to a school with learning groups across all stages.
- 11.22 The range of learning experiences for children will be wide and varied, with classroom learning being supplemented by learning groups across stages and between classes, bringing with that the opportunity to share learning experiences between the youngest and oldest pupils, as well as within the immediate peer group.
- 11.23 All pupils will have access to peer support, helping to develop their social and interpersonal skills, both in the classroom and in the social activities available at the school.
- 11.24 The children and parents of Forteviot Primary School will have access to an educational establishment which has a well planned and committed approach to taking forward improvement. There is sufficient capacity at Forgandenny Primary School to fully meet the needs of the Forteviot Primary School children without having a detrimental impact on the learning of the existing pupils of Forgandenny Primary School.

12. DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSAL

- 12.1 This section provides a more detailed assessment of the proposal which is considered to be the only reasonable response to the unsustainable school roll. It considers the “rural school factors” of community impact and impact on travel arrangements, as well as the Educational Benefits Statement above, all of which were considered during the options appraisal process.

LIKELY EFFECT ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Community Impact – Loss of the school

- 12.2 At the community drop-in session held as part of the options appraisal process, the community described some of the challenges of living in a rural community, primarily the lack of employment and affordable housing. They linked this to the lack of young families living in the area or moving into the area. It is true that pupil numbers are falling, and that the reasons identified by the community are likely to be the main factors leading to a drop in the numbers of children living in the catchment area.

However, it also seems to be the case that families who do live within the catchment area are more mobile and exercising their right to choose other schools for their children.

- 12.3 The community did not suggest that the lack of a school would deter new families from moving into the area. It is clear that families living in the catchment area are travelling to access education as well as other services and so it appears to be an accepted part of life within the community.
- 12.4 In 2017, the Council closed schools in Calvine (Struan Primary School) and Enochdhu (Straloch Primary School) after they had been mothballed for 5 years. The evidence from both areas was that families were not deterred from moving into the area by having to travel to a neighbouring village. There are clear parallels with Forteviot in that the communities already travelled to other local communities to access services. Neither school/community was as accessible as Forteviot, which is close to Perth and has good road links.
- 12.5 The Kinross-shire Almond and Earn Action Partnership has been working with communities across the two wards to highlight key inequalities people face in Kinross-shire, Almond and Earn. The group's remit is to identify opportunities for public services to support communities in developing solutions to the challenges they face. The Partnership's Local Action Plan published in October 2017 has put a series of actions in place to explore which buildings and public spaces can be made available for community groups to use.

This action was informed by a growing demand from many community groups who need facilities to meet and run activities in. The Action Partnership has put a deadline of September 2018 to identify which local assets could potentially be made available to community groups, and to explore options such as right of access, leasing arrangements or transferring ownership of publically held assets to community groups through an Asset Transfer.

- 12.6 The outcome which the Action Partnership is aiming to achieve with this action is to build resilience within the communities of the two wards and to get more people involved in local activities in the community in which they live.

Evidence shows many people in the ward feel isolated; as the area is rural, people often have to travel great distances to take part in activities they enjoy and sometimes transportation to groups is not always possible for people without access to a car. By creating new opportunities for people to get involved in the Action Partnership it aims to get more people participating in activities locally which can improve people's health and wellbeing.

- 12.7 The evidence indicates that there will be little effect on the sustainability of the community if the school were to close.

Community Impact - Use of the Building

- 12.8 Community events in Forteviot are generally held at the village hall and the school was not particularly well used latterly by the community.

Within the village there is also a church and a bowling club, so there is not a lack of facilities for the community to meet or hold events. It is likely that the village hall will continue to be the main focus for community activity.

- 12.9 The closure of the school may result in additional facilities being made available to the community if the building is sold or leased for community use.
- 12.10 The suggestions received for the building at the community drop-in session were: community activities, business centre, sports, specialist school, cultural purposes, a community project and artisan workshops.
- 12.11 The Council has received enquiries from members of the community for the use of the building should it be closed.

13. LIKELY EFFECT CAUSED BY DIFFERENT TRAVELLING ARRANGEMENTS

- 13.1 As Forteviot 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 were a focus of the pre-consultation with the community.

- 13.2 The travel distance from Forteviot Primary School to Forgandenny Primary School is approximately 2.7 miles with a travel time of 6 minutes. The current travel arrangements for pupils living in Forteviot catchment area have been in place since Forteviot Primary School was mothballed in October 2016. There have been no issues with the travel arrangements. Taking this option forward would not affect the travel arrangements for current pupils and future pupils are unlikely to have hugely different travel arrangements.

- 13.3 Travelling for primary school education is common across Perth & Kinross because of the geography of the area. Prior to the mothballing of Forteviot Primary School, pupils journeyed between approximately 2 and 5.5 miles each way.

Since attending Forgandenny Primary School, journey distances are between approximately 1 and 8.2 miles each way. So, for some pupils in the Forteviot catchment area, travel distance to school has in fact decreased.

- 13.4 Staff in Perth and Kinross tend to travel throughout the area to work in schools. Many staff do not live within the catchment area of the school they work in.

A distance of 2.7 miles is a relatively short distance to travel in rural Perth and Kinross. It is therefore considered that there is very limited impact on staff travelling arrangements.

13.5 The community requires to travel to access other services such as GP and dental surgeries, shops and post offices. Forgandenny Primary School is closer than most other facilities which the community require to access.

13.6 As the school is not generally used by the community, there should be no impact on travelling arrangements for any other users of the school's facilities. In any event, the distance is relatively small and the local community is used to travelling to access other services.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

14.1 At the time Forteviot Primary School was mothballed, 9 pupils were travelling to Forgandenny Primary School from the Forteviot Primary School catchment area as the result of successful placing requests, for which there is an environmental impact. This has been offset by the requirement to run Forteviot Primary School as a mothballed building rather than as an operational building currently. This would continue to be offset if the school were closed.

14.2 Pupils from Forteviot catchment area are also now being transported by the Council to Forgandenny Primary School which reduces environmental impact as they travel together rather than separately with parents.

15. EFFECTS ON STAFF AND SCHOOL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

15.1 As Forteviot Primary School is already mothballed, there will be no impact on school management arrangements at either Forteviot or Forgandenny Primary School from a formal closure of Forteviot Primary School.

16. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

16.1 The annual recurring net 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 Forteviot Primary School and integrate within Forgandenny Primary School	£113,407

- 16.2 The annual cost of mothballing Forteviot Primary School is £1,850 which is made up of costs for energy, rates and property maintenance. See Appendix 8 for detailed financial information.
- 16.3 The approximate cost to bring Forteviot Primary School into an acceptable condition for re-opening is £396,281 for building fabric, mechanical and electrical works.
- 16.4 Any savings arising from the proposed option to close Forteviot Primary School will be allocated against Education and Children's Services budget savings targets which have currently been set for the period 2018/19 – 2020/21. 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.
- 16.5 The annual budget is built reflecting cost drivers such as the number of schools, buildings, staff and pupils.

Therefore, if Forteviot Primary School were to be closed then future years' budgets would not contain any allowance for staffing Forteviot 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 Forteviot Primary School.

- 16.6 It is envisaged that the existing Forteviot Primary School will be declared surplus to the requirements of Perth and Kinross Council. This will minimise the financial risks associated with vacant buildings.
- 16.7 A capital receipt would be forthcoming if the building was sold or income could be generated through a lease. An enquiry has been received to lease or rent the school for a private enterprise, so it is likely that an alternative use for the building could be found.
- 16.8 Combining pupils from both catchment areas into one school maximises use of the school estate and represents good asset management, while also enabling the children to continue to attend a rural school. Additionally, the increased roll at Forgandenny Primary School contributes towards ensuring a sustainable pupil roll there.

17. OTHER ISSUES

Management of Proposals

- 17.1 It is intended that pupils from Forteviot Primary School will be permanently integrated within Forgandenny Primary School from 1 July 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.

This will allow the Council to conduct the necessary consultation in accordance with the relevant statutory frameworks.

18. MITIGATION OF ADVERSE EFFECTS

- 18.1 The main adverse effect for some children from Forteviot is the length of journey from Forteviot to Forgandenny. However, as the school has been mothballed since October 2016, all the current pupils are already making this journey without any issue.
- 18.2 Funded school transport is provided by Perth and Kinross Council to primary pupils from Forteviot catchment area attending Forgandenny Primary School.

19. CONCLUSION

- 19.1 In summary, it is proposed that a statutory consultation exercise takes place on a proposal to close Forteviot Primary School. As a result, pupils would be zoned to Forgandenny Primary School and the catchment area of Forteviot Primary School would be redelineated to Forgandenny Primary School.
- 19.2 It was noted by the community that the dynamics of Forteviot village had changed over the years with fewer families coming to live in the area due to the lack of employment and affordable housing. Data from the NHS shows that numbers of pre-school children living in the catchment area have been low since 2011.
- 19.3 The projected pupil roll for Forteviot Primary School, if it was to re-open, is likely to be a maximum of 4 in the next 4 years. This is insufficient to create a sustainable roll. It is also likely, given past patterns, that parents of new P1s would chose to send their child to Forgandenny Primary School, which is approximately 2.7 miles away and that the roll may not reach 4 pupils.
- 19.4 Future pupil projections have been considered and Forgandenny 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.
- 19.5 Travel distance to the neighbouring school is not excessive and pupils attending Forgandenny Primary School already make this journey. However, it is recognised that adverse weather in the winter can impact on travel arrangements in this area.
- 19.6 Members of the community are travelling to access other services such as GP and dental surgeries, shops and post offices and so it appears to be an accepted part of life within the community.

- 19.7 Environmental impacts have been summarised and detailed work will be done as part of the environmental assessment for this proposal.
- 19.8 The only option which is considered to be a reasonable response to address the issue of an unsustainable school roll is to consider closing Forteviot Primary School, with the pupils transferring to Forgandenny Primary School. Special regard has been given to the rural school factors and the assessment of these is set out in the options appraisal and in this Proposal Paper. The anticipated educational benefits which are likely to occur, should that option be progressed and implemented, are also considered.
- 19.9 It is therefore recommended that the most appropriate response to the issues identified in relation to the very low roll at Forteviot Primary School is that a statutory consultation exercise takes place on a proposal to close the school. As a result, pupils would be transferred to Forgandenny Primary School. The delineated area of Forgandenny Primary School would be extended to subsume the whole catchment of Forteviot Primary School.

20. RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSAL

- 20.1 Interested parties are invited to respond by making online, electronic or written submissions on the proposal or any alternative proposals.

Online: www.pkc.gov.uk

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

In writing: Forteviot Primary School Consultation, Education and Children's Services, 2 High Street, Perth, PH1 5PH

no later than close of business on Thursday 17 May 2018.

- 20.2 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.

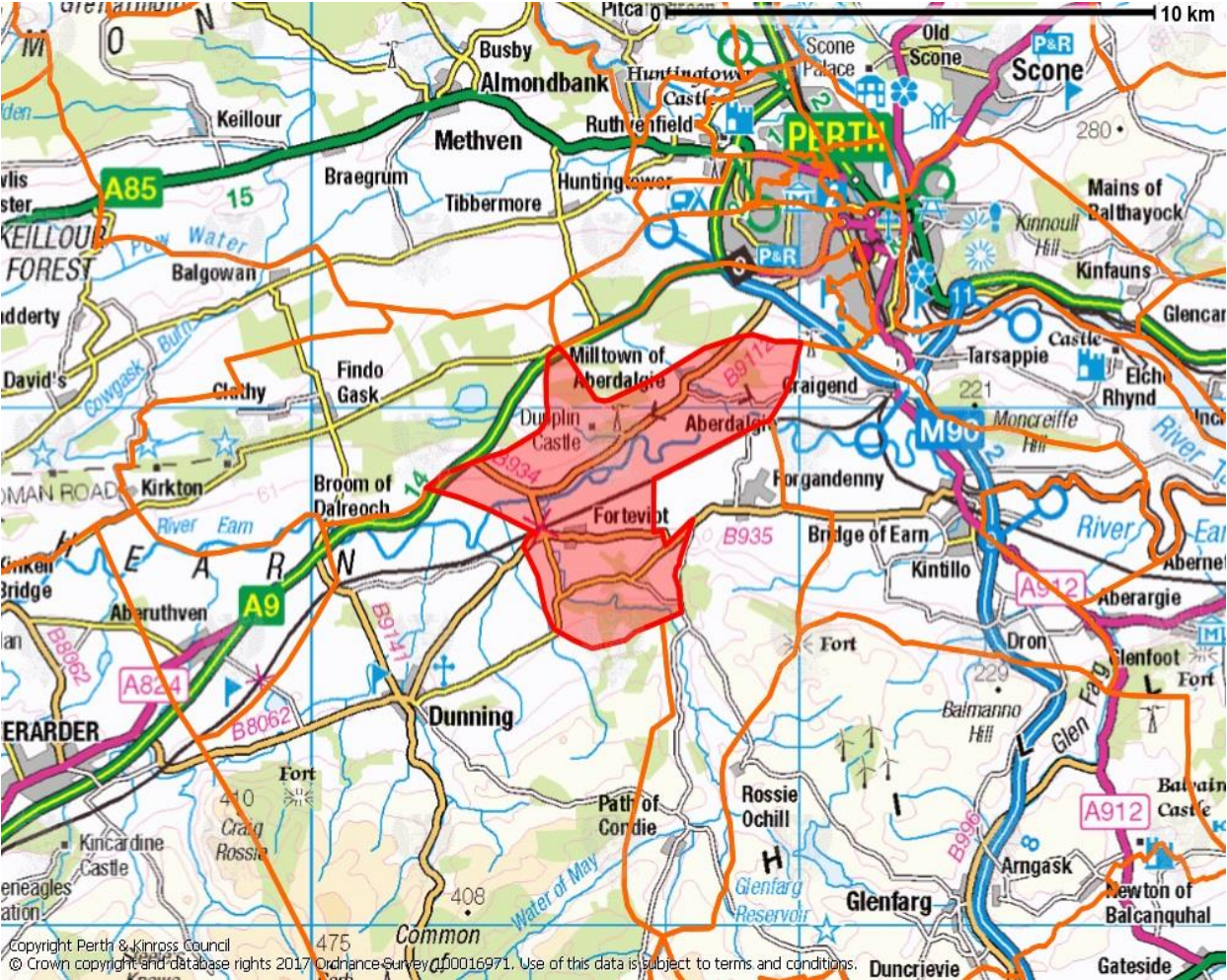
- 20.3 Those sending in a response, whether electronically or by letter, should know that their response will be open to public scrutiny and may have to be supplied to anyone making a reasonable request to see it.

- 20.4 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.

8 March 2018

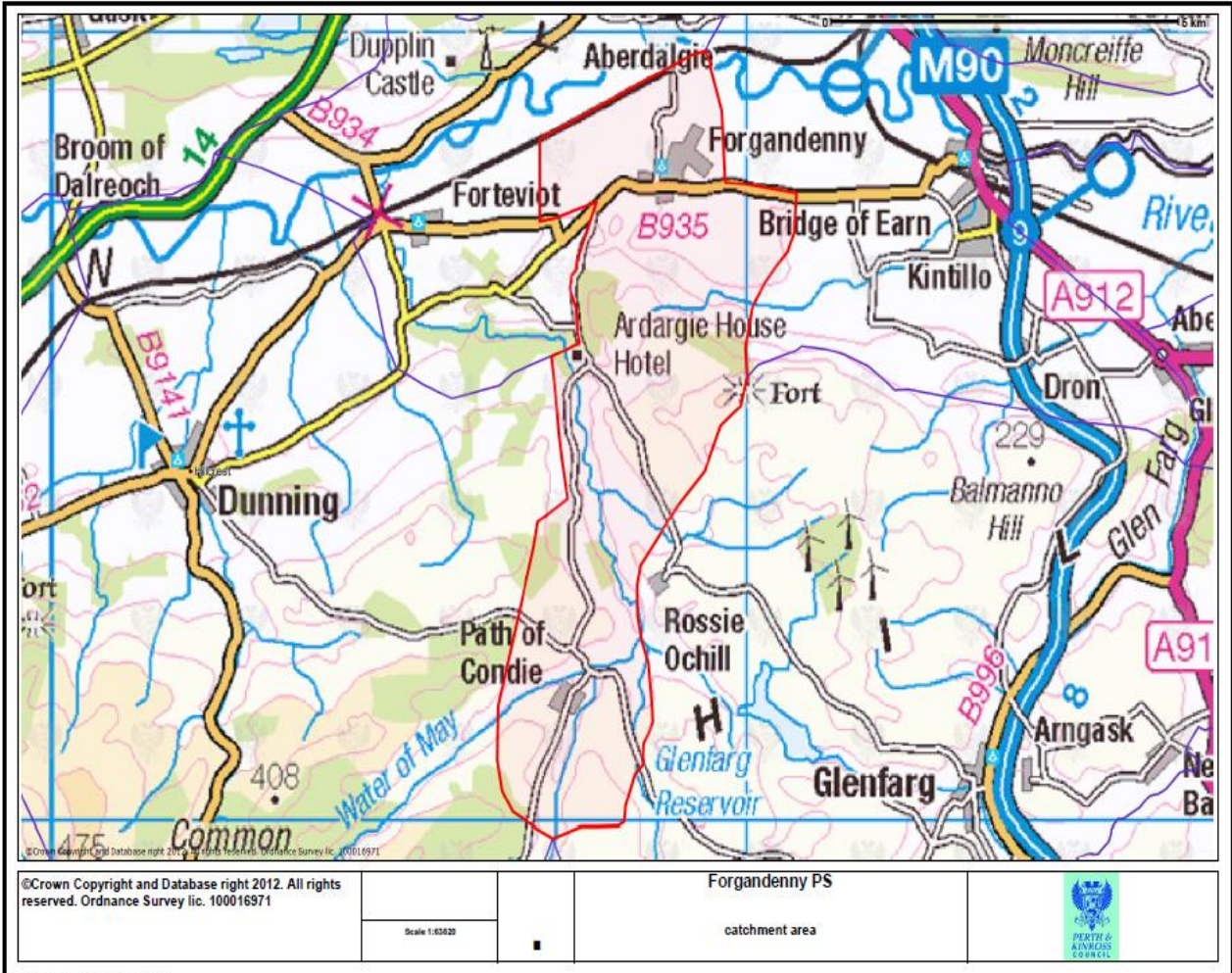
Sheena Devlin
Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)

CATCHMENT AREA OF FORTEVIOT PRIMARY SCHOOL

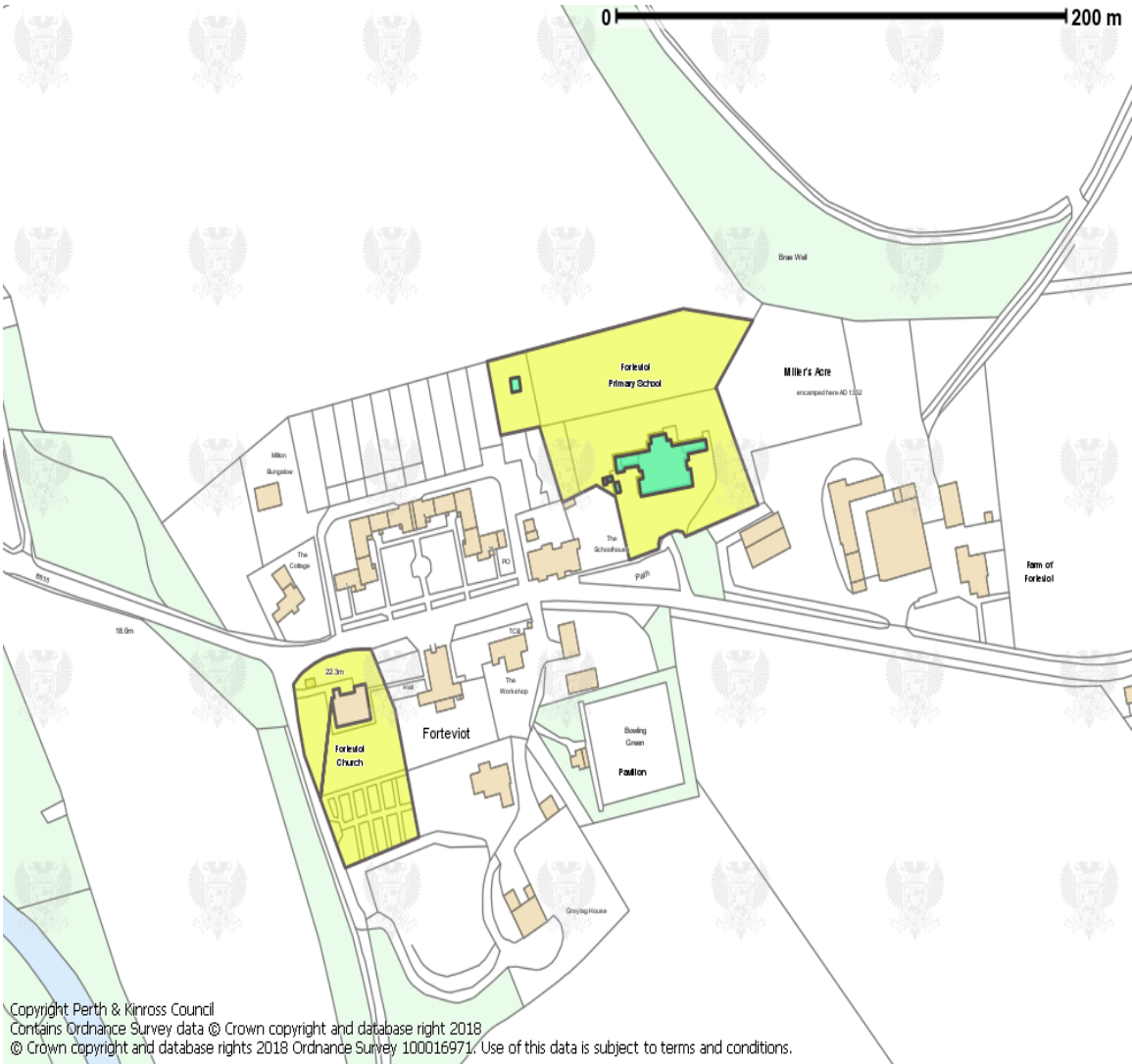


APPENDIX 2

CATCHMENT AREA OF FORGANDENNY PRIMARY SCHOOL

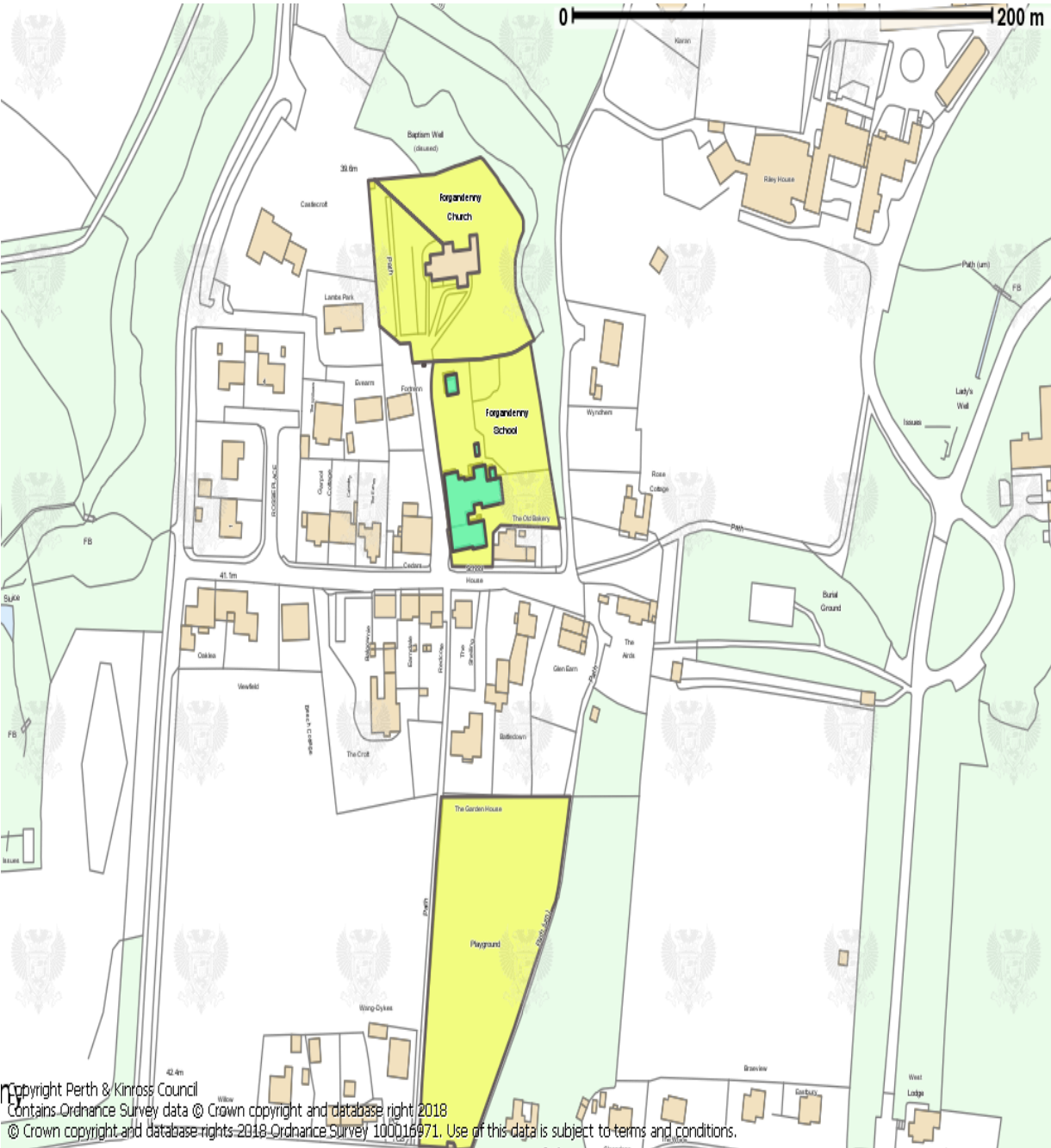


OUTLINE OF FORTEVIOT PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING AND THE SCHOOL



APPENDIX 4

OUTLINE OF FORGANDENNY PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING AND THE SCHOOL GROUNDS



APPENDIX 5

HISTORICAL AND PROJECTED PUPIL ROLL DATA FOR FORTEVIOT PRIMARY SCHOOL

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Capacity	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Pupils in school	27	27	24	25	24	18	14	5	n/a

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

PROJECTED PUPIL NUMBERS

	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022
Forteviot Primary School Capacity	50	50	50	50
Pupils returning from Forgandenny Primary School – assumes only pupils who were in attendance when school mothballed	2 ²	2	1	0
New P1s – assuming all P1s from catchment attend Forteviot Primary School	0	1	2	0
Forteviot Primary School Roll	2	3	4	3

ANALYSIS OF SCHOOL INFORMATION

School	Capacity	Condition Rating	Suitability Rating
Forteviot	50	C	B

² One pupil was in P6 and will be at secondary school by 2018/19

APPENDIX 6

HISTORICAL AND PROJECTED PUPIL ROLL DATA FOR FORGANDENNY PRIMARY SCHOOL

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Capacity	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67
Pupils in school	50	47	51	58	61	53	44	51	55

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

PROJECTED PUPIL NUMBERS

	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022
Forgandenny Primary School Capacity	67	67	67	67
Forgandenny Primary School Roll	52	50	53	49

ANALYSIS OF SCHOOL/PUPIL INFORMATION

School	Capacity	Condition Rating	Suitability Rating
Forgandenny	67	B	A



Education and Children's Services Consultation Response Form

Consultation Proposal:

- Education provision at Forteviot Primary School be permanently discontinued with effect from 28 June 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter;
- That the pupils of Forteviot Primary School catchment area permanently receive their education at Forgandenny Primary School from 1 July 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter; and
- That the delineated catchment area of Forgandenny Primary School be permanently extended to subsume the whole delineated catchment area of Forteviot Primary School from 1 July 2019.

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)

Are there any other alternatives which you consider should have been included?

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

Current revenue costs for school proposed for closure			
Name of School Forteviot Primary School	Costs for full financial year (2017-18)	Additional financial impact on receiving school [Forgandenny]	Annual recurring savings (column 2 minus column 3)
School costs			
<i>Employee costs -</i>			
teaching staff	£ 68,559.00	£ -	£ 68,559.00
support staff	£ 23,596.00	£ -	£ 23,596.00
teaching staff training (CPD etc)	£ 475.00	£ -	£ 475.00
Supply costs	£ 2,244.00	£ -	£ 2,244.00
Slippage Target	-£ 3,884.00	£ -	-£ 3,884.00
<i>Building costs:</i>			
non domestic rates	£ -	£ -	£ -
water & sewerage charges	£ 290.00	£ -	£ 290.00
energy costs	£ 4,731.00	£ -	£ 4,731.00
cleaning (contract or inhouse)	£ 6,151.00	£ -	£ 6,151.00
building repair & maintenance	£ 10,109.00	£ -	£ 10,109.00
grounds maintenance	£ 1,944.00	£ -	£ 1,944.00
other	£ 497.00	£ -	£ 497.00
<i>School operational costs:</i>			
learning materials	£ 792.00	£ 207.00	£ 585.00
<i>Transport costs: note 3</i>			
home to school		£ 2,141.30	- £ 2,141.30
other pupil transport costs		£ -	£ -
staff travel	£ 251.00	£ -	£ 251.00

SCHOOL COSTS SUB-TOTAL	£ 115,755.00	£ 2,343.00	£ 113,406.00
Income:			
Other	£ -		£ -
SCHOOL INCOME SUB-TOTAL	£ -		£ -
TOTAL COSTS MINUS INCOME FOR SCHOOL	£ 115,755.00	£ 2,348.30	£ 113,406.70

UNIT COST PER PUPIL PER YEAR	£ 23,151.00	£ 469.66	£ 22,681.34
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Capital costs	School proposed for closure	Receiving school
Capital Life Cycle cost	£ -	£ -
Third party contributions to capital costs	£ -	£ -

Annual Property costs incurred (moth-balling) until disposal	
property insurance	£ -
non domestic rates	£ -
water & sewerage charges	£ 150.00
energy costs	£ 1,700.00
cleaning (contract or inhouse)	£ -
security costs	£ -
building repair & maintenance	£ -
grounds maintenance	£ -
other	£ -
TOTAL ANNUAL COST UNTIL DISPOSAL	£ 1,850.00

Non-recurring revenue costs	
	£ -
TOTAL NON-RECURRING REVENUE COSTS	£ -

Impact on GAE	
based on pupils going to Forgandenny PS	£ -
GAE IMPACT	£ -

Notes

1. The total costs incurred for teaching staff (row 5) and support staff (row 6) are required to be included. Column 2 should include the current costs for a full financial year for the school proposed for closure, and column 3 should include the *additional* cost to the receiving school as a result of staff transferring.

For teaching staff, this should include regular teachers, itinerant teachers, learning support teaching staff and special education (ASN) staff. Itinerant teaching staff includes central support services such as English as additional language support, hearing, visually impaired services, educational psychology services.

For support staff, this should include classroom assistants, administration staff and janitorial staff.

For all staff the costs entered should include salary, NI and pension costs.

If the school proposed for closure has less than 3 staff members, then the cumulative staff costs only should be given in row 5 (for both teaching and support staff), so as to avoid possible disclosure of individual salaries.

Training costs should be identified separately in rows 7 and 8.

2. Supply costs to cover teaching and support staff. This may be held in a central budget, be devolved or shared across the budgets.

3. 'Home to school' pupil transport costs should include those school transport costs incurred in accordance with Council policy. 'Other pupil transport costs' will cover costs incurred for the transport of pupils for activities such as swimming etc

4. Row 30 of column 3 should include the additional transport costs related to the increased home to school transport arrangements that are put in place in accordance with Council policy. This figure is therefore likely to be considerably higher than current costs.

5. This table is to capture the impact on the revenue support grant as a result of changes to GAE. Impact on GAE should consider the issues covered in the GAE section of the guidance document that accompany this template.

6. Facilities management costs will include costs related to caretaking, janitorial and security.

7. The capital costs for the receiving school should be taken across the life cycle of the school in line with the life expectancy of that school. The capital costs for the school proposed for closure should be taken across the same life cycle period.