

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:

- **Balhousie Primary School**
- **North Muirton 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
- Balhousie Primary School, Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 5DH
- North Muirton Primary School, Uist Place, Perth, PH1 3BY

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: ECSTGeneralEnquiries@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. 18/15](#) refers).

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 meetings

Two public meetings 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 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 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 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 MEETINGS

Two public meetings will be held to discuss these proposals. Anyone wishing to attend either of the public meetings is invited to do so. The meetings, 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 meetings 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 meetings will be held in:

The Assembly Hall, North Inch Community Campus, Gowans Terrace, Perth, PH1 5BF

Tuesday 24 April 2018

Time – 7.00 pm

The Lecture Theatre, North Inch Community Campus, Gowans Terrace, Perth, PH1 5BF

Tuesday 1 May 2018

Time – 7.00 pm

A note will be taken at the meetings 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 :

Subject to the outcome of this proposal:

- Education provision at Balhousie Primary School be permanently discontinued with effect from 31 July 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter;
- That the pupils of Balhousie Primary School catchment area permanently receive their education at a larger, new build North Muirton Primary School from August 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter; and
- That the delineated catchment area of North Muirton Primary School be permanently extended to subsume the whole delineated catchment area of Balhousie Primary School from August 2022.

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.

For the avoidance of doubt, it should be assumed that the related Pre-School provision is included within any reference below to a Primary School. In particular, any reference to Balhousie Primary School should be taken as a reference to both the primary and nursery classes.

1. REASONS FOR FORMULATING THE PROPOSAL

- 1.1 On 2 November 2016, Lifelong Learning Committee ([Report 16/485 refers](#)) approved the development of a number of options appraisals to consider in detail schools which were identified as requiring further consideration. Balhousie Primary School was included in the schools to be considered by an options appraisal due to the poor condition and suitability rating of the school. The occupancy of the school was also low. North Muirton Primary School was included in the schools to be considered by an options appraisal due to the poor condition rating of the school.
- 1.2 Balhousie Primary School is a 5 class school with a nursery located on Dunkeld Road, Perth and is a feeder primary school for Perth Grammar School. Balhousie Primary School is located approximately 1.2 miles from North Muirton Primary School.
- 1.3 Balhousie Primary School has a roll of 101 (Census 2017) with capacity for 224 pupils providing an occupancy rate of 45%.

- 1.4 Of the pupils who attend Balhousie Primary School, 66% of pupils (69 in total) live within the catchment area. The remaining pupil roll (32 pupils) is made up of pupils who live outside of the catchment and attend the school as the result of placing requests. The catchment areas of these pupils include Tulloch Primary School, Goodlyburn Primary School and North Muirton Primary School.
- 1.5 At Census 2017, there were over 200 pupils living within the catchment area for Balhousie Primary School attending other schools. Of these pupils, 135 pupils attend St John's RC Primary School which is a denominational school in close proximity to Balhousie Primary School, forming part of the North Inch Campus.
- 1.6 Balhousie Primary School is rated Condition 'C' and Suitability 'C' with significant spend being required to improve its condition rating and there being limitations to what can be achieved to improve its suitability. The external social areas and accessibility were rated as suitability 'D'. North Muirton Primary School is also rated Condition 'C', with a recommendation that it should be replaced. North Muirton Primary School is rated B for suitability. However, of the key factors that are considered within the suitability survey, the functionality and accessibility of the external social areas at North Muirton Primary School were rated as 'D'.
- 1.7 North Muirton Primary School has a roll of 228 pupils (Census 2017) with capacity for 290 pupils providing an occupancy rate of 79%.
- 1.8 The provision of primary education at both Balhousie Primary School and North Muirton Primary School needs to be considered in the context of the needs of the pupils and the local community, both now and in the future.
- 1.9 As part of an [Options Appraisal](#), information was collated on pupil numbers, housebuilding, finances, the school buildings, travel arrangements, environmental impact and the local area and community to inform the options. A pre-consultation exercise was carried out with the local community to inform the options appraisal.
- 1.10 The options appraisals for Balhousie Primary School and North Muirton Primary School have been combined because there is funding in the Composite Capital Budget 2017/23 for a replacement primary school in the 'North' of Perth. The options appraisal considered whether there were opportunities for both schools, which have adjoining boundaries, to benefit jointly or separately from the funding in the capital programme.

2. BACKGROUND AND STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

- 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 Balhousie Primary School. Lifelong Learning Committee considered the options appraisal and agreed to commence formal consultation on a proposal to close Balhousie Primary School on 24 January 2018 ([Report No. 18/15](#) 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 These duties are outlined in the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010 and the accompanying Statutory Guidance](#).
- 2.4 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 of Perth and Kinross Council on 9 March 2016 ([Report No. 16/108](#) refers), provides information on the whole of the school estate and provides information about overall objectives and future priorities within Perth and Kinross Council.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 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.

- 2.7 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.

3. VISION

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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'.
- 3.4 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.

4. BALHOUSIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 4.1 Balhousie Primary School is located to the north west of the town centre on Dunkeld Road, Perth. Balhousie Primary School provides non-denominational primary and nursery education and is a feeder primary school for Perth Grammar School. Appendix 1 shows the present school catchment area for Balhousie Primary School. A plan of the school site for Balhousie Primary School is attached as Appendix 3.

- 4.2 Balhousie Primary School is operating as a 5 class school and the primary school structure currently operates with 3 composite classes and 2 single stream classes across Primary 1 – 7.
- 4.3 Balhousie Primary School has a nursery provision which currently offers both morning and afternoon sessions. Each session provides for a maximum of 40 children from aged 2 until they attend school. There is to be no more than 10 children aged 2 in each nursery session. There are 30 nursery children (Census 2017) registered at the school.
- 4.4 Historical and projected pupil roll data for Balhousie Primary School is attached at Appendix 5.
- 4.5 Of the pupils who attend Balhousie Primary School, 66% of pupils (69 in total), live within the catchment area. The remaining pupil roll is made up of pupils who live outside of the catchment. A large number of children in the catchment area attend other primary schools as a result of placing requests.
- 4.6 The main spoken language of pupils attending Balhousie Primary School is as follows;
- 51% English
 - 26% Polish (62% are fluent in English language)
 - 12% Bulgarian (83% are fluent in English language)

The remaining pupils attending the school have a number of different languages as their first language including Slovak, Spanish, Romanian, Scots, Telugu, Malayalam and Urdu. Altogether, there are 10 pupils who are not fluent in English language.

- 4.7 A significant number of pupils attending Balhousie Primary School live in households that are categorised as deprived based on ACORN and SIMD. SIMD quintile 1 represents the most deprived areas. 38% of the pupils attending Balhousie Primary School live in areas which are in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) quintile 1. This compares to an average of 7% in SIMD quintile 1 across Perth and Kinross. ACORN 5 represents the most deprived areas. 59% of pupils attending Balhousie Primary School fall into category 5. This compares to an average of 13% across Perth and Kinross.
- 4.8 The site of Balhousie Primary School is owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The original two storey building is estimated to have been constructed in 1908 and parts of the building are Grade B listed. The two storey, red sandstone main building provides approximately 1,905 m² of accommodation.
- 4.9 The original Grade B Listed Edwardian renaissance building is of traditional construction weathered by pitched slate roofs and finished with red sandstone elevations with cast iron rainwater goods.

The original single storey structure to the south west of the school is formed from metal framed mono pitched bitumen covered roof.

- 4.10 Staff, pupil and disabled toilet accommodation is provided largely around the stairwells of the building. The main hall is located within the centre of the building with an open mezzanine corridor serving the first floor classrooms above. Kitchen facilities are located to the west end of the building within the dining hall. In addition to the main hall, kitchen and dining facilities the original main building accommodates a nursery, classrooms, learning resource rooms and office accommodation.
- 4.11 Balhousie Primary School is not a rural school under Section 14 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 4.12 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*

- 4.13 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.

- 4.14 The overall suitability of Balhousie Primary School building was categorised as ‘C’ (Poor – Showing major problems and/or not operating optimally - the schools buildings and grounds impede the delivery of activities that are needed for children and communities in the school)’. The external social areas and accessibility are rated as suitability ‘D’. 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.
- 4.15 Planned and unplanned maintenance on the school building in the last 3 financial years cost £140,934.
- 4.16 There is planned house building for the Balhousie Primary School catchment area contained within the Local Development Plan (LDP) and Housing Land Audit (HLA) 2016. There are over 200 houses currently programmed within the HLA 2016 up to 2028 within the Balhousie Primary School catchment area. Developments include housing at Ainslie Place and Atholl Street. There are 50 houses also planned for Stormont Street but there is no current timeline for these.
- 4.17 The figures from house building assume that all pupils from new houses will attend Balhousie Primary School and that the school roll will have an additional 33 pupils spread over four years. It is considered unlikely that all new pupils from the house building will attend Balhousie Primary School based on current trends.

5. BALHOUSIE BUILDING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The building is suffering from significant deterioration to the external and internal fabric. Externally work is required to prevent and resolve issues as a result of water ingress and further deterioration to stone work. A programme of repair/replacement to windows is also required.

Internally, particularly in the upper level classrooms and stairwells, further investigative work is required to establish a full programme of repairs including accessibility compliance and resolving issues with dampness and its effect on internal finishes. The existing boilers, lighting and fire alarm systems are at the end of their serviceable life and require replacement in the short term.

- 5.2 A programme of works has been developed and costed for Balhousie Primary School as follows based on the visual surveys:

Timescale	Cost (£m)
1-2 years	1.15
2-5 years	0.55
5+ years	1.15
	2.85

These costs are based on a long term plan for the school. If a decision was made that the school were to close in the short to medium term, only essential works would be undertaken. The approximate cost is £396,281 for building fabric, mechanical and electrical works.

- 5.3 This is not the complete cost of upgrading Balhousie Primary School as there were a number of areas which are not included because disruptive surveys would be required. These include: high level access to the roof; access to the internal roof space; wet and dry rot surveys, asbestos surveys and intrusive wall surveys.
- 5.4 To carry out this level of survey would require the school to be decanted for a period of time. The expectation would be that the works would then continue immediately afterwards rather than disrupt the pupils learning and to provide best value. In considering the areas which have not been included, estimates for a full upgrade of the building have been made at between £4.8m and £5.7m. In addition, there would be decant costs of approximately £600,000.
- 5.5 It is not possible to replace Balhousie Primary School on the existing school site or in close proximity to the school. The school requires refurbishment at a cost of between approximately £4.8m and £5.7m. Revenue of approximately £600,000, will also be required for a decant. These works are not likely to improve the suitability of the school to any degree and there would be limited changes or improvements to the teaching and learning environment.

6. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 6.1 In arriving at the proposal set out within this Proposal Paper, the Council has considered a number of alternative options for the future of Balhousie Primary School as part of the options appraisal. These options were developed on the basis that North Muirton Primary School needs replaced and that it is not possible to build a new Balhousie Primary School in close proximity to the current school:
- Option 1 - Both schools remain open – consider building a new school at North Muirton Primary School and improve condition and suitability at Balhousie Primary School
 - Option 2 - Consider closing Balhousie Primary School and moving pupils to a larger new build North Muirton Primary School
 - Option 3 - Balhousie Primary School remains open – expand the provision of other PKC services utilising space within the school for these services and improve condition and suitability. Consider building a new North Muirton Primary School

7. ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS

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

7.1 Both schools remain open – consider building a new school at North Muirton Primary School and improve condition and suitability at Balhousie Primary School

7.1.1 North Muirton Primary School is uneconomic to refurbish and maintain and replacement of the school is required. This option proposes that North Muirton Primary School will be replaced on the site of the existing school. There is funding of £16 million available in the capital programme for a replacement primary school in North Perth. £11.7 million will be required for the replacement of North Muirton Primary School which would accommodate the current capacity, albeit with purpose built Additional Support Needs (ASN) and nursery accommodation.

7.1.2 Balhousie Primary School is currently under occupied, and it is unlikely that the roll will increase significantly in the future. The condition of the school is such that major refurbishment of Balhousie Primary School is required if the school is to remain open. It is estimated that the cost of refurbishing the school will be in the region of £4.8 - £5.7 million. There would also be ongoing maintenance costs associated with the upkeep of an older building. Although the condition of the school would be improved, there would be limited improvement to the suitability and to the learning and teaching environment, and no upgrading across other areas.

7.1.3 It is considered that it does not represent best value to commit this level of funding to refurbish Balhousie Primary School when the school is under occupied and where the roll is unlikely to increase greatly in the future.

Even if additional funding was committed, over and above the £5.7m, to attempt to improve the suitability, it is unlikely that the learning and teaching environment can be fully modernised.

7.1.4 The available capital funding is insufficient to build a new school at North Muirton and refurbish Balhousie Primary School. Even if there was sufficient funding, for the reasons outlined above, it is not considered that replacing North Muirton Primary School while also refurbishing Balhousie Primary School would represent best value.

7.1.5 This is not considered a reasonable option in terms of best value as the expenditure required to refurbish the school would not achieve a significant improvement in the learning and teaching environment at Balhousie Primary School.

7.2 Consider closing Balhousie Primary School and moving pupils to a larger, new build North Muirton Primary School

- 7.2.1 A new school at North Muirton would benefit both existing North Muirton Primary School and Balhousie Primary School pupils and staff by providing a well-designed, spacious, accessible, bright and modern teaching environment. Children with additional support needs would have purpose built facilities which would provide support for individual and family needs. Nursery children from North Muirton Primary School, who are currently in a separate building, would benefit from being based in the same building as the primary school children.
- 7.2.2 Travel distance and time will be increased for some pupils living within the existing Balhousie Primary School catchment area, but all pupils would be within statutory walking distance of the school.
- 7.2.3 The staff at both Balhousie Primary School and North Muirton Primary School have experience in working with children and parents whose first language is not English. There are well established supports in place across schools for such children and their parents. Support for those families whose first language is not English would remain through the use of the PKAVS Minority Communities Hub. The Council would support the transition to the new school through joint working with PKAVS.
- 7.2.4 The cost associated with a new build, which would accommodate pupils from North Muirton Primary School and Balhousie Primary School, is approximately £13 million. This assumes the building is completed within 4 years. This would allow for a statutory consultation and 3 years design and build.
- Capital funding may be required for essential works to keep Balhousie Primary School operational until the new school at North Muirton is completed.
- 7.2.5 A new school would be rated 'A' for condition and 'A' for suitability. The refurbishment of Balhousie Primary School is likely to result in a school which is 'B' for condition and 'C' for suitability, with little improvement in the learning and teaching environment.
- 7.2.6 The cost of the larger new school would be approximately £4.4m less than the cost of building a new school at North Muirton and refurbishing Balhousie Primary School.
- 7.2.7 There is a positive environmental impact as a result of this option as both existing school buildings would be replaced by one energy efficient building which reduces carbon emissions and energy costs by utilising zero carbon construction and renewable technologies.
- 7.2.8 This option will have a better outcome in terms of the learning and teaching environment for more than 300 pupils, additionally it will allow approximately £3m of capital to be reinvested in the wider school estate. Revenue savings will also support the wider delivery of education services.

7.3 Balhousie Primary School remains open – expand the provision of other PKC services utilising space within the school for these services and improve condition and suitability. Consider building a new North Muirton Primary School

7.3.1 Accommodating additional services in the school would be better value as the running costs and capital spend required for Balhousie Primary School would provide greater benefits in a more fully occupied building. It would retain the school for current pupils and maintain links between the school and the local community.

7.3.2 However, at this time, no service has been identified which could utilise the available space within Balhousie Primary School: ASN provision previously located within Balhousie Primary School was moved to a more accessible school; there is no requirement for additional nursery places and there is no potential, suitable community use identified for the building.

7.3.3 It should be noted that any new service would not be able to utilise space within Balhousie Primary School until refurbishment works were completed and, therefore, this would have to be considered at a future date when service/asset requirements are known. This creates an added uncertainty as it cannot be predicted with any degree of certainty that other services could be identified at that time. Therefore this option is not considered reasonable

7.4 ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S)

7.4.1 One option suggested as part of the pre-consultation was that St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School could be closed and pupils from St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School move into Balhousie Primary School. St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School is located in close proximity (0.2 miles) to Balhousie Primary School.

7.4.2 St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School is denominational school and, therefore, an appraisal of this option was undertaken on the basis that St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School would retain its denominational status and move into Balhousie Primary School building and operate as a separate school.

7.4.3 It would be possible to move St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School into Balhousie Primary School and operate it as a separate school. However, there will be operational compromises to be made by pupils and staff in both schools with the sharing and timetabling of ancillary space such as dining, hall and outdoor space. It is likely that these compromises will not benefit either set of pupils.

- 7.4.4 Financial benefits would be achieved through the closure of St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School, in terms of the reduction in annual property costs and the capital cost of upgrading St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School.
- 7.4.5 The cost of upgrading Balhousie Primary School would represent better value with increased pupil numbers. However, this assumes that St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School pupil numbers are maintained with the move to Balhousie Primary School.
- 7.4.6 The key issue with this option is, however, the fact that pupils from St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School would be moving to a school which is a less suitable environment than their current school, even if the works were carried out on Balhousie Primary School. Although the condition of the school would be improved through the carrying out of those works, there would be limited improvement to the suitability and to the learning and teaching environment, and no upgrading across other areas
- 7.4.7 Pupils generally attend St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School as a result of a successful placing request and it is possible that pupil numbers would not be sustained if the school was relocated to Balhousie Primary School. This option could result in uncertainty over the future of St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School through a reduction in pupil numbers. This would result in Balhousie Primary School once again being under occupied. Therefore, this is not considered a reasonable option.

8. THE OPTION FOR CONSULTATION FROM OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 8.1 The Options Appraisal has demonstrated that the option for the permanent closure of Balhousie Primary School is the only reasonable alternative in response to the poor condition and suitability and low occupancy of the school and represents the best value for education purposes.

9. NORTH MUIRTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 9.1 North Muirton Primary School is located to the north west of the town centre in Uist Place, North Muirton approximately 1.2 miles from Balhousie Primary School. North Muirton Primary School provides non-denominational primary and nursery education to pupils and is a feeder primary school for Perth Grammar School. Appendix 2 shows the present school catchment area for North Muirton Primary School. A plan of the school site for North Muirton Primary School is attached as Appendix 4.
- 9.2 North Muirton Primary School has 11 classrooms and the current school structure operates with 5 composite classes and 5 single stream classes across Primary 1 – 7.

- 9.3 North Muirton Primary School has a nursery provision which currently offers both morning and afternoon sessions. Each session provides for a maximum of 55 children from aged 2 until they attend school. There is to be no more than 10 children aged 2 in each nursery session. There are 53 nursery children (Census 2017) registered at the school.
- 9.4 Historical and projected pupil roll data for North Muirton Primary School is attached at Appendix 6.
- 9.5 Of the pupils who attend North Muirton Primary School, 74% of pupils live within the catchment area. The remaining pupil roll is made up of pupils who live outside of the catchment area who attend as placing requests. The catchment areas of these pupils include Balhousie Primary School and Goodlyburn Primary School.
- 9.6 The main spoken language of pupils attending the school is as follows;
- 94% English
 - 4% Polish (63% are competent in English language)

The remaining pupils attending the school have a number of different languages as their first language including Romanian, Scots, Urdu and Muslim.

- 9.7 Pupils attending North Muirton Primary School live in areas which are more deprived than the average in Perth and Kinross based on ACORN and SIMD. SIMD quintile 1 represents the most deprived areas. 11% of the pupils attending North Muirton Primary School live in areas which are in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) quintile 1. This compares to an average of 7% in SIMD quintile 1 across Perth and Kinross. ACORN 5 represents the most deprived areas. 17% of pupils attending North Muirton Primary School fall into category 5. This compares to an average of 13% across Perth and Kinross.
- 9.8 The building is a single storey design estimated to have been constructed in 1977. The single storey building provides approximately 2,319 m² of accommodation. In addition to the main building, there is a nursery to the south of the main school of the same construction. The main school building provides semi open plan learning and teaching spaces including 11 classrooms, hall, dining, kitchen, toilets and office accommodation.
- 9.9 North Muirton Primary School is not a rural school under Section 14 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 9.10 North Muirton Primary School has been graded 'B' for suitability (Satisfactory – Performing well but with minor problem - the school buildings and grounds support the delivery of services to children and communities). The functionality and accessibility of the external social areas were rated "D".

North Muirton Primary School was surveyed and was graded condition 'C' (Poor –showing major defects and/or not operating adequately. The occupancy based on the 2017 school census is 78.6%.

- 9.11 The impact of new housing in the North Muirton Primary School catchment area was examined and future pupil projections have been considered using aggregated GP registration data. There is no planned house building for the North Muirton Primary School catchment area contained within the LDP and Housing Land Audit (HLA) 2016. The highest projected occupancy level for future years at North Muirton Primary School is 83% in 2020/21.

10. NORTH MUIRTON BUILDING INFORMATION

- 10.1 The current school building is suffering from significant deterioration to both the external and internal fabric and a new build North Muirton Primary School is recommended. Further information regarding the condition of North Muirton Primary School is contained within the Options Appraisal.

11. SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT - NEW BUILD SCHOOLS

- 11.1 School planning and design can play an important role in enhancing teaching and learning outcomes by creating better built environments. When designing a new school the pupils' learning journey is at the heart of the design. The interaction between the Nursery and P1 Pupils is facilitated by siting their classrooms appropriately and providing access to shared indoor and outdoor play. Vertical learning between all age groups is further enhanced by considering room adjacencies at the design stage.
- 11.2 The classrooms are designed to provide a bright and modern environment with built in teaching walls providing ample storage for classroom resources and space for interactive teaching.
- 11.3 Flexibility and adaptability ensure that each space is used efficiently and effectively and learners have opportunities to learn in different environments. Break-out spaces enable pupils to work independently in an informal setting whilst allowing passive supervision by the teacher. Small group rooms can be used flexibly for project work or supported learning.
- 11.4 The requirements of pupils with additional support needs are addressed through the inclusion of spaces such as Nurture, Snoezlean and Sensory rooms. Specialist design services are employed to ensure these purpose built rooms include suitable resources and equipment.
- 11.5 Acoustic performance, ventilation, floor finishes, lighting, decoration and furniture are all carefully considered during design development to make sure the environment is comfortable, not over stimulating and conducive to all activities being undertaken within the school.

- 11.6 Outdoor learning is facilitated through easy access to outdoor spaces directly from the classroom where possible.
- 11.7 The overall concept of the design process is to provide an inclusive, safe, inspiring environment which promotes learning for all.

12. EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

- 12.1 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 the proposed larger, new build North Muirton Primary School, which will accommodate pupils from the current Balhousie Primary School catchment area and the current North Muirton Primary School catchment.

Learning and Teaching

- 12.2 Children attending the new build North Muirton Primary School will have access to a wide range of teaching and support staff. The new building will house a double stream school i.e 14 classes, with a nurture class and enhanced provision, which will be purpose built for pupils with Additional Support Needs. This enhanced provision and the allocated resources, will provide the opportunity for targeted support and safe and secure break out and intervention spaces.
- 12.3 Within the new build North Muirton Primary School, pupils will have access to a modern nursery area, with internal and external play areas, utilising a range of surfaces to support learning and play. The new school will have the benefit of having the early years provision in the same building as the primary classes, thus improving the quality of the transition from nursery to primary, with shared spaces and resources, accommodated in one place. The condition and suitability of the early years provision will be of the highest standard.
- 12.4 Both Balhousie Primary School and North Muirton Primary School currently offer Strong Start places, as well as full time provision for nursery aged children. The new build North Muirton Primary School will provide both of these within the Early Years setting, in purpose built accommodation and with staff who are experienced in supporting children from vulnerable families. In addition, the accommodation will have been built specifically for the 2 year old age group.
- 12.5 Currently, there are in place at both schools the opportunities to improve arrangements for planning and taking forward improvements through effective self-evaluation and planning for improvements for all staff. Within a new build North Muirton Primary School, any good practice in these areas can be shared between staff from both schools.

Staff who currently don't have a stage partner, because the school is single stream, will have the benefit of being to work alongside such a partner in the new school, providing new opportunities for peer support, challenge and a sharing of ideas. The support and challenge of a senior management team, who are not class committed, can also be effective in these areas too. This in turn supports the teaching practice in the classrooms and the delivery of the curriculum, to the benefit of all pupils, delivered in a way most appropriate to their individual needs.

Environment for Learning

- 12.6 Experience in our other new school buildings has demonstrated that a new, flexible learning environment has inspired pupils. The modern, purpose built teaching spaces, breakout areas, communal and outdoor areas allow for greater flexibility in how the curriculum can be delivered, maximising use of both physical space and staff.
- 12.7 In addition to classroom space, there will be General Purpose (GP) rooms, meeting and group rooms and a multi-purpose games hall. This will extend the opportunities for the pupils to utilise flexible accommodation, which is attractive, bright, with well-designed classrooms, naturally lit with modern teaching equipment and resources. The new school will benefit from design practices which support a varied range of teaching environments that best deliver learning. Spaces for learning will be designed in such a way as to allow a range of teaching styles and approaches including active outdoor learning.
- 12.8 Within the new build school, classrooms will have the most up-to-date technology providing the opportunity for all children to access the curriculum in modern and innovative ways.
- 12.9 The provision of a new build at North Muirton will provide a range of facilities in school grounds, offering opportunities for the pupils to experience a range of team and individual sports. These outdoor facilities, which can be used by all children, will provide a space where such physical activity, both planned and informal, can take place throughout the year, regardless of inclement weather. Playtime will be a much more enjoyable experience for all children and young people given the size and nature of the outdoor space.
- 12.10 A new build North Muirton Primary School will be fully accessible for both children with Additional Support Needs and adults with fully accessible toilet and changing facilities. The new build will meet the requirements of accessibility for learners with disabilities, complying with the Council's Accessibility Strategy and the Equality Act (2010).

Experiences and Opportunities

- 12.11 Within the new build North Muirton Primary School, there will be numerous opportunities for social interaction as well as the more formal learning experiences planned for all children and young people. This will include peer activities in class and at break times, availability of school clubs and extra-curricular activities and team activities and sports.
- 12.12 In North Muirton at present, children contribute to the life of the school in a range of ways, including Primary 7 prefects, buddies and a range of committees. An example of this is the successful eco development which has been sustained over a number of years and has included members of the community. Pupils are given opportunities to lead and make decisions. All staff are encouraged to work collaboratively within a climate of continuous professional development that encourages and promotes a culture of shared leadership. Benefits to pupils from such activities are evident in their increased levels of confidence, their ability to compromise and to work as part of a team.
- 12.13 Pupils at Balhousie Primary School have similar opportunities with an elected Pupil Council representing every class in school. Pupils are also actively involved in the day to day running of the school through activities such as organising playground activities and games, presenting learning events to parents and assisting younger children during assemblies. These activities are designed to develop independence and a sense of responsibility in pupils. All of these experiences and opportunities will be afforded to the pupils in the new build school.
- 12.14 At North Muirton Primary School staff actively seek opportunities for children to develop confidence, personal skills and physical fitness. Examples include a wide range of sporting events; participation in school productions and performances for parents, carers and peers on an annual basis; and after school clubs run by staff. At Balhousie Primary School, a wide range of activities are on offer to pupils with productions, Learning Evenings and Afternoons and a French Café. In addition there is a popular Glee Club, and the same range of sporting activities as North Muirton. Within the new build North Muirton Primary School, the modern facilities will support these opportunities for all pupils.
- 12.15 North Muirton Primary School pupils have links with the local community, using the North Inch Community Campus on a fortnightly basis, and working on a Secret Garden with dementia patients attending a Day Centre local to the school. These opportunities allow the pupils to develop social skills and assists with emotional wellbeing. There are also strong links with Riverside Church where end of term services are held. Balhousie Primary School also enjoys and encourages links with the community, with Open Days and Fayres, as well as the intergenerational work with nursery and P5 children and the local Care Home residents.

Skills gained within these areas have been transferrable and strengthened the children's engagement in developing the skills required to be a successful contributor to society. These very important links can be maintained and possibly enhanced through a wider range of opportunities in the new build North Muirton Primary School.

- 12.16 Pupils from both schools use the local area for their "Daily Mile", promoting healthy activity and strengthening links with the local community and the varied environment around the school, with the river, trees and wildlife. With the location of the new build school, this will continue.
- 12.17 Both North Muirton Primary School and Balhousie Primary School have active Parent Councils and parents are encouraged to participate in the life of the school. It is anticipated the new Parent Council will continue to be active and involved in all aspects of school life where appropriate. The scale and scope of the range and type of opportunities for parental involvement and engagement is likely to be greater than at present.
- 12.18 There is currently provision at North Muirton Primary School of After School Care, which offers structured play for the children and also provides a useful service to working parents and carers. This service would continue to be offered at the new build North Muirton Primary School, thus benefiting all children and their families.
- 12.19 In summary, pupils at both North Muirton Primary School and Balhousie Primary School currently have a range of experiences and opportunities. The coming together of both groups of staff and pupils in the new school will broaden these experiences and opportunities for all.

Summary of Educational Benefits

- The school roll at the new build North Muirton Primary School allows all children to participate in peer support, classroom learning, and learning groups across stages and between classes, with the benefit of allowing children to have a wide and varied range of learning experiences.
- The new build school will easily lend itself to modern teaching methodology, with good use of break out space, accessible and flexible teaching spaces, outdoor areas and good facilities for sport and leisure. In addition the new technology available through a new build project will help support learning and teaching.
- The new build school will incorporate all stages of early years, nurture and ASN provision, allowing a range of learning opportunities for all children and young people. The facilities for this provision will be purpose built.
- The range and type of experiences and outcomes offered will be enhanced at the new school.

12.20 The children and parents of both Balhousie Primary School and North Muirton Primary School will have access to an educational establishment which has a well-planned and committed approach to taking forward improvement. There will be sufficient capacity at the new North Muirton Primary School to fully meet the needs of the Balhousie Primary School children without having a detrimental impact on the learning of the existing pupils of North Muirton Primary School.

13. DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSAL

13.1 This section provides a more detailed assessment of the proposal which is considered to be the only reasonable response to the poor condition and suitability of Balhousie Primary School building and low occupancy level. It considers the community impact and impact on travel arrangements, as well as including an Educational Benefits Statement above, all of which were considered during the options appraisal process.

14. LIKELY EFFECT ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

14.1 The feedback from the community drop-in sessions and online questionnaire from Balhousie Primary School is that the school plays a vital link for people engaging with the local community.

14.2 From both drop-in sessions held as part of the options appraisal process, concerns regarding the integration of the pupils and community were raised. However, there were also positive comments in relation to the opportunity for the communities to mix.

The integration of pupils and community members would have to be carefully managed and supported in the event of Balhousie Primary School closing.

14.3 Families living in the Balhousie Primary School catchment area who use the existing school as a link to the local community would continue to be supported by organisations such as PKAVS. Both schools are also experienced in dealing with families who do not have English as a first language.

14.4 Both schools have strong links with their local communities. Although the catchment with this option would be larger, this may bring more opportunities and plans can be made well in advance to retain these links.

15. LIKELY EFFECT CAUSED BY DIFFERENT TRAVELLING ARRANGEMENTS

- 15.1 A high level assessment has been undertaken regarding the impact on those pupils who currently walk to Balhousie Primary School and how they would be affected should the school close and they move to North Muirton Primary School. Out of 69 catchment pupils, 48 live within a mile of North Muirton Primary School. The pupils who live a mile away would take approximately 20 minutes to walk to school. The furthest current pupils would have to travel is approximately 1.7 miles; this would take approximately 33 minutes. There are two pupils who would travel this distance.
- 15.2 A number of pupils within the Balhousie Primary School catchment are already travelling to schools which are further from their home than Balhousie Primary School.
- 15.3 There are existing concerns regarding vehicle movements at the current North Muirton Primary School. An option that is being considered to alleviate these issues is to create vehicle drop off/pick up in Argyll Road when the new school is built.
- 15.4 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 1.2 miles is a relatively short distance to travel in Perth. It is, therefore, considered that there is very limited impact on staff travelling arrangements.
- 15.5 In overall terms, the adverse effects arising from the additional travel time for some pupils must be balanced against the educational benefits that will arise for pupils from attending a modern, fit for purpose, new build school.

16. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 16.1 North Muirton is well served by public transport and there is a bus stop near Balhousie Primary School, which stops near to North Muirton Primary School on Bute Drive. This will help to minimise the environmental impact of travel to school, if pupils choose not to walk.
- 16.2 The construction of the new building would adopt a zero carbon approach, in line with the Scottish Government climate change plan. This also ensures compliance with the Scottish Building Standards relating to energy and sustainability.
- 16.3 There is a positive environmental impact as a result of this option as both existing school buildings would be replaced by one energy efficient building which reduces carbon emissions and energy costs by utilising zero carbon construction and renewable technologies.

17. SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT

- 17.1 It is acknowledged that a significant number of pupils attending Balhousie Primary School live in households that are categorised as deprived based on ACORN and SIMD. SIMD quintile 1 represents the most deprived areas. 38% of the pupils attending Balhousie Primary School live in areas which are in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) quintile 1. This compares to an average of 7% in SIMD quintile 1 across Perth and Kinross. ACORN 5 represents the most deprived areas. 59% of pupils attending Balhousie Primary School fall into category 5. This compares to an average of 13% across Perth and Kinross.
- 17.2 Access to services which are currently accessed by families at Balhousie Primary School will continue to be provided at North Muirton Primary School.
- 17.3 Both Balhousie Primary School and North Muirton Primary School are in receipt of Pupil Equity Funding (PEF). PEF is being provided as part of the £750m Attainment Scotland Fund which will be invested over the current Parliamentary term to tackle the poverty related attainment gap.
- 17.4 There may be an economic impact on families, if parents choose to take public transport or the car instead of walking to school. The majority of pupils are likely to take less than 20 minutes to get to school by walking.
- 17.5 The new North Muirton Primary School would benefit families from Balhousie Primary School by providing a breakfast club and after school club within the school. Currently children from Balhousie Primary School are transported to St John's RC Primary School for these services.
- 17.6 In overall terms, the socio economic impact for some pupils and families must be balanced against both the educational and socio economic benefits that will arise from pupils being educated in a modern, fit for purpose, new build school and the benefits which that can offer. The provision of a new build school will benefit a significant number of pupils attending Balhousie Primary School who fall into the category of living in the most deprived areas. .

18. EFFECT ON PUPILS

- 18.1 The pupils from Balhousie Primary School would be attending a school with a larger number of pupils than currently attending Balhousie Primary School.
- 18.2 A new school would be built at North Muirton Primary School with a potential approved capacity of 434 in order to accommodate the combined pupil roll for both the existing North Muirton Primary School and Balhousie Primary School. The new build school would also have a nurture class and specialist provision for children with Additional Support Needs (ASN) and accommodate the existing nursery pupils and Strong Start places from North Muirton Primary School and Balhousie Primary School.

- 18.3 The following table details the projected school roll at a new North Muirton Primary School should existing Balhousie Primary School pupils move to the school. Figures include pupils projected from house building contained within the Balhousie Primary School catchment.

	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/22
New North Muirton Primary School Capacity	434	434	434	434
New North Muirton Primary School Roll (including Balhousie Primary School)	351	364	375	380

- 18.4 It should be noted that the projected roll shown in the table above does not include all pupils currently living in both catchment areas but the pupils who are projected to attend both schools in the future based on adding pupil numbers together. It does include pupil numbers from house building in the Balhousie Primary School catchment area. The new school will not be completed before 2021/22.
- 18.5 The new school would be designed with GP space which could be used as additional classroom space should any catchment pupils, who currently attend other primary schools, choose to attend the new school when it is built. This could give the school a potential capacity of 500 pupils. It should be noted that the school will be designed in such a way that it can be extended in future years if required.
- 18.6 The new school at North Muirton will be built on the same site as North Muirton Primary School. Access to outdoor play space will be limited during the period of the build. Balhousie Primary School pupils would remain at Balhousie Primary School until the new school is completed. On completion of the new school both sets of pupils would move in.
- 18.7 Balhousie Primary School and North Muirton Primary School pupils would benefit from being taught in an environment that has been built for modern learning and teaching and to modern building standards and with specific consideration of the requirements of pupils and staff that will be using the school
- 18.8 In overall terms, the impact on pupils must be balanced against the benefits that will arise from pupils being educated in a modern, fit for purpose, new build school and the benefits which that can offer.

19. EFFECTS ON STAFF AND SCHOOL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

- 19.1 Where necessary, any aspect of the implementation of these proposals that impacts on staff will result in consultation with the relevant trade unions and the individuals concerned.

20. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

20.1 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 Balhousie Primary School and integrate within North Muirton Primary School	£253,471

20.2 The annual cost of retaining Balhousie Primary School until disposal is £35,219 which is made up of costs for energy, rates and property maintenance. See Appendix 8 for detailed financial information.

20.3 The approximate capital cost to bring the Balhousie Primary School into an acceptable condition is between £4.8m and £5.7m which would not be required. There would, however, be a requirement for essential works until the new school at North Muirton is complete.

20.4 A new school can be provided which would accommodate pupils from both schools. The new school would be rated 'A' for condition and 'A' for suitability. The refurbishment of Balhousie Primary School is likely to result in a school which is 'B' for condition and 'C' for suitability. The cost of the larger new school would be approximately £4.4m less than the cost of building a new school at North Muirton and refurbishing Balhousie Primary School.

20.5 Therefore, any savings arising from the proposed option to close Balhousie 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.

20.6 The annual budget is built reflecting cost drivers such as the number of schools, buildings, staff and pupils. If Balhousie Primary School were to be closed then future years' budgets would reflect 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 Balhousie Primary School.

20.7 It is envisaged that the existing Balhousie Primary School will be declared surplus to the requirements of Perth and Kinross Council. This will minimise the risks associated with vacant buildings.

20.8 A capital receipt would be forthcoming if the building was sold. There are no restrictions on the title to the property that would prevent a sale.

- 20.9 Combining pupils from both catchment areas into one new build school maximises use of the school estate and represents good asset management. This option will have a better outcome in terms of the school environment for both sets of pupils. Additionally, it will allow approximately £3m of capital to be reinvested in the wider school estate. Revenue savings on the building will also support the wider delivery of education services.

21. OTHER ISSUES

Management of Proposals

- 21.1 It is intended that pupils from Balhousie Primary School will be permanently integrated within North Muirton Primary School from August 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter. This will allow the Council to conduct the necessary consultation in accordance with the relevant statutory frameworks.

22. MITIGATION OF ADVERSE EFFECTS

- 22.1 The main adverse effect for some children from Balhousie is the length of journey from their home to North Muirton Primary School. However, a number of pupils within the Balhousie Primary School catchment are already travelling to schools which are further from their home than Balhousie Primary School. The majority of Balhousie Primary School pupils live within a mile of North Muirton Primary School. The furthest current pupils would have to travel is approximately 1.7 miles which is within the statutory walking distance set out within the Education (Scotland) Act 1980.
- 22.2 North Muirton is well served by public transport and there is a bus stop near Balhousie Primary School, which stops near to North Muirton Primary School on Bute Drive. This will help to minimise the impact of travel to school, if pupils choose not to walk.
- 22.3 As part of the planning for the new school, a school travel plan will be developed to encourage and support cycling and safe walking routes.
- 22.4 The proposal will result in pupils of Balhousie Primary School being brought together into one school and the emotional, social and educational needs of the children will need to be carefully considered in planning and implementing the bringing together of both schools. The staff, parents and Parent Councils of both schools will be consulted fully on the development of plans for the integration of pupils from Balhousie Primary School into North Muirton Primary School.

23. CONCLUSION

- 23.1 In summary, it is proposed that a statutory consultation exercise takes place on a proposal to close Balhousie Primary School. As a result pupils would be zoned to a larger, new build North Muirton Primary School and the catchment area of Balhousie Primary School would be redelineated to North Muirton Primary School.
- 23.2 Future pupil projections have been considered for both schools and the new North Muirton Primary School can accommodate all current and projected pupils from the combined catchment areas.
- 23.3 Travel distance to the neighbouring school is not excessive. However, it is recognised that for some pupils, the travel distance to school will be increased.
- 23.4 Environmental impacts have been summarised and detailed work will be done as part of the environmental assessment for this proposal.
- 23.5 The only option which is considered to be a reasonable response to address the issues of poor condition and suitability of the building and low occupancy is to consider closing Balhousie Primary School with the pupils transferring to a larger, new build North Muirton Primary School. The assessment of all relevant factors is set out in the options appraisal and in this Proposal Paper. The anticipated educational benefits which are likely to occur, should this proposal be progressed and implemented, are also considered.
- 23.6 This option will provide well designed, accessible, modern teaching space which would benefit both Balhousie Primary School and North Muirton Primary School pupils and families. The cost of the new school would be approximately £4.4m less than the cost of building a new school at North Muirton and refurbishing Balhousie Primary School. This would provide best value for Council, allowing it to invest the capital and revenue saved into improving other school buildings and supporting the wider delivery of education services.
- 23.7 The proposal for pupils from Balhousie to attend North Muirton Primary School has strong educational benefits for pupils from Balhousie catchment area. The new build school will easily lend itself to modern teaching methodology, with good use of break out space, accessible and flexible teaching spaces, outdoor areas and good facilities for sport and leisure. In addition, the new technology available through a new build project will help support learning and teaching. The new build school will incorporate all stages of early years, nurture and ASN provision, allowing a range of learning opportunities for all children and young people in a facility which will be purpose built.

23.8 It is therefore recommended that the most appropriate response to the issues at Balhousie 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 a larger, new build North Muirton Primary School. The catchment area of North Muirton Primary School would be extended to subsume the whole catchment of Balhousie Primary School.

24. RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSAL

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

Online: www.pkc.gov.uk

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

In writing: Balhousie 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.

24.2 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.

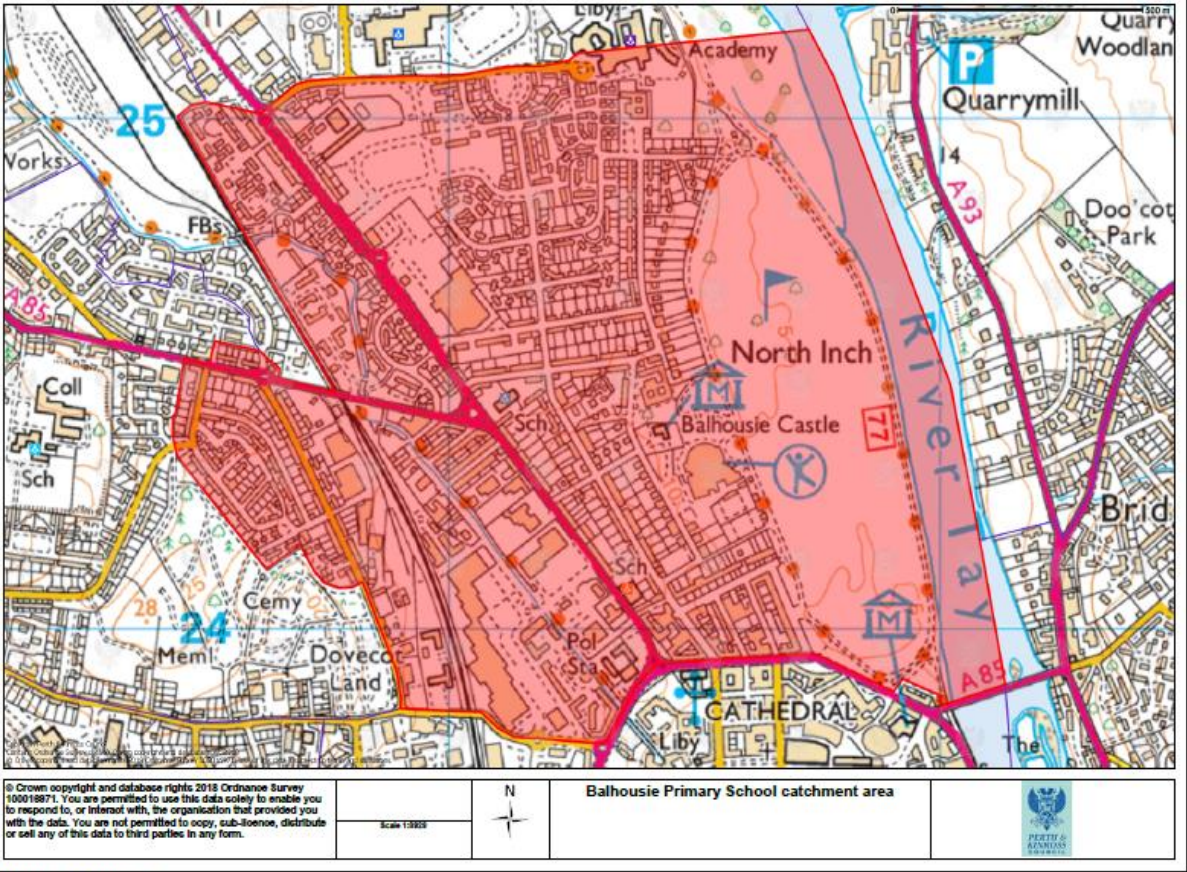
24.3 Those sending in a response, whether electronically or by letter should know that their response will be open to public scrutiny and may have to be supplied to anyone making a reasonable request to see it.

24.4 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

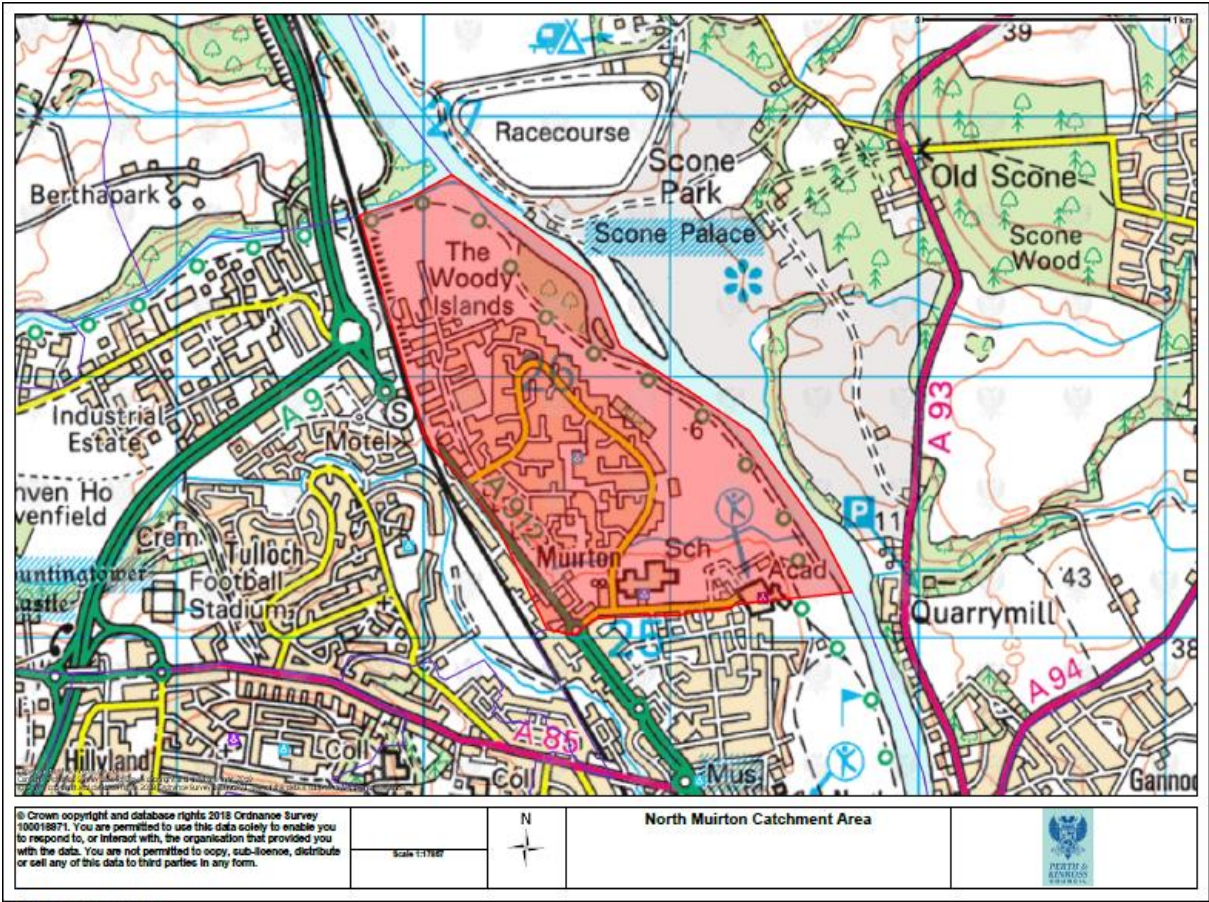
Sheena Devlin
Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)

CATCHMENT AREA OF BALHOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL



made by Gillian Holden on 13 March 2016

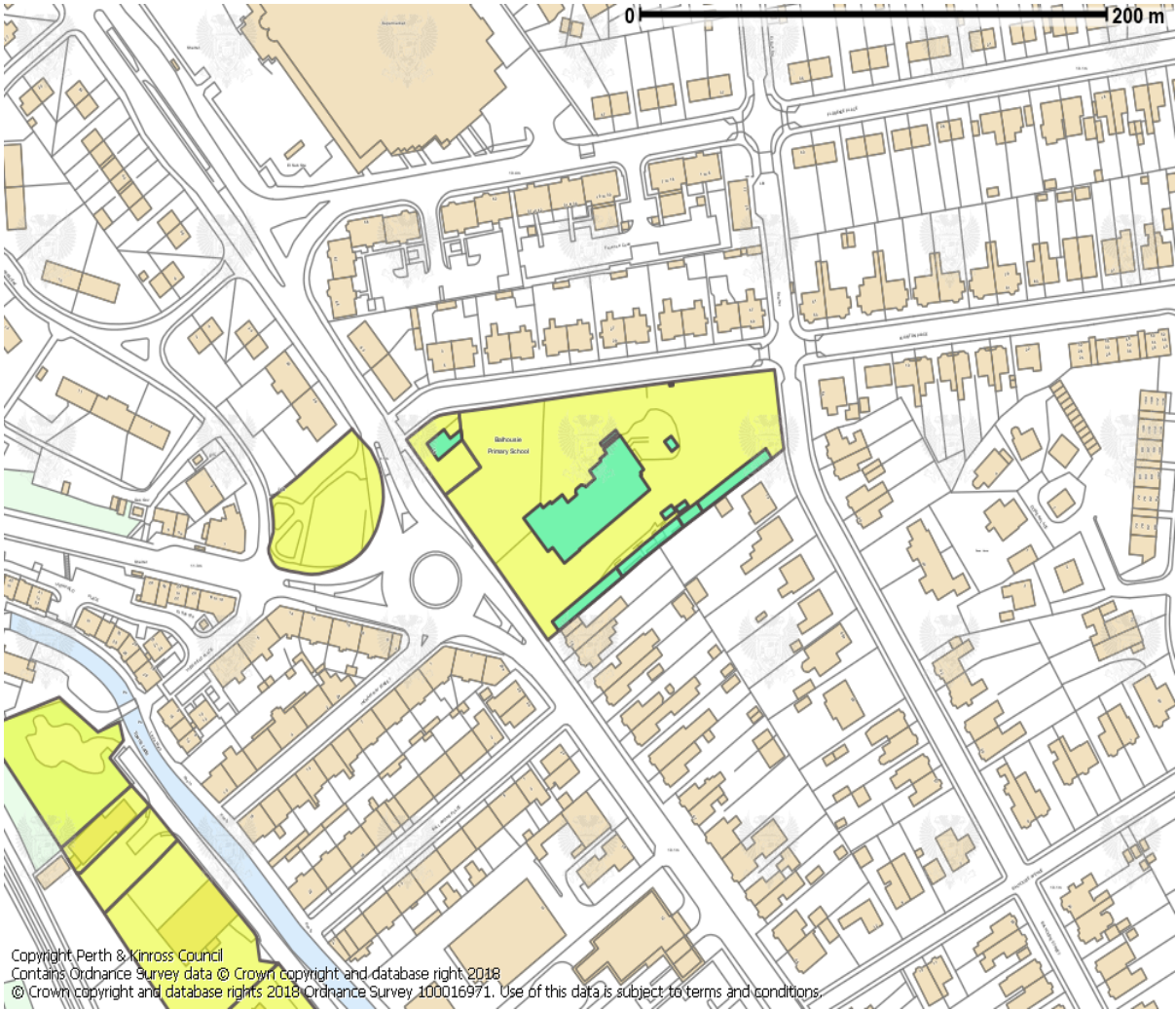
CATCHMENT AREA OF NORTH MUIRTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Drawn by Willem Holden on 13 March 2018

APPENDIX 3

OUTLINE OF BALHOUSIE PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING AND THE SCHOOL



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APPENDIX 5

HISTORICAL AND PROJECTED PUPIL ROLL DATA FOR BALHOUSIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Capacity	125	125	224	224	224	224	224	224
School Roll	113	103	105	109	113	113	113	101

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

PROJECTED PUPIL NUMBERS

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Balhouses Primary School Capacity	224	224	224	224
Balhouses Primary School Roll	108	112	112	114
Potential pupils from house building	9	8	8	8
Balhouses Primary School Roll with house building	117	128	134	141

ANALYSIS OF SCHOOL INFORMATION

School	Capacity	Condition Rating	Suitability Rating
Balhouses	224	C	C

APPENDIX 6

HISTORICAL AND PROJECTED PUPIL ROLL DATA FOR NORTH MUIRTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
North Muirton Primary School Capacity	290	290	290	290	290	290	290	290
North Muirton Primary School Roll	245	237	224	231	238	233	227	228

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

PROJECTED PUPIL NUMBERS

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
North Muirton Primary School Capacity	290	290	290	290
North Muirton Primary School Roll	234	236	241	239

ANALYSIS OF SCHOOL/PUPIL INFORMATION

School	Capacity	Condition Rating	Suitability Rating
North Muirton	290	C	B



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

Consultation Proposal:

- Education provision at Balhousie Primary School be permanently discontinued with effect from 31 July 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter;
- That pupils from Balhousie Primary School catchment area permanently receive their education at a larger, new build North Muirton Primary School from August 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter; and
- That the delineated catchment area of North Muirton Primary School be permanently extended to subsume the whole delineated catchment area of Balhousie Primary School from August 2022.

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: _____

 Postcode: _____

 Email: _____

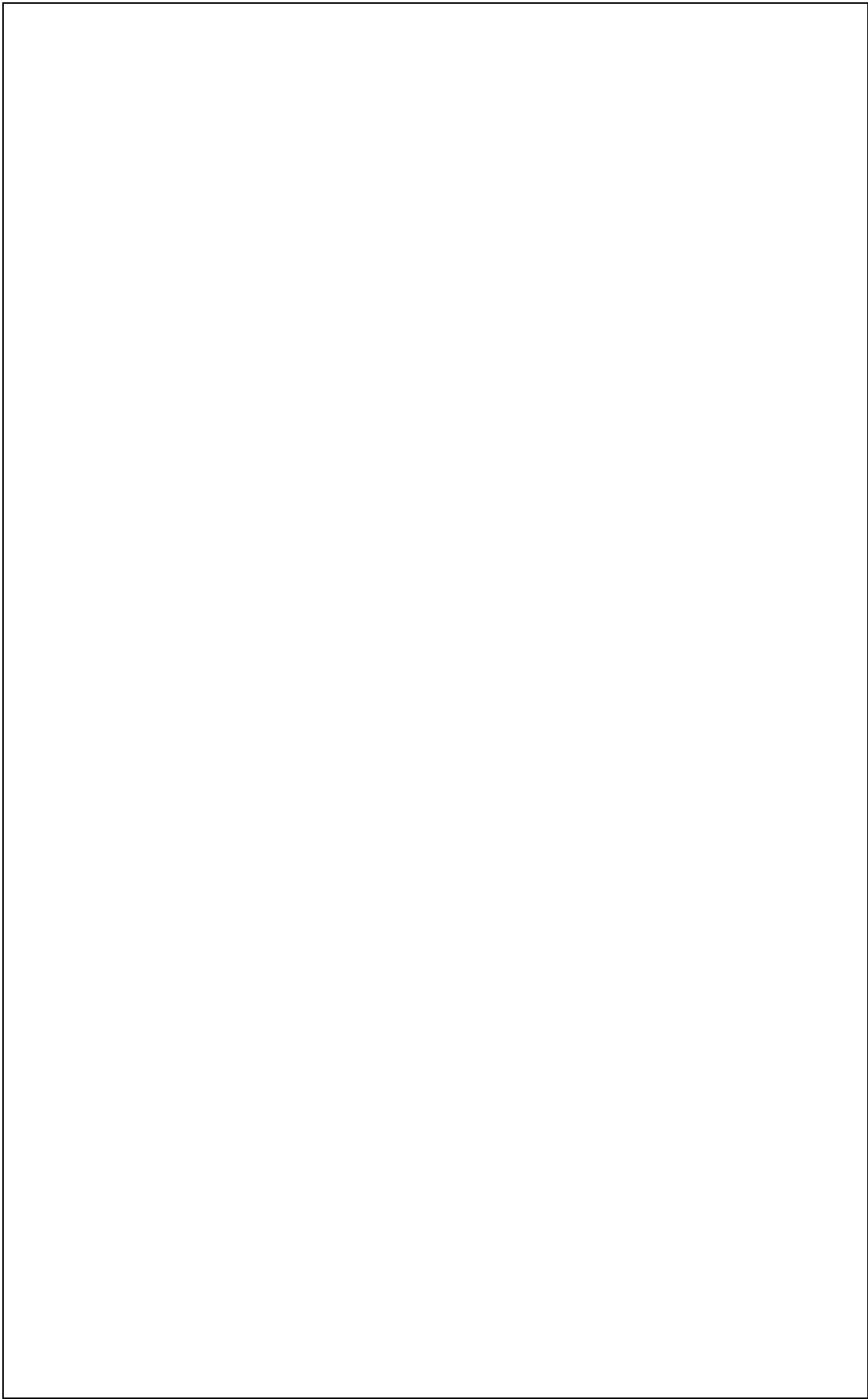
Your Interest: (please tick)

Parent Child / Young Person Staff Other *

*Other: (please specify)

Elected Member / MSP / MP Member of Community Council

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



Appendix 8

Current revenue costs for school proposed for closure			
Name of School	Costs for full financial year (2017-18)	Additional financial impact on receiving school [New North Muirton]	Annual recurring savings (column 2 minus column 3)
Balhousie Primary School			
School costs			
<i>Employee costs -</i>			
teaching staff	£ 372,872.00	£ 230,995.00	£ 141,877.00
support staff	£ 47,122.00	£ 35,642.10	£ 11,479.90
teaching staff training (CPD etc)	£ 750.00	£ 75.00	£ 675.00
support staff training	£ -	£ -	£ -
Supply costs	£ 4,851.00	£ 3,323.00	£ 1,528.00
Slippage Target	-£ 11,358.00	-£ 7,199.00	-£ 4,159.00
<i>Building costs:</i>			
property insurance	£ -	£ -	£ -
non domestic rates	£ 28,819.00	£ -	£ 28,819.00
water & sewerage charges	£ 4,510.00	£ -	£ 4,510.00
energy costs	£ 15,305.00	£ -	£ 15,305.00
cleaning (contract or inhouse)	£ 30,905.00	£ -	£ 30,905.00
building repair & maintenance	£ 26,058.00	£ -	£ 26,058.00
grounds maintenance	£ 448.00	£ -	£ 448.00
facilities management costs - note 6	£ -	£ -	£ -
revenue costs arising from capital	£ -	£ -	£ -
Other	£ 2,959.00	£ -	£ 2,959.00
<i>School operational costs:</i>			
learning materials	£ 5,313.00	£ 4,678.20	£ 634.80

catering (contract or inhouse)	£ -	£ -	£ -
SQA costs	£ -	£ -	£ -
other school operational costs (e.g. licences)	£ -	£ -	£ -
<i>Transport costs: note 3</i>			
home to school	£ 19,000.00	£ 26,600.00	-£ 7,600.00
other pupil transport costs	£ -	£ -	£ -
staff travel	£ 150.00	£ 119.10	£ 30.90
SCHOOL COSTS SUB-TOTAL	£ 547,704.00	£ 294,233.40	£ 253,470.60
Income:			
Sale of meals	£ -		£ -
Lets	£ -		£ -
External care provider	£ -		£ -
Other	£ -		£ -
SCHOOL INCOME SUB-TOTAL	£ -		£ -
TOTAL COSTS MINUS INCOME FOR SCHOOL	£ 547,704.00	£ 294,233.40	£ 253,470.60
UNIT COST PER PUPIL PER YEAR	£ 5,317.51	£ 2,856.63	£ 2,460.88

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	£ 28,819.00
water & sewerage charges	£ 1,700.00
energy costs	£ 4,700.00
cleaning (contract or inhouse)	£ -
security costs	£ -
building repair & maintenance	£ -
grounds maintenance	£ -
facilities management costs	£ -
Other	£ -
TOTAL ANNUAL COST UNTIL DISPOSAL	£ 35,219.00

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

Impact on GAE			
based on pupils going to New North Muirton PS		£	-
GAE IMPACT		£	-
Current revenue costs for school proposed for replacement			
Name of School	Costs for full financial year (2017-18)	Additional financial impact on receiving school [N/A]	Annual recurring savings (column 2 minus column 3)
North Muirton Primary School			
<i>School costs</i>			
<i>Employee costs -</i>			
teaching staff	£ 611,497.00	£ -	£ 611,497.00

support staff	£ 56,315.00	£ -	£ 56,315.00
teaching staff training (CPD etc)	£ 500.00	£ -	£ 500.00
support staff training		£ -	£ -
Supply costs	£ 8,220.00	£ -	£ 8,220.00
Slippage Target	-£ 18,485.00	£ -	-£ 18,485.00
<i>Building costs:</i>			
property insurance	£ -	£ -	£ -
non domestic rates	£ 60,499.00	£ -	£ 60,499.00
water & sewerage charges	£ 6,339.00	£ -	£ 6,339.00
energy costs	£ 24,410.00	£ -	£ 24,410.00
cleaning (contract or inhouse)	£ 49,417.00	£ -	£ 49,417.00
building repair & maintenance	£ 31,096.00	£ -	£ 31,096.00
grounds maintenance	£ 8,625.00	£ -	£ 8,625.00
facilities management costs - note 6	£ -	£ -	£ -
revenue costs arising from capital	£ -	£ -	£ -
Other	£ 4,514.00	£ -	£ 4,514.00
<i>School operational costs:</i>			
learning materials	£ 9,297.00		£ 9,297.00
catering (contract or inhouse)	£ -	£ -	£ -
SQA costs	£ -	£ -	£ -
other school operational costs (e.g. licences)	£ -	£ -	£ -
<i>Transport costs: note 3</i>			
home to school			£ -
other pupil transport costs	£ -	£ -	£ -
staff travel	£ 317.00	£ -	£ 317.00
SCHOOL COSTS SUB-TOTAL	£ 852,561.00	£ -	£ 852,561.00

Income:			
Sale of meals	£	-	£ -
Lets	£	-	£ -
External care provider	£	-	£ -
Other	£	-	£ -
SCHOOL INCOME SUB-TOTAL	£	-	£ -
TOTAL COSTS MINUS INCOME FOR SCHOOL	£	852,561.00	£ - £ 852,561.00

UNIT COST PER PUPIL PER YEAR	£	3,739.30	£ - £ 3,739.30
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Table 2			
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	£ -
energy costs	£ -
cleaning (contract or inhouse)	£ -
security costs	£ -
building repair & maintenance	£ -
grounds maintenance	£ -

facilities management costs	£	-
Other	£	-
TOTAL ANNUAL COST UNTIL DISPOSAL	£	-

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

Impact on GAE		
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.