

APPENDIX A

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

OPTIONS APPRAISAL REPORT

BRACO PRIMARY SCHOOL AND GREENLOANING PRIMARY SCHOOL



1. Introduction

The Council's Corporate Plan identifies the vision of *'a confident and ambitious Perth and Kinross with a strong identity and clear outcomes that everyone works together to achieve. Our area will be vibrant and successful; a safe secure and healthy environment; and a place where people and communities are nurtured and supported'*.

This strategic approach embraces the vision for our area, our communities and our people as outlined in the Corporate Plan. Our key service priorities support the delivery of our commitments in the Community Planning Partnership's Single Outcome Agreement and Corporate Plan, helping Education and Children's Services to focus on the local outcomes that will achieve meaningful improvements for the area, our local communities and our citizens.

Councils, as an Education Authority, 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.

Councils also have a statutory responsibility in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 to achieve best value.

The school estate is a significant and valuable asset to the communities of Perth and Kinross. From 2017 to 2023, the Council will invest £141m in the school estate, including a number of new or replacement primary schools and a substantial upgrade programme for secondary schools. In addition a new £32.5m secondary school at Bertha Park will become operational in August 2019.

The School Estate Strategy ([Report No. 12/370 refers](#)) sets out the Council's aspirations for our schools, and in particular the high value we place on learning, through our vision for well designed, maintained and managed schools. The [School Estate Management Plan](#) details how we plan to deliver the strategy.

It is important, in light of the significant investment and cost associated with the school estate, that it is managed in an efficient and effective manner, and that the priorities which are addressed meet the wider strategic objectives of the Council and the needs of our communities.

2. Background

2.1 Transformation

There are significant challenges for managing the school estate over the coming years. These include changing demographics including population growth, and house building in certain locations and reduction in population in other areas. This has led to an 'imbalance' in occupation of the school estate, with roll pressures in some urban schools and under-occupation in some rural schools.

There is also ongoing deterioration in building infrastructure, pressure on planned maintenance budgets, increasing revenue costs and the extension to Early Years provision which are challenging in terms of funding and maintenance of the school estate.

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). Together 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.

As part of the Council's Transformation Programme 2015-2020, a review of the school estate was approved. On 24 August 2016, the Council approved the report "Transformation – School Estate Review" ([Report 16/347 refers](#)). This report proposed principles to be used to prioritise investment and as a basis for a high level review of the school estate. The purpose of the transformation review is to support the delivery of better outcomes for all of our young people through more effective use and management of the school estate.

2.2 Basis of review

The principles proposed as a basis for the review are:

- (i) Every school should be rated as A or B ie at least satisfactory for condition and suitability;
- (ii) Schools should have an occupancy rate where possible greater than 60% of the capacity and ideally should be operating at between 80% and 100% capacity;
- (iii) Life expired buildings within the school estate should be prioritised for replacement.

2.3 Options Appraisal

This report is the options appraisal for Braco Primary School and Greenloaning Primary School. This will be submitted to Lifelong Learning Committee of the Council which will determine whether any statutory consultation will proceed.

2.4 Inclusion of Braco Primary School and Greenloaning Primary School

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 were did not meet the suitability, condition or occupancy principles.

In this report, it was agreed that an options appraisal should be carried out on Braco Primary School due to a projected decrease in occupancy and suitability rating C.

The school had a pupil roll of 53 (Census 2015) and an approved capacity of 68 giving an occupancy of 78%. The school roll at Census 2017 was 50 giving an occupancy of 74%.

It was agreed that an options appraisal should be carried out on Greenloaning Primary School due to the under occupancy at the school.

Greenloaning Primary School had a pupil roll of 12 (Census 2015) and an approved capacity of 49 giving an occupancy of 24%. The school roll at Census 2016 was 7 giving an occupancy of 14%. On 24 October 2016 the school was mothballed.

2.5 Current Position

Braco Primary School has a roll of 50 (Census 2017) with an occupancy of 74%.

Greenloaning Primary School was mothballed, with the agreement of parents of pupils at the school, effective from 24 October 2016. This means the operation of the school has been suspended with pupils moved to another school. In October 2016 when the school was mothballed, there were 4 pupils attending the school. Pupils from the catchment area have been zoned to Braco Primary School.

3. Legislation

The Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 provides a strong, accountable statutory consultation process 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.

The 2010 Act makes special arrangements in relation to rural schools, establishing a presumption against closure of rural schools. The result of this is that education authorities must have special regard to a number of factors before formulating 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. These factors are:

- Effect on the Community
- Effect on Travel Arrangements
- Educational Benefits

The duties are outlined in the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) and the accompanying [Statutory Guidance](#).

In order to ensure a robust approach to each option appraisal carried out under the School Estate Review the factors that require to be considered as part of a rural school closure will be adopted in all cases.

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.

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.

3.1 Community Engagement and Feedback

The Statutory Guidance promotes informal consultation or “pre consultation” with communities regarding a proposal before a formal 2010 Act proposal paper is formulated. The Statutory Guidance recommends ‘early engagement with the local community’ with a view to:

- ‘establishing possible alternatives’;
- ‘information gathering and sharing in advance of a statutory consultation’;
- ‘engaging and empowering communities to understand and help shape the proposals that affect them’.

Details of the feedback from the community sessions are contained in Appendix 1. Relevant feedback is also referred to in the later sections of this document, to provide the community view of the impact of the options. The feedback which is detailed in the Appendix has been issued to the Parent Council, Headteacher and Community Council and published on the Council website.

The key themes in the feedback for Braco Primary School and Greenloaning Primary Schools were:

- there is resistance to the closure of Braco Primary School;
- there was disappointment that Greenloaning Primary School had been mothballed;
- the suitability of Braco Primary School needs improved;
- the building and site at Greenloaning Primary School is more suitable than Braco Primary School, however there is a recognition that the majority of pupils live in Braco;
- if Greenloaning Primary School was closed the building should be used to benefit the community;
- splitting the stages of education between both schools was seen as a positive, although there were concerns regarding how this could work logistically for families; and
- a catchment review would not necessarily make Greenloaning Primary School sustainable.

4. Braco, Greenloaning and the Local Area

4.1 Braco - Location of School

The village of Braco is located approximately six miles to the south west of Auchterarder and approximately 2 miles from the A9. The school is situated on Feddal Road which is in the north of the village.

The Scottish Government’s Rural School List 2017 classifies Braco Primary School as “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 Braco 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).

4.2 Greenloaning – Location of School

The village of Greenloaning is under two miles from Braco and is located adjacent to the A9 trunk road. The school is at the edge of the village, close to the A9.

The Scottish Government's Rural School List 2017 classifies Greenloaning Primary School as "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 Greenloaning 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).

4.3 Local Area and Community

Braco is a village with a population of approximately 530¹ people. The village has limited facilities/services other than the primary school and village hall. The village is mainly residential, with the majority of surrounding land in agricultural use.

Greenloaning has a population of approximately 330² people and is mainly residential.

Greenloaning Primary School is approximately 1.7³ miles (walking) and approximately 2³ miles (driving) from Braco Primary School.

The closest General Practice (GP) to both Braco and Greenloaning is Dunblane Health Centre and the nearest dental surgery for both is also in Dunblane. Dunblane is approximately 8 miles from Braco and approximately 7 miles from Greenloaning. The nearest Post Office is located in either Dunblane or Muthill.

At the community drop-in session people were asked to describe the community and some information on the community was also provided through comments on the options. Some views were as follows:

- *Braco school is such an important hub for the village;*
- *School is v.impt part of community and losing it would make a difficult housing market even worse as no families would consider moving without school facilities. Must keep school in village;*
- *Braco is a great place to live and there is plenty of community spirit if you want it. We don't have much in the way of communal facilities so I think we do really well. My son is no longer at Braco PS but loved his time there. School events are community events and there is a great relationship not least thanks to attitude of head teacher + staff;*
- *The village hall in Braco is used on a regular basis by the school and wider community. It plays an important part in the daily life of the village.*

¹ Local Development Plan

² Local Development Plan

³ Google Maps

4.4 Population

Data on pre-school children registered with GP practices living in the Braco catchment shows a total of 28 children eligible to start school over the next 4 years (2018- 2021).

The data for Greenloaning catchment shows that the number of children eligible to start school over the next 4 years (2018 - 2021) is 8.

4.5 Socio Economic Factors

The Council uses the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and ACORN data to understand levels of deprivation across Perth and Kinross and also in individual schools. Appendix 4 explains SIMD and ACORN.

There was no information available for Greenloaning Primary School in Census 2017 as it has been mothballed.

There are no pupils attending Braco Primary School, including those pupils from Greenloaning currently attending following the mothballing of the school who are classed as being in the most socio economically deprived category on the basis of SIMD and ACORN classification.

Braco Primary School received Pupil Equity Funding in 2017/18 for <5 pupils. 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.

4.6 Development, Housebuilding and Employment

The current Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in 2014 and the Council is required to keep it up to date and review it at a maximum of five year intervals.

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 Braco area contained within the LDP or Housing Land Audit⁴ (HLA) 2016.

There is no planned house building for the Greenloaning area contained within the LDP or HLA (2016).

The Proposed Local Development Plan (LDP) 2 was approved for consultation by Council on 22 November 2017. The aspiration is to have a final LDP to adopt by Spring 2019. There are no changes proposed for Braco in LDP2.

In LDP2, the settlement boundary at Greenloaning has been drawn to accommodate limited development, should this come forward, at Rottearns Mill and at land south of Millhill Drive.

⁴ The Housing Land Audit is compiled by PKC Planning on an annual basis, it estimates build out rates for sites over 5 houses across Perth and Kinross

Neither site is specifically allocated as a housing proposal but planning permission has previously been granted for residential development at both sites. There is however no timescale for any house building at present. Therefore, pupil numbers would not be affected for the foreseeable future by development on this land.

4.7 The School within the Community

At the pre-consultation the community were asked to describe the community within Braco and Greenloaning and their thoughts on the schools as part of the community, some of the comments are as follows:

- *The school (Braco) is fantastic and creates a sense of community. With the other local amenities closing/closed down it really is the last thing left to bring people together;*
- *Braco school is a key part of the community and removing that will also cut back access to school activities and ties to the church, Forest Schools, village hall events etc. The bulk of the population attending lies in Braco and the trends and projections show this is unlikely to change;*
- *With the shop closing the school is the only place where there's a communal gathering ground for social interaction between all children and parents – without it this community will suffer badly;*
- *Greenloaning Primary was the heart of the community! Greenloaning has fantastic grounds to allow children to play and expand their outdoor learning.*

Both sets of school pupils invited the community into the school, were involved in village events and developed events for the school and community together.

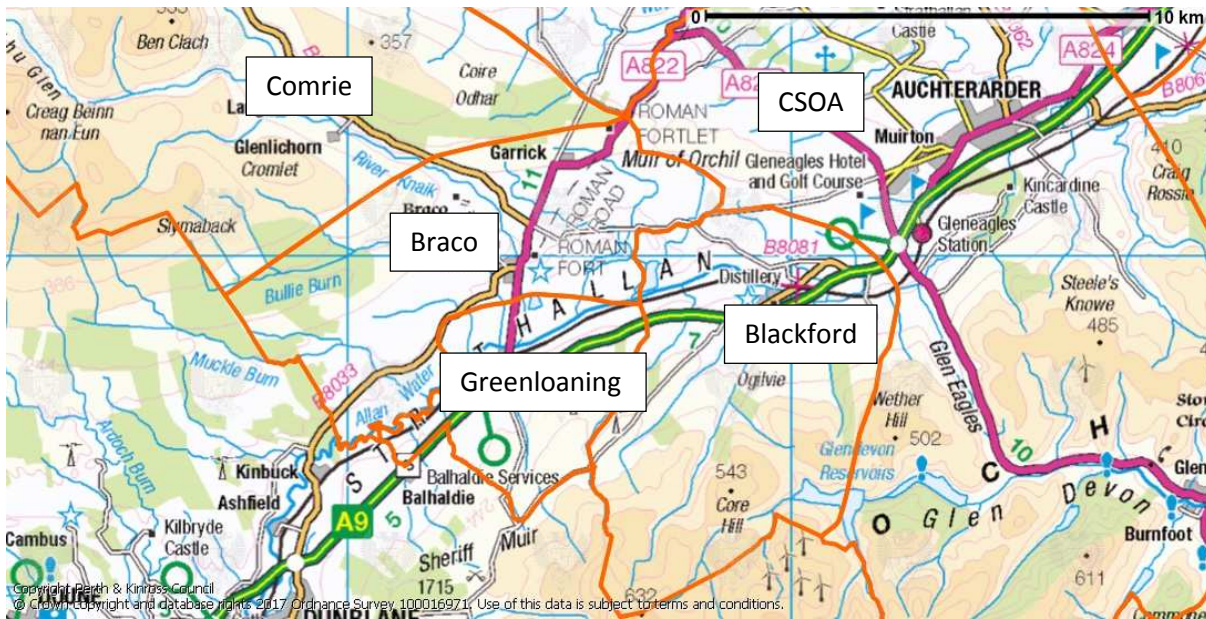
Currently the majority of bookings are hosted within the Braco Village Hall.

4.8 School Catchment

The catchment area for Braco Primary School adjoins the catchment areas for Comrie Primary School, Community School of Auchterarder Primary School, Blackford Primary School, Greenloaning Primary School and Stirling Council to the South.

The catchment area for Greenloaning Primary School adjoins the catchment area for Braco Primary School and Blackford Primary School. The Stirling Council area borders the catchment area to the south.

Prior to Greenloaning Primary School being mothballed Braco and Greenloaning Primary Schools operated with a shared headteacher.



5. Pupil Numbers

5.1 Braco Primary School

Pupil rolls - Previous and Current Years (based on school census⁵)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Braco Capacity	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68
Braco Roll	63	64	64	54	53	53	49	50

Table 1 – Braco Primary School pupil rolls previous and current years

5.2 Greenloaning Primary School

Previous Years (based on school census⁴)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Greenloaning Capacity	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49
Greenloaning Roll	29	24	15	18	14	12	7	n/a

Table 2 – Greenloaning Primary School pupil rolls previous and current years

At census 2016 there were 16 primary age pupils living within the Greenloaning Primary School catchment area attending Perth and Kinross schools. Seven pupils attended Greenloaning, 8 pupils attended Braco Primary School and 1 pupil attended the Community School of Auchterarder.

At census 2016 the school roll dropped from 12 to 7 as 5 pupils left (2 from P7) and there were no new P1 pupils attending the school. There were 2 P1 pupils from the catchment who attended Braco Primary School.

⁵ An annual pupil census in publicly funded schools in Scotland is carried out every year for publication by the Scottish Government. This usually takes place in September.

At census 2017 there were 9 primary age pupils living within the Greenloaning Primary School catchment area attending Perth and Kinross schools. Again, 8 pupils attended Braco Primary School.

	Pupil Census 2014	Pupil Census 2015	Pupil Census 2016	Pupil Census 2017
Primary School Aged Pupils attending PKC schools living in Greenloaning Primary School catchment	21	21	16	9
Greenloaning Primary School catchment pupils attending other PKC schools	11	12	9	9
Greenloaning Primary School catchment pupils attending Greenloaning Primary School	10	9	7	N/A
Pupils from other catchments attending Greenloaning Primary School	4	3	0	N/A
Pupil Roll	14	12	7	N/A

Table 3 – Greenloaning Primary School – pupils living in catchment area

At census 2017 there were 15 primary age pupils living within the Greenloaning Primary School catchment area attending schools in the Stirling Council area.

A number of parents detailed that lack of childcare facilities at Greenloaning as the reason for placing their children in alternative schools;

- *We're moving our kids because there are no morning/after school clubs at either of the schools. Greenloaning is a commuter village that has lots of working parents.*

Many of the children from Greenloaning Primary School catchment area attend St Mary's Episcopal Primary School in Dunblane, and although this school does not have morning/after school clubs, there is a kids club in Dunblane which picks children up from local schools including St Mary's Episcopal Primary School.

5.3 Future Pupil Projections

The methodology used for pupil projections allows Education and Children's Services to project a detailed year by year analysis for each school catchment.

The methodology applied for projecting future P1 intakes uses aggregated GP registration data. This anonymised data, sourced from the NHS, reflects children registered with a GP, within specific school catchment areas.

P1 pupils included within the data received from the NHS do not always attend their catchment school. This is primarily because parents make placing requests to other schools or elect to send their child to a denominational school.

As a result of these movements the P1 data is adjusted taking into consideration the movement of pupils in previous years. The adjusted data is the primary source of information for forward planning

The projected school rolls also reflect house building, through referring to the Housing Land Audit (HLA).

It should be noted that for the above reasons, pupil movements within the school estate are to some extent fluid. This means that predicting future years' schools rolls will not be exact. It is however accurate enough to provide valuable information on forward planning for the school estate.

School Roll – Future Pupil Numbers Projected - Braco

The table below shows the projected pupil roll for Braco Primary School, should Greenloaning Primary School remain mothballed or permanently closed with pupils being zoned to Braco.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Braco Capacity	68	68	68	68
Braco Roll	51	51	53	56

Table 4⁶ – Braco Primary School – Future projected school roll

School Roll – Future Pupil Numbers Projected - Greenloaning

The table below shows the projected pupil roll, should the school re-open and the 4 pupils who attended the school, just prior to the school being mothballed return and all Primary 1s in the catchment area attended Greenloaning Primary School.

	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022
Greenloaning Capacity	49	49	49	49
Pupils returning to school – assumes only pupils who were in attendance when school mothballed	3	2	2	1
New P1s – assuming all P1s from catchment attend Greenloaning	0	1	1	3
Greenloaning Roll	3	3	4	6

Table 5⁷ – Greenloaning Primary School – Future projected school roll

It can be seen from the table above that there are small numbers of P1 pupils in the Greenloaning catchment area over the next 4 years.

⁶ The projected school roll is based on actual P1 registrations as at 23 February 2018.

⁷ Data provided by the NHS indicated 3 P1's would have been due to start at Greenloaning Primary School August 2018. As at 23 February 2018 there are no pupils registered at Braco Primary School with a Greenloaning address therefore they have not been included in this table.

5.4 Nursery Pupils

Braco Primary School has nursery provision for a maximum of 10 children at any one time ie capacity for 20 nursery places. The age range of children is from 3 years to those not yet attending primary school. There are currently 12 children (Census 2017) attending Braco Primary School nursery.

5.5 Building Information

Ownership

The Council owns the school site at Braco Primary School. The Council also owns the village hall and the land that it sits on. The Council has a management agreement with Braco Hall Committee for the village hall. The Council owns the school site and the school buildings at Greenloaning Primary School.

Suitability

Schools are rated on a scale of A to D for suitability.

Suitability is an assessment of the school as a whole, its buildings and its grounds and the impact they have on teaching and learning, leisure and social activities and the health and wellbeing of users. The overall suitability of the Braco Primary School building is rated 'C' (Poor - showing major problems and/or not operating properly).

A feasibility study has been undertaken to establish what works are required to improve the suitability of Braco Primary School. The school uses the village hall for PE and dining.

The feasibility study indicates that by significantly adapting the current school building to accommodate all classes and the nursery on the ground floor, addressing the level changes in the building and adding a small extension, the suitability rating of the school can be improved.

As a result, improvements to the learning and teaching environment will be made for pupils and staff as the accessibility to classrooms, internal social spaces and facilities will be improved.

The estimated preliminary capital cost for this option is £1,665,000. These costs do not include works to the village hall, which the school uses for PE and dining. It is anticipated that works will come forward through the Council's planned maintenance programme to improve facilities in the Village Hall. These works include a new ramp and access door system, toilet upgrade and internal redecoration at an estimated cost of £62,000.

Whilst this work is being undertaken the pupils will require to be decanted from the school building. The most likely option for the decant will be Greenloaning Primary School, where additional temporary portable units will be provided. Estimated preliminary cost for the decant is £129,000 with additional transport costs incurred of approximately £104,500. The overall suitability of Greenloaning Primary School building is rated 'B' (Satisfactory - performing adequately but with minor problems).

Condition

Schools are rated on a scale of A to D for condition.

A survey of both buildings has been carried out to assess the current condition of the buildings. Condition is an assessment of the physical condition of the school and its grounds.

The condition of Braco Primary School and Greenloaning Primary School buildings are rated 'B' (Satisfactory – performing adequately but showing minor deterioration). A further 'desktop' Mechanical and Electrical (M&E) survey was undertaken on both buildings in November 2017. The condition has not been adjusted to take M&E into account, as the Council along with other Scottish Councils is about to update the means of assessing condition. The works required as a result of the M&E survey have been included in the potential future spend, however.

Planned and unplanned maintenance on the Braco Primary School building in the last 3 financial years cost £34,305.

Planned and unplanned maintenance on the Greenloaning Primary School building in the last 3 financial years cost £21,259.

5.6 Financial Information (Staff, Buildings, Transport and Other)

The revenue (or running) cost for financial year 2017/2018 for operating Braco Primary School is £248,443.

The revenue (or running) cost for financial year 2017/2018 for operating Greenloaning Primary School would be £125,451, if the school was open.

The approximate costs of upgrading the condition of the buildings are detailed below. These works are not required immediately but in the medium term which is 2-5 years:

School	Cost of Upgrades
Braco Primary School	£ 398,490
Greenloaning Primary School	£ 319,987

Table 6 – Upgrade costs for Braco Primary School and Greenloaning Primary School

6 Options for Consideration

A number of options are considered for the future of Braco and Greenloaning Primary Schools as part of this options appraisal;

- Option 1 - Continue with mothballing of Greenloaning Primary School – all pupils remain at Braco Primary School and suitability rating of Braco Primary School improved;
- Option 2 - Consider closing Greenloaning Primary School – pupils remain at Braco Primary School and suitability rating of Braco Primary School improved;
- Option 3 - Re-open Greenloaning Primary School and suitability rating at Braco Primary School improved;

- Option 4 - Re-open Greenloaning Primary School and split the stages of education between both schools. Suitability rating at Braco Primary School improved;
- Option 5 - Catchment areas of the schools are reviewed to determine whether this would increase the school roll at Greenloaning Primary School and ensure the future sustainability of both schools and
- Option 6 - Consider closing Braco Primary School and pupils moved to an extended Greenloaning Primary School

In considering the options below, account was taken of the fact that there is a presumption against closure of a rural school. As part of the options appraisal, the “rural school factors” specified in the School Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 have been given special regard.

These are:

- Effect on Community
- Effect on Travel Arrangements
- Educational Benefit

6.1 Option 1 - Continue with mothballing of Greenloaning Primary School – all pupils remain at Braco Primary School and suitability rating improved

Community Impact

Greenloaning Primary School has been mothballed since 24 October 2016. The Statutory Guidance for the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, in relation to mothballing, states “the maximum length of its duration is likely to depend on the location of the school and the desirability of maintaining capacity to re-open a school there, but it is unlikely that it should exceed 3 years in areas that are not very remote.”

There were a range of opinions on this option, however the majority of people thought that mothballing was not the best option. Comments received on this option from those attending the drop-in session included;

- *The reason Greenloaning was mothballed was due to low numbers – there is no point re-opening it unless you can guarantee pupil numbers;*
- *This appears to be delaying a decision that needs to be made. I don't think this makes much sense in the long run and just subjects both villages to uncertainty;*
- *Why mothball the more suitable site whilst providing inadequate facilities in Braco?;*
- *Mothballing should continue and a community decision should be made on how best to utilise the Greenloaning building (i.e. some form of community centre);*
- *There's more children and houses in Braco so it seems more sensible. Also there is a huge park for sporting activities and the hall for indoor sports and lunch....*

Pupil Impact

If the school continues to be mothballed pupils from the Greenloaning Primary School catchment area would continue to attend other primary schools. P1 pupils from Greenloaning Primary School catchment area would continue to be temporarily zoned to the catchment area for Braco Primary School and be entitled to transport if they live more than 2 miles away.

The projected pupil roll at Braco Primary School is shown in table 4, section 5.3. There is sufficient capacity at Braco Primary School to accommodate pupils from both Braco and Greenloaning catchment areas until 2021/22.

Travel Arrangements/Environmental Impact

There are currently 9 primary school aged pupils living in the Greenloaning Primary School catchment area (Census 2017) who attend other schools in Perth and Kinross.

The majority of these pupils travel to Braco Primary School which is 1.7 miles (walking) and 2 miles (driving) from Greenloaning Primary School. These pupils are not transported by the Council currently.

If the mothballing of the school continues, pupils from Greenloaning Primary School catchment area would continue to travel to Braco Primary School. This has an environmental impact but is offset against the school being mothballed.

Financial Impact

There are annual running costs of £1,650 associated with Greenloaning Primary School being mothballed including water, sewerage, maintenance, grounds maintenance and energy; however savings of £123,511 per annum would be anticipated while the school continues to be mothballed.

The cost to improve the suitability and condition of Braco Primary School is approximately £2.1m. Estimated preliminary cost for decant is £129,000. There will be additional costs of approximately £104,500 for transporting the pupils to Greenloaning Primary School for the duration of the decant.

Option 1 – Assessment

Greenloaning Primary School was mothballed, with the agreement of parents, in October 2016. The school was mothballed due to the small number of pupils in attendance. Pupil numbers had reduced relatively rapidly from 29 to 7 over the previous 6 years. Prior to mothballing, a large number of pupils from Greenloaning Primary School catchment attended schools in the Stirling Council area or Braco Primary School as a result of parental choice.

While the school is mothballed, there is a possibility of it reopening which is positive. There is however also continued uncertainty for parents and the community.

Continued mothballing would delay opportunities to progress a community asset transfer, lease or sell the building, all of which may benefit the wider community. This option will not affect existing travel arrangements or current pupil arrangements. In future years if there are pupils from the Greenloaning Primary School catchment area, living further than 2 miles

from Braco Primary School and choosing to attend Braco Primary School transport will be provided for them by the Council.

Braco Primary School has sufficient capacity to support a roll which includes pupils within Greenloaning Primary School's catchment area, while the school is mothballed.

The savings associated with mothballing the school are £123,511 per annum.

Taking account of the statutory guidance continued mothballing of the school is only a reasonable option if there are likely to be changes in the catchment area in the next 3 years which would result in a sustainable roll.

There are no significant developments, which are likely to create a sustainable school roll at Greenloaning Primary School in the next 3 years. Therefore, leaving the school open, but with continued mothballing is not a reasonable option.

6.2 Option 2 - Consider closing Greenloaning Primary School – pupils remain at Braco Primary School and suitability rating improved

Community Impact

There are no other facilities or services in Greenloaning other than the primary school. The community were asked to describe Greenloaning as a community and the importance of the school in the community.

- *The school was the only shared community space in Greenloaning. Since the closure we rarely even see kids playing at the park – all too busy commuting from neighbouring villages;*
- *I think it would be a huge loss to the Greenloaning community to lose the primary school completely as it was the hub of the village.*

Feedback received at the drop-in session was mixed in terms of the closure of Greenloaning Primary School;

- *To consider closing Greenloaning school is an absolute disgrace! Why would the more superior building be the one to close? Makes absolutely no sense!;*
- *Braco School is an important part of the community and is in the right place geographically and in terms of the numbers attending now and expected in the future. The Greenloaning school building lies geographically on the margins of the community. The building could be used for other community needs;*
- *The Ardoch Development Trust has already put in a note of interest on behalf of the community for the school building. This might help to provide a community focus in Greenloaning and address to some extent, the general lack of infrastructure in our community;*
- *It seems obvious that both schools cannot exist given future numbers of children. Braco has more occupancy therefore it should be improved and the other closed.*

Pupil Impact

The feedback from the Headteacher at Braco Primary School is that the pupils from Greenloaning Primary School have settled well into Braco Primary School and that generally both groups of parents are positive about the changes. This has been facilitated through the schools having a close relationship prior to the mothballing including a shared headship.

Works would take place to improve the suitability of the school building and also to carry out planned maintenance on the hall building. This would provide an improved environment for pupils, staff and in the case of the hall the wider community. Pupils will be decanted, to Greenloaning Primary School while works are taking place.

Travel Arrangements/Environmental Impact

Greenloaning Primary School is approximately 1.7 miles (walking) and approximately 2 miles (driving) from Braco Primary School.

The journey time between the 2 schools is approximately 4 minutes by car. Transport arrangements have been in place for pupils travelling from Greenloaning Primary School catchment area to Braco Primary School since October 2016. Consideration will be given as to whether the route between Greenloaning Primary School and Braco Primary School is safe. If the route is not safe transport will be provided by Perth and Kinross Council.

Financial Impact

The revenue savings generated from closing Greenloaning Primary School amount to approximately £123,511 including mothball costs annually. This is predominantly made up of staff and building costs. The revenue savings generated may reduce by approximately £28,500 as this would be cost of transporting pupils from Greenloaning Primary School to Braco Primary School. A capital receipt would be forthcoming if the building was sold. The capital cost of upgrading Greenloaning Primary School building of £319,987 would not be required.

The cost to improve the suitability and condition of Braco Primary School is approximately £2.1m. There will be additional costs for transporting the pupils to Greenloaning Primary School for the duration of the decant and also for providing additional accommodation. The estimated preliminary cost for decant is £233,500.

Option 2 - Assessment

There was a mixed response from the communities regarding closing Greenloaning Primary School.

This option would see the suitability rating for Braco Primary School improved. Facilities within the Braco village hall would also be improved for the benefit of both Braco and Greenloaning communities.

Pupil numbers at Greenloaning Primary School have been reducing year on year since 2005, when the school had 42 pupils. This is due to the increase in pupil numbers from housebuilding levelling off and fewer primary school age pupils living in the village. Pupils are also choosing to attend other schools. P1 intake figures over the next 4 years are also

small, with a maximum of 8 pre-school pupils living in the catchment area. Three of the 8 pupils were due to attend Greenloaning Primary School in August 2018 however there are no pupils with a Greenloaning catchment area address registered to start at Braco Primary School in August 2018.

Braco Primary School and Greenloaning Primary School had strong links with each other prior to Greenloaning Primary School being mothballed, including a shared headship.

The Headteacher has advised that pupils from Greenloaning Primary School are settled at Braco Primary School. Travel arrangements for pupils have also now been in place for over a year.

As the community require to travel to access other services such as GP and dental surgeries, the closure of the school should have little or no impact on current travel arrangements for the community accessing facilities.

If Greenloaning Primary School was to close it is possible that the building could be used for the benefit of the wider community. The Council has received requests from a number of sources for the use of the school.

It is considered that closure of Greenloaning Primary School is a reasonable option because the majority of children from the catchment area are attending other primary schools. There is no indication that the roll will increase in future years as pre-school children numbers are low. This option also has the benefit of supporting the sustainability of Braco Primary School, which is approximately 2.0 miles from Greenloaning Primary School and is also a small rural school.

Improving the suitability rating of Braco Primary School benefits the pupils from both Braco and Greenloaning by providing a better environment for learning.

There is no evidence to indicate that this option would have an adverse impact on the community, travelling arrangements or the environment.

6.3 Option 3 - Re-open Greenloaning Primary School and suitability rating at Braco Primary School improved

Community Impact

This option was viewed by the majority of people that attended the drop-in session as a benefit for both communities. Both communities would retain their school and the link it has with the wider community.

- *If numbers were to go up – yes;*
- *Would be good to use Greenloaning School building again;*
- *Greenloaning is a far superior school to Braco. Offering extensive grounds for outdoor projects as well as play facilities. There is ample space to extend the building to accommodate all pupils and provide decent rooms for P.E. and lunches. Although Braco can be upgraded, the P.E. and lunch facilities still remain a problem as you cannot extend.*

Comments received on this option however highlighted considerations that would need to be taken into account with re-opening Greenloaning Primary School;

- *Option 3. Much better grounds at Greenloaning, however really cannot see how both schools being open is a viable option. Thinking about appropriate peer groups and a healthy environment to learn amongst for the children;*
- *Not clear how would work – would need some significant change or would be back to a very small number at Greenloaning. Majority of parents thinking very small = not good;*
- *Same situation would happen unless catchment changes. Why are parents moving pupils in the first place?*

Pupil Numbers/Impact

Table 8 below shows the projected pupil roll, should Greenloaning Primary School re-open and the pupils who attended the school, just prior to the school being mothballed return and all P1s in the catchment area attended Greenloaning Primary School.

	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022
Greenloaning Primary School Capacity	49	49	49	49
Pupils returning to school – assumes only pupils who were in attendance when school mothballed	3 ⁸	2	2	1
New P1s – assuming all P1s from catchment attend Greenloaning Primary School	0	1	1	3
Greenloaning Primary School Roll	3	3	4	6

Table 8 – Greenloaning Primary School projected future school roll

It can be seen from the table above that there are small numbers of P1 pupils in the Greenloaning Primary School catchment area over the next 4 years, so the school roll is unlikely to be sustainable even if all catchment pupils attended the school.

Parents/carers of these pupils would have the choice of whether to send their children to Greenloaning Primary School or remain at the school were they are currently placed.

Travel Arrangements/Environmental Impact

There would be a negative environmental impact with this option due to Greenloaning Primary School re-opening.

Financial Impact

There would be a revenue cost of approximately £125,451 annually if Greenloaning Primary school were to re-open. This is predominantly made up of staff and building costs. The capital cost of upgrading the building of £319,987 would be required.

⁸ Only 3 pupils would return to the school as one of the original 4 would now be attending secondary school

The cost to improve the suitability and condition of Braco Primary School is approximately £2.1m. There will be additional costs for transporting the pupils to Greenloaning Primary School for the duration of the decant. Estimated preliminary cost for decant is £233,500 for decant. There will also be a cost of £62,000 to improve facilities in the Braco village hall.

Option 3 - Assessment

Table 8 shows that if the school re-opened in August 2018, the school roll would be a maximum of 3 pupils, rising slowly to 6 pupils in the next 4 years. This is not a sustainable school roll and therefore this option is not considered to be a reasonable option.

6.4 Option 4 - Re-open Greenloaning Primary School and split the stages of education between both schools. Suitability rating improved at Braco Primary School

This option would in effect be the closure of Greenloaning Primary School with the retention of the building and its operation as part of Braco Primary School operating over a split site.

Community Feedback

This option was well received at the community drop-in session, as it is something that has been proposed through both Parent Councils previously. There were those who were concerned about the logistical issues of having children attending different primary schools;

- *Best use of both schools, which incorporates the best features of both and gives a wider and richer experience for all pupils over their time at primary school. I consider all other options to be less good than option 4 above;*
- *1. I am surprised we are being offered this as an option with current budget cuts! 2. I'm having déjà vu! 3. Each school hours might need to be slightly different to allow any parent that worked to pick up both age groups if that occurs. 4. Only if total transport provision;*
- *From talking to people this evening there seems to be a good opportunity to develop/strengthen links between the villages – looking at options to create safe transport/travelling between the 2 schools appears at the forefront of many people's minds;*
- *This was proposed before and seems a sensible option if Braco school cannot be made more adaptable. But whether that is a long-term solution is more doubtful. But certainly not against it;*
- *The opportunity for young children to look up to their older peers would be lost. Transportation difficulties, use of hall for gym facilities would require children being brought back to Braco unless new facilities were provided at Greenloaning;*
- *Not an option in my view, children need to mix with all ages to learn to socialise properly, also, with 2 children at different stages it would be a logistical nightmare!*

Pupil Numbers/Impact

There are a number of options how the pupil roll could be split across both schools. It is likely that early (Nursery to P3) and senior (P4 to P7) years classes would be kept together to enable the delivery of the curriculum.

The current class size maximums are as follows:

	Class size limit
Primary 1	25
Primary 2 – 3	30
Primary 4 – 7	33
Composite classes	25

Table 9 – Class sizes

Should the pupil roll be split over the 2 school sites as described above, the maximum number of pupils in the year groups and the number of classrooms required to accommodate pupils are detailed as follows:

	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
Projected number of pupils in P1 – P3	25	22	21	23
Minimum number of classrooms required to accommodate nursery and P1 – P3 pupil numbers	2	2	2	2
Projected number of pupils in P4 – P7	26	29	32	33
Minimum number of classrooms required to accommodate P4 – P7 pupil numbers	2	2	2	2

Table 10 – Pupil split and classroom accommodation

As part of the 1140hrs expansion of Early Learning and Childcare it is anticipated that the maximum number of nursery pupils would increase from the current maximum of 10 to 15.

In the scenario above Braco Primary School would accommodate the nursery and P1 – P3 pupils as it has 3 classrooms and a nursery class this would allow for future pupil numbers if they increased. Greenloaning Primary School would accommodate P4 – P7 pupils as there are only two classrooms. This would also mean that the older children from Braco would be travelling to Greenloaning rather than the younger children.

Arrangements would need to be put in place to ensure that the educational and social environment for both sets of pupils is managed to take into consideration the separate location, this includes:

- Arrangements for curriculum delivery across the four contexts would need to be well planned to ensure that staff continue to plan for progression in learning within and across Curriculum for Excellence levels;

- Staffing and timetabling for personalised support would require to consider staff moving between both sites and how this would impact on their direct work with children. Arrangements would have to consider the possibility of leaving one site without additional support for unforeseen circumstances;
- Arrangements for family learning projects and initiatives would also have to be considered for parents with children with siblings in different sites. Similar considerations will require planning for buddy and mentoring programmes where children from older classes support younger children both in the classroom and during break and lunch periods.
- In terms of safeguarding and child protection both buildings sites would require a trained Child Protection Officer who is able to deal with child protection concerns and wellbeing concerns raised by staff;
- In relation to the ethos and life with whole school projects, working groups, assemblies etc, consideration will have to be given to arrangements for transporting children between both schools during the school day, while minimising the reduction in curriculum learning and teaching time;
- Travelling will also have to consider staffing ratios for children travelling between both sites; and
- Partnership working would require careful planning when supporting class based work and working across the school and how the school attracts and plans with charities, local business and other to support the learning or groups, classes and the whole school;

School Operating Hours

It is possible that families could have children in nursery, P1-P3 and P4-P7 at the same time. The school operating hours would have to be adapted to allow parents/carers who have children of different ages to travel between both school buildings, and drop off and pick up children.

The current operating hours for Braco Primary School are detailed in table 11:

	Start Time	End Time
Start of school day	9 am	3 pm
Morning break	10:45 am	11:00 am
Lunch	12:15 pm	1 pm

Table 11 – Braco Primary School operating hours

The current operating hours for Braco Primary School nursery differs from the Primary School and are detailed in table 12:

	Start Time	End Time
Morning session	8:48 am	12 noon
Afternoon session	12 noon	3:12 pm

Table 12 – Braco Primary School nursery operating hours

It would be possible for the operating hours for P4-P7 at Greenloaning to include a start time of before 8:48am with an end to the school day before 3pm or a start time after 9am with an end time of after 3:12pm. Lunchtimes would also have to be co-ordinated for parents if children eat at home.

Travel Arrangements/Environmental Impact

The distance between the schools is approximately 1.7 miles (walking) and approximately 2 miles (driving). Although the walking distance is below the 2 miles distance for free home to school transport, due to safety grounds, it is possible all pupils would be transported by the Council. This has still to be determined.

Table 13 details the movements of pupils between the two catchment areas if Braco Primary School accommodated early years and Greenloaning Primary School accommodated senior years.

Pupils	Number of Pupils	Travel
P1-P3 resident in Greenloaning Primary School catchment area	4	Braco Primary School
P1-P3 resident in Braco Primary School Catchment area	20	Braco Primary School
P4 – P7 resident in Greenloaning Primary School	4	Greenloaning Primary School
P4 – P7 resident in Braco Primary School catchment area	18	Greenloaning Primary School

Table 13 – Pupil movements

Under existing arrangements (Census 2017) 8 pupils travel to Braco Primary School from the Greenloaning Primary School catchment area. Four pupils attend Braco Primary School from outwith the catchment area.

This option would result in 18 pupils currently residing in Braco Primary School catchment area travelling further to school compared with 8 pupils who currently travel from Greenloaning Primary School catchment area to Braco Primary School. It is likely given that Braco is the larger village, then it will always be the case that more pupils will have to travel from Braco to Greenloaning than vice versa.

All nursery pupils currently attending Braco Primary School nursery live in the Braco Primary School catchment area.

Financial Impact

There would be a revenue cost of approximately £373,894 to operate both buildings as a split site. This is predominantly made up of staff and building costs. There would be costs of £35,100 per annum to transport children between Greenloaning Primary School and Braco Primary School for PE and whole school events. The costs involved in transporting the 18 pupils from Braco to Greenloaning and the 4 pupils from Greenloaning (table 13) would be approximately £104,500 per annum.

This is an increase in costs of approximately £139,600 per annum on the cost of operating both schools separately.

The cost to improve the suitability and condition of Braco Primary School is approximately £2.1m. The capital cost of £319,987 for upgrading the Greenloaning building would be required.

Estimated preliminary revenue cost for the decant of Braco Primary School pupils to Greenloaning Primary School is £129,000. There will be additional costs for transporting the pupils to Greenloaning Primary School for the duration of the decant which is approximately £104,500.

Option 4 - Assessment

This option proposes to transport children from Braco to Greenloaning to retain an operational school building in the village of Greenloaning.

This option would in effect be the closure of Greenloaning Primary School with the retention of the building and its operation as part of Braco Primary School operating over a split site.

If this option was to progress it is likely that Braco Primary School building would be used for nursery to P3 pupils and the building at Greenloaning would be used for P4 – P7 pupils. Arrangements would need to be put in place to ensure that the educational and social environment for both sets of pupils is managed to take into consideration the separate locations. The school would have to consider how it may adapt learning and teaching to ensure that there is still a 'whole school' ethos over the two sites. In particular arrangements would have to be made to ensure that younger children and older children are given opportunities to interact both socially and educationally and that vertical learning is still a feature of the curriculum. The transition between P3 and P4 would also need to be considered carefully.

Staggered school start and end times and possibly lunchtimes would need to be implemented to accommodate families who have children of different ages, who will be accommodated on separate sites two miles apart.

The costs for the upgrade of Braco Primary School are approximately £2.1m with additional decant costs of approximately £233,500. In addition there is a capital cost of £319,987 for upgrading the building at Greenloaning.

There would be an annual cost of £125,451. if Greenloaning Primary School was to re-open as an 'annex' of Braco Primary School. This is predominantly made up of staff and building costs. There would also be transport costs of approximately £35,100 to transport pupils from Greenloaning to Braco for PE and whole school events. Home to school transport for this option would currently be approximately £104,500 per annum.

In summary, this option would result in an operational school building remaining in Greenloaning. However, the benefits of having a school in Greenloaning are outweighed by the compromises that would have to be made. These include operating hours, logistical issues created for parents and the increase in daily travel of pupils and the impact this may have on learning and teaching.

The impact on the wider community if this option did not progress would be minimal. This is due to the fact that the community would have an opportunity to use the building for community use if it was not being used as a school.

6.5 Option 5 - Catchment areas of the schools are reviewed to determine whether this would increase the school roll at Greenloaning Primary School and ensure the future sustainability of both schools

A catchment review can in principle be a reasonable option in some cases, to increase the sustainability of a school. An in-depth analysis in each case is required 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.

Community Impact

This option was not well received by the majority of individuals attending the community drop-in session and responding to the on-line questionnaire.

Comments received on this option from those attending the drop-in session included;

- *Catchment area could be changed – has been the case before. Children from Greenhaugh end of Braco attended Greenloaning, receiving an excellent education as well as having a huge playground for physical activity;*
- *Catchment areas reviewed was the WORST decision ever made in our B&G Community in the 80's. It totally DIVIDED the Community. Should NEVER be repeated. Ended up US & THEM Mentality;*
- *With parental choice nowadays can't you guarantee that children will be sent to Greenloaning? Yes it was done before but has not sustained pupil numbers;*
- *Very much against changing catchment areas of the schools as this totally divides the community spirit.*

Pupil Numbers/Travel Arrangements

Appendix 2 details potential options for catchment changes to Greenloaning Primary School. It provides an overview of the impact on pupil numbers which may occur if the existing catchment boundaries for the schools were to change. It also considers travel arrangements for those pupils.

The areas were chosen because they share a boundary with Greenloaning Primary School catchment area. The adjoining catchment areas are detailed in Appendix 2a-2b.

The outcome of the catchment analysis in Appendix 2 is summarised as follows:

Catchment Area Proposed	Other School Catchment Impacted	Summary
Moving existing Greenloaning Primary School catchment boundary to the east	Blackford Primary School	Moving this single boundary would not lead to any significant increase in the Greenloaning Primary School roll
Moving existing Greenloaning Primary School catchment boundary to the north west	Braco Primary School	Moving this single boundary would not lead to any significant increase in the Greenloaning Primary School roll

Option 5 – Assessment

This option considers increasing the catchment area of Greenloaning Primary School to make the school roll sustainable.

There are limited numbers of pupils living in the catchment areas surrounding Braco Primary School and Greenloaning Primary School catchments and the boundaries would have to be moved a significant distance in each direction to increase pupil rolls. This would lead to some other rural school rolls being impacted and pupils with increased travel time to reach their school.

If all new P1's from the Blackford catchment area noted in appendix 2 were to attend Greenloaning Primary School, this would equate to a maximum of 4 pupils in the next 4 years.

In summary, it is unlikely that increasing the catchment areas for the schools would lead to a sustainable roll at Greenloaning Primary School. This is due to the small numbers of children living in these areas. This is therefore not considered a reasonable option.

6.6 Option 6 - Consider closing Braco Primary School and pupils moved to an extended Greenloaning Primary School

Community Impact – Loss of the school

Comments received on this option from those attending the drop-in session included;

- *Closing Braco and moving kids to Greenloaning - I believe this would be met with major resistance despite Greenloaning having more scope for expansion;*
- *Would not like Braco Primary/ Nursery School to be closed. To me it does not make sense wasting money on another new school when there are two existing sites;*
- *Closing Braco and extending Greenloaning is nonsense. Leaving Greenloaning mothballed is equally silly. Make a decision. Splitting the site and trailing children up and down for nothing is equally silly and prevents children from walking to school;*
- *The school (Greenloaning) is much nicer and it has an enclosed garden area for pupils to have access to fitness all year round;*
- *It doesn't seem feasible to have two primary schools with so few pupils. Best to commit resources to one school and focus on developing it into an excellent model.*

Community Impact – Use of Braco Village Hall

Braco village hall is the only public building available for use in both Braco and Greenloaning other than the schools. The school is one of the main users of Braco village hall. The Hall is used daily for lunches and a number of times a week for other activities including PE. The school pays for the use of the hall. It is possible that the future of Braco

village hall would be at risk if the school no longer used and paid for the facilities. This would have a negative impact on both villages.

Pupil Numbers/Impact

There is insufficient capacity at Greenloaning Primary School to accommodate the pupil numbers that attend Braco Primary School.

An extension to the school would be required to increase the capacity of Greenloaning Primary School to accommodate all pupils. The extension would require to add a classroom, a nursery classroom, extend the hall and provide ancillary accommodation such as a staff room, group rooms and additional accessible toilets.

If pupils moved from Braco Primary School to Greenloaning Primary School it is likely the overall school roll would remain the same at least in the short term.

The suitability of the building and outdoor areas are rated “B” at Greenloaning Primary School and “C” at Braco Primary School.

Travel Arrangements/Environmental Impact

The distance between the schools is approximately 1.7 miles (walking) and approximately 2 miles (driving). A number of primary school age pupils who currently attend Braco Primary School (approximately 15 at Census 2017) would be entitled to transport to Greenloaning Primary School if this option were to be implemented. Although the walking distance is below the 2 miles distance for free transport, it is possible due to safety grounds, the pupils from Braco would be transported to Greenloaning Primary School.

The number of pupils living in the Braco Primary School catchment area is greater than the number in the Greenloaning catchment area.

If this option was to progress the majority of pupils would be affected by an increase in travel time and distance to school.

There would be a greater environmental impact as a result of this option progressing as there would be more pupils having to travel – currently 38 from Braco to Greenloaning versus 8 from Greenloaning to Braco.

Financial Impact

The financial implications of this option would be similar to that of the option of closing Greenloaning Primary School. The revenue cost for operating Greenloaning Primary School would increase to a similar amount of £248,443 which it costs to operate Braco Primary School as the schools would be a similar size. A revenue saving of approximately £125,161 would be anticipated.

The capital cost to improve the suitability and condition of Braco Primary School of approximately £2.1m would not be required.

A feasibility study would be required to be carried out to determine the cost and extent of works required to increase the capacity of Greenloaning Primary School. High level estimates would place the cost at approximately £2.2m. There are exceptions which will be in addition to this cost.

There could also be transport costs of approximately £108,000 associated with this option.

Option 6 – Assessment

This option would see Braco Primary School closed with primary and nursery pupils attending an extended Greenloaning Primary School.

The Greenloaning Primary School building and outdoor areas are currently more suitable than Braco Primary School, however the suitability at Braco Primary School can be improved.

This option would see the majority of pupils ie those from Braco Primary School having to travel further to reach their catchment school than they do currently.

The revenue cost for operating Greenloaning Primary School would increase to a similar amount of £248,443 which it costs to operate Braco Primary School as the schools would be a similar size. A revenue saving of approximately £125,161 would be anticipated if Braco Primary School closed. There may be additional transport costs of £108,000 associated with Braco pupils being transported to Greenloaning, depending on the safety assessment, which would reduce the revenue saving to £17,161.

Capital funding of approximately £2.2m would be required to increase the capacity at Greenloaning Primary School which is broadly equivalent to the cost of improving the suitability of Braco Primary School.

This option is not considered a reasonable option due to the fact that the majority of pupils live in or near Braco Primary School and would have to travel further to get to their local school. It is also possible that this option would put the future of the village hall in Braco at jeopardy, which would impact on both communities.

6.7 Overview of Options

The outcome of the high level options appraisal is summarised below:

	Option Description	Outcome
Option 1	Continue with mothballing of Greenloaning Primary School – all pupils remain at Braco Primary School and suitability rating improved	Rejected. Not a reasonable option
Option 2	Consider closing Greenloaning Primary School – pupils remain at Braco Primary School and suitability rating improved	Accepted as a reasonable option for the following reasons;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reasonable action can be taken to increase the school roll at Greenloaning Primary School ensuring this is sustainable in future years. • Suitability rating of Braco Primary School improved.
Option 3	Re-open Greenloaning Primary School and suitability rating at Braco Primary School improved	Rejected. Not a reasonable option
Option 4	Re-open Greenloaning Primary School and split the stages of education between both schools. Suitability rating improved at Braco Primary School	Rejected. Not a reasonable option
Option 5	Catchment areas of the schools are reviewed to determine whether this would increase the school roll at Greenloaning Primary School and ensure the future sustainability of both schools	Rejected. Not a reasonable option
Option 6	Consider closing Braco Primary School and pupils moved to an extended Greenloaning Primary School	Rejected. Not a reasonable option

The outcome of the option appraisal recommends Option 2 – consider closing Greenloaning Primary School – pupils remain at Braco Primary School and suitability rating improved.

7. Detailed Analysis of Reasonable Option: Consider closing Greenloaning Primary School – pupils remain at Braco Primary School and suitability rating improved.

This section provides a more detailed assessment of the option which is considered reasonable in the circumstances.

7.1 Community Impact

There are no other facilities or services in Greenloaning other than the primary school. Although the school is described as important to the community, a large number of pupils attend alternative primary schools and the school has been mothballed due to lack of pupil numbers.

The Greenloaning community require to travel to access most services due to a lack of amenities within the village. This is facilitated by the fact that the village lies in close proximity to the main A9 trunk road. Many other communities in rural Perth and Kinross travel significantly further distances on more minor roads to access services.

The closure of the school would provide the community with an opportunity to use the building as a facility solely for community use. If the community do not use the school building upon closure, Braco village hall is approximately 2 miles from Greenloaning accessed by a main road. Closure of the school would therefore have little impact on the existing travel arrangements of the community.

This option supports the retention of Braco village hall for the use of both communities.

Community Impact – Use of the building

Community events between Braco and Greenloaning are generally held within Braco Village Hall. There is little evidence that the Greenloaning Primary School building was well used by the community when it was operational.

There have been notes of interest in the school building should it close and subsequently sold or leased. The closure of the school could present the local community with an opportunity for alternative uses of the building.

7.2 Pupil Impact

The feedback from the Headteacher at Braco Primary School is that the pupils from Greenloaning Primary School have settled well into Braco Primary School and that generally both groups of parents are positive about the changes. This has been facilitated through the schools having a close relationship prior to the mothballing including a shared headship.

The pupil roll at Braco Primary School is likely to remain relatively static and therefore the school can accommodate pupils from Greenloaning Primary School catchment area into the foreseeable future.

Works would take place to improve the suitability of the school building and also to carry out planned maintenance on the hall building. This would provide an improved environment for pupils, staff and in the case of the hall the wider community. Pupils will be decanted, to Greenloaning Primary School while works are taking place.

In summary, the feedback from the Headteacher on the impact on pupils to date and proposals to improve the school environment would indicate a positive impact on pupils through this option.

7.3 Travel Arrangements/Environmental Impact

The travel distance from Braco Primary School to Greenloaning Primary School is approximately 2 miles (driving) with a travel time of 4 minutes.

The current travel arrangements have been in place since Greenloaning Primary School was mothballed and there are no known issues. There are small numbers of pupils travelling from Greenloaning to Braco (currently 8). If Greenloaning Primary School was permanently closed it is possible that on safety grounds, all children would be transported by the Council to Braco Primary School. The travel distance between Greenloaning and Braco is not far and in other more rural parts of Perth and Kinross it is not uncommon for pupils to travel greater distances on more minor roads to reach their school.

As Perth and Kinross is a largely rural local authority, staff travel is normal and there should be little impact on staff travel due to the closure of Greenloaning Primary School.

There is limited environmental impact of small numbers of pupils travelling from Greenloaning to Braco.

There would be an environmental impact if the building were re-opened as a business or community venture.

7.4 Educational Benefits

This Educational Benefits Statement has been prepared having regard to the Guidance and Explanatory Notes published by the Scottish Government in association with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

As required by the above Act, this Educational Benefits Statement is written from the perspective of benefits, should the preferred option outlined in the options appraisal proceed to a proposal paper under the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010, and subsequently be implemented.

Learning & Teaching

- Children attending Braco have access to a range of teaching and support staff from early years and primary. Braco has a nursery and three primary classes. This allows children to transition throughout the school as they get older and be taught by different practitioners in different settings.
- Pupils have access to early years provision within the setting of the school, allowing for seamless transition to P1, with pupils already familiar with the physical setting as well as the opportunity for regular work with primary peers.
- At Braco Primary School, staff are challenged and supported through a range of continuous professional development and review, which comes of having a Headteacher and three members of teaching staff, in three classes for 50 pupils. Staff are able to collaborate across the school for planning learning and teaching to ensure children receive experiences that are relevant and present clear challenge and enjoyment. Flexibility in staffing at Braco means that good use can be made of the local context for example by involving children in Forest Schools. Staff are also able to work together to moderate standards of learning and achievement in the school to ensure that children make appropriate progress in a structured and progressive way through Curriculum for Excellence levels.
- 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. This enhances the quality of learning and teaching through shared opportunities to develop effective approaches to learning and teaching and to share and moderate standards. Currently, Braco primary school staff collaborate with other schools on 1+2 languages, maths

development work and moderation of writing, allowing staff to share good practice across other schools in the area to enhance learning and teaching in Braco.

- Work is differentiated to adapt to pupils' needs and pupils benefit from being able to work on co-operative learning tasks with others. Flexibility in staffing allows Braco to be creative in planning for children with additional support needs both universally and for targeted need thus remove potential barriers to learning.
- Braco affords the opportunity for all children to build relationships with different groups and individuals, develop a range of skills and undertake group responsibilities, which the larger class sizes enable. This gives all pupils the opportunity to work in groups, at peer level and across all stages in the school and in mixed sex groups. This allows the sharing of ideas, peer support, informal mentoring and relationship building, all of which contribute to the whole school experience for all pupils.
- Braco has support from a Pupil Support Teacher, which not only benefits pupils with Additional Support Needs, but all other pupils.

Environment for Learning

- Braco Primary makes use of the village hall, as part of the planned improvements to the school, the hall will benefit from improved access and upgraded toilet and redecoration providing better facilities for PE and community learning space. The adjacent park to offers a wide range of opportunities for the pupils to experience a range of team and individual sports, such as football and cricket. The school also make good use of local land and forest for the Forest Schools programme.
- Braco Primary School's building will benefit from significant upgrade and adaptations including an extension that will provide upgraded accessible classroom spaces and flexible spaces to offer nurture support, meetings and collaboration with parents.
- The school has a strong Restorative Practices values base to the learning environment where children are able to work together to investigate and solve problems.

Experiences and Opportunities

- Braco 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 school hosts weekly 'Get Togethers' with children across the school coming together to celebrate and share learning. These also include parents and partners in the life of the school.
- Braco has an active Parent Council, which support the school in its work with parents and encourages links between school, parents, pupils and the community. Parental support enables the school to gain experiences out with the local community, with trips to the theatre, ski trip for P5-7 and residential trip. The support of the Parent Council and the wider Parent Forum helps to provide resources to allow these to take place, as well as support through attendance on the trips.

- There are opportunities available to pupils at Braco, through links with a school in Malawi, supporting resources and widening their understanding of the experiences and opportunities presented to children in another part of the world.
- There are numerous opportunities, for both present and future pupils, for social interaction in terms of peer activities in class and at break times and access to school clubs and extra-curricular activities, team activities and sports, such as football and athletics. In addition, there are pupil committees, facilitated by a teacher, but pupil led. These are the Eco council, Arts & Crafts, Baking and Health & Wellbeing. These Pupil Councils are comprised of children of all stages.
- School pupils at Braco enjoy a number of links with the community, providing entertainment, church services and festivals and the inclusion of local people in the children's learning experiences. These opportunities foster a feeling of belonging for the children and their social and emotional skills are enhanced through the relationships built.

Summary of Educational Benefits

- The school roll 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.
- Learning and teaching at Braco starts with the early years provision, with seamless transition to Primary One, affording opportunities for children at all stages to widen their social and educational experiences.
- Braco building will benefit from significant upgrade and adaptations, enhancing the environment for learning.

7.5 Financial Impact

The financial savings generated from closing Greenloaning Primary School amount to £123,511 including mothball costs annually (refer to Appendix 3).

These financial savings support the delivery of education across the whole of Perth and Kinross.

A capital receipt would be forthcoming if the building was sold or income could be generated through a lease.

Combining pupils from both catchment areas into one school maximises use of the school estate and represents good asset management.

The cost to improve the suitability and condition of Braco Primary School is approximately £2.1m. There will be additional costs of approximately £130,000 (and additional transport costs) for the decant of pupils whilst works are undertaken.

7.6 Conclusion

In November 2016, it was agreed as part of the School Estate Transformation project that an options appraisal should be carried out on Braco Primary School to consider the projected decrease in occupancy and consider the suitability rating C.

An Options Appraisal was to be carried out on Greenloaning Primary School due to the under occupancy at the school. The school was mothballed on 24 October 2016 with the agreement of parents with pupils at the school.

Six alternative options have been reviewed in considering the future of Braco Primary School and Greenloaning Primary School.

Information was collated on pupil numbers, house building, the school, the local area and community, travel arrangements, environmental impact and finances to inform the options.

As part of the review, a pre-consultation exercise was carried out with the local community.

Each of the options was then considered and the outcome determined as follows:

	Option Description	Outcome
Option 1	Continue with mothballing of Greenloaning Primary School – all pupils remain at Braco Primary School and suitability rating improved	Rejected. Not a reasonable option due to there not being a sustainable roll in the school in the next 3-4 years due to small numbers of children living in the area.
Option 2	Consider closing Greenloaning Primary School – pupils remain at Braco Primary School and suitability rating improved	Accepted as a reasonable option for the following reasons; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No reasonable action can be taken to increase the school roll at Greenloaning Primary School ensuring this is sustainable in future years.• Suitability rating of Braco Primary School improved.

Option 3	Re-open Greenloaning Primary School and improve suitability rating at Braco Primary School improved	Rejected. Not a reasonable option due to there not being a sustainable roll in the school due to small numbers of children living in the area.
Option 4	Re-open Greenloaning Primary School and split the stages of education between both schools. Suitability rating improved at Braco Primary School	Rejected. Not a reasonable option due to the compromises associated with running a split site.
Option 5	Catchment areas of the schools are reviewed to determine whether this would increase the school roll at Greenloaning Primary School and ensure the future sustainability of both schools	Rejected. Not a reasonable option due to small numbers of pupils living in proximity to the existing catchments to create a sustainable catchment which does not put pupils in other catchments at a detriment through travel distance.
Option 6	Consider closing Braco Primary School and pupils moved to an extended Greenloaning Primary School	Rejected. Not a reasonable option due to the additional travel distance and time for the majority of pupils

The only option which was considered to be reasonable was to consider closing Greenloaning Primary School and zone any pupils to Braco Primary School.

In progressing with this option there will be additional costs incurred to improve the suitability of Braco Primary School. This option is considered to be the most reasonable option as it has been demonstrated within this options appraisal that there would be no significant impact on the wider Greenloaning community if Greenloaning Primary School was to close. In addition there is no reasonable action that can be taken to increase the school roll at Greenloaning Primary School and ensure this is sustainable in future years.

It is recommended that the most appropriate response to the issues identified in relation to the roll at Greenloaning Primary School is that a Statutory Consultation exercise takes place on a proposal to close the school with pupils remaining at Braco Primary School and the suitability rating improved at the school. The delineated area of Braco Primary School would be extended to subsume the whole catchment of Greenloaning Primary School.

Community Engagement

Website and On-line Questionnaires

A 'School Estate Transformation' page was set up on the Perth and Kinross Council website which provided the wider community with an overview of information that the Council would be using in the options appraisal, including pupil projections and building information.

A questionnaire was also available for completion, for those people that could not attend community engagement events. The questionnaire asked people to respond with their views on a series of options and questions related to the options appraisal.

The questionnaire was available on the Council website from 23 August 2017 to 6 October 2017. Sixty nine questionnaires were completed.

Drop In Session

A community drop-in session was held at Braco Village Hall on Tuesday 12 September 2017 from 3pm to 8pm to seek feedback from the community on the future of Braco Primary School and Greenloaning Primary School. Seventy four people attended the session.

Content of Sessions

Visitors to the event were given an overview of information that the Council would be using in this options appraisal, including pupil projections and building and financial information. They were asked to:

- give feedback on the impact of each of the options being considered in the options appraisal either through using post-it notes or through filling in a questionnaire;
- respond to additional questions related to the community within Braco and Greenloaning and how the schools form part of the community.

**Braco Primary School
&
Greenloaning Primary School**

Community Drop-In Session

12 September 2017

**Overview of comments received at Community drop-in session and
Online Questionnaires**

Online Questionnaire Feedback

- Sixty nine questionnaires submitted online – 51 completed, 18 partially completed
- 34% (23) of responses from parents, 40% (27) were from the wider community, 9% (6) of responses were from 'other' and 6% (4) were from neighbours.
- Two people gave no indication of their relationship to the school.
- Twenty seven questionnaires were submitted without any comments.
- 17% (8) of responses preferred option 1, 26% (12) of responses preferred option 2, 7% (3) of responses preferred option 3, 35% (16) of responses preferred option 4, 9% (4) of responses preferred option 5 and 7% (3) preferred option 6.
- Twenty three questionnaires submitted gave no indication to their preferred option.
- Questionnaire closed on 6 October 2017.

Online Questionnaire Feedback

Option 1 - Continue with mothballing of Greenloaning Primary School – all pupils remain at Braco Primary School and suitability rating improved

Comments

- Braco Primary needs to be improved but if Greenloaning is kept mothballed and can be used if more kids move to the area.
- Recently moved to Braco. Both kids at the primary school a short distance away. Braco remaining open a day otherwise kids going there only is the best option for my family.
- Recently moved and bought in village for son starting school this year, the school brings the community together, welcoming another child soon to the world who will be attending the nursery and primary.
- Braco school is a key part of the community and removing that will also cut back access to school activities and ties to the church, Forest Schools, village hall events etc. The bulk of the population attending lies in Braco and the trends and projections show this is unlikely to change.
- There's more children and houses in Braco so it seems more sensible. Also there is a huge park for sporting activities and the hall for indoor sports and lunch. Braco School is through of the village.
- I think to continue to mothball Greenloaning all you would achieve would be to kick the problem down the road.
- It does not make sense to continue to mothballs Greenloaning. The site could be sold to get money to put towards the upgrade of Braco.
- The benefit of mothballing Greenloaning isn't clear. There would be maintenance costs which couldn't be justified.
- How on earth was this put on list as an option as Council Officials told as at the meeting that GOVT. only allows this for 3 yrs. & one year already gone!!! Total RED HERRING!

Online Questionnaire Feedback

Option 2 - Consider closing Greenloaning Primary School – pupils remain at Braco Primary School and suitability rating improved

Comments

- Having looked at the projected numbers of pupils possible at Greenloaning to me the school does not seem to me to be viable in the long term. Braco has the population and Pupil volume to sustain it going forward. Therefore my preference would be to upgrade the facility at Braco to bring it up to standard.
- It seems the most logical option given that numbers of children of primary school age are unlikely to rise.
- Understand Greenloaning had only 4 pupils latterly. Very hard to justify and children do benefit from a wider environment.
- To pull resources into one site and improve facilities. Braco has more pupils and therefore potentially more children walking to school.
- The land at Greenloaning could be sold for housing development and the money channelled into a fund to re-develop Braco Primary.
- There are more pupils at Braco and it would not make sense to ship more children further than fewer children further.
- Braco Primary school is close to my house. I think as we have the hall it makes sense for the school to be near it. However the hall also needs to be upgraded along with the school.
- Very important that Braco retains its school as it is the lifeblood of the village.
- Braco School is an important part of the community and is in the right place geographically and in terms of the numbers attending now and expected in the future. The Greenloaning school building lies geographically on the margins of the community. The building could be used for other community needs.
- I think it would be a huge loss to the Greenloaning community to lose the primary school completely as it was the hub of the village.
- My son is now at another school in a different catchment area and will not be moving again either way. Therefore I have no strong feelings on the other options, other than to say that the closure of GPS would be a shameful reflection of careless inaction and poor planning on the part of PKC.
- Creates a tighter knit community.
- Closing Greenloaning?! Braco is already bursting at the seams with no scope for expansion.
- The debate over Greenloaning has been going on for a very long time. It causes unrest and concern and caused parents to move children away earlier than it closed. Braco primary is the heart of the village and should remain. Keeping both would be the best option if the uncertain future was resolved.

Online Questionnaire Feedback

Option 3 - Re-open Greenloaning Primary School and suitability rating at Braco Primary School improved

Comments

- I feel keeping both schools open will be good for the two communities.
- Both Communities need a HEART. Greenloaning School can only be mothballed for 3 yrs. so first option a red herring!!! Braco Primary MUST stay to retain part of Community Spirit. Local Hotel been closed for years & Shop about to close!
- Move Braco School to Greenloaning so that Braco can either be rebuilt or totally modernised.
- Re-opening of Greenloaning seems pointless/unachievable with current and projected Greenloaning pupil numbers.

Online Questionnaire Feedback

Option 4 - Re-open Greenloaning Primary School and split the stages of education between both schools. Suitability rating improved at Braco Primary School.

Comments

- To utilise the great school grounds for the nursery and early years school children.
- This would make better use of the schools and their grounds. Greenloaning has lost children to Braco PS because they attended Nursery in Braco - made sense for parents to choose to send their kids to Braco in P1 with their friends rather than GPS by themselves. Staging the school across the 2 sites would make sense - The Braco site would be ideal for the older kids and Greenloaning with its lovely grounds would be ideal for the younger kids (with security measures put in at the top gate) We put this suggestion to P&K council 4 years ago. Most of the GPS kids are now in schools in Dunblane - a decision that wasn't taken lightly by the parents (me included). Had the schools been integrated earlier I believe most of the children would not have moved. The education received at GPS was amazing but the kids needed more emotionally and socially - combining Braco and Greenloaning would have solved this. Despite Mrs Dawson's encouragement for the kids to do things together GPS was still very much separate from Braco.
- Greenloaning Primary was the hub of the village and the only thing that brought the community together. It's a beautiful school in a fabulous setting and a completely wasted resource at present. Braco School seems over crowded with an unattractive building layout and hideous concrete grounds for children to play. It would be much more sensible to reopen Greenloaning Primary and give our village back a vital community resource and lifeline, and at the same time maximise the use of the better grounds/facilities, in particular this would benefit the younger children, nursery to P3/4 who can be unsteady on their feet and fall over a lot. The beautiful grassy areas at Greenloaning would be much better and safer environment for younger children. Then the older children could maximise the use of the Braco School, for P5-7. It is crucial to village life in Greenloaning that the school can once again be the hub of the village and pull the community together.
- This would keep both schools open; alleviate overcrowding at Braco School and keep the centre of each village open. The school is a large part of each village that unites all members of the community.
- Greenloaning School has a fabulous asset in its grounds which would be excellent for all children in the area. Braco has very small and hard outdoor space. There are plenty children who wish to attend the school now and in the

future who come to either village because there is a school. This keeps rural communities alive now and into the future.

- A split of age groups between the two schools is important to make the best use of existing facilities.
- If you had yrs. 1-4 @ Braco then yrs. 5-7 @ Greenloaning.....or make Greenloaning secondary school.
- Best outcome for local children now and in the future & small classes for each level of education. Braco School closing would be disastrous for the future of our village.
- Spilt site might work but difficult for parents to manage.
- Retains usage of buildings and ensures community continues at Greenloaning and doesn't put people off living here.
- Population is ever increasing. No point in closing either school in the long term.
- It makes sense as Braco is too small and it will kill the village.
- Splitting the school for the sake of utilising both building when there is sufficient accommodation at Braco seems pointless and potentially disruptive to daily operations. Re-entering primary education at Greenloaning would mean more travelling for the majority of the students.
- The Greenloaning site is a much nicer environment for play for younger children.
- It would be better.
- I think it is a pity to close both schools as this forms part of a functional community. There are too many small villages having amenities closed. I think many families like the idea of their child going to a smaller school.
- I do think the Braco School could do with some improvement. The Greenloaning school is a lovely school with lovely grounds encouraging healthy outside play. Keeping both schools would need close look at transport between the 2 sites.
- Would be happy also if Greenloaning were reopened and the stages split as long as there were a cycle path between the 2 villages to make it safe for transfer between the two schools.
- We requested the splitting of the schools many times - upper and lower - if this had happened we would not have removed our children.
- This is the only sensible option which will retain the lifespan of both schools and provide a hub for the Greenloaning community. However it should have been offered a year ago, when parents were forced to remove their children due to poor management and inadequate resourcing. Shameful feet dragging on the part of P&K council caused a great deal of upheaval for several families, not to mention staff at GPS.
- Split of stages of education does not seem viable to me based on numbers.

Online Questionnaire Feedback

Option 5 - Catchment areas of the schools are reviewed to determine whether this would increase the school roll at Greenloaning Primary School and ensure the future sustainability of the schools

Comments

- Braco school capacity. Also like the idea of looking and extending catchment areas if both schools were open. Braco hall not fit for purpose.
- Whatever way you do it the viability of both schools should be paramount to keep both communities alive now and into the future. Expanding the catchment area should be closely considered.
- I think re-evaluating the catchment areas is also a good idea. It would be regretful to lose either school.
- 5 also a good option.
- Extending catchment areas is a good idea.
- Catchment area change would mean more kids coming to the area when there is no out of school care and less resources for the other kids. It would also mean only a small increase in numbers.
- It's important to retain as many rural schools as possible, to increase the viability of incoming families and to reduce the traveling time for children. It's also socially important for kids to develop within a more localised peer group.
- To make it possibly to attract more families to the area.
- Changing the catchment area WOULD NOT be a solution - people would still put in placement requests for their kids to go to Braco PS following nursery.
- Catchment areas reviewed was the WORST decision ever made in our B&G Community in the 80's. It totally DIVIDED the Community. Should NEVER be repeated. Ended up US & THEM Mentality.
- Larger catchment area. One school is all that's required.

Online Questionnaire Feedback

Option 6 - Consider closing Braco Primary School and pupils moved to an extended Greenloaning Primary School

Comments

- The school is much nicer and it has an enclosed garden area for pupils to have access to fitness all year round.
- I think the Greenloaning site is much more suitable for the kids. The green space, larger grounds. My preferred option would be for a new building at Braco followed by the option I have chosen but I don't think updating the present building would be good enough.
- If the Greenloaning site (with extension) became the main school then it would require a cycle path to be added to ensure safe passage of the kids before and after school from Braco. If Braco was improved I feel that a different site for the school would need to be explored.
- As a parent of a child at a different school I think Greenloaning primary has more space in the grounds and more potential for green houses, veg gardens and a greener ethos. Braco primary attracts youths within the grounds each evening and at weekends and is becoming a 'street corner' for youths to hang out.
- I think the closure of Braco primary could free up the building to be utilised as a community hub, with the potential of a little drop in cafe, a shop and a place for all to visit, it could help to reduce social isolation in the vulnerable and elderly.
- Closing Braco and moving kids to Greenloaning - I believe this would be met with major resistance despite Greenloaning having more scope for expansion.
- Closing Braco School would be a very bad move.
- Would not like Braco Primary/ Nursery School to be closed. To me it does not make sense wasting money on another new school when there are two existing sites.
- Closure of Braco School would be madness based on the current occupancy & projected numbers.
- Option 6 shouldn't be an option.
- Closing Braco and extending Greenloaning is nonsense. Leaving Greenloaning mothballed is equally silly. Make a decision. Splitting the site and trailing children up and down for nothing is equally silly and prevents children from walking to school.

Online Questionnaire Feedback

Are there any other options/proposals that have not been considered?

Comments

- Having been in both schools regularly, Greenloaning is by FAR the nicest environment to facilitate learning and growth amongst future generations of primary children, both with the internal buildings and the external grounds. Do not waste such a lovely resource that's a badly needed community asset in Greenloaning and surrounding area. Using the Greenloaning School as a community centre, but the best way to achieve a 'community centre' is to reopen the school. Absolutely the best way to bring families and the community together.
- If GPS is not to be re-opened as a school then the local community require an alternative hub. A youth centre for teenagers/young people (many former pupils of GPS) would be a positive addition to what is now a lifeless community.
- Braco hall that the school use every day needs major modernisation. Toilet facility's not great. Kitchen old. Floor not great for the kids to do PE on.
- Use Greenloaning School like a community centre for the community similar to White Church in Comrie. If the fabric of the building isn't altered too much, it could be returned to a school if the need arose.
- Greenloaning School could be used as another meeting space for clubs/organisations in the area, as well as a school. Closer community ties would result and the area would have another option for gatherings.
- Make Greenloaning into community centre, full day nursery or adult education
- Build new purpose built school in Braco.
- All of the proposals are of the 'sticking plaster' variety and do not really address the problems associated with both schools.
- In my view, it would be better in the long run to close both primary schools and, using the money from the sale of the land on which they stand, buy a suitable plot on Front Street, Braco or on the 'Military Road' between the villages. A new purpose built school could then be built.
- Go back to the owner of Braco castle estate and ask for the land at the back of the hall and build a new community school.
- Building a bigger school in the village to suit the needs for the growing young families buying in the village.
- New site and building for Braco.
- Demolish the current Braco School and flatten the village hall to build a more fit for purpose building on the one site which could be used for the school but also for the community. It would be a better building and location if it was across the road.

- The hall has not been considered and needs upgrading of the toilets, interior decoration and disabled ramp.
- Building a new school fit for purpose and to include school hall, playing fields etc.
- There should be options to build a new school or extension as both buildings have their limitations. Also Braco village hall appears to be mainly used by school during term time/ school hours so perhaps arrangements could favour the school in first instance, become an ECS property or be part of the school suitability improvement.
- If retaining Greenloaning as a school is not a viable proposition, it would be vital to find a purpose for the building to avoid yet another vacant property in the area.
- It doesn't seem feasible to have two primary schools with so few pupils. Best to commit resources to one school and focus on developing it into an excellent model.
- None of these is my preferred option but I had to tick one to be able to proceed with the questionnaire. It was an entirely random choice and should not be counted in any questionnaire summary. My preferred option would be to build a new school serving both communities as part of a mini community campus which would provide much-needed facilities for the whole community. If this was a genuine effort at consultation it would have provided an 'Other' option which did not force people to choose between six unsatisfactory ones.
- A new school serving both communities sitting within a mini community campus which provides facilities for the whole community. It could incorporate the existing village hall, community library, possibly academic, shop, sports hall etc.
- I believe Braco primary should be transformed into a community hub.
- Serious consideration be given to rebuilding a much more up to date school for the village.
- The only other remaining option is the construction of a new modern school building. This would attract new young families into the area and also rejuvenate local commerce which is an issue at the moment.
- Sell both. Build new "Fit for Purpose" School COMBINED with upgrade of Village Hall which is owned by Council already used for Braco Primary School Meals & Activities. P.S. Toilets in Hall at present in a pretty desperate condition.
- Appreciate that we continue to live in an economic climate of austerity which is unlikely to change any time soon. I don't believe this is helpful to communities. In an ideal world a new school for Braco and Greenloaning with an improved and integrated village hall would be a great asset for the community.

Questionnaires were provided at the drop-in session, the feedback is as follows:

Option 1 - Continue with mothballing of Greenloaning Primary School – all pupils remain at Braco Primary School and suitability rating improved

Comments

- Braco for P1-P7 education, Greenloaning for Nursery and after school care. Preferred option is number 1 though.

Option 2 - Consider closing Greenloaning Primary School – pupils remain at Braco Primary School and suitability rating improved

Comments

- Putting all available resources into one school. Would also have to provide transport for children, unfair to expect parents to do this.
- Closing Greenloaning can have a bad effect for future as two new families have moved in since mothballing and more could follow.
- I feel mothballing is costly. Re-opening could be an option if school is used as a village hall/alternative venue. Braco must remain open. It is the centre of our community and children feel community here.
- I would be very much opposed to closing Braco Primary as I think it would damage the village. I also think closing Greenloaning would be bad for that village. But it could maybe be reduced in size.

Option 3 - Re-open Greenloaning Primary School and suitability rating at Braco Primary School improved

Comments

- Keeping all ages within Braco School a good idea Greenloaning school a good building. Both villages need a school to ensure dynamic of each village.
- I think it is important for the health of both communities to have a school.

Option 4 - Re-open Greenloaning Primary School and split the stages of education between both schools. Suitability rating improved at Braco Primary School.

Comments

- I think it makes the best use of the facilities available. More space for everyone. It would be great if the transport could be provided – eg. Braco family but kids of age group to go to Greenloaning School.
- I think option 4 could be a suitable alternative, providing the issue of transport to the problem of having two children in different schools is addressed.
- Option 4 would be good for both villages, but you would need to work around transport issues, finishing times and childcare – all of these are important to consider when making the final decision.
- From talking to people this evening there seems to be a good opportunity to develop/strengthen links between the villages – looking at options to create safe transport/travelling between the 2 schools appears at the forefront of many people's minds.
- Thinking more creativity than simply splitting the stages.
- Both schools provide the opportunity to create a fantastic curricular experience. Braco's community and environmental link are wonderful yet the issue of space and 'suitability' will remain, with the potential to cause real problems long term should the school role increase significantly. Having both schools under the use of Braco would give the potential to offer the space whilst retaining Braco's strong place within the community.
- School was heart of community – much missed at Greenloaning.
- More classrooms to keep each primary class together. Grass grounds at Greenloaning could be well used.
- there is a lot of space unused at Greenloaning and I like the idea of upper and lower schools.
- To make use of resources already in place at Greenloaning ie. Green spaces
- Because it would be better for both communities.
- Greenloaning School is a far superior site and has great potential for extension. Braco schools classrooms on the upper floor are a bit of a nightmare, corridors very narrow – could we get them out in the event of a fire?
- Braco for P1-P7 education, Greenloaning for Nursery and after school care. Preferred option is number 1 though.
- Option 4 is the only other possibility. Have nursery and infants at Greenloaning, P4-P7 at Braco.
- Best use of both schools, which incorporates the best features of both and gives a wider and richer experience for all pupils over their time at primary school. I consider all other options to be less good than option 4 above.
- This provides an opportunity to create a truly inclusive/accessible curricular experience I would hope this too is being explored.

Questionnaires were provided at the drop-in session, the feedback is as follows:

Option 5 - Catchment areas of the schools are reviewed to determine whether this would increase the school roll at Greenloaning Primary School and ensure the future sustainability of the schools

Comments

- Very sad if Greenloaning School (or Braco School) would be lost. I think changing catchment areas could be problematic. However, if I had to choose – I would choose Braco, as it is our closest village (we live rurally but closer to Braco).

Questionnaires were provided at the drop-in session, the feedback is as follows:

Option 6 - Consider closing Braco Primary School and pupils moved to an extended Greenloaning Primary School

Comments

- Greenloaning is a better school with lovely grounds. It would not cost much to extend this (1 portacabin?). This way you could sell off Braco School and use the proceeds to rebuild the village hall as a community centre for both villages. It would also mean there would be a community focus in each village.
- Greenloaning has the best facilities and offers plenty of space to extend the school. It also has an abundance of space for children to play.
- Greenloaning School is a far superior site and has great potential for extension. Braco schools classrooms on the upper floor are a bit of a nightmare, corridors very narrow – could we get them out in the event of a fire?
- Greenloaning is the more superior building. Better playground.
- Ideally, I would like option 6 as it is a far better school than Braco. If cost was no object it would be good to build a new school between the communities!
- Braco School is no longer fit for purpose and any possible improvements would be extremely limited.
- I would be very much opposed to closing Braco Primary as I think it would damage the village. I also think closing Greenloaning would be bad for that village. But it could maybe be reduced in size.
- It would be a shame to close BPS completely.
- Please do not close Braco.

Questionnaires were provided at the drop-in session, the feedback is as follows:

Are there any other options/proposals that have not been considered?

Comments

- 1 temporarily move all kids to Greenloaning. 2 rebuild Braco primary and the village hall. 3 move Braco kids back to Braco School
- Build a new school between the 2 villages with a cycle path away from the road from both villages (including a footbridge alongside the river in Greenloaning). Maybe this would be possible if you could negotiate the land and sell off the Braco school site.
- Build new 20-30% larger school at Braco for GL/B community. Sustain this community. The school is the heart of our community.

Community Drop-In Session

Drop-in session ran from 3pm – 8pm on 12 September 2017

- Seventy four attendees at the session
- 3% (2) of attendees were neighbours/wider community
- 58% (43) of attendees were parents
- 6% (5) of attendees were other family members
- 26% (19) attendees were from the community
- 3% (2) attendees were Councillors
- 4% (3) attendees were classed as 'others'

Comments received at the drop-in session

Option 1 - Continue with mothballing of Greenloaning Primary School – all pupils remain at Braco Primary School and suitability rating improved

Comments

- This would be ok if you made the school on the village hall site and the village hall on the school site! I think Greenloaning should continue to be mothballed until a decision is made on how it can be used by the community and continue to be maintained by PKC.
- The reason Greenloaning was mothballed was due to low numbers – there is no point re-opening it unless you can guarantee pupil numbers.
- Better to either re purpose the building or sell it and re-invest funds into improving Braco School.
- Mothballing should continue and a community decision should be made on how best to utilise the Greenloaning building (i.e. some form of community centre).
- This appears to be delaying a decision that needs to be made. I don't think this makes much sense in the long run and just subjects both villages to uncertainty.
- Is it expensive in terms of low level maintenance to continue with mothballing Greenloaning Primary School?
- How do you propose to improve suitability rating for Braco School? Both schools would need their ratings improved. Putting all pupils at Greenloaning would mean it is overcrowded.
- Braco is a Victorian school. Is upgrading it feasible/possible?
- Braco School is the heart of the community. It would be disastrous for the village to lose this resource.
- It would be great if facilities in Braco could be updated and extended. There has been suggestion about hall area. Many families would feel quite sad for there to be no school in Braco.
- Could kids be moved to Greenloaning while Braco P.S pulled down and started again making full use of the space?
- What needs doing to Braco Primary school to improve its suitability rating?
- Think the suitability of Braco should be improved whatever happens to Greenloaning.
- After school provision is a key consideration whichever option is chosen.
- Why mothball the more suitable site whilst providing inadequate facilities in Braco?
- The fact that Greenloaning was mothballed is an absolute disgrace. (2 x Agreed)
- This school is the perfect ground for the children. The school is perfect and the grounds are amazing. If residents wanted a concrete school they would have moved into a city.

- What a waste it is mothballing Greenloaning with its huge play area and other facilities. It offers so much potential. Braco on the other hand is essentially not fit for purpose and even with improvements would still not provide space for everything in one area (PE, lunches). Also the children have to change IN CLASS for PE.
- Decision needs to be made as very unsettling as it stands.
- Don't see the point of mothballing any longer as this just seems to be delaying making a decision.
- A decision needs to be made to stop all the uncertainty in both villages.
- A decision needs to be made. Mothballing just delays inevitable.
- Continuing to mothball just delays making a decision. Greenloaning seems like a nice school but the numbers do not stack up for keeping it open. Improving Braco seems like the logical decision.
- This doesn't appear particularly viable as long term having an empty building is both costly and a waste of a resource.
- If no growth in children numbers at Braco/Greenloaning – ok. BUT – I believe the vision for the villages should be sustainability and better growth so this option would NOT encourage this.
- Mothballing expensive – sell or re-use as another community facility or re-open.
- Additional cost. Waste of money.
- Could the children be moved to Greenloaning while the work is carried out in Braco?
- Cannot see how this can be affected without additional buildings – where will these go? Is the money available?
- This is not a long term option. I understand Government only allows mothballing for 3 years. It would have to be kept for all pupils to use it. Braco Primary being renovated! This doesn't happen quickly.

Comments received at the drop-in session

Option 2 - Consider closing Greenloaning Primary School – pupils remain at Braco Primary School and suitability rating improved

Comments

- If Greenloaning got sold off money could be used to improve Braco Primary. + [Selfish! What about the Greenloaning community?](#)
- The Ardoch Development Trust has already put in a note of interest on behalf of the community for the school building. This might help to provide a community focus in Greenloaning and address to some extent, the general lack of infrastructure in our community.
- Better option but seems such a waste of the site at Greenloaning.
- Preferred option but only if Education release Greenloaning primary and the building is put to good use for the community (i.e. after school provision).
- It seems obvious that both schools cannot exist given future numbers of children. Braco has more occupancy therefore it should be improved and the other closed.
- Improve Braco and make it fit for purpose – sell Greenloaning (it is lovely site though).
- Use it as a multifunctional facility and if this isn't viable, close/sell and improve Braco School. + [Agree](#)
- Why is Braco School's use of the village hall a bad thing? Further integrates the school with the community.
- What will be done to improve sustainability rating?
 - How will Braco School's suitability rating be improved? What would have to be done to achieve this? - Council owns village hall. - Can extra suitable educational environment be built onto ends of this hall? - Ironic to sell Greenloaning – it'll then probably end up with more houses and more potential pupils for Greenloaning.
 - This seems like a good option. Would like to see school improved rather than re-built – perhaps a GP room nearby instead.
 - As it stands houses aren't selling. Kids moving into houses in Greenloaning are opting to go to schools in Dunblane. Not sure how the school roll can be improved. + [No choice as the schools closed.](#)
 - What would happen to the school building if it closed? Could it be used to provide full time childcare?
- Braco. How can you improve the suitability when it is the physical confines of the site that make it too small to provide outside facilities?
- Unless expand Braco School – think this does not encourage long-term sustainability of the community. Think should be looking for growth.
- If Greenloaning School was closed then the site could be sold off. + [Clearly you live in Braco. Selfish!](#) + [Agreed!](#)

- Disagree – Greenloaning needs some type of community ‘hub’ to bring families together. The school was that hub and is sorely missed.
- Greenloaning School is a major asset to the community as a whole. It could be used as school by day and village hall out with School. To not capitalise on this is detrimental to our joint community.
- This would be an incredible waste of valuable resources. + AGREED!!
- A shame to close such a nice school. This should never have happened in the first place. Parents in Greenloaning argued the case for years and were ignored.
- What would these adaptations look like? There is restricted space within Braco site therefore making use of Greenloaning as well not be more sustainable long term?
- What would happen to the land of Greenloaning? More houses? More families? Increased school roll.
- Houses aren’t selling! Not simple to sell site off. + Agreed
- Wouldn’t recommend closure. Either partial use (older children for example) or move school from Braco to expanded premises.
- Why close Greenloaning when it is so much more suitable than the Braco site. + Agreed + 1
- To consider closing Greenloaning school is an absolute disgrace! Why would the more superior building be the one to close? Makes absolutely no sense!
- It would be so unwise to close Greenloaning School which has the grounds and facilities to educate children in an ideal environment, why not use it to educate P6 & P7? This would then give more room to P1 – P 5 because space is very limited at Braco.
- Do not close Greenloaning School. If given the option, I would move my child to Greenloaning. Even improving suitability rating at Braco, nothing would change as you cannot extend either play area or building and it would remain concrete and tar. + Agreed
- This option would see Greenloaning residents lose the only part of the community they have left. + Agreed + 1
- It is very clear reading these comments that Braco parents are not in receipt of the full facts as to why parents were forced to remove their kids from Greenloaning.

Comments received at the drop-in session

Option 3 - Re-open Greenloaning Primary School and suitability rating at Braco Primary School improved

Comments

- If Greenloaning can be used to house all pupils during Braco improvements, why bother with Braco at all? Adapt Greenloaning first and then transfer the pupils from Braco permanently.
- Re-open Greenloaning and close Braco. Why spend money?
- Greenloaning is a far superior school to Braco. Offering extensive grounds for outdoor projects as well as play facilities. There is ample space to extend the building to accommodate all pupils and provide decent rooms for P.E. and lunches. Although Braco can be upgraded, the P.E. and lunch facilities still remain a problem as you cannot extend.
- Option 3. Greenloaning Primary was a flourishing school which was very much part of the community. It was devastating when the school closed!
- The school is the heart of the community. To close it would be devastating. It is already having a profound effect on my child who flourished there.
- Option 3. Much better grounds at Greenloaning, however really cannot see how both schools being open is a viable option. Thinking about appropriate peer groups and a healthy environment to learn amongst for the children.
- If numbers were to go up – yes!
- Would be good to use Greenloaning School building again.
- The Braco School does need to be improved and if this means moving the children to Greenloaning on a temporary basis while Braco is improved then I think this is the better idea.
- Can Greenloaning accommodate all pupils whilst improvements at Braco made. Cannot have pupils on a building site! I.e. Braco Improvements.
- Not clear how would work – would need some significant change or would be back to a very small number at Greenloaning. Majority of parents thinking very small = not good.
- Based on the numbers as presented, I can't see this being sustainable.
- There would have to be a significant change in demand. It is a great shame that Greenloaning had to close but is the demand there? Braco PS does need to be upgraded to make it fit for purpose. And what about the hall which can't be used for other things when –quite rightly- the school needs it.
- And because many Greenloaning parents send their kids to Braco, when they should attend Greenloaning! This caused the low roll at GPS in the first place!
- Doesn't solve the problem. It would be good to know why there.
- Same situation would happen unless catchment changes. Why are parents moving pupils in the first place?

- We're moving our kids because there are no morning/after school clubs at either of the schools. Greenloaning is a commuter village that has lots of working parents.
- Not sustainable based on forecast numbers. Benefits to children by having schools combined (i.e. more pupils for social interaction).
- Without increased roll, can't see how this would work.
- Not sure this solves anything as it will not increase the roll at Greenloaning. +
[Agree!](#)
- Catchment would need to change. Keeping Braco Primary open is paramount.
- What would the improvements to Braco look like? This seems very similar to option 4.

Comments received at the drop-in session

Option 4 - Re-open Greenloaning Primary School and split the stages of education between both schools. Suitability rating improved at Braco Primary School.

Comments

- Older pupils would manage the walk from one village to the other to attend school – given suitable pavement.
- 1. I am surprised we are being offered this as an option with current budget cuts! 2. I'm having déjà vu! 3. Each school hours might need to be slightly different to allow any parent that worked to pick up both age groups if that occurs. 4. Only if total transport provision.
- This option was suggested by GPS parent council 6 years ago!! Drop off and pick up – stagger start times. School transport – Ardoch Trust.
- A possibility – would there be a school bus to take pupils to and fro at relevant times?
- This is the only option fair to both communities. All objections easily overcome by a small bus, then people with kids at both schools – problem solved!
- Greenloaning – Nursery/P1/P2 and after school club. Braco – P3-P7. Need to consider transport issues if this option was considered.
- Logical but would need to take into consideration 1. Whether families had children in both age groups, 2. Transport, 3. Timing of the school day. Also there are considerable advantages to have the full age range in one school.
- This is a good idea and enables both buildings being utilised with more space. Transport/start times/ finishing times would need arranged to help parents.
- This sounds a good idea. Transport practicalities and having to get different school aged children in on time could be an issue for parents?
- Could Ardoch Development Trust help fund a bus to transport children between 2 schools?
- Could be a great idea. ?Transport?
- Our school on two sites would give benefits of both sites. Youngsters in Braco, older in Greenloaning. Transport provided by Council.
- A possibility??? Would transport be provided? What about lunch/gym in Greenloaning P.S?
- We argued for this for months, if not years!! Too late for Greenloaning parents forced to remove their children!
- This was proposed before and seems a sensible option if Braco School cannot be made more adaptable. But whether that is a long-term solution is more doubtful. But certainly not against it.
- Funny how it suddenly an option now??? Or is it just a box ticking exercise so the council can say they 'consulted' the community!?!

- Eh hellooo.... Didn't Greenloaning Primary fight for this option on several occasions and we were completely ignored by the council!!!
- Re-open Greenloaning School and use it for older pupils. It has great space and extensive grounds.
- Braco Primary School is not flexible enough in its accommodation so clearly needs to be structurally altered. But unless numbers are projected to rise significantly so that option 4 could be activated (and also understanding of why Greenloaning kids were sometimes sent elsewhere). Building could be used for better purpose.
- There is potential for a creative use of both spaces within this option. It does not have to be as cut & dry as splitting stages. Surely there are facilities in both buildings (or lack of) that could complement each other?
- This is the most logical solution. Greenloaning Primary was one of the main reasons that we bought our home there. We'd move our child here if there was morning/after support and if there were larger class sizes.
- This would make best use of both schools.
- Lower stages at GPS. Upper stages at BPS could work. Younger children would benefit from outside green area.
- Schools are public resources for community. Option should be explored to be inclusive for all ages & stages eg. Greenloaning could be used for culture hub/after school club and resource for older people at Braco could be developed.
- Would be intrigued to find out how this would work.
- Yes – unless can expand Braco, this is a good way of helping facilitate growth and therefore community sustainability.
- Re-open Greenloaning School. Either use it for the younger children as they can have gardens etc outside and offers plenty scope for playing. You could also give parents the opportunity to choose which school they wish to send their child/children to.
- Reasonable idea if affordable.
- Need to look at staggering school start/finish times to allow parents to do drop off/pick up. The absence of any before/after school childcare options in this area make split schools ever more of a challenge. But... Possible. But – can/will Greenloaning be able to offer an outdoor element? Agree with point – unable to chat with teachers at beginning/end of school day – it is required
- Good idea. Great space at both.
- Split stages: means some pupils eg nursery provision + P1 + P2 (+3?) at 1 and 4,5,6,7 at the other. Good idea!
- I think it would be an excellent option to re-open Greenloaning School and use it for P6's and P7's, and perhaps nursery. This would then give the remaining pupils at Braco more space because at the moment the space at Braco is very limited – some of the corridors and upstairs are very narrow and if a fire were to occur would all the present pupils be able to evacuate the building in time?

- Greenloaning School would be an ideal setting for Nursery/Infants. Large bright classrooms and a fantastic outdoor space for activities.
- Greenloaning primary school is an excellent facility for younger children with the green grounds. Braco is a concrete playground.
- Option4: would be the best solution. Greenloaning would work great for younger children due to the outside area. Braco seems cramped and chaotic. But has good staff.
- This would make best use of resources already in place ie. Greenspace which we lack at Braco school.
- Greenloaning Primary is too small to accommodate all pupils at present – it would have to be extended. Whereas SPLIT SITE would provide enough purpose to keep both functioning.
- Makes sense to use both schools. Greenloaning has more space for children. Braco not an ideal situation.
- Makes sense to have the two schools working together or merged into one for the benefit of the pupils. Believe benefits have already been evident.
- This would be difficult logistically – how to drop off & pick up kids @ 2 schools. Pick up is important time to catch up with teachers and would miss this if kids 'bussed' from Greenloaning.
- Don't understand how the logistics of this would work. Parents would have 2 pick-up/drop offs.
- Who would provide transport for this if you had a child at both sites? Interaction of all ages in the one site is far more suitable for learning. Very much against this option.
- No safe route between the two schools. Pick up & drop offs would be dangerous.
- The opportunity for young children to look up to their older peers would be lost. Transportation difficulties, use of hall for gym facilities would require children being brought back to Braco unless new facilities were provided at Greenloaning.
- Transportation would need to be considered. And if you have children in both schools collection/drop off?
- How could you get children to both sites for the start of the school day?
- This would be really hard for parents with children in both schools – especially if they have no transport. If this is to be considered then the road/path between the villages would have to be upgraded and improved considerably to ensure parents and children are safe travelling between both villages.
- Whilst this seems a really good idea on paper I worry this would not be a good option in practice. – What about families without cars? – What if children are late and have no transport? – Families who have ages of children at both stages for pick up/drop off?
- Also concerned for staff morale as could be very lonely & isolated on split site

- Not an option in my view, children need to mix with all ages to learn to socialise properly, also, with 2 children at different stages it would be a logistical nightmare!
- Least favourite option. – Inconvenient for families with kids at different ages. – lack of continuity for kids as they progress.
- To put older pupils to Greenloaning would be a loss to the younger ones who are looked after by them. Braco needs a school suitable for all pupils and enough space & facilities. A new building?
- One of the many fantastic things about Braco School is that everybody knows everybody and looks out for each other. All the year groups play nicely together in the park. If the school is split, it would be a loss for all. I think all ages benefit from the school approach. The fact nursery is very much part of the school makes the transition to P1 so easy here. Children in nursery know all the staff, pupils and routines by the time they start. If they were moved to Greenloaning, the transition would be a lot harder.
- I'd love to see Greenloaning School enjoyed by school children. I think splitting the children in the community by stage but keeping them included as a larger group works better than having 2 solo schools. The small role in G'loaning pre-closure was a huge negative.
- Greenloaning: - nursery and after school care? Splitting P1-P7 would have no continuity of education.
- Although this might make the most of the facilities available it should be tricky for parents when you have children in both schools.
- Not sure this is as ideal as operating on the one site and for the school to have a cohesive fell. Would need careful management.

Comments received at the drop-in session

Option 5 - Catchment areas of the schools are reviewed to determine whether this would increase the school roll at Greenloaning Primary School and ensure the future sustainability of the schools

Comments

- Catchment area could be changed – has been the case before. Children from Greenhaugh end of Braco attended Greenloaning, receiving an excellent education as well as having a huge playground for physical activity.
- There is a precedent for this. In the 70's Greenhaugh was re-zoned to Greenloaning.
- Good idea if it keeps both schools functioning. But splitting stages still seems the best option.
- Give the parents the opportunity to choose the school they wish children to attend. Providing transport for those in village to opt to send children to Greenloaning. I live in Braco and my 2 children were educated at Greenloaning. Would be a great opportunity for my granddaughter.
- If catchment areas change to increase pupils will parents still be able to move to other schools?
- Pretty neutral about this option.
- Not good – suspect many parents would appeal/push hard to back any such revisions, therefore, if forced might result in children/families going elsewhere
- You would need to establish why parents chose to send their kids elsewhere than Greenloaning rather than just widening catchment + hoping this would bring in sufficient numbers.
- With parental choice nowadays can you guarantee that children will be sent to Greenloaning? Yes it was done before but has not sustained pupil numbers.
- Unlikely to attract neighbouring communities given the lack of before/after school support.
- I can't see how changing catchment areas will increase school roll at Greenloaning. Additionally, no before/after school car options (at either school) make it difficult for working families to travel to school out of their home area.
- Can't see how it would generate enough pupils to make it sustainable.
- I can't see this solving any issues as people will still put in placement requests.
- Not really an option parents would put placement requests in for their chosen school.
- If catchment areas were changed, it could make no difference if people just then put in transfer requests to go back to Braco.
- Very much against changing catchment areas of the schools as this totally divides the community spirit.

- Was done years ago and caused a huge divide in the community.
- Changing the catchment and splitting Braco would, in my mind be a really bad thing to do. Friends in the same village have to be split to go to different schools. Not ideal. If a change of catchment area is done all Braco children should be in the same area.
- Don't think this would be a sustainable option unfortunately.
- Would be an eternal muddle!

Comments received at the drop-in session

Option 6 - Consider closing Braco Primary School and pupils moved to an extended Greenloaning Primary School

Comments

- In my opinion, option 6 is the one which makes sense. Greenloaning school is a far superior building to Braco School. Surely a large grassy playground is better than a small concrete area. Safety of the children should also be considered. No need to cross a road to eat your lunch at Greenloaning. A large dining room within the school is provided. Same applies to PE lessons – can be undertaken within the school, not in a run-down village hall.
- The outside space of Greenloaning is a huge pro. Would an extension eat away that green space?
- I think this is the best option as the school and grounds offer so much potential (not a lot at Braco). If people think the dual carriageway is a problem then perhaps higher fencing could be provided. OR speak to Nick Muir and ask for ground to build school. Close and sell off both existing schools to fund.
- This is a good option. Greenloaning has huge potential and has bandwidth to adapt and the grounds to do so. Braco is very limited on space.
- Option 6 would seem the right option. Greenloaning School has extensive grounds that would be suitable for extending the school. It is an ideal solution. Braco School requires a lot of modernisation and work whereas Greenloaning is in much better condition.
- Viable option if road along to Greenloaning from Braco was made safe for kids to cycle to school and back (ie safe, barriered cycle path).
- This is a good option if cost is an issue as Braco Primary is presently not fit for purpose and Greenloaning has more space to expand. However transport from Braco to Greenloaning would need to be considered.
- Greenloaning has a more suitable building as more money has been spent on it over the years. More space at Greenloaning but no community.
- It should be remembered, in 1980's village was split with an area of Braco being accommodated at Greenloaning. Enthusiasm among parents was remarkable and school community at both schools did not support with transport provided. Am confident, a thriving school community would exist at Greenloaning as only school – many schools thrive which are far from adjacent to homes of those children.
- Not bad – in long term, probably more economical and Greenloaning site could be expanded further in the future. But, a better solution would be a better larger facility at Braco. Keen on community sustainability
- Seems like a good option as it's a much nicer building however how would the extension impact on the outside space? Transport from Braco? Safe walking/cycling route?

- Definitely an attractive option though for parents a transport problem for more pupils.
- Being relatively new to the area (and as a Braco parent) it would be useful to be given the opportunity to see Greenloaning Primary and what it has to offer (building and grounds wise).
- While the Greenloaning building might be more suitable as a parent living in Braco it is important to me that the children can walk to from school as they get older can do so on their own.
- We recently moved to Braco specifically for the school, which may now close, and the shop, which is going to close. I do not want the children of Braco to have to go to Greenloaning
- Would this also mean the closure of the village hall? That would be disastrous. – [Who mentioned the village hall?? Stick to the subject!](#)
- Braco Primary School is an essential part of the Braco community and for children developing in their own environment. Extending the size of Greenloaning has not seen an increase in number of pupils attending. Choice of schools out with catchment area was more attractive to commuting parents.
- This would be a disaster – Braco is the bigger village and the focus of most activity across the community. What would happen to the hall and the activities/events associated with the school? There is also scope for Greenloaning School building to fulfil other needs.
- Definitely not! The school is a major part to the community. Do not close Braco PS!
- Greenloaning School is much better condition as P&K Council have always maintained it to a high standard. Braco needs a modern school within the village so pupils can walk to school and socialise. The school is vital to keep the village together.
- How would children be transported? I moved to Braco to be able to walk my children to school.
- I understand the attractiveness of Greenloaning School is safety and space BUT we are already suffering from a hotel start up half refurbished and not functioning and possibility of local shop closing. We do not need any more heard to the village closed.
- I hope this doesn't happen. Would be a shame to lose Braco Primary. Would be a huge loss to the community (as was Greenloaning). – [So was Greenloaning \(+4\)](#)
- Please, please don't: Braco School is the heart of the community.
- Braco Primary should be improved – not closed. The number of pupils testifies to Braco's case. Greenloaning has a green space but Braco is in the middle of the community – has the resources of an historic community – use of the village hall – tennis courts and open areas.
- Don't think this would work in practise as school in Braco is a valued part of the community.

- I think this would be a loss to Braco and the village. Braco seems fairly central in terms of catchment. So not ideal moving to Greenloaning.
- We moved to Braco because there's a school in walking distance – if we had known about this we wouldn't have moved. We may consider moving away if Braco changes in any way – taking a further 2 children out!!
- I would be very much against closing Braco Primary. It is at the heart of the community and with a school roll of 50 it seems a poor option.
- As a Braco parent this is the least attractive option in terms of the following: transport/travel to and from school. The road is not suitable for a child to walk/cycle. The primary school is one of the few remaining key community buildings and should remain if possible. - I appreciate the above also applies to Greenloaning but I believe that the number of people impacted would be less.
- I do not want my child to go to Greenloaning. If I had we would have moved there in the first place!
- DO NOT CLOSE BRACO. We moved to Braco to send our children to the village primary school, within walking distance of their home, not along a very fast dangerous road.
- Why close Braco which has more children on roll just because Greenloaning has a more sustainable building?
- This is a bad idea. Braco and Greenloaning are one community. We need to work together not divided to get the best for both.
- It's great to have a school in walking distance to everyone in Braco – it's the heart of the community. Personally think it's great that the hall is used by the school.
- This is decidedly a bad idea given that the majority of children attending the school are from Braco area.
- A shame to close Braco Primary School
- Would be a shame to not be able to walk to school, play after school etc
- Braco school must not close – would be a huge loss to the community. But could run together with Greenloaning – split age groups.
- I would be devastated if this happened. I recognise the limitations of the site as it stands but Braco School has such strong links to the community and the use of the local environment. The school has maintained its role, reflecting the quality and value parents place on it. This is before you go into issues such as safety, transportation etc. etc.
- This shouldn't be an option – 'closing Braco Primary'. What the school may 'lack' it more than makes up for in location and what it can offer children. School and learning shouldn't be contained to 4 walls.
- We deliberately bought a house in Braco rather than Greenloaning because of the school.
- I hope this doesn't happen the school is a vital part of Braco.
- Would not want Braco to close.

- Braco School is an integral part of the community. The numbers speak for themselves. There is plenty of parkland and use of the village hall kitchen should be considered.
- Greenloaning is a nicer site. BUT to remove the school from Braco where most of the kids are from would be terrible for the community.
- I'd be concerned about what would happen to the closed school (either way round). Both villages (the community as a whole) are screaming for community hub/facilities of some kind and not just more houses.
- The road between Braco and Greenloaning too busy and unsuitable for children walking between the two villages.
- Transport issue – would transport be provided for all children from Braco and what about nursery children?
- No safe route between the two villages. Children would have to walk/cycle with cars whizzing past at 60+mph. there is no continuous footpath – need to cross busy road to get over bridge. If transport was provided there would be no guarantee there would be continued provision for this in a stretched budget in years to come.
- Will transport be provided for Braco children? GPS a lovely school, very close to A9. Braco is the school that is open now. Is this fair to Braco pupils moving to Greenloaning?

Comments received at the drop-in session

Are there any other options/proposals that have not been considered?

Comments

- Demolish Braco school and village hall. Put new hall on school site and build new school over hall and play park site.
- Move all children to an extended Greenloaning school. Offers much more potential and far superior facilities than Braco. Braco not fit for purpose and not a clot can be done. Speak to Nicky Muir who owns Braco Castle estate and ask to purchase land. Build new school fit for purpose and sell off Braco and Greenloaning School to help raise funding for new project.
- Have the council considered that Braco & Greenloaning may/do use the Dunblane health centre and so projected future numbers would not fall within the P&K figures. This needs to be highlighted.
- Improve Braco School – could extra land be bought for an additional building? Make it a better building with more space and keep the community together.
- Create accommodation to improve suitability rating connected to village hall.
- Build a new school to replace both existing schools on a greenfield site. Neither schools are ideal as is.
- Extend Greenloaning Primary better grounds for learning and other community activity.
- Move some of the activities from Braco to Greenloaning.
- Greenloaning – release from Education dept. Use a gym/fitness space, pre-school nursery, after school care, soft play, nature conservation, internet café, sports club, additional education space.
- 1. Council already owns village hall + is needing renovated anyway. 2. Both could be done + used as a solution to both.
- Extend Braco – buy village hall + replace with 2 storey building to be used by school + communities.
- Re-do the playground in Braco and put CCTV in both schools.
- Make Braco Primary School a big bigger.
- Childcare in this area is important to sort out before deciding on what school format we have.
- Is there no site where a school could be built to serve both communities?
- Projected numbers for roll given by NHS! I hope figures come from both Health Centre in Dunblane as well as Health Centre in Crieff.
- It is important to have a community focus in both villages. Eg. School in one and community hall in the other.
- 1. School/hall for Braco/Greenloaning 20-30% larger than current Braco School in Braco (behind hall?) ie, go for improving the community/sustainability in long-term.

Comments received at the drop-in session

How would you describe the community within Braco and what are your thoughts on Braco Primary School as part of the community?

Comments

- Braco Primary School is an integral part of the community as is any school in a small village.
- The school is fantastic and creates a sense of community. With the other local amenities closing/closed down it really is the last thing left to bring people together.
- Braco is an integral part of the community. Who would want to live here with no school? It's perfect for families and has been for a number of years.
- Braco school is such an important hub for the village
- School is v. imp't part of community and losing it would make a difficult housing market even worse as no families would consider moving without school facilities. Must keep school in village!
- It's a fabulous wee community and the school has always been at the heart of it – must keep the school!
- Braco Ps is a big part of the community and a main reason people might move to Braco, it brings to whole community together.
- Braco is a great place to live and there is plenty of community spirit if you want it. We don't have much in the way of communal facilities so I think we do really well. My son is no longer at Braco PS but loved his time there. School events are community events and there is a great relationship not least thanks to attitude of head teacher + staff.
- School central to the community.
- 1. More community feeling than Greenloaning. 2. School a great part of the community. 3. Would love to see the Braco/Greenloaning community grow & thrive.
- Community in Braco is growing. Huge increase in families since moved here 4 years ago. Those families are growing.
- The school is the heart of Braco to lose it would be disastrous.
- Braco School enormous compared to Greenloaning (playing field). There is a tennis court, safe children's play park & football area available.
- Braco School has been an important part of village life for many decades. Shutting the school would destroy the village. The school gives much to the community + the community gives much support to the school.
- Braco School is so important to the community. To close it would mean that we would lose families from the village.
- With the shop closing the school is the only place where there's a communal gathering ground for social interaction between all children and parents – without it this community will suffer badly!

- Hugely important to the community! Do not close Braco!
- 1. Very active community in Braco + many links through the generations. 2. Braco Primary School a major heart to the village/school events excellent. 3. So sad that out of school care club closed all these years ago. 4. Please councillors don't close us down. 5. Revitalise the community/school + hall.
- Major to the community! Do not close Braco P.S! All staff are brilliant!!!

Comments received at the drop-in session

How would you describe the community within Greenloaning and what are your thoughts on Greenloaning Primary School as part of the community?

Comments

- Greenloaning Primary was the hub of the village and the only thing that brought the community together. It is vital that this valuable resource is not lost and Braco parents are not in receipt of full facts as to why numbers fell at GPS in the first place!
- The school was the only shared community space in Greenloaning. Since the closure we rarely even see kids playing at the park – all too busy commuting from neighbouring villages.
- Not close knit, but could be and this would be part of a good vision. 2. Lovely school (Greenloaning) 3. Don't mind children going to Braco. 4. Would rather see 1 excellent slightly larger school – built at Braco. 5. Would love to see the Greenloaning/Braco community grow & thrive.
- Community in Greenloaning is much diminished – thanks to the lack of interest in keeping the school open. Shameful.
- Apart from school grounds Greenloaning has very little play area and zero areas for kicking a ball! Not very good for kids!
- I don't live in Greenloaning but have heard people who do live there say that there is, among some sections, less interest in getting involved.
- The Greenloaning School seems 'nice' but way too close to the A9 for my liking. Improve Braco School please.
- 1. Good idea to use both buildings if transport arranged. Greenloaning requires this. 2. New families have moved in since mothball. Grounds at Greenloaning have better facilities than Braco and could be well used.
- Greenloaning Primary is the only community place the area has. The school is fantastic and the main reason I moved to the area. My child excelled and since forced to move has not done so well.
- Greenloaning Primary was the heart of the community! Greenloaning has fantastic grounds to allow children to play and expand their outdoor learning.
- Greenloaning school has green space which Braco doesn't have.
- Opening Greenloaning School again would be good for the community.

Other Responses Received:

- Having attended the drop in session I was very disappointed by the lack of any information about the possible options. Amongst the lack of information there were two glaring deficiencies in my opinion.
- First, I asked whether the journey between Greenloaning and Braco had been assessed as a safe walking route. No one had an answer to this. Whether it is safe for children to walk between the villages will clearly have a significant impact on which option is most suitable. I would hope that the council will assess this route and consider the impact this will have on the different options.
- Second, I was told that predicted rolls are calculated solely on the basis of NHS figures. This would seem a very inaccurate method as it makes the assumption that there is either no migration OR migration is balanced. Yet, is it not possible that migration is unbalanced? Is there a trend for young families to be moving in or out of these villages? Rather tellingly, there is an inaccuracy in the options that states "...to consider projected decrease in occupancy at Braco..." - which is untrue as projected rolls predict stable occupancy at Braco. When I questioned this at the drop in session, it was intimated that the predicted figures must have changed since those options were first drafted. Is this an indicator of net immigration of young families into the catchment?
- I think estimating pupils rolls more accurately is important because the capacity at Braco alone may not be sufficient if young families tend to be attracted into the catchment. Capacity at Braco is currently 68. The combined predicted roll for 2018/19 is 60 - so if both schools merge there will be just 8 places surplus. Net immigration of young families could easily tip the balance. If the suitability of Braco School is improved and if parent council can help to improve childcare provision, there may be even more of a draw for young families. Back in 2007 the combined roll of the two schools was 94. How possible is it that these kinds of figures could be reached again over the next 10-20 years. There is certainly the housing stock to support such numbers.
- In terms of the other information I tried to gain from the drop in session....
- I asked how the suitability of the school at Braco could be improved. As there was no information provided about this I am unable to provide an informed opinion on whether this option might be better than any other.
- I asked how the capacity at Greenloaning might be increased to accommodate both schools. As there was no information provided about this I am unable to provide an informed opinion on whether this option might be better than any other.
- I asked for any detail of how a split school site might operate. As there was no information provided about this I am unable to provide an informed opinion on whether this option might be better than any other.

- I asked how catchment areas might be reviewed. As there was no information provided about this I am unable to provide an informed opinion on whether this option might be better than any other. – Questionnaire completed online
- What would the adaptations look like in either school? – completed questionnaire at the drop-in session

Appendix 2

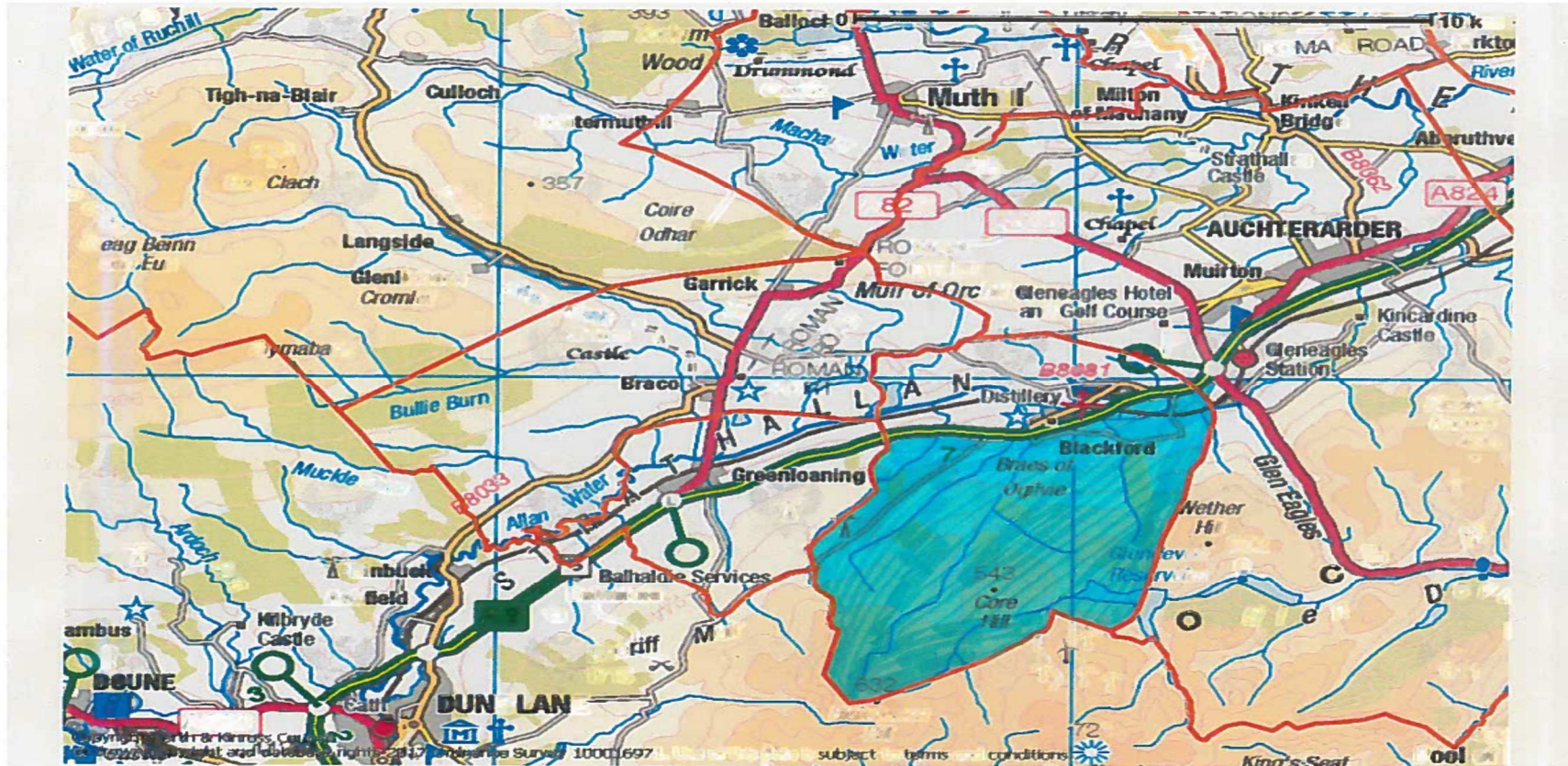
This table considers current pupils living nearby in adjoining catchments, for which Education and Children’s Services holds information. The numbers of pupils detailed in the table is the maximum number of pupils that could attend the school. These numbers may be less as current pupils are likely to remain in their current school and nursery parents have the right to choose a different school from their catchment.

Information is also provided through the NHS for under 5’s. This information has been aggregated by the NHS because numbers are small and therefore we are considering pre-school children as a whole rather than in individual year groups.

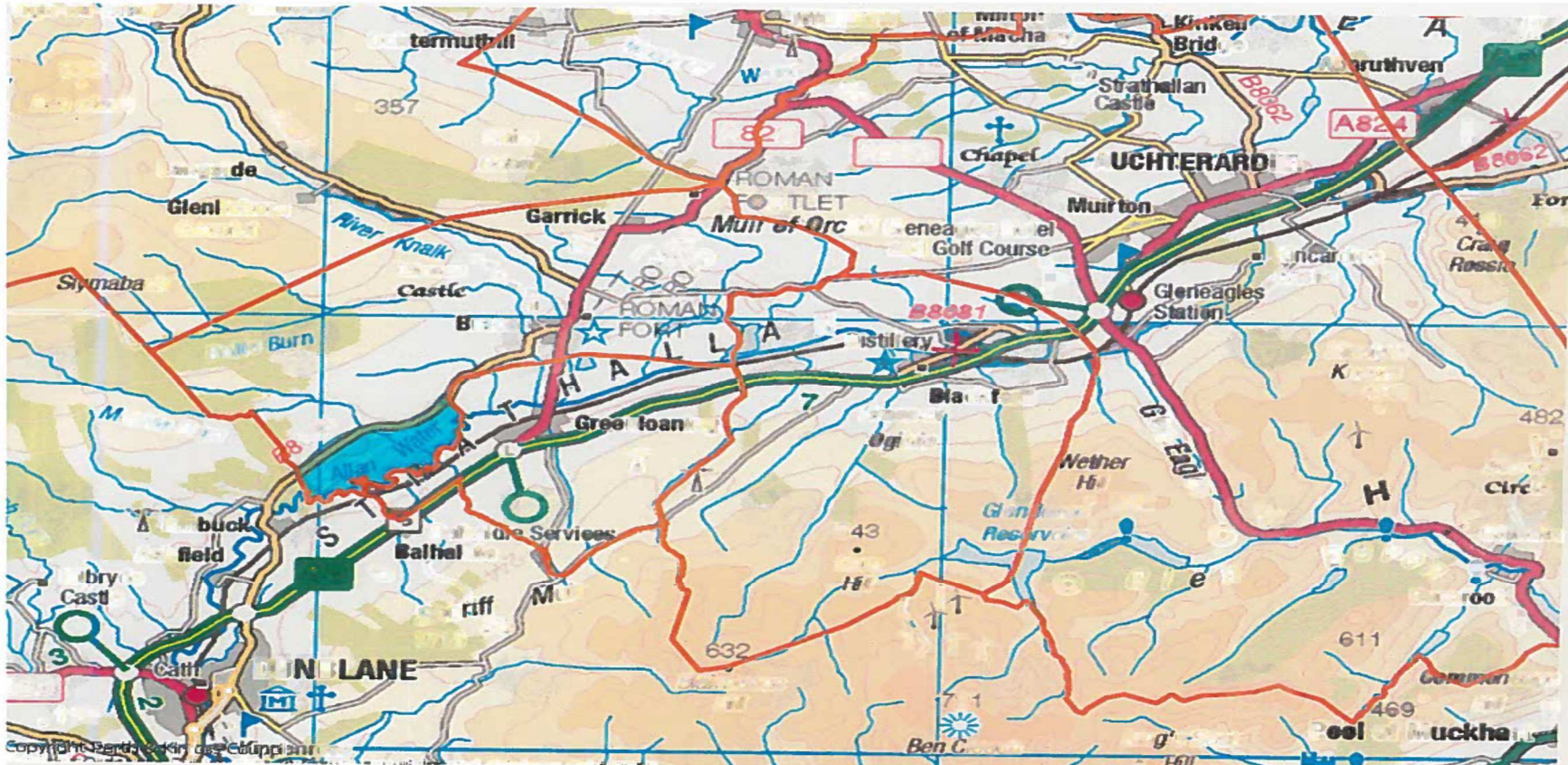
Catchment Area Proposed	Other School Catchment Impacted	Primary School pupils in area	Pre-5s in area	Analysis
<p>Moving existing Greenloaning Primary School catchment boundary to the east.</p> <p>See Appendix 2a</p>	<p>Blackford Primary School</p>	<p>2</p>	<p><5</p>	<p>There are very few primary school age pupils living anywhere in the area highlighted and under 5 pre-school age children. The majority of pupils in the Blackford Primary School catchment live north of the A9.</p> <p>Moving the catchment boundary north of the A9 would make Blackford Primary School unsustainable and Greenloaning Primary School capacity would be breached.</p> <p>The pupils living in the area highlighted do not attend their catchment school. The travel distance and time to reach Greenloaning Primary School would be less for these pupils compared to travelling to their placement school.</p>
<p>Moving existing Greenloaning Primary School catchment boundary to the</p>	<p>Braco Primary School</p>	<p>3</p>	<p><5</p>	<p>There are very few primary school age pupils living anywhere in the area highlighted and under 5 pre-school age children. The majority of pupils in the Braco Primary School catchment live in and around Braco.</p>

<p>north west.</p> <p>See Appendix 2b</p>				<p>The pupils living in the area highlighted would have further to travel to reach Greenloaning Primary School than they do to reach Braco Primary School.</p> <p>Moving the catchment boundary to the north has been discounted as this where the majority of pupils in the Braco Primary School catchment live.</p> <p>If the catchment boundary was to move to the north this would result in the approved capacity at Greenloaning Primary School being breached and would make Braco Primary School roll unsustainable.</p>
-------------------------------------------	--	--	--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Moving existing Greenloaning Primary School catchment boundary to the east – into Blackford Primary School catchment area



Moving existing Greenloaning Primary School catchment area to the north west – into Braco Primary School catchment area.



Appendix 3

Current revenue costs for school proposed for closure			
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)
Braco Primary School			
<i>School costs</i>			
<i>Employee costs -</i>			
teaching staff	£ 184,234.00	£ -	£ 184,234.00
support staff	£ 36,499.00	£ -	£ 36,499.00
teaching staff training (CPD etc)	£ 263.00	£ -	£ 263.00
Supply costs	£ 3,496.00	£ -	£ 3,496.00
Slippage Target	-£ 6,029.00	£ -	-£ 6,029.00
<i>Building costs:</i>			
non domestic rates	£ -	£ -	£ -
water & sewerage charges	£ 821.00	£ -	£ 821.00
energy costs	£ 10,074.00	£ -	£ 10,074.00
cleaning (contract or inhouse)	£ 8,851.00	£ -	£ 8,851.00
building repair & maintenance	£ 6,446.00	£ -	£ 6,446.00
grounds maintenance	£ 234.00	£ -	£ 234.00
other	£ 514.00	£ -	£ 514.00

<i>School operational costs:</i>			
learning materials	£ 2,396.00	£ -	£ 2,396.00
<i>Transport costs: note 3</i>			
home to school			£ -
other pupil transport costs	£ -	£ -	£ -
staff travel	£ 644.00	£ -	£ 644.00
SCHOOL COSTS SUB-TOTAL	£ 248,443.00	£ -	£ 248,443.00
Income:			
Other	£ -		£ -
SCHOOL INCOME SUB-TOTAL	£ -		£ -
TOTAL COSTS MINUS INCOME FOR SCHOOL	£ 248,443.00	£ -	£ 248,443.00
UNIT COST PER PUPIL PER YEAR	£ 4,968.86	£ -	£ 4,968.86

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.

Name of School Greenloaning Primary School	Costs for full financial year (2017-18)	Additional financial impact on receiving school [Braco]	Annual recurring savings (column 2 minus column 3)
School costs			
<i>Employee costs -</i>			
teaching staff	£ 80,301.00	£ -	£ 80,301.00
support staff	£ 18,466.00	£ -	£ 18,466.00
teaching staff training (CPD etc)	£ 475.00	£ -	£ 475.00
Supply costs	£ 1,473.00	£ -	£ 1,473.00
Slippage Target	-£ 2,182.00	£ -	-£ 2,182.00
<i>Building costs:</i>			
non domestic rates	£ -	£ -	£ -
water & sewerage charges	£ 444.00	£ -	£ 444.00
energy costs	£ 7,516.00	£ -	£ 7,516.00
cleaning (contract or inhouse)	£ 6,089.00	£ -	£ 6,089.00
building repair & maintenance	£ 9,794.00	£ -	£ 9,794.00
grounds maintenance	£ 1,435.00	£ -	£ 1,435.00
other	£ 446.00	£ -	£ 446.00
<i>School operational costs:</i>			
learning materials	£ 1,164.00	£ 289.80	£ 874.20
<i>Transport costs: note 3</i>			

home to school	£ -	£ -	£ -
other pupil transport costs	£ -	£ -	£ -
staff travel	£ 30.00	£ -	£ 30.00
SCHOOL COSTS SUB-TOTAL	£ 125,451.00	£ 289.80	£ 125,161.20
Income:			
Other	£ -		£ -
SCHOOL INCOME SUB-TOTAL	£ -		£ -
TOTAL COSTS MINUS INCOME FOR SCHOOL	£ 125,451.00	£ 289.80	£ 125,161.20

UNIT COST PER PUPIL PER YEAR	£ 17,921.57	£ 41.40	£ 17,880.17
Annual Property costs incurred (moth-balling) until disposal			
property insurance	£ -		
non domestic rates	£ -		
water & sewerage charges	£ 400.00		
energy costs	£ 1,250.00		
cleaning (contract or inhouse)	£ -		
security costs	£ -		
building repair & maintenance	£ -		
grounds maintenance	£ -		
other	£ -		
TOTAL ANNUAL COST UNTIL DISPOSAL	£ 1,650.00		

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.

Appendix 4

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across all of Scotland in a consistent way. It allows effective targeting of policies and funding where the aim is to wholly or partly tackle or take account of area concentrations of multiple deprivation. SIMD provides information to help improve the understanding about the outcomes and circumstances of people living in the most deprived areas in Scotland.

SIMD ranks to quintiles, deciles and vigintiles. Quintiles split data zones into 5 groups, each containing 20% of data zones. The lower the quintile the more deprived the area.

ACORN is a well-developed segmentation tool which categorises the UK's population into demographic types. Acorn segments households, postcodes and neighbourhoods into 6 categories, 18 groups and 62 types, based on a range of different data collected in many ways.

ACORN is used to understand life and living conditions, lifestyles, behaviours and attitudes and can therefore help inform the public service needs of neighbourhoods and households.

There are 5 categories ACORN reports on; Category 1 Affluent Achievers, Category 2 Rising Prosperity, Category 3 Comfortable Communities, Category 4 Financially Stretched and Category 5 Urban Adversity.

Category 5 indicates the level of deprivation within an area.

SIMD and ACORN are based on address.