

# THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT



## PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

### EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

#### PROPOSAL PAPER

The following schools are affected by this proposal document:

- **Blairingone Primary School**
- **Fossoway Primary School**

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

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A link to an electronic version of this document will be provided by letter to:

- The Parent Council (if any) of the affected schools
- The parents of the pupils and children at the affected schools
- The parents of children expected to attend an affected school within 2 years of the date of publication of this proposal document
- The teaching and ancillary staff at the affected schools
- The trade union representatives of the above staff
- The Community Councils
- Relevant users of the affected schools
- Elected Members of Perth and Kinross Council
- The Constituency MSP and List MSPs covering the Constituency
- The Constituency MP
- The Executive Director, Housing & Environment, Perth and Kinross Council
- Tayside Contracts
- LiveActive Leisure
- Education Scotland

A copy of this document is also available from:

- Education and Children's Services, 2 High Street, Perth, PH1 5PH
- Fossoway Primary School, Drum, Kinross, KY13 0UL

This document is available in alternative formats or in translated form for readers whose first language is not English. Please apply to Education and Children's Services, 2 High Street, Perth, PH1 5PH by telephone on 01738 476200; or by e-mail: [ECSGeneralEnquiries@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:ECSGeneralEnquiries@pkc.gov.uk)

## **CONSULTATION WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

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

## **SUMMARY OF PROCESS FOR THIS PROPOSAL DOCUMENT**

### **1. Consideration by the Lifelong Learning Committee**

This proposal document has been issued as a result of a decision on 16 May 2018 of the Lifelong Learning Committee of Perth and Kinross Council ([Report No 18/155](#) refers). This is to seek views on the proposals in this paper.

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

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

### **3. Publication of advertisement in local newspapers**

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

### **4. Length of consultation period**

An advertisement will be placed in local newspapers on Monday 27 August 2018. The consultation will run from Monday 27 August 2018 until close of business on Friday 5 October 2018, which includes a period of 30 school days.

### **5. Public meeting**

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

### **6. Involvement of Education Scotland**

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

Education Scotland will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal not later than 3 weeks after the Authority has sent them all representations and documents mentioned above. For the avoidance of doubt, the 3 week period will not start until after the consultation period has ended. In preparing their report, Education Scotland may enter the affected schools and make such reasonable enquiries of such people there as they consider appropriate and may make such reasonable enquiries of such other people as they consider appropriate.

## **7. Preparation of consultation report**

The Education Authority will review the proposal having regard to the Education Scotland Report, written representations that it has received and oral representations made to it by any person at the public meeting. It will then prepare a consultation report. This report will be published in electronic and printed formats and will be published on the Council website. It will be available on the Council website and from Education & Children's Services at 2 High Street, Perth free of charge. Anyone who made written representations to the Authority during the consultation period will also be informed about the report.

The report will include:

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

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

## **8. Decision**

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

## **9. Note on Corrections**

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

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

## **10. Scottish Ministers Call-in**

When the Education Authority has made a final decision whether to implement the proposal, it will require to notify the Scottish Ministers of that decision, and provide them with a copy of the proposal document and consultation report. This must be done within 6 working days of that decision.

The Education Authority must also publish on its website the fact that it has notified Scottish Ministers of its decision and of the period during which consultees have the opportunity to make representations to Ministers. For rural school closures, the Education Authority must also give notice of the reasons why the Council is satisfied that closure is the most appropriate response to the reasons for bringing forward the proposal. The Scottish Ministers have an 8 week period from the date of that final decision to decide if they will call-in the proposal. Within the first 3 weeks of that 8 week period, the Scottish Ministers will take account of any relevant representations made to them by any person. Until the outcome of the 8 week call-in process is known, the Authority cannot proceed to implement the proposal.

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

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

- Ministers have a power to call in a closure decision, but only where it appears to Ministers that the Council has failed in a significant regard to comply with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act's requirements or, in coming to its decision, has failed to take proper account of a material consideration relevant to the proposal. Ministers have up to 8 weeks from the date of the Council's decision to decide whether or not to issue a call-in notice.
- During the first 3 weeks of this period, anyone is able to make representations to Ministers on whether the decision should be called-in.
- During the call-in period, the Council may not proceed further, in whole or part, with the proposed closure. Ministers may come to a decision sooner than 8 weeks (but not before the 3 weeks for representations to be made to them has elapsed).
- The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act, as amended, gives Ministers and School Closure Review Panels the right to call on advice from Education Scotland in relation to a proposal at the call-in or determination stage.

## **11. Note**

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

## **PUBLIC MEETINGS**

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

The meetings will be an opportunity for interested parties to:

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

The meetings will be held on:

**Date – Thursday 6 September 2018**

**Time – 7.00 pm**

**Venue – Fossoway Primary School, Drum**

**Date – Tuesday 18 September 2018**

**Time – 7.00 pm**

**Venue – Blairingone Primary School, Blairingone**

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

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

**THIS IS A PROPOSAL DOCUMENT**

Proposal :

That, subject to the outcome of this proposal:

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

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

## **1. REASONS FOR FORMULATING THE PROPOSAL**

- 1.1 Blairingone Primary School is a single teacher primary school serving the village of Blairingone and the surrounding area and is a feeder primary school for Kinross High School.
- 1.2 The capacity of Blairingone Primary School is 25 pupils. The Blairingone Primary School roll at Census 2011 was 11 pupils and at Census 2017 was 4 pupils giving an occupancy of 16%.

There were 17 pupils living within the catchment area for Blairingone Primary School at Census 2017. However, 8 of these pupils attended other schools in Perth and Kinross and 5 pupils from the catchment area attend Strathdevon School in Dollar as a result of successful placing requests made by their parents. It is possible that other pupils attend Dollar Academy, however this information is not available.

- 1.3 Data on pre-school children registered with GP practices living in the Blairingone Primary School catchment shows that although potential P1 intake numbers have remained relatively low over the last few years, they are much higher than the number of pupils who are attending the school.
- 1.4 Future pupil projections have been considered using aggregated GP registration data and Blairingone Primary School pupil numbers are projected to remain static over the next 4 years. There are low numbers of pre-school children projected to attend Blairingone Primary School over the next 4 years.

Pupil projections in the catchment area do not indicate that the potential pupil numbers will increase in the future and there is no suggestion going forward that this is likely to change.

- 1.5 The projected future pupil numbers for the school does not include pupil numbers from house building. This is because the house building has been planned for some time without sites developing and it is felt the programming contained within the Housing Land Audit (HLA) is optimistic.
- 1.6 These circumstances result in a diminished and unsustainable school pupil population for Blairingone Primary School. There is no foreseeable prospect of an increased, stable pupil population. The provision of primary education within Blairingone needs to be considered in the context of the needs of the pupils and the local community, both now and in the future.
- 1.7 As part of an [options appraisal](#), information was collated on pupil numbers, housebuilding, finances, the school, travel arrangements, environmental impact and the local area and community to inform the options. A pre-consultation exercise was also carried out with the local community to inform the options appraisal.

## **2. VISION, BACKGROUND AND STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES**

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

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

- 2.2 The Council's Transformation Strategy 2015-2020 'Building Ambition' and Organisational Development Framework were approved by Council on 1 July 2015 ([Report No. 15/292 refers](#)). They detail how Perth and Kinross Council will deliver transformation over the next five years. Accompanying the strategy is a programme of major reviews which are considered to be key drivers and enablers of transformation across the organisation.

On 24 August 2016, Lifelong Learning Committee ([Report No. 16/347 refers](#)) approved principles to be used as a basis for the transformation review, 'Securing the Future of the School Estate'.

- 2.3 This approach reflects the Single Outcome Agreement National Outcome 15 that "Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs", and the Local Outcome that "Our services will be responsive, of high quality and continually improving".



This report also links with the School Estate Management Plan, Education and Children's Services Policy Framework Maximising Resources and with the Education and Children's Services objective to develop the range and quality learning experiences for all.

- 2.4 On 2 November 2016, the Council approved the report "Securing the Future of the School Estate – Next Steps" ([Report 16/485 refers](#)). This report detailed the outcome of the high level review and proposed to proceed with further work on the schools which did not meet the suitability, condition or occupancy principles. In this report, it approved the development of an options appraisal in relation to the future of Blairingone Primary School due to under-occupancy.
- 2.5 On 16 May 2018, Lifelong Learning Committee considered the [options appraisal](#) and agreed to commence formal consultation on a proposal to close Blairingone Primary School ([Report No 18/155](#) refers) in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 2.6 The 2010 Act's principal purpose is to provide strong, accountable statutory consultation practices and procedures that local authorities must apply to their handling of all proposals for school closures and other major changes to schools. These consultation processes are expected to be robust, open, transparent and fair, and seen to be so. They are also expected to be consistent across Scotland.
- 2.7 The 2010 Act makes special arrangements in relation to rural schools, and establishes a presumption against the closure of rural schools. The result of this is that education authorities must have special regard to a number of factors before formalising a proposal to close a rural school and in consulting on and reaching a decision as to whether to implement a rural school closure proposal.
- 2.8 These duties are outlined in the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010 and the accompanying Statutory Guidance](#).
- 2.9 Councils have a statutory duty in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to make adequate and efficient provision of school education across their entire area for the current school population and future pattern of demand.

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

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

- 2.11 The Education (Scotland) Act 2016 amends the Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000 by adding in new duties to address inequality of outcome. These duties apply in different ways to both Scottish Ministers and education authorities. Where the education authority is making or implementing strategic decisions about school education, it is required to have due regard to the need to carry out its functions in a way which is designed to reduce inequalities of outcome. This is particularly directed in the Act towards pupils who experience those inequalities through socio-economic disadvantage, but there is also a power to extend the range of pupils who are covered by this duty.

### **3. BLAIRINGONE AND THE LOCAL AREA**

- 3.1 The small settlement of Blairingone is situated on the western boundary of Perth and Kinross, approximately 10 miles west of Kinross.
- 3.2 Blairingone is a former mining village and has been the subject of limited growth over the past 20 years.
- 3.3 There are no other facilities or services in Blairingone other than the primary school. The nearest local amenities for the community, other than the school, are in Dollar in Clackmannanshire, which is approximately 3 miles from Blairingone. Dollar has a doctor's surgery, dentist, pharmacist, post office and a number of shops. In Crook of Devon, which is approximately 4.7 miles away, there is a village hall for community use, a village store including post office and an inn.
- 3.4 Blairingone Primary School is approximately 4.5 miles<sup>1</sup> from Fossoway Primary School. Strathdevon Primary School, which is in Dollar, is approximately 3 miles away.
- 3.5 Data on pre-school children registered with GP practices living in Blairingone catchment shows that the number of children eligible to start school over the next 4 years (2018 - 2021) is 14. The data also indicates that the number of primary school pupils living in the area has increased in recent years but also that the number attending alternative primary schools has also increased.
- 3.6 The methodology applied for projecting future P1 intakes uses aggregated GP registration data. The anonymised data, sourced from the NHS reflects children registered with a GP, within specific school catchments areas. P1 pupils included within the data received from the NHS do not always decide to 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. It should be noted that due to the fluid nature of pupil movements within the school estate, for a number of different reasons, 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Google Maps

- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 The Proposed Local Development Plan (LDP2) was approved for consultation by Council on 22 November 2017 ([Report No. 17/387](#) refers). The aspiration is to have a final LDP to adopt by Spring 2019. A more flexible LDP2 framework for the landowners/community at Blairingone is being proposed due to the concerns over the effectiveness of site H74 due to concerns over ground stability as a result of past mine operations. The Council's proposed LDP2 proposes expanding H74 to create a new site named MU74. MU74 will include a maximum of 30 homes i.e. the same number of homes as in the current LDP, up to 2028.

It will also allow the opportunity for other uses such as community and small scale retail to come forward. The capacity restriction of 30 houses will form part of the adopted LDP2, if the site is not recommended for deletion, as no objection to this restriction has been raised by its consultation. In addition to H74/MU74 there are a number of small sites which are expected to build out in the next 4 to 6 years.

- 3.9 Information indicates that planned housebuilding is unlikely to build out within timescales provided in the Housing Land Audit (HLA) as many have been in the planning stage for a number of years.
- 3.10 It is projected that house building in the Blairingone Primary School catchment area will continue to be limited with few if any additional pupils for the school.

#### **4. BLAIRINGONE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

- 4.1 Blairingone Primary School provides non-denominational education to pupils from P1 - P7 from the village of Blairingone and surrounding area. There is no nursery provision at Blairingone Primary School. A plan of the school site for Blairingone Primary School is attached as Appendix 3.
- 4.2 The catchment area for Blairingone Primary School adjoins the catchment area for Fossoway Primary School. It also has boundaries with Clackmannanshire and Fife. The school catchment area boundary extends to Arndean in the North, Newhall to the South, Tethyknowe to the East and Mains of Blairingone to the West. Appendix 1 shows the present school catchment area for Blairingone Primary School.
- 4.3 The Scottish Government's Rural School List 2017 classifies Blairingone Primary School as an "accessible rural" school under Section 14 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The classification is based on two main criteria, settlement size and accessibility based on drive time. For Blairingone 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).
- 4.4 The school structure has one composite class across stages Primary 1 – 7.

- 4.5 Historical and projected pupil roll data for Blairingone Primary School is attached as Appendix 5. This data shows that the roll of Blairingone Primary School has been falling over the last 5 years, with pupil numbers unlikely to increase above their present level.
- 4.6 The majority of children in the catchment area attend other primary schools rather than Blairingone Primary by way of placing request.
- 4.7 There were no P1 pupils enrolled at Blairingone Primary School for 2018. In 4 out of the past 6 years, there have been no P1 pupils enrolled at the school. This would leave the school roll at between 4 and 5 pupils for the period 2018 - 2022, assuming all future new P1 pupils living in Blairingone catchment area attended Blairingone Primary School.
- 4.8 Throughout Scotland, core facts are gathered and published on school buildings. The definition and assessment categorisations are set by the Scottish Government as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 4.9 A condition survey was carried out on the building in January 2017 and the overall site is rated as condition 'B' (Satisfactory – performing adequately but showing minor deterioration). Condition is an assessment of the physical condition of the school and its grounds.

- 4.10 The overall suitability of Blairingone Primary School building is categorised as 'B' (Satisfactory - performing well but with minor problems). Suitability is an assessment of the school as a whole, its buildings and its grounds and the impact these have on learning and teaching, leisure and social activities and the health and wellbeing of all users.
- 4.11 Planned and unplanned maintenance on the school building in the last 3 financial years cost £21,413.
- The approximate cost to upgrade the property is £245,424 for building fabric, mechanical and electrical works which include ventilation, heating systems and insulation. These works are not required immediately but in the medium term which is 2-5 years.
- 4.12 The school site and the school building are owned by Perth and Kinross Council. There are no title restrictions which would prohibit the Council from selling the site. There is no record of the building, or any part of the building being listed with Historic Scotland.
- 4.13 The school pupils invite the community into the school for plays, fundraising events and other events during the school term. The Community Council uses the school for their meetings on occasion. The meetings alternate between Fossoway Primary School, Blairingone Primary School and Powmill Moubray Hall. There have been no other formal lets of the school recently.

## **5. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 5.1 In arriving at the proposal set out within this Proposal Paper, the Council has considered a number of alternative options for the future of Blairingone Primary School as part of the options appraisal:
- Option 1 – School remains open.
  - Option 2 - Consider mothballing the school – move pupils to Fossoway Primary School.
  - Option 3 - Consider closing the school – move pupils to Fossoway Primary School.
  - Option 4 - Catchment area is reviewed to determine whether this would increase the school roll sufficiently to ensure the future sustainability of the school.
- 5.2 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 Benefi

## **6. ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS**

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

### **6.1 Blairingone Primary School remains open**

- 6.1.1 The pupil roll projections reflect that there is no evidence to suggest that the roll will significantly increase in future years. Low future pupil numbers are unlikely to lead to a sufficient increase to make the school roll sustainable.
- 6.1.2 It is likely that house building in the Blairingone Primary School catchment area over the next 4 years will be limited and will result in few, if any, additional pupils for the school as a result.
- 6.1.3 The financial implications of retaining the 'status quo' for the school are a continuation of the current running costs of approximately £115,574 per annum. There is a capital cost of approximately £245,424 required to upgrade the building in future years.
- 6.1.4 This option will not affect the community, travel arrangements or current pupils.
- 6.1.5 The reason for taking forward an options appraisal for Blairingone Primary School was that pupil numbers had been consistently low over recent years and there was concern over the sustainability of the school. The pupil roll projections reflect that there is no evidence to suggest that the roll will significantly increase in future years. The key issue is that out of 17 children who could attend the school currently, 12 of them attend neighbouring schools. In addition, low future pupil numbers are unlikely to lead to a sufficient increase to make the school roll sustainable.
- 6.1.6 It has not been possible to identify other steps which could increase the roll, whilst maintaining the status quo in terms of catchment area. This is therefore not considered a reasonable alternative.

### **6.2 Consider mothballing Blairingone Primary School and move pupils to Fossoway Primary School**

- 6.2.1 If Blairingone Primary School was mothballed, pupils would be accommodated at Fossoway Primary School which is approximately 4.5 miles away and is the nearest school in Perth and Kinross. Four out of 5 of the children at Blairingone are within walking distance of Blairingone Primary School. Children would have to travel between approximately 4.2 miles and approximately 6.4 miles to attend Fossoway Primary School. The maximum time spent travelling on the bus would be 27 minutes for the child who has to travel furthest. In some other more rural areas within Perth and Kinross, pupils are travelling greater distances on more minor roads to reach their school. Pupils would be entitled to free home to school transport if they live more than 2 miles away from the school they are designated to attend.

- 6.2.2 The revenue savings generated from mothballing Blairingone Primary School amount to approximately £85,626 annually. This is made up of staff and building costs however this takes account of additional transport costs of £28,500 for current pupils to attend Fossoway Primary School.
- 6.2.3 There would be reduced energy consumption if the school is to be mothballed. Children would travel further to school in Crook of Devon, however most would be provided with transport, including those who already attend Fossoway Primary School as the result of a successful placing request currently.
- 6.2.4 The roll at Blairingone Primary School is unlikely to exceed 5 pupils in the next 4 years. There is evidence that pupils from the catchment area currently choose to attend other schools in the area instead of Blairingone Primary School and this will be for a range of reasons. In addition, it is likely that house building in the Blairingone Primary School catchment area over the next 4 years will be limited with few, if any, additional pupils for the school as a result.
- 6.2.5 It is also possible that if the school is mothballed, pending an increase in pupil numbers, children will become settled at Fossoway Primary School and would not return to Blairingone Primary School in the event of the school re-opening at a future date.
- 6.2.6 It could be considered that mothballing creates continued uncertainty for parents and the community. In addition, there are no opportunities to progress alternative uses for the building, which may include community asset transfer, lease or sale of the building, all of which may benefit the wider community. Therefore, on balance, it is considered that mothballing is more likely to be a negative than a positive, in terms of community impact.
- 6.2.7 If Blairingone Primary School was mothballed on an indefinite basis, Perth and Kinross Council would incur annual costs to maintain the building. Unoccupied buildings can deteriorate more rapidly than operational premises and can become a focus for opportunistic crimes and/or targets for vandalism whether the premises are located in urban or rural areas.
- 6.2.8 For the reasons above, mothballing the school in anticipation of increased pupil numbers due to house building is therefore not considered a reasonable alternative.

### **6.3 Consider closing Blairingone Primary School and move pupils to Fossoway Primary**

- 6.3.1 If Blairingone Primary School was closed, pupils would be accommodated at Fossoway Primary School which is approximately 4.5 miles away and is the nearest school in Perth and Kinross. Four out of 5 of the children at Blairingone are within walking distance of Blairingone Primary School. Children would have to travel between approximately 4.2 miles and approximately 6.4 miles to attend Fossoway Primary School. The maximum time spent travelling on the bus would be 27 minutes for the child who has to travel furthest. In some other more rural areas within Perth and Kinross, pupils are travelling greater distances on more minor roads to reach their school. Pupils would be entitled to free home to school transport if they live more than 2 miles away from their designated school.

- 6.3.2 Fossoway Primary School currently accommodates a number of pupils from Blairingone Primary as a result of placing requests. Pupil numbers at Fossoway are projected to remain static for the next 4 years. Fossoway Primary has capacity to continue to accommodate the projected pupil numbers should Blairingone Primary School be closed. This option is considered to be reasonable and further detail is provided in relation to educational benefits, travel, environmental impact, community impact and financial impact in Sections 10 -14.
- 6.3.3 There will be environmental benefits from a reduction in energy consumption if the school is to be closed. There is little negative environmental impact in relation to the transport of pupils or the travel arrangements of staff due to the relatively short distances and small numbers involved. There would be environmental benefits to Blairingone Primary School pupils being transferred to Fossoway Primary School in that they would be transported by the Council rather than travelling individually.
- 6.3.4 The revenue savings generated from closing Blairingone Primary School amount to approximately £85,626 including mothball costs annually. This is predominately made up of staff and building costs and is net of the annual transport costs of £28,500. The capital cost of upgrading the building of £245,424 would not be required. A capital receipt would be forthcoming if the building was sold or income would be generated through a lease.
- 6.3.5 Pupil numbers at Blairingone Primary School have been reducing year on year since 2011 when the school had 11 pupils. This is due to primary school age pupils attending alternative schools as a result of placing requests. The P1 intake figures over the next 4 years are also small, with a maximum of 14 pre-school pupils living in the catchment area. There were no pupils with a Blairingone catchment area address registered to start at Blairingone Primary School in August 2018.
- 6.3.6 It is not considered that the closure of the school would have a negative impact on the sustainability of the community. Blairingone is located approximately 4.5 miles from Fossoway and approximately 3 miles from Dollar. The community currently travel to access health, retail and leisure facilities.
- 6.3.7 The school has not been used for lets recently by the community with the exception of Fossoway Community Council. There is, therefore, likely to be little impact on other users of the school if the school were to close. It is unlikely that closure of the school would result in the building being used for the community, as other community facilities such as the pub and village hall have closed down. The closure of these facilities would appear to indicate that there has not been enough demand to sustain them, possibly due to there being more and better facilities available in Dollar and Crook of Devon.
- 6.3.8 Pupil numbers at Blairingone Primary School have been reducing over recent years and the positive impact of Blairingone pupils on the school roll supports the sustainability of Fossoway Primary School which is also in a rural location and is a rural school.
- 6.3.9 Analysis of recent pupil information shows that the school roll is low primarily due to parents requesting placements at other local schools, including schools in other Local Authority areas. Currently only 5 out of 17 children living in the catchment area attend Blairingone Primary School.



It is likely that house building in the Blairingone Primary School catchment area over the next 4 years will be limited and will result in few, if any, additional pupils for the school as a result.

6.3.10 It is considered that closure of the school is the most appropriate response to the issue of decreasing numbers of young children living in the catchment area. This, coupled with parents choosing to place their children at other primary schools, has led to the very small school roll. There is no indication that the roll will increase in future years as pre-school children numbers are very low and are likely to remain so. This option also has the benefit of supporting the sustainability of Fossoway Primary School, which is approximately 4.5 miles from Blairingone Primary School and is also a rural school. There is no evidence to indicate that this option would have an adverse impact on the community, travelling arrangements or the environment.

#### **6.4 Catchment area is reviewed to determine whether this would increase the school roll sufficiently at Blairingone Primary School to ensure the future sustainability of the school**

6.4.1 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.

6.4.2 The area to the east of Blairingone as far as Powmill was identified as a potential extension to the catchment area, as it is the only area of Perth and Kinross that borders Blairingone Primary School's current catchment area.

6.4.3 The maximum number of primary school pupils who could attend Blairingone Primary School currently from this area is 15.

All of these pupils could choose whether to attend the new catchment school or not. There are fewer than 5 children living in this area under the age of 5.

6.4.4 A survey was compiled to consult with parents/carers in a specific area that would allow the catchment area of Blairingone Primary School to be expanded. Three out of four parents indicated that they would not send their children to Blairingone Primary School if the catchment was changed.

6.4.5 The pupil population from the area east of Blairingone up to Powmill is not sufficient to increase the pupil roll at Blairingone Primary School unless a large number of the primary school pupils attending Fossoway Primary School from the area choose to move school or children from the Blairingone Primary School catchment area start to attend their catchment school. Parents would not be required to move primary age children from their current school when a catchment review takes place and generally parents are reluctant to do so. The survey did not evidence that Powmill parents would act contrary to this. There are not enough pre-school children to make the school roll sustainable.

6.4.6 Therefore, it is unlikely that increasing the catchment area into Powmill would create a sustainable pupil roll for Blairingone Primary School.

This is due to children from the Blairingone Primary School catchment area already choosing not to attend their catchment school and the parents living within the proposed extended area indicating that they would not send their children to Blairingone Primary School if the catchment area was changed. This option is therefore not considered a reasonable alternative.

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

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

## **8. FOSSOWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

- 8.1 Fossoway Primary School is located in the village of Crook of Devon situated on the western boundary of Perth and Kinross, approximately 5.5 miles west of Kinross.
- 8.2 Fossoway Primary School provides non-denominational primary education to P1 – P7 pupils from the villages of Crook of Devon and Drum and surrounding area. There is also nursery provision at Fossoway Primary School which has provision for a maximum of 20 children at any one time, offering up to 40 part-time nursery places. A plan of the school site for Fossoway Primary School is attached as Appendix 4.
- 8.3 The catchment area for Fossoway Primary School adjoins the catchment areas for Blairingone Primary School, Kinross Primary School, Milnathort Primary School, Cleish Primary School, Community School of Auchterarder and Clackmannanshire and Fife Council areas. Appendix 2 shows the present school catchment area for Fossoway Primary School.
- 8.4 Fossoway Primary School has capacity for 150 primary pupils. The pupil roll is 107 pupils (Census 2017) at Fossoway Primary School. The occupancy based on the Census 2017 is 71.3%. The pupil roll of the nursery was 35 pupils (Census 2017).
- 8.5 Fossoway Primary School is classed as an “accessible rural” school under Section 14 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The classification of rural and remote rural is based on two main criteria, settlement size and accessibility based on drive time. For Fossoway Primary School the classification criteria is “areas with a population of less than 3,000 people and within a 30 minute drive time to a settlement of 10,000 or more”.
- 8.6 Historical and projected pupil roll data for Fossoway Primary School is attached as Appendix 6.
- 8.7 The school structure currently operates with 5 composite primary classes.
- 8.8 Fossoway Primary School has been graded ‘A’ for suitability (Good – Performing well and operating efficiently - the school buildings and grounds support the delivery of services to children and communities).

Fossoway Primary School was surveyed on 27 April 2016 and was graded condition 'B' (Satisfactory – performing adequately but showing minor deterioration).

- 8.9 The impact on the school roll of new housing in the Fossoway Primary School catchment area has been examined and future pupil projections have been considered using aggregated GP registration data. Fossoway Primary School pupil numbers are projected to remain static over the next 4 years. The highest projected occupancy level, including house building, for future years at Fossoway Primary School is 78% in 2021/22. Pupil projections in the catchment area do not indicate that the potential pupil numbers will increase in the future and there is no suggestion going forward that this is likely to change.

## **9. EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT**

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

### **Learning and Teaching**

- 9.2 Children attending Fossoway have access to a range of teaching and support staff from early years and primary. Fossoway has a nursery and five primary classes. This allows children to transition throughout the school as they get older and be taught by different practitioners in different settings.
- 9.3 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.
- 9.4 At Fossoway Primary School, staff are challenged and supported through a range of continuous professional development and review, which comes of having a Headteacher and five members of teaching staff, in five classes for 107 pupils (Census 2017). Staff 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 Fossoway means that good use can be made of the local context, for example by involving children in Outdoor Learning. Staff also 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.
- 9.5 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. There is a strong commitment across all staff to lead improvements in learning and teaching from evidence based research. This enhances the quality of learning and teaching through shared opportunities to develop effective approaches and to share and moderate standards. Currently, Fossoway Primary School staff collaborate with other schools on Digital Learning, ensuring that staff share good practice across other schools in the area.

- 9.6 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 staff to be creative in planning for children with additional support needs both universally and for targeted need, thus addressing potential barriers to learning.
- 9.7 The team at Fossoway Primary School have developed a diverse range of family learning programmes to meet the varying needs of families in the community and draws on expertise and knowledge across the community to enhance the learning and experiences for children across the school.
- 9.8 Fossoway Primary School 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. Pupils 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.
- 9.9 The school has support from a Pupil Support Teacher, allowing for specialist teaching, which not only benefits pupils with Additional Support Needs, but all other pupils.

### **Environment for Learning**

- 9.10 The school grounds at Fossoway provide facilities for the pupils to experience a range of team and individual sports, such as football, netball and basketball.
- 9.11 Within the school grounds there are facilities to enhance imaginative learning and play, such as a climbing wall, and fort and garden.
- 9.12 Some classrooms are semi open plan, allowing the opportunity for children to work alongside each other in other classes and break out areas. These break out spaces allow for flexibility in teaching methods and afford a range of learning opportunities, from working in small groups, to allowing children of different stages and classes to work together.
- 9.13 All classrooms have interactive screens, providing the opportunity for children to access the curriculum in modern and innovative ways, through the use of smartboards and interactive technology.
- 9.14 The school uses additional classroom space flexibly to offer nurture support, additional support for learning and a meeting space for working groups, meetings and collaboration with partners.
- 9.15 Fossoway Primary School is accessible for children and adults with Additional Support Needs. It is on one level and has fully accessible toilet facilities for children and adults.

### **Experiences and Opportunities**

- 9.16 The school has pupils of both sexes at each stage, allowing all pupils to interact and socialise with groups of children their own age and sex, at appropriate levels.

- 9.17 The school has a house system that all children are members of, which enhances many aspects of school practice; including learning, promoting positive behaviour, buddying and mentoring, and school events.
- 9.18 Pupil voice is evident at Fossoway Primary through the Learning Council, which allows them the opportunity to share and discuss learning across the school and identify areas for further improvements in the school.
- 9.19 The school focuses on pupil led experiences and opportunities in a range of ways. There are pupil councils, facilitated by a teacher, but pupil led. These are the Eco Council, the Rights Respecting group, the Grounds and Outdoor Learning Council. These give pupils opportunities to lead and make decisions.
- 9.20 Pupils facilitate a range of groups, such as Digital Learning, Fun Learning, Pupil Choir and Ukulele and Guitar Club. In addition, the pupils take control of the weekly school assembly, organising the agenda and ensuring that it runs smoothly, taking into account the needs of pupils and staff.
- 9.21 Fossoway 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, and trips. Family learning programmes have been developed to further enhance parental involvement in children's learning.

### **Summary of Educational Benefits**

- 9.22 Fossoway Primary is a bright, modern school, with mixed sex classes at all stages in the school, including nursery.
- 9.23 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.
- 9.24 Learning and teaching at Fossoway starts with the early years provision, supporting a seamless transition to Primary One.
- 9.25 The building lends itself to modern teaching methods, with good use of break out space, accessible and flexible teaching and outdoor areas and good facilities for sport and leisure.
- 9.26 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.
- 9.27 Learning and teaching at Fossoway 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.
- 9.28 The children and parents of Blairingone Primary School will have access to an educational establishment which has a well-planned and committed approach to taking forward improvement.

There is sufficient capacity at Fossoway Primary School to fully meet the needs of the Blairingone Primary School children without having a detrimental impact on the learning of the existing pupils of Fossoway Primary School.

## **10. DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSAL**

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

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

#### **Community Impact – Loss of the school**

- 10.2 The number of primary pupils attending the school has fallen. However, it seems to be the case that families who do live within the catchment area are more mobile and exercising their right to choose other schools for their children.
- 10.3 At the community engagement session there was much comment on the school being the only remaining amenity within the village. The community suggested that the lack of a school, transport and other amenities would deter families moving into the area. The data on pupil numbers would suggest however that there are families living in the area but that they are not attending the local school. It is clear that families living in the catchment area are travelling to access education as well as other services and so it appears to be an accepted part of life within the community.
- 10.4 In 2017, the Council closed schools in Calvine (Struan Primary School) and Enochdhu (Straloch Primary School) after they had been mothballed for 5 years. The evidence from both areas was that families were not deterred from moving into the area by having to travel to a neighbouring village. There are clear parallels with Blairingone in that the communities already travelled to other local communities to access services. Neither school/community was as accessible as Blairingone, which has a main trunk road (A977) running through the village and is only approximately 10 miles from Kinross and approximately 3 miles to Dollar. Fossoway Primary School is approximately 4.5 miles away.
- 10.5 The evidence indicates that there will be little effect on the sustainability of the community if the school were to close.

#### **Community Impact - Use of the Building**

- 10.6 There are no other facilities or services in Blairingone other than the primary school. Although the school is described as important to the community, a large number of pupils attend alternative primary schools.
- 10.7 There are no other public buildings in Blairingone. However, with the exception of Community Council meetings, there have been no regular lets of the school in recent years by the community.

This indicates that the community does not rely on the school as a public/community facility at present. There is a Village Hall in nearby Crook of Devon and Fossoway Primary School is available for lets.

- 10.8 The Blairingone 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 is situated on the main A977 trunk road. Many other communities in rural Perth and Kinross travel significantly further distances on more minor roads to access services.
- 10.9 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, the Village Hall in Crook of Devon is approximately 4.5 miles from Blairingone accessed by a main road. Closure of the school would therefore have little impact on the existing arrangements of the community.

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

- 11.1 As Blairingone Primary School is a rural school, special regard was paid to the rural school factors. These were considered fully in the Options Appraisal stage and were a focus of the pre-consultation with the community.
- 11.2 The travel distance from Blairingone Primary School to Fossoway Primary School is approximately 4.5 miles with an approximate travel time of 9 minutes. Currently the pupils attending Blairingone Primary School journey between approximately 0.2 miles and 2.7 miles to and from school. Moving to Fossoway Primary School would mean pupil journey distances increase to between 4.2 miles and 6.4 miles each way which is not an unreasonable travelling distance to get to school. Time spent travelling on the bus would be approximately 27 minutes each way for the child who has to travel furthest.
- 11.3 If Blairingone Primary School was permanently closed, all children would be transported by the Council to Fossoway Primary School. The travel distance between Blairingone and Fossoway 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. Taking this option forward would not adversely affect the travel arrangements for current pupils and future pupils are unlikely to have hugely different travel arrangements.
- 11.4 Travelling for primary school education is common across Perth & Kinross because of the geography of the area. A number of pupils from Blairingone already travel to Fossoway Primary School by choice as the result of successful placing requests.
- 11.5 Staff in Perth and Kinross tend to travel throughout the area to work in schools. Many staff do not live within the catchment area of the school they work in. A distance of 4.5 miles is a relatively short distance to travel in rural Perth and Kinross. It is therefore considered that there is very limited impact on staff travelling arrangements.
- 11.6 The community requires to travel to access other services such as GP and dental surgeries, shops and post offices.

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

## **12. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 12.1 There are 8 pupils who already travel from the Blairingone Primary School catchment area to other schools in Perth and Kinross as the result of successful placing requests, for which there is an environmental impact. This would be offset by the requirement to run Blairingone Primary School as an operational building.
- 12.2 Pupils from Blairingone catchment area would be transported by the Council to Fossoway Primary School which reduces environmental impact as they would travel together rather than separately with parents.
- 12.3 The community already requires to travel to access other services such as GP and dental surgeries, shops, post offices and community facilities. Therefore there will be little environmental impact if Blairingone Primary School were to close.

## **13. EFFECTS ON STAFF AND SCHOOL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

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

## **14. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

<b>OPTION</b>	<b>SAVINGS</b>
Cease education provision at Blairingone Primary School and integrate within Fossoway Primary School	£85,626

See Appendix 8 for detailed financial information.

- 14.2 Any savings arising from the proposed option to close Blairingone Primary School will be allocated against Education and Children's Services budget savings targets which have currently been set for the period 2018/19 – 2020/21. This will mitigate against making alternative budget reductions within other areas of Education and Children's Services, with a corresponding reduction in service delivery in that area.



- 14.3 The annual budget is built reflecting cost drivers such as the number of schools, buildings, staff and pupils. Therefore, if Blairingone Primary School were to be closed then future years' budgets would not contain any allowance for staffing Blairingone Primary School and there would be reduced property costs (and possibly no costs, should the building be declared surplus to the Council's requirements). Any per capita budgets relating to individual pupils would continue to be budgeted against the school that these pupils would attend following the closure of Blairingone Primary School.
- 14.4 It is envisaged that the existing Blairingone Primary School will be declared surplus to the requirements of Perth and Kinross Council. This will minimise the financial risks associated with vacant buildings.
- 14.5 A capital receipt would be forthcoming if the building was sold or income could be generated through a lease.
- 14.6 Combining pupils from both catchment areas into one school maximises use of the school estate and represents good asset management, while also enabling the children to continue to attend a rural school. Additionally, the increased roll at Fossoway Primary School contributes towards ensuring a sustainable pupil roll there.

## **15. OTHER ISSUES**

### **Management of Proposals**

- 15.1 It is intended that pupils from Blairingone Primary School will be permanently integrated within Fossoway Primary School from 1 July 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter. This will allow the Council to conduct the necessary consultation in accordance with the relevant statutory frameworks.

## **16. MITIGATION OF ADVERSE EFFECTS**

- 16.1 The main adverse effect for some children from Blairingone is the length of journey from Blairingone to Fossoway. However a number of pupils are already making this journey as the result of a successful placing request.
- 16.2 Funded school transport would be provided by Perth and Kinross Council to primary pupils from Blairingone catchment area attending Fossoway Primary School.

## **17. CONCLUSION**

- 17.1 In summary, it is proposed that a statutory consultation exercise takes place on a proposal to close Blairingone Primary School. As a result, pupils would be zoned to Fossoway Primary School and the catchment area of Blairingone Primary School would be redelineated to Fossoway Primary School.
- 17.2 Although the school is described as important to the community, a large number of pupils attend alternative primary schools.

- 17.3 Data from the NHS shows a small number of pre-school children living in the catchment area over the next 4 years.
- 17.4 The projected pupil roll for Blairingone Primary School is likely to be a maximum of 5 pupils in the next 4 years. This is insufficient to create a sustainable roll. It is also likely, given past patterns, that parents of new P1s would choose to send their child to Fossoway Primary School, which is approximately 4.5 miles away, or an alternative primary school and that the roll may not be 5 pupils.
- 17.5 It is likely that house building in the Blairingone Primary School catchment area over the next 4 years will continue to be limited with few, if any, additional pupils for the school as a result.
- 17.6 Future pupil projections have been considered and Fossoway Primary School can accommodate all projected and potential pupils from the combined catchment areas. A higher occupancy level maximises use of the school estate and represents good asset management.
- 17.7 Travel distance to the neighbouring school is not excessive and pupils attending Fossoway Primary School already make this journey. However, it is recognised that adverse weather in the winter can impact on travel arrangements in this area.
- 17.8 Members of the community are travelling to access other services such as GP and dental surgeries, shops and post offices and so it appears to be an accepted part of life within the community.
- 17.9 Environmental impacts have been summarised and detailed work will be done as part of the environmental assessment for this proposal.
- 17.10 The only option which is considered to be a reasonable response to address the issue of an unsustainable school roll is to consider closing Blairingone Primary School, with the pupils transferring to Fossoway Primary School. Special regard has been given to the rural school factors and the assessment of these is set out in the options appraisal and in this Proposal Paper. The anticipated educational benefits which are likely to occur, should that option be progressed and implemented, are also considered.
- 17.11 It is therefore recommended that the most appropriate response to the issues identified in relation to the very low roll at Blairingone Primary School is that a statutory consultation exercise takes place on a proposal to close the school. As a result, pupils would be transferred to Fossoway Primary School. The delineated area of Fossoway Primary School would be extended to subsume the whole catchment of Blairingone Primary School.

## **18. RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSAL**

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

Online: [www.pkc.gov.uk](http://www.pkc.gov.uk)

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

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

**no later than close of business on Friday 5 October 2018.**

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

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

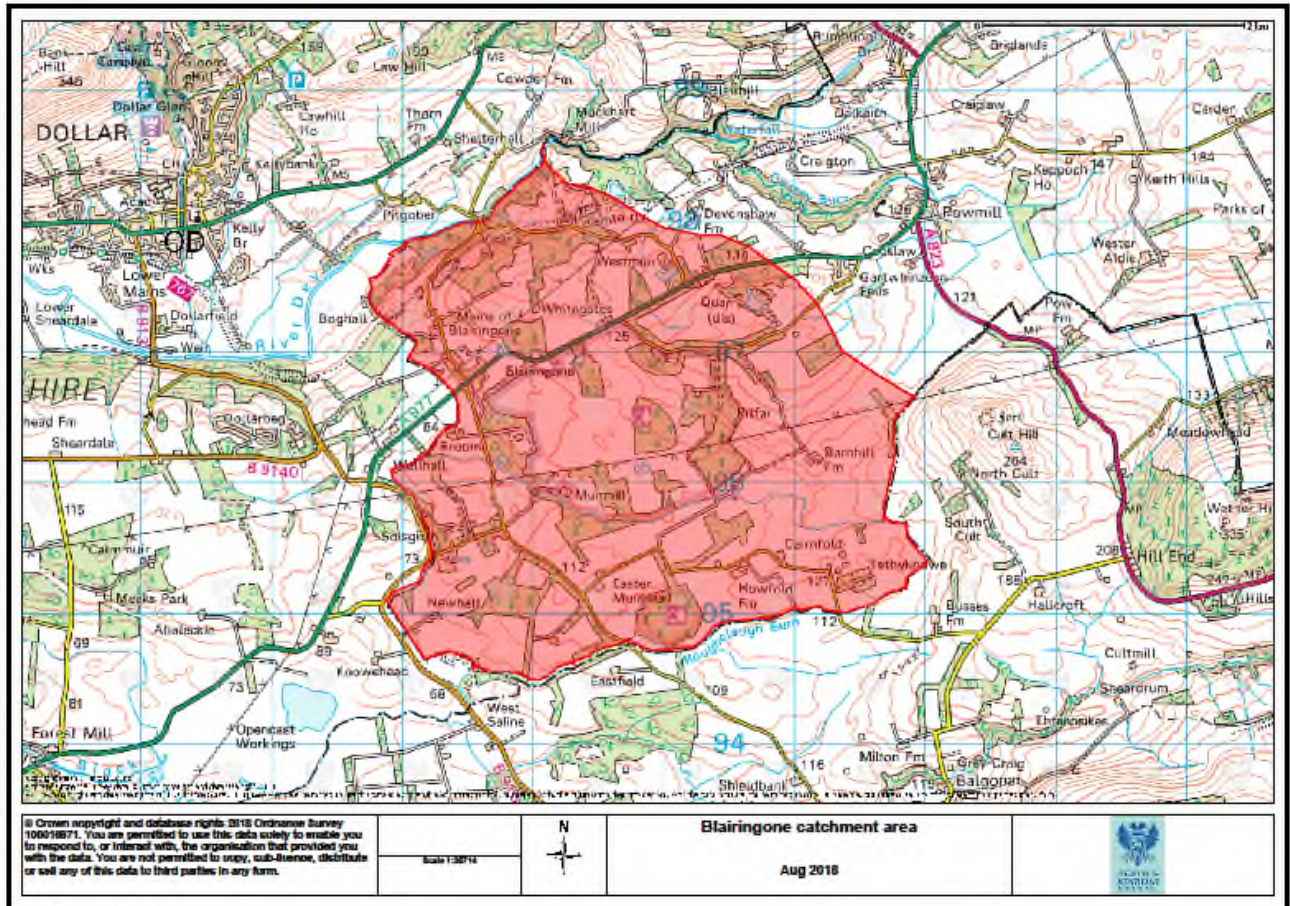
18.3 Those sending in a response, whether electronically or by letter, should know that their response will be open to public scrutiny and may have to be supplied to anyone making a reasonable request to see it.

18.4 If they do not wish their response to be publicly available, they should clearly write on the document: “I wish my response to be considered as confidential with access restricted to elected members and council officers of Perth and Kinross Council.” Otherwise, it will be assumed that the person making the response agrees to it being made publicly available.

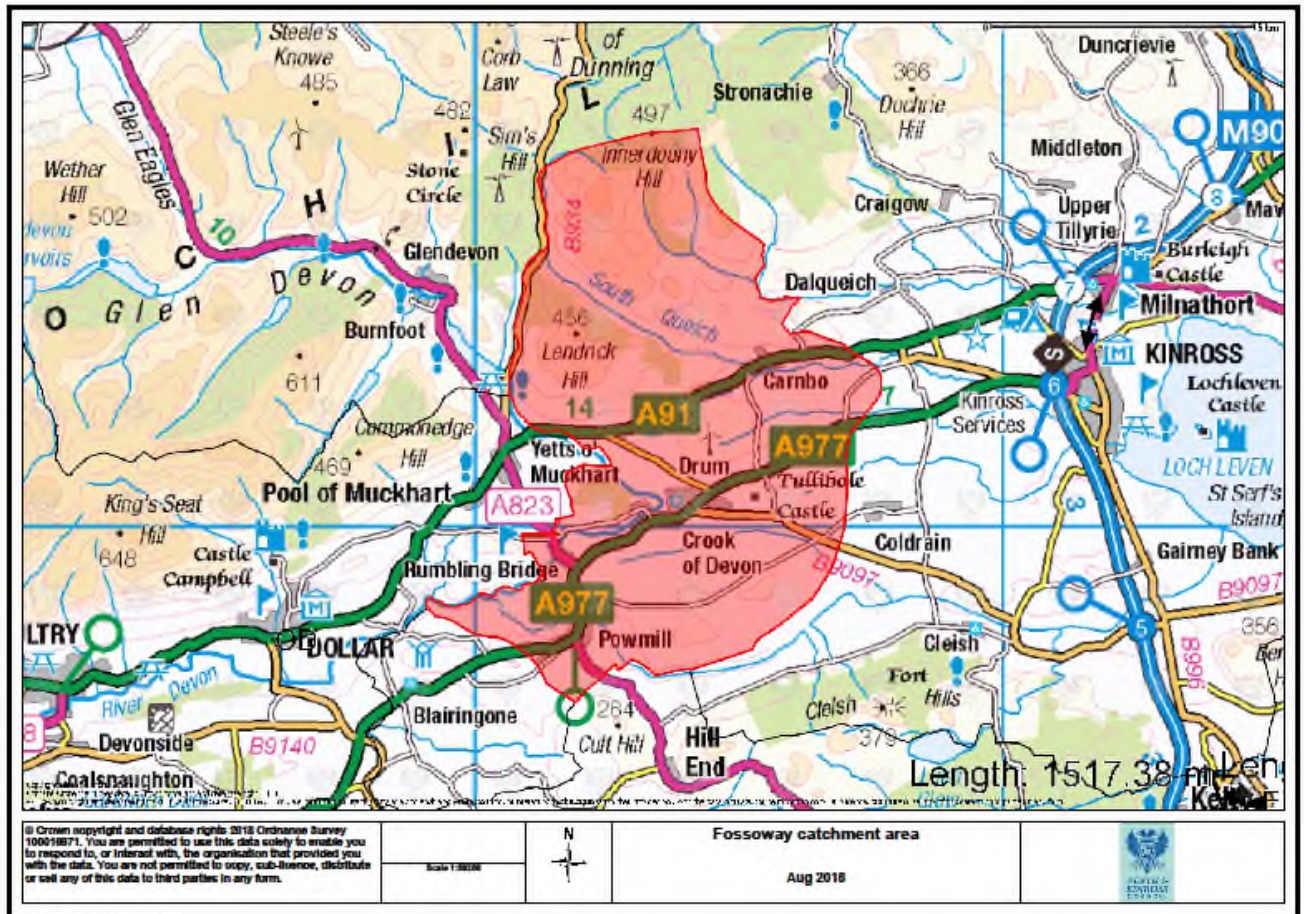
21 August 2018

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

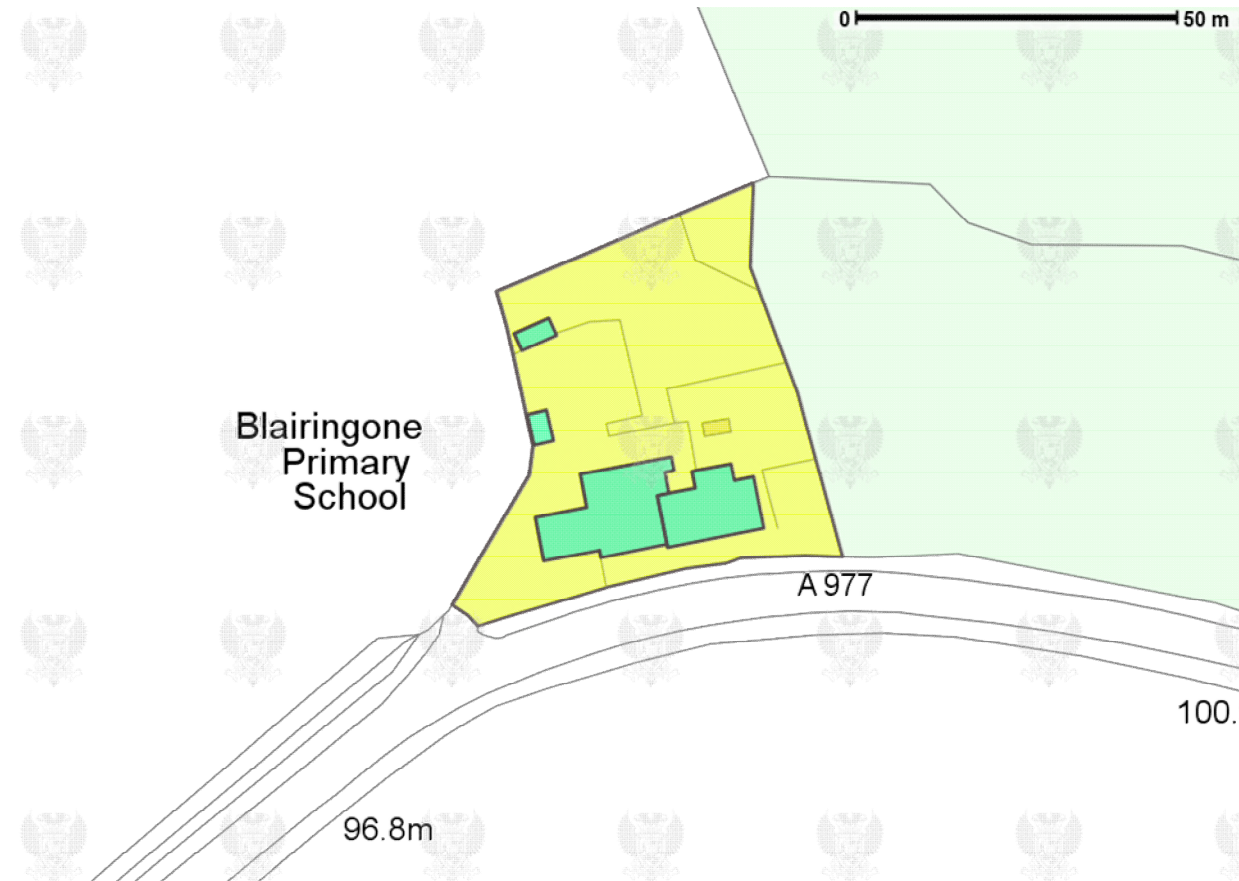
CATCHMENT AREA OF BLAIRINGONE PRIMARY SCHOOL



CATCHMENT AREA OF FOSSOWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

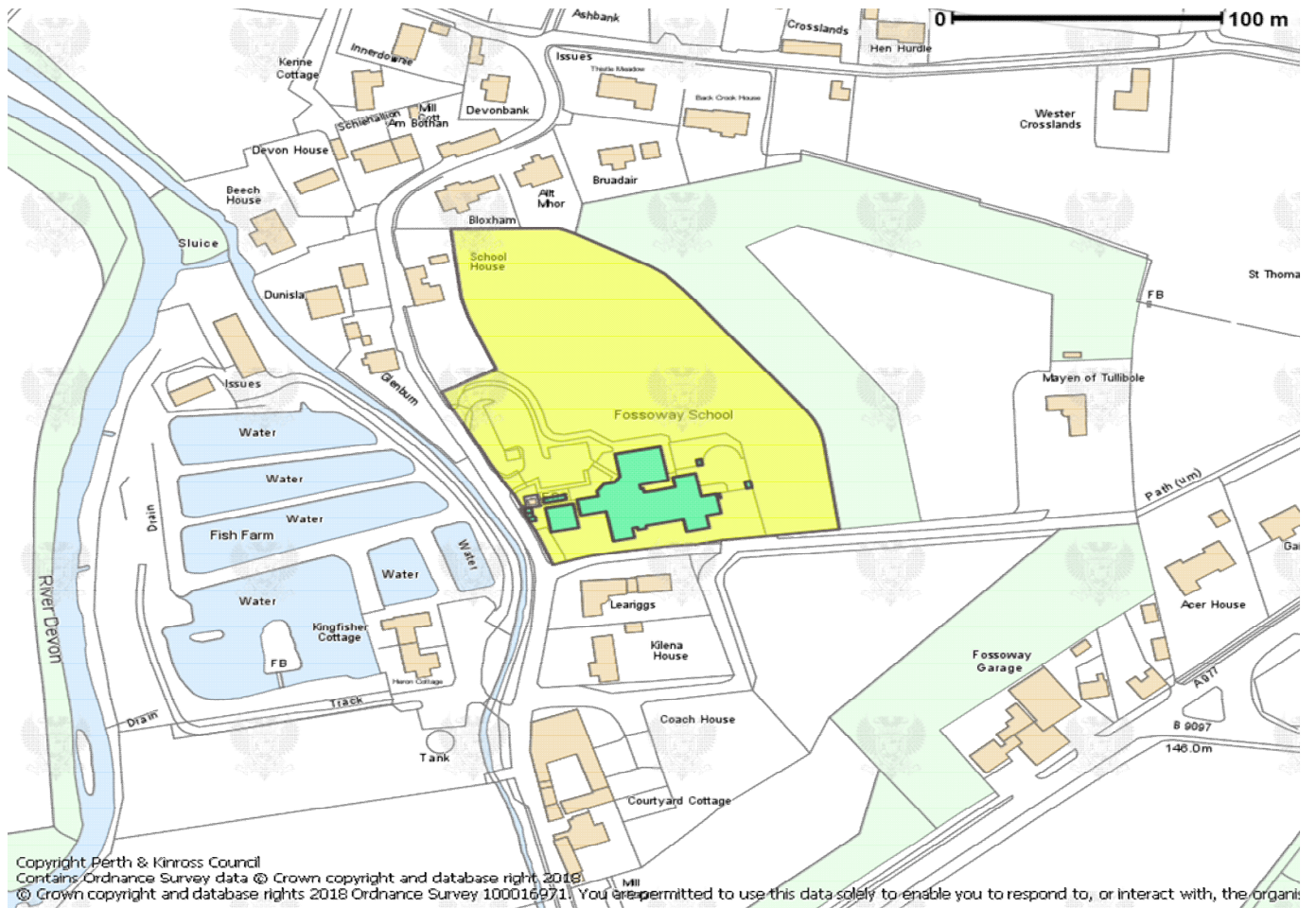


OUTLINE OF BLAIRINGONE PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING AND THE SCHOOL



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OUTLINE OF FOSSOWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING AND THE SCHOOL GROUNDS



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

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Capacity	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Pupils in school	11	10	6	4	7	7	4

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

## PROJECTED PUPIL NUMBERS

	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022
<b>Blairingone Primary School Capacity</b>	25	25	25	25
<b>Blairingone Primary School Roll</b>	4	4	4	5

## ANALYSIS OF SCHOOL INFORMATION

School	Capacity	Condition Rating	Suitability Rating
Blairingone	25	B	B



## APPENDIX 6

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

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Capacity	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
Pupils in school	127	127	123	107	103	116	107

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

### PROJECTED PUPIL NUMBERS

	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022
<b>Fossoway Primary School Capacity</b>	150	150	150	150
<b>Blairingone Primary School Pupils</b>	4	4	4	5
<b>Fossoway Primary School Pupils</b>	113	108	110	112
<b>Fossoway Primary School Roll with Blairingone Primary School Pupils</b>	117	112	114	117

### ANALYSIS OF SCHOOL/PUPIL INFORMATION

School	Capacity	Condition Rating	Suitability Rating
Fossoway	150	B	A



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

**Consultation Proposal:**

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

Please tick the response which applies to you/your organisation

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

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

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Interest: (please tick)**

Parent  Child / Young Person  Staff  Other \*

\*Other: (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Elected Member / MSP / MP  Member of Community Council

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

**APPENDIX 8**

<b>Current revenue costs for school proposed for closure</b>			
Name of School: Blairingone Primary School (Column 1)	Costs for full financial year (2017-18) (Column 2)	Additional financial impact on receiving school [Fossoway] (Column 3)	Annual recurring savings (column 2 minus column 3) (Column 4)
School costs			
Employee costs -			
teaching staff	£ 71,247.00	£ -	£ 71,247.00
support staff	£ 19,440.00	£ -	£ 19,440.00
teaching staff training (CPD etc)	£ 475.00	£ -	£ 475.00
support staff training	£ -	£ -	£ -
Supply costs	£ 1,204.00	£ -	£ 1,204.00
Slippage Target	-£ 2,422.00	£ -	-£ 2,422.00
Building costs:			
property insurance	£ -	£ -	£ -
non domestic rates	£ -	£ -	£ -
water & sewerage charges	£ 456.00	£ -	£ 456.00
energy costs	£ 3,926.00	£ -	£ 3,926.00
cleaning (contract or in-house)	£ 3,816.00	£ -	£ 3,816.00
building repair & maintenance	£ 15,237.00	£ -	£ 15,237.00
grounds maintenance	£ 503.00	£ -	£ 503.00
facilities management costs - note 6	£ -	£ -	£ -
revenue costs arising from capital	£ -	£ -	£ -
other	£ 641.00	£ -	£ 641.00

<b>School operational costs:</b>			
learning materials	£ 351.00	£ 248.40	£ 102.60
catering (contract or in-house)	£ -	£ -	£ -
SQA costs	£ -	£ -	£ -
other school operational costs (e.g. licences)	£ -	£ -	£ -
<b>Transport costs: note 3</b>			
home to school	£ -	£ 28,500.00	-£ 28,500.00
other pupil transport costs	£ -	£ -	£ -
staff travel	£ 700.00	£ -	£ 700.00
<b>SCHOOL COSTS SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 115,574.00</b>	<b>£ 28,748.40</b>	<b>£ 86,825.60</b>
<b>Income:</b>			
Sale of meals	£ -		£ -
Lets	£ -		£ -
External care provider	£ -		£ -
Other	£ -		£ -
<b>SCHOOL INCOME SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>£ -</b>		<b>£ -</b>
<b>TOTAL COSTS MINUS INCOME FOR SCHOOL</b>	<b>£ 115,574.00</b>	<b>£ 28,748.40</b>	<b>£ 86,825.60</b>
<b>UNIT COST PER PUPIL PER YEAR</b>	<b>£23,114.80</b>	<b>£5,749.68</b>	<b>£17,365.12</b>

Capital Costs (Column 5)	School proposed for closure (Column 6)
Capital Life Cycle cost	£ -
Third party contributions to capital costs	£ -
<b>Annual Property costs incurred (moth-balling) until disposal</b>	
property insurance	£ -
non domestic rates	£ -
water & sewerage charges	£ 150.00
energy costs	£ 1,050.00
cleaning (contract or in-house)	£ -
security costs	£ -
building repair & maintenance	£ -
grounds maintenance	£ -
facilities management costs	£ -
other	£ -
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL COST UNTIL DISPOSAL</b>	<b>£ 1,200.00</b>
<b>Impact on GAE</b>	
Based on pupils going to Fossoway PS	£ 12,560.00
<b>GAE IMPACT</b>	<b>£ 12,560.00</b>

### 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

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.