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**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**

**EDUCATION AND LEARNING**

**PROPOSAL PAPER**

**This Proposal is to:**

**Formally close the original site of City of Perth Early Childhood Centre (CoPECC) and formalise the permanent delivery of the service from the current site at Goodlyburn Primary School with effect from January 2026.**

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

Education and Learning is required under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 to publish details of and consult on any proposal to permanently discontinue a school. Therefore, statutory consultation is required to formally close the original site of the former nursery school, City of Perth Early Childhood Centre (CoPECC), and formalise the permanent delivery of the service from the current site at Goodlyburn Primary School

**PROPOSAL**

That subject to the outcome of this consultation exercise, the Council proposes to:

* Formally close the original site of City of Perth Early Childhood Centre (CoPECC) and formalise the permanent delivery of the service from the current site at Goodlyburn Primary School with effect from January 2026.

This Proposal Paper should be read in conjunction with the [Options Appraisal](https://perth-and-kinross.cmis.uk.com/perth-and-kinross/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=NZ%2f%2f%2b8ROPhk5%2fbbj3D2RhpVfIBjzMJm5mEsEtY%2f0hPyX5NP2%2bmcf0w%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7Ikn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPlIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5olA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3d) as it contains more detail regarding the options considered and rejected.

**1.** **VISION AND STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES**

1.1 Perth and Kinross Council is dedicated to fostering a community where everyone can thrive, free from poverty and inequality. Their vision focuses on making the best use of public resources and ensuring continuous improvement of services. The Council's Corporate Plan emphasises collaboration to achieve key priorities, including tackling poverty, addressing climate change, and supporting sustainable places. Perth and Kinross Council aims to create a resilient, stronger, and greener local economy; enable children and young people to reach their full potential; protect and care for the most vulnerable; and support physical and mental wellbeing. By working in partnership with communities, they strive to create vibrant and successful areas, safe and sustainable environments, and educated and responsible citizens, ensuring every child has the best start in life.

1.2 Perth and Kinross Council’s Corporate Plan aims to tackle poverty, address climate change, and support sustainable places. This vision is further supported by the Council’s Learning Estate Management Plan and the Education and Children’s Services Policy Framework Maximising Resources, which aim to enhance the range and quality of learning experiences for all.

1.3 Councils have a statutory duty in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to make adequate and efficient provision of school education across their entire area for the current school population and future pattern of demand. The Council’s [Learning Estate Management Plan,](https://perth-and-kinross.cmis.uk.com/perth-and-kinross/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=9GcYJArgVKVfvM7wu66lmgJW%2bmePws0kHdV6qYKYHb5H123p1QtwTQ%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7Ikn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPlIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5olA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3dEvelyn) approved by the Lifelong Learning Committee of Perth and Kinross Council on 3 November 2021 ([Report 21/202 refers](https://perth-and-kinross.cmis.uk.com/perth-and-kinross/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=VK9%2fwPhxJxw4jsERrtv1u6f4u4aELI81PNQ7jlHuSLSc5esMKeFUXQ%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7Ikn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPlIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5olA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3d)), provides information on the whole of the school estate, including overall objectives and future priorities within Perth and Kinross Council.

1.4 Councils also have a statutory responsibility in terms of the [Local Government in Scotland Act 2003](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2003/1/contents) to achieve best value. In doing so, consideration must be given to occupancy as buildings are expensive resources. To achieve best value and optimum efficiency, the minimum number of buildings is required to deliver Council services to a particular locality. The organisation of the school estate is therefore kept under regular review, including the need for school provision and other factors, such as Additional Support Needs specialist provision and altering catchment areas.

1.5 [The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2010/2/contents) provides a strong, accountable statutory consultation process that local authorities must apply to their handling of all proposals of 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.

1.6 [The Education (Scotland) Act 2016](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2016/8/contents/enacted) 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.

1,7 [The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/8/contents) requires local authorities to provide all children of pre-school age access to 600 hours of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC). Secondary legislation was passed in 2019 amending the 2014 Act, and from 1 August 2020, the amount of funded ELC eligible children are entitled to increased to 1,140 hours a year. The local government settlement provides funding for local authorities to deliver funded ELC to all eligible children. Local authorities are responsible for ensuring that the funded ELC entitlement is available for all eligible children in their area.

1.8 Most importantly, the Education Authority would wish to optimise the educational experience for every pupil by providing:

* a range of social and emotional experiences
* an enriched and broad learning experience
* the best possible education which meets the needs of all learners.

**2.**  **REASONS FOR FORMULATING THE PROPOSAL**

2.1 The original standalone City of Perth Early Childhood Centre (CoPECC) in the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) community of North Perth at McCallum Court was opened in 2002. It was registered with the Care Inspectorate to provide care to a maximum of 100 children, aged between 2 years old and those not yet attending primary school.

As well as ELC, the service provided family support and learning opportunities and was included within Perth and Kinross Council’s (PKC) planning for delivering the 1140 hours expansion to ELC to all eligible children. It became one of five Early Childhood Centres (ECC) in Perth and Kinross offering year-round flexible childcare options to families.

2.2 The building was affected by floods in 2002 and 2010 for which insurance claims were made. In August 2020, due to extensive rainfall during thunderstorms, many areas across Perth and Kinross, including Perth City, were flooded, damaging over 225 buildings. CoPECC was one of these buildings and the centre was closed to families as a result, and another insurance claim was made. Due to the extent of the flood damage closing the building, the centre was temporarily decanted to Perth Grammar School Community Wing where families were able to continue to access their children’s ELC places.

2.3 The site of the original CoPECC at McCallum Court flooded severely several times at substantial cost to insurers and PKC. Following the last flood in August 2020, the site has subsequently been deemed as uninsurable, and as such, PKC will not be able to develop this site with any permanent structure. In October 2021, due to significant vandalism in the building, it was agreed that the building would be demolished as soon as possible. As a result, CoPECC can no longer be located on this site.

2.4 By April 2022, an interim arrangement was made by combining the current nursery at Goodlyburn Primary School with CoPECC to become Goodlyburn and CoPECC which was located within Goodlyburn Primary School and managed by the CoPECC Centre Leader. This service continues to deliver a full year 50-week ELC service to 74 children at any one time, including 2-year-olds, providing continuity of service for families in the community of North Perth and enabling all eligible children to access high quality ELC. All children who would have attended CoPECC on the original site can now access their funded ELC either at the new site or at an alternative provision of their choice in the community.

2.5 All eligible children in the North Perth ELC Community have been able to access their full 1140-hour ELC entitlement in other settings. CoPECC is successfully delivering ELC from its current interim site at Goodlyburn Primary School, and all families residing in the North Perth ELC Community can access their funded ELC place within the current capacity. A further 2 PKC Early Childhood Centres, 5 PKC nursery settings, 5 funded provider nursery settings and 6 childminders within the community offer families funded places for ELC. Letham ECC was built as a new extension to Letham Primary School as part of the ELC expansion, and Riverside ECC is part of the newly built Riverside Primary School which opened in June 2023.

2.6 On 29 January 2025, the Learning and Families Committee reviewed a report [(Report No. 25/18 refers)](https://perth-and-kinross.cmis.uk.com/perth-and-kinross/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=aAOiHqUiJjS%2bkxinceUtaHnqGhERauhGZhxAlaopBya6DNp15A6%2btQ%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7Ikn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPlIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5olA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3d) on an [Options Appraisal](https://perth-and-kinross.cmis.uk.com/perth-and-kinross/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=NZ%2f%2f%2b8ROPhk5%2fbbj3D2RhpVfIBjzMJm5mEsEtY%2f0hPyX5NP2%2bmcf0w%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7Ikn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPlIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5olA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3d) seeking approval to commence consultation on the formal closure of the original site of CoPECC.

2.7 As a result of the Committee’s decision, the Strategic Lead for Education and Learning is required to formally consult the appropriate bodies and persons in relation to formally closing the original site of CoPECC.

2.8 The consultation process to be carried out will involve Education Scotland and the general public and will be completed in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

**3.** **COPECC BUILDING INFORMATION / SUITABILITY**

3.1 In July 2010 the original CoPECC building suffered major flooding. Insurance settlement for the building refurbishment along with the costs for the displacement of the pupils during the rebuild and contents was £735k and was on a like for like basis. PKC installed flood preventative measures in the building to minimising risk of future flooding as part of reinstatement works. No further measures were possible at that time as all options had been implemented, yet some risk remained.

3.2 The estimated building damage from the flooding in August 2020 was estimated at approx. £575k. No building work was undertaken and there was further damp and deterioration which was not covered by insurance. In addition, the insurance excess would have increased to around £1m for future claims due to the ongoing likelihood of repeated damage, leaving it, in effect, uninsurable. Property Services and the flooding team within the Council advised that there were no definitive control measures that could be put in place to avoid this risk. As a result of the continued risk and costs, the building was demolished

**4.**  **GOODLYBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

4.1 Since April 2022, Goodlyburn nursery and CoPECC has been located within Goodlyburn Primary School in the area of North Perth. This location is 0.8 miles distance from the original CoPECC site at McCallum Court.

4.2 Goodlyburn Primary School provides primary education for girls and boys from Primary 1 to Primary 7 and has a capacity for 300 pupils, with a current school roll as of September 2024 of 221 children. The school shares a site with Perth College UHI and is one of two schools within Perth and Kinross offering Gaelic Medium Education. The catchment area of Goodlyburn Primary School includes the Fairfield community area, in which CoPECC was originally located, providing well-established links between the old and new sites.

4.3 The school is situated within a residential area but is well located for access to the conveniences of the city centre, including Perth Royal Infirmary and Letham Hub.

**5.** **FUTURE DEVELOPMENT / HOUSEBUILDING**

5.1 Recent housebuilding has taken place at Huntingtower, located off the A85, approximately 1.4 miles from Goodlyburn Primary School. The site offers a range of homes and is located within the school catchment area of Ruthvenfield Primary School. Ruthvenfield Primary School continues to have enough capacity to mitigate any increase in demand caused by this housebuilding project. Future projections for Goodlyburn Primary School intake also remain steady, indicating that the housebuilding at Huntingtower will have little impact on uptake

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5.2 Continued development and housebuilding at Bertha Park is ongoing. This new housing development will eventually include 3000 new homes with 25% offered as affordable housing. Bertha Park High School opened in 2019 and has mitigated the increase in demand for secondary spaces. Future plans for a new primary school and ELC setting located at Bertha Park have been approved by the Learning and Families Committee as part of the School Estate Transformation programme to mitigate the projected increase in demand for places ([Report No. 22/265 refers](https://perth-and-kinross.cmis.uk.com/perth-and-kinross/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=Psuy1etOJt%2bSyiW4xipOV%2fBonmUJvrxJ5BV4%2f0oqVMtmr%2fXX5YJ1dA%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7Ikn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPlIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5olA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3d)) and no impact on Goodlyburn Primary School or on the ELC estate was noted under these analyses.

**6. THE SCHOOL WITHIN THE COMMUNITY**

6.1 Early Childhood Centres (ECC) have been established in areas of deprivation and provide extended support for more vulnerable families. They offer an extended model of provision from 0800-1800 hours over 50 weeks. They also contribute to the delivery of parenting interventions and family learning. ECCs work with local partners and provide opportunities for workforce development and providing a model of high quality ELC.

6.2 Following the ELC expansion, there are two other EECs serving the North Perth ELC Community: Letham and Riverside. Like Goodlyburn and CoPECC, these centres deliver ELC 50 weeks a year and are supported by full-time nursery teachers, Early Years Family Learning Practitioners (EYFLPs) and link to Health Visitors and Social Workers. All ECCs also offer Strong Start places for two-year-olds, and Letham has recently undergone a service redesign whereby it now offers wrap around care (WAC) for children aged three and older before and after school and throughout all school holidays, providing further flexibility for working families.

6.3 CoPECC is successfully delivering ELC from its current site at Goodlyburn Primary School, and all families residing in the North Perth ELC Community can access their funded ELC place within the current capacity at the range of ELC settings offering funded places. There is additional flexibility to expand the capacity within North Perth by offering additional ELC places at Letham ECC should demand increase.

6.4 The continued delivery of an enhanced offer of an ECC to serve the North Perth community which has the highest levels of deprivation across Perth and Kinross is now well-established at the Goodlyburn Primary School site. The three ECCs in North Perth – Goodlyburn & CoPECC, Letham ECC and Riverside ECC – provide critical services and support to the children and families of North Perth and are located in response to the recognised level of deprivation within this community. Other large nurseries in the community include Tulloch Primary School Nursery and St John’s RC Academy Nursery and are supported by nursery teachers and EYFLPs and link to Health Visiting and Social Work teams. These nurseries also offer Strong Start places.

6.5 At its current site at Goodlyburn Primary School, Goodlyburn & CoPECC currently operates from three different playrooms and also accesses a family room, quiet space and office. A large outdoor area underwent investment as part of the 1140 ELC Expansion and the children also access a purpose-built outdoor classroom. The majority of children attending CoPECC at its previous site at McCallum Court resided in the Goodlyburn, Tulloch & Balhousie catchments. Since the site closed due to the flood damage, a new ECC has opened at Riverside Primary School. Along with large nurseries at St John’s RC Academy and Tulloch Primary School, as well as a number of Private/Voluntary/Not for Profit ELC settings and childminders, all children in these communities have access to funded ELC places.

6.6 At the current site at Goodlyburn Primary School, Goodlyburn & CoPECC continues to deliver high quality ELC primarily to children residing in the surrounding areas of Tulloch, Letham and Goodlyburn. A small number of parents and carers residing in communities outwith the local area, such as Scone and Crieff, are choosing to access funded ELC for their children at Goodlyburn & CoPECC possibly due to the setting’s proximity to their place of work in the city, or their study at Perth College UHI. The current service delivers ELC to 74 children at any one time, including 2 year olds. Due to the variety of attendance patterns that can be accessed, there can be more than 74 children on the register at any one time.

**7. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

7.1 In arriving at the proposal set out within this Proposal Paper, the Council has considered a number of alternative options for the future of CoPECC as part of the [options appraisal](https://perth-and-kinross.cmis.uk.com/perth-and-kinross/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=NZ%2f%2f%2b8ROPhk5%2fbbj3D2RhpVfIBjzMJm5mEsEtY%2f0hPyX5NP2%2bmcf0w%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7Ikn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPlIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5olA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3d):

* Option One - move towards formal closure of the original site of CoPECC and formalise the permanent continuation of the ECC service currently provided within Goodlyburn Primary School.
* Option Two - Consider building a new standalone building to house CoPECC or build an extension to the current Goodlyburn Primary School building to support delivery of the ECC.
* Option Three – CoPECC is fully closed and the site at Goodlyburn Primary School reverts back to a nursery setting offering standard 45-week attendance models. The two other ECCs in the North Perth ELC Community would continue delivery of an enhanced service.

7.2 Option 1 was identified as the preferred option.

**8.**  **ASSESSMENT OF PREFERRED OPTION**

8.1CoPECC can continue to exist within its current location within Goodlyburn Primary school and the North Perth ELC community, minimising any risk of reduced access to high-quality ELC delivery to families and the community. Current staff positions will remain, minimising risk to jobs and there will be the continued delivery of a third ECC within North Perth, one of the most deprived communities in the authority.

8.2 All costs incurred from moving CoPECC to its current site at Goodlyburn Primary School have already been consumed within previous ELC budgets so no additional costs would be incurred.

8.3 Although the relocation of CoPECC to Goodlyburn Primary School was originally planned to be temporary until a permanent solution was found, the changes have been positive and less disruptive than anticipated. ELC delivery remains high-quality and all children within North Perth have been able to access their full 1140 funded entitlement since the closure of the original CoPECC building in 2022. There is not any anticipated increase in demand for ELC places based on current data, and there is some flexibility to increase places at Letham ECC if required.

8.4 As Goodlyburn & CoPECC is open 50 weeks per year, there is the opportunity for additional sessions of ELC to be offered to those children and families in the community who would benefit most from continued engagement and access to high quality learning opportunities as part of PKC’s Support for Children and Families Process. The Centre Leader monitors children and families who require additional support and engagement within the setting and offers ELC sessions throughout the school holidays. Goodlyburn & CoPECC also accepts holiday referrals for children attending ELC settings in the North Perth area who close during school holidays, to promote engagement, reduce risk, and allow for continued access to high-quality learning opportunities for families in the community who will benefit most from the offer

8.5 The temporary merger between CoPECC and Goodlyburn Nursery has been successful, and the service is well-led by the Centre Leader. The site provides a variety of spaces to support delivery and its proximity to Perth College UHI and the city centre supports parents and carers opportunities to access employment and higher education.

8.6 Maintaining a third ECC within North Perth allows PKC’s Education and Learning Service to maintain its vision of providing the best start to all children, promoting inclusion within disenfranchised communities, and providing the right support at the right time to get it right for every child and family.

8.7 As an ECC, the site delivers year-round childcare options providing flexibility for parents and carers and also maximising ELC capacity, allowing PKC to fulfil its statutory duty to provide access to 1140 hours of funded ELC to all eligible children.

8.8 Closure of the original CoPECC building at McCallum Court has not impacted upon the ability of children in North Perth to access their funded ELC places since 2022. The delivery of an enhanced ECC model has been retained within the North Perth Community. There is capacity to absorb some further increases in demand within North Perth ELC settings. The Nursery at Perth College UHI permanently closed in June 2024 and the children affected were offered alternative ELC provision within the local authority, further demonstrating the stability of the current context.

8.9 The merger with Goodlyburn Nursery is currently temporary; however, delivery of the ECC service at Goodlyburn Primary School provides a large well-maintained outdoor space at its current site and has easy access to further green spaces within the College grounds. The Centre Leader has led ongoing development of the children’s experiences and spaces in the setting, both indoors and outdoors, and the environment was graded as Good by the Care Inspectorate during inspection in February 2024. Investment in the outdoor space, including the building of an outdoor classroom has taken place to support children’s access to high-quality experiences and spaces.

8.10 Should this proposal be approved, the title of the ECC will also be put to consultation to formalise the merger and provide finality.

**9.**  **EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT**

**9.1**  **Educational Benefits Statement of the Proposal**

The CoPECC temporary merger with Goodlyburn Primary School nursery has supported the delivery of continued high-quality provision within the North Perth community. In February 2024, the setting underwent inspection by the Care Inspectorate and achieved gradings of ‘Very Good’ under Quality Indicators 1.1, 1.3, 3.1 and 4.3 and ‘Good’ under Quality Indicator 2.2. The full [Care Inspectorate inspection report for the Goodlyburn and City of Perth Early Childhood Centre](https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/index.php/index.php/care-services?detail=CS2003017333&q=city%20of%20perth&fq=!(ServiceStatus:$Cancelled$)&sort=&startr=0&message=%3Cb%3EResults%20for:%3C/b%3E%20&sCondition=null) is available on their website.

Children’s wellbeing continues to be a priority within the setting as highlighted within the inspection report: “Children were nurtured as they experienced caring, responsive, and compassionate interactions which supported their wellbeing.

Children's wellbeing was effectively supported through personal planning which was reviewed regularly with families and children. Staff knew children well and were aware of their individual needs. When required, staff worked closely with other professionals. They were skilled at recognising where children may benefit from additional interventions. This was managed sensitively to ensure children received the support that was right for them in a timely manner. This ensured children were supported to achieve their full potential. This is an educational benefit to the children attending the ECC as their individual needs are met responsively and their wellbeing is prioritised. When children feel safe, secure and nurtured, they are more likely to engage in learning experiences and have a good basis for continued development.

Goodlyburn & CoPECC was also recognised for the support given to families tailored to the needs and context of the local community:

“A key strength of the setting was the proactive and positive relationships developed with families and other professionals to ensure each child's needs were fully met. Partnership working was highly effective, as staff recognised the importance of engaging with children and their families at the earliest possible stage. Ongoing opportunities such as Peep learning together sessions provided rich, meaningful experiences for families to engage in. This contributed to supporting the holistic needs of each child and their family to improve their wellbeing.” Strong partnerships with parents and carers in the early years build a robust foundation for parental engagement and involvement throughout the rest of a child’s educational journey throughout school, providing well-founded educational benefits.

Children’s continued learning and development was also highlighted as high-quality practice: “Staff had high aspirations to enable children to be successful. Children's voice was valued, and they were empowered to lead their own play and learning. As a result, children were confident, happy and motivated to learn. Effective questioning provided opportunities to widen children's thinking skills and consolidated their learning through play experiences. This supported children to achieve their potential”. It is one of the key priorities for PKC’s Education and Learning service that all children are provided with the best start. When children are provided with high quality ELC opportunities, they are able to progress well towards meeting their developmental milestones and towards the Curriculum for Excellence benchmarks. The educational benefit of the ECC provision is allowing children to learn and progress at an early age supporting prolonged engagement and attainment as they move into school.

The learning that children currently experience at the Goodlyburn site is enhanced by weekly visits to Westbank ELC outdoor learning site. This project works to provide better outcomes for nursery aged children living in the most deprived areas of Perth and Kinross by combating limited access to the outdoors, an inequity of particular note in a local authority with such contrasting geographical locations impacting children’s access to learning in the outdoors.

Limited access to learning outdoors is identified as a contributing factor leading to the opening of the attainment gap whilst access to high quality outdoor learning is research backed to serve as a tool to close this gap. The impact on children at Goodlyburn & CoPECC from accessing Westbank include making more outdoor play choices and engaging in a greater range of physical activity both at the project site and in the context of their own environment at the setting. In addition, there has been increased capacity in identified children to regulate their emotions on site thus enhancing opportunities for play and learning, and increased engagement from families since the launch of the project with family members invited to remain on site to play alongside their child.

[Realising the Ambition](https://education.gov.scot/media/3bjpr3wa/realisingtheambition.pdf), Scotland’s National Framework for the Early Years, attests that the Golden Thread of ELC provision in Scotland is Quality. Research has shown that children from disadvantaged backgrounds, can benefit from improved educational and wellbeing outcomes by accessing world class early years education. The key element of providing high quality ELC, is a workforce that is professional, knowledgeable and skilled to deliver rich daily experiences and interactions. The staff team at Goodlyburn & CoPECC is made up of a number of Early Years Practitioners each assigned a group of key children with which to build positive relationships and plan for high quality learning experiences based on the child’s needs, interests and stage of development. The practitioners are led by a well experienced management team comprised of the Centre Leader, a Principal ECP and two Senior ECPs. The learning and teaching are enhanced through a full-time nursery teacher leading a learn through play pedagogy. In addition, the setting has 1.5 FTE Pupil Support Assistants to provide additionality to support all children to reach their potential and 1.5 FTE Early Years Family Learning Practitioners who deliver family learning opportunities on-site and provide individual family support as needed.

Within the site at Goodlyburn Primary School, the spaces now used for the delivery of ELC include the former nursery space, an unutilised classroom, and the Nurture base which was moved to a new location within the school. Some offices and other storage spaces were also given to the Centre staff within the building, allowing operations to proceed without a huge impact to the children or staff. The benefit to the school staff and children has enhanced by close partnership working with the Primary 1 teacher to support successful ELC to school transitions. The school roll has remained consistent and not impacted by the increase of ELC spaces, and the additional provision in the school such as the Nurture approach and the Gaelic Medium Education offer are still available and accessible within this location, providing educational benefits to the children who access and benefit from these at all stages.

There has been no impact on other users of the school premises that has been made apparent throughout the time Goodlyburn & CoPECC has been operational on the Goodlyburn site. The creation of a wraparound care service at Letham ECC since January 2024 has provided a new holiday childcare service within the North Perth Community which families attending Goodlyburn Primary School can access. This benefits parents who work or study or provide options to those who would like to.

This aligns with the Scottish Government’s key strategy to reduce child poverty by helping families at risk of poverty into work ([Child poverty - Poverty and social justice - gov.scot).](https://www.gov.scot/policies/poverty-and-social-justice/child-poverty/) Reducing child poverty is also envisioned to provide educational benefits including narrowing of the attainment gap.

**9.2** **Minimising or avoiding adverse effects:**

The Council has a good history of working with staff, parents, children, young people, and the wider community to identify and overcome issues relating to major proposals such as the formal closure of an education provision. All stakeholders will be given an opportunity to inform and participate in the development of the proposal. Children currently attending Goodlyburn Primary School and their families, as well as the families of children in the school’s Early Learning and Childcare setting who will attend Goodlyburn Primary School within the next two years, will have the opportunity to provide their views on the proposal as part of activities associated with the public consultation process.

**10.**  **IMPACT ON TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS**

10.1 There are a range of funded provider ELC and childminder settings across the North Perth ELC community which enable parents and carers to access the setting of their choice. Unlike schools, ELC settings do not have catchment areas. [The Statutory ELC Consultation 2023/24](https://consult.pkc.gov.uk/ecs/elc-consultation-2024/) found that respondents with a child accessing ELC listed “accessing the ELC setting closest to their home” as the most important factor when making their choice (81%). Therefore, travel arrangements are unlikely to be impacted as Goodlyburn & CoPECC continues to be situated close by on the Goodlyburn site, serving the same local communities. As ELC settings do not have catchments areas like schools do, other ELC options which may be situated closer to a parent’s home address are open to families and allow them choice. As the ECC continues to operate within North Perth, an area experiencing deprivation, there is no socio-economic impact identified as the service still exists and is available within the community.

10.2 Perth and Kinross Council currently provides free transport for eligible pupils who attend their catchment primary and secondary schools. There will be no change in eligibility for school pupils entitled to home to school transport. Free home to school transport is not provided for children to access ELC.

**11.**  **LIKELY EFFECT ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

11.1 Risk to the community is low and no impact is envisioned. Goodlyburn Primary School is located 0.8 miles from the original COPECC site and serves mostly the same communities. The North Perth ELC Community will continue to be served by three ECC services, as well as the myriad of other ELC choice. This range of options and targeting of ECC services serves the North Perth community well and allows allocation of resources within one of Perth and Kinross’ most deprived communities

11.2 The proposal will not adversely impact on local, social or economic activities.

**12.**  **IMPLICATIONS FOR STAFF**

12.1 Staffing arrangements will be consistent with Perth and Kinross Council Staffing Standard and other local agreements.

12.2 Detailed consultation will be undertaken with individual members of staff currently working in the school, Trade Unions, and professional associations.

12.3 It is not anticipated that there would be implications for any teaching or support staff currently employed at CoPECC and Goodlyburn Primary School as a result of this proposal.

**13.**  **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

13.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is a statutory requirement for the Council to assess the policies and practices necessary to meet the requirements of anti- discrimination and equalities legislation. An EqIA can provide more information to develop and deliver services that meet the needs, in this case, of young people, parents and staff.

13.2 The aim of an EqIA is to examine policies and practice in a structured way to make sure that adverse effects on equality target groups are avoided. It is also a tool to enable the Council to assess what positive steps it can take to promote equality of opportunity and measure the results of the actions that have been taken.

13.3 Having regard to the proposal to formally close the original site of City of Perth Early Childhood Centre (CoPECC) and formalise the permanent delivery of the service from the current site at Goodlyburn Primary School, it is not believed that this will have a negative impact on any of the equality target groups.

13.4 As part of the consultation process the Council will consult with a wide range of stakeholders, including staff, parents/carers and children, and will address comments about equality during this consultation for inclusion in the EqIA.

**14.**  **CONCLUSION**

14.1 Since the original CoPECC building was damaged by flooding in 2020 and deemed uninsurable due to ongoing high-risk factors, the service has successfully transitioned to deliver high-quality ELC as part of a temporary merger with Goodlyburn Primary School Nursery Class.

14.2 The continuation of the service within Goodlyburn Primary School and other ELC settings in the North Perth ELC Community provides all families access to funded ELC places and associated support and services.

14.3 Current local and national financial context requires any decision on the use, maintenance and investment in any asset to be evidence based and in alignment with the Council’s corporate priorities and service delivery requirements.

14.4 The Council believes that the measures proposed in this document will be of benefit to formally close CoPECC at the site at McCallum Court and continue delivery of an ECC from Goodlyburn Primary School making the current operation permanent.

14.5 There are strong educational arguments in favour of this proposal.

14.6 Future pupil projections have been considered and detailed within the

Options Appraisal and current birth rate patterns do not indicate that the continued delivery of an ECC from Goodlyburn Primary School will impact future pupils.

14.7 In summary, it is proposed to formally close the original site of City of Perth Early Childhood Centre (CoPECC) and formalise the permanent delivery of the service from the current site at Goodlyburn Primary School with effect from January 2026.

**15.**  **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 All costs incurred to support the move from the previous CoPECC building at MacCallum Court to relocation within Goodlyburn Primary School have already been consumed within previous ELC budgets, so no financial impact is envisioned.

15.2 There are some costs associated with the consultation process in terms of publicity and providing information.

**16.**  **RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSAL**

16.1 Interested parties are invited to respond to the proposal by making online, electronic or written submissions on the proposal.

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

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

In writing: CoPECC (original site) Closure Consultation, Education and Learning,

Floor 2, 2 High Street, Perth, PH1 5PH

**no later than close of business on Friday 6 June 2025.**

16.2 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.

16.3 Those submitting a response should note that personal information i.e. name, address and contact details will not be made available publicly. Only staff involved in the management and administration of the consultation exercise, including Education Scotland and the Elected Members of the Council will be given access to that information. An anonymised summary of the responses will be published on the Council’s website for information.

**AFFECTED SCHOOLS**

The following school is directly affected by this proposal document:

* Goodlyburn Primary School

**DISTRIBUTION**

A copy of this document is available on the Perth and Kinross Council

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

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

* The Parent Council of the affected school
* The parents of children who attend the affected school
* Parents of children expected to attend the affected school within 2 years of the date of publication of this proposal document
* The teaching and ancillary staff at the affected school
* The trade union and professional association representatives of the above staff
* The Community Council
* Relevant users of the affected school
* Elected Members of Perth and Kinross Council
* Lay Members of Learning and Families Committee
* The Constituency MSPs and List MSPs covering the Constituency
* The Constituency MPs
* Tayside Contracts
* Education Scotland

A copy of this document is also available from:

* Education and Learning, Council Headquarters, 2 High Street, Perth
* Goodlyburn Primary School, Crieff Road, Perth, PH1 2NT

This document is available in alternative formats or in translated form for

readers whose first language is not English. Please apply to Finance and Business Support, 2 High Street, Perth PH1 5PH or by e-mail: FBSGeneral@pkc.gov.uk

**CONSULTATION WITH CHILDREN**

Pupils will be consulted about the proposal in school in accordance with the Children’s Commissioner Guidance and further information about this will be provided to parents/ carers.

**SUMMARY OF PROCESS FOR THIS PROPOSAL DOCUMENT**

**1.** **Consideration by the Learning and Families Committee.**

This proposal document has been issued as a result of a decision on 29 January 2025 of the Learning and Families Committee of Perth and Kinross Council ([Report No 25/18](https://perth-and-kinross.cmis.uk.com/perth-and-kinross/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=aAOiHqUiJjS%2bkxinceUtaHnqGhERauhGZhxAlaopBya6DNp15A6%2btQ%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7Ikn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPlIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5olA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3d) and [Appendix 1](https://perth-and-kinross.cmis.uk.com/perth-and-kinross/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=NZ%2f%2f%2b8ROPhk5%2fbbj3D2RhpVfIBjzMJm5mEsEtY%2f0hPyX5NP2%2bmcf0w%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7Ikn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPlIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5olA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3d) refers). This is to seek views

on the proposal in this paper.

**2.** **Proposal document and supporting information published on Council**  **website**

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

For access, follow the links Schools and Learning > School Estate Reviews > Current Consultations.

**3.** **Notice and consultation period**

Relevant consultees of the proposal will be notified of the consultation period, and the consultation cannot commence until this has been done.

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

The consultation will thereafter run from Thursday 24 April 2025 until close of business on Friday 6 June 2025, which includes a period of 31 school days.

**5.** **Public meeting**

A public meeting will be held at Goodlyburn Primary School to discuss these proposals. Anyone wishing to attend the public meeting is invited to do so. The meeting, which will be convened by the Education Authority, will be addressed by the Strategic Lead (Education and Learning), or other senior officers of the Council.

The meeting will be an opportunity for interested parties to:

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

The public meeting will be held on:

**Date:** **Thursday 22 May 2025**

**Venue:**  **Goodlyburn Primary School**

**Time:**  **6.00 pm**

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

**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 school 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 meetings.

It will then prepare a consultation report. This report will be published in electronic format and will be published on the Council website. 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 4 weeks.

**8.** **Decision**

This report together with any other relevant documentation will be considered by the Learning and Families 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.** **Note**

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