

# PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

## Lifelong Learning Committee

27 March 2019

### School Estate Transformation Programme - Phase 2 Update

Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)  
(Report No. 19/94)

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides an update on the position of Phase 2 of the School Estate Transformation Programme. This Phase consists of Cleish Primary School, Grandtully Primary School, Logierait Primary School, Pitlochry High School and Ruthvenfield Primary School.

This report also seeks approval for the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to proceed with a number of proposals for each of the schools as part of the review.

#### 1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

##### School Estate Transformation

- 1.1 The school estate is a significant and valuable asset to the communities of Perth and Kinross. Between 2018 and 2028, the Council will invest £178m in the school estate. This funding supports a wide range of projects including the replacement of Perth High School and Blairgowrie Recreation Centre. A substantial upgrade programme for primary and secondary schools is also being funded. In addition, the new £32.5m Bertha Park High School will open in August 2019.
- 1.2 The School Estate Strategy ([Report No. 12/370 refers](#)) sets out the Council's aspirations for our schools, and in particular the high value we place on learning, through our vision for well designed, maintained and managed schools.
- 1.3 It is important, in light of the significant investment and cost associated with the school estate, that it is managed in an efficient and effective manner, and that the priorities which are addressed meet the wider strategic objectives of the Council and the needs of our communities.
- 1.4 There are significant challenges for managing the school estate over the coming years. These include changing demographics including population growth and movement, house building in certain locations, ongoing deterioration in building infrastructure, pressure on planned maintenance budgets, increasing revenue costs and the expansion of funded Early Learning and Childcare from 600 to 1140 hours annually.

- 1.5 The Council's Transformation Strategy 2015-2020 'Building Ambition' and Organisational Development Framework were approved by Council on 1 July 2015 ([Report No. 15/292 refers](#)). Together they detail how Perth and Kinross Council will deliver transformation over the next five years. Accompanying the strategy is a programme of major reviews which are considered to be key drivers and enablers of transformation across the organisation. The School Estate Transformation Programme is one such review.
- 1.6 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'.

The principles approved by Lifelong Learning Committee as a basis for the transformation review were as follows:

- (i) schools should have an occupancy rate where possible greater than 60% of the capacity and ideally should be operating at over 80% capacity;
  - (ii) every school should be rated as A or B ie at least satisfactory for condition and suitability; and
  - (iii) life expired buildings<sup>1</sup> within the school estate should be prioritised for replacement.
- 1.7 On 2 November 2016, Lifelong Learning Committee ([Report No. 16/485 refers](#)) approved the development of a number of options appraisals to consider in detail schools which were identified as requiring further consideration.
- 1.8 The development of the options appraisals is being phased. Phase 1 is close to completion. Phase 1 schools are:
- Abernyte Primary School;
  - Balhousie Primary School;
  - Blairingone Primary School;
  - Braco Primary School;
  - Forteviot Primary School;
  - Greenloaning Primary School;
  - Logiealmond Primary School;
  - Methven Primary School;
  - North Muirton Primary School; and
  - St Ninians Episcopal Primary School.
- 1.9 Work on Phase 2 options appraisals began in August 2018 in relation to the following schools:
- Cleish Primary School;
  - Grandtully Primary School;
  - Logierait Primary School;
  - Pitlochry High School (Secondary); and
  - Ruthvenfield Primary School.

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<sup>1</sup> Life expired buildings are defined as buildings which are uneconomic to maintain.

## **2. CURRENT POSITION AND PROPOSALS**

- 2.1 This report provides an update on the current position for each of the Phase 2 options appraisals. Proposals are also put forward for Grandtully Primary School, Logierait Primary School and Pitlochry High School (Secondary).

### **Cleish Primary School**

- 2.2 Cleish Primary School was included in the School Estate Transformation Programme due to the condition and suitability rating of the school. The overall condition of the building is rated “C” (Poor – showing major defects and/or not operating adequately). The overall suitability of the building is rated “C” (Poor – showing major problems and/or not operating optimally).
- 2.3 The school roll at Census 2018 was 53 with an occupancy level of 83%.
- 2.4 A high level feasibility study has been undertaken on the school which will inform options for improving the suitability and condition of the school building. A more detailed analysis of the feasibility is still required, however there is a strong indication that it will be possible to create an affordable, improved learning environment for the pupils. The outcome of this more detailed analysis will be reported to this Committee on 22 May 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter.

### **Grandtully Primary School**

- 2.5 Grandtully Primary School was included in the schools to be considered as a result of being under-occupied at Census<sup>2</sup> 2015. The school had 11 pupils, out of a possible capacity of 43, with an occupancy level of 26% at that time.
- 2.6 The school roll has since increased and at Census 2018 was 27 pupils with an occupancy level of 63%.
- 2.7 The following options were identified for Grandtully Primary School as part of the options appraisal:
1. Grandtully Primary School catchment area is reviewed to determine whether this would increase the school roll sufficiently to ensure the future sustainability of the school.
  2. Do nothing – school remains open.
  3. Consider closing Grandtully Primary School – pupils move to a neighbouring school.
- 2.8 An informal community drop-in session took place on 21 November 2018. The informal community drop-in session was an opportunity to gather the views of the wider community on the options for the school and to understand the impact each of the options may have on the community.

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<sup>2</sup> An annual pupil census in publicly funded schools in Scotland is carried out every year for publication by the Scottish Government. This usually takes place in September.

The wider community were also encouraged to suggest options that the council may not have considered. Online questionnaires were also available for the wider community to provide feedback.

- 2.9 The informal community drop-in session for Grandtully Primary School was attended by 111 people and 46 online questionnaires were completed. The [detailed feedback](#) has been shared through the council website.

The key themes that emerged from the feedback were as follows:

- Parents are satisfied with the quality of education at Grandtully Primary School;
  - Parents are satisfied that Grandtully Primary School meets the needs of children with additional support needs;
  - A catchment review would not deliver any benefits as a large proportion of catchment children do not attend the school;
  - The Parent Council felt that their efforts have led to an increased school roll; and
  - Parents of current pupils would not wish their children to attend Breadalbane Academy or Logierait Primary School.
- 2.10 Appendix A provides information on current, historic and projected pupil rolls and occupancy at Grandtully Primary School. As detailed previously the roll has more than doubled since 2015. This increase is due mainly to the number of placing requests into the school in recent years.
- 2.11 Appendix A also shows that the increased pupil roll at Grandtully Primary School is likely to be sustained. It is proposed therefore that Grandtully Primary School should remain open.

### **Logierait Primary School**

- 2.12 Logierait Primary School was included in the School Estate Transformation Programme due to low occupancy. At Census 2015 the school roll was 17 out of a potential capacity of 50, with an occupancy level of 34%. The school roll at Census 2018 was 16 which is an occupancy level of 32%.
- 2.13 The following options were identified for Logierait Primary School as part of the options appraisal:
1. Logierait Primary School catchment area is reviewed to determine whether this would increase the school roll sufficiently to ensure the future sustainability of the school;
  2. Do nothing – school remains open;
  3. Consider closing Logierait Primary School – pupils move to a neighbouring school or schools.
- 2.14 An informal community drop-in session for Logierait Primary School was held on 27 November 2018. The informal community drop-in session was an opportunity to gather the views of the wider community on the options for the school and to understand the impact each of the options may have on the community.

- 2.15 The wider community were also encouraged to suggest options that the Council may not have considered. Online questionnaires were also available for the wider community to provide feedback.
- 2.16 The informal community drop-in session for Logierait Primary School was attended by 76 people and 64 online questionnaires were completed. The [detailed feedback](#) has been shared through the Council's website.

The key themes that emerged from the feedback were as follows:

- Parents are satisfied with the quality of education at Logierait Primary School;
  - Many respondees were of the view that a lack of childcare options, such as a nursery or after school club, impact on the school roll with parents choosing to send their children to schools where these options are available; and
  - The community were of the view that measures needed to be taken to increase the roll, as without this closure of the school in future years was more likely.
- 2.17 The most recent projections indicate that there may be sufficient ante pre-school and pre-school children to establish a small early learning and childcare provision at Logierait Primary School.
- 2.18 Logierait Primary School catchment area forms part of an Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Community Group which includes Blair Atholl, Kinloch Rannoch, Pitlochry and Royal School of Dunkeld. Each community group in Perth and Kinross will contain a "mixed economy" of provisions to deliver 1140 hours of ELC made up of local authority settings, partner providers and childminders. Within each ELC community, there will be a mix of providers, and a range of delivery models for families to choose from.
- 2.19 One of the principles of the ELC expansion plan for extended local authority provision is to use existing settings where possible. Therefore, at Lifelong Learning Committee on 16 May 2018 ([Report No. 18/156 refers](#)) it was proposed that extended provision for this ELC community group would be delivered through providing parents and carers extended day, extended year and outdoor provision at Pitlochry Primary School nursery. There is now an opportunity to consider whether some of that provision could be delivered at Logierait Primary School.
- 2.20 There is a legal requirement to explore all feasible alternatives prior to considering closure of a rural school. It is therefore proposed that the School Estate Transformation team work with ELC colleagues to determine the feasibility and implications of establishing ELC provision at Logierait Primary School. Any proposals will have to be considered in relation to the overall ELC provision, delivery models, costs and demand within this ELC community group.
- 2.21 A feasibility study will be required which will establish whether ELC could be delivered from the school building and the cost of any alterations.

- 2.22 Consultation would also take place with potential parents/carers of children who might attend such a provision to establish the sustainability of demand for ELC provision at Logierait Primary School.
- 2.23 The potential establishment of ELC provision at Logierait Primary School will be included in the final options appraisal to be presented to Lifelong Learning Committee on 4 September 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter.

### **Pitlochry High School**

- 2.24 Pitlochry High School (Secondary) was included in the School Estate Transformation Programme due to low occupancy and the condition rating of the school.
- 2.25 The occupancy of the school at Census 2015 was 61% (144 pupils). The occupancy of the school was 47% (112 pupils) at Census 2018. The decrease is due to smaller numbers of secondary age pupils living in the catchment area.
- 2.26 It should be noted that, based on pupils attending primary school, the occupancy of Pitlochry High School (Secondary) is likely to rise from 2021/22 and is projected to reach 56% (133 pupils) by 2024/25.
- 2.27 There has been ongoing investment in the Pitlochry High School site/building with a view to improving the condition of the building. As a result of this investment, the site/building has now been improved and is now rated as condition 'B'.
- 2.28 The following options were identified for Pitlochry High School as part of the options appraisal:
1. Improve condition rating of school.
  2. Improve condition rating of school and include S5 & S6 at Pitlochry High School to increase occupancy level.
  3. Improve condition rating of school and extend catchment area to increase occupancy level.
  4. S4 pupils move to Breadalbane Academy and review use of Pitlochry High School building.
  5. Close Pitlochry High School and pupils move to Breadalbane Academy.
- 2.29 As a first step in considering the options, community engagement has been carried out with six informal community drop-in sessions taking place. The informal community drop-in sessions were an opportunity to gather the views of the wider community on the options for each school and to understand the impact each of the options may have on the community.
- 2.30 The wider community were also encouraged to suggest options that the Council may not have considered. Online questionnaires were also available for the wider community to provide feedback.

- 2.31 The informal community drop-in sessions were attended by 413 people and 205 online questionnaires were completed.
- 2.32 A feedback session was also held with S5/S6 pupils who attend Breadalbane Academy from the Pitlochry area.
- 2.33 The [detailed feedback](#) has been shared through the Council's website and the key themes that emerged from all of the feedback options were as follows:
- Parents of past and present pupils are satisfied with the education at Pitlochry High School;
  - The school, and wider, community are of the view that the school needs investment and that this would be positive for the pupils and community;
  - There was a suggestion that there should be a new building which includes community/leisure facilities;
  - There is no support for closure of the secondary school and closure would have a detrimental impact on the town and the community;
  - There is no support for pupils moving to Breadalbane Academy in S4;
  - There is a perception amongst some people that moving S4 to Breadalbane Academy will result in the eventual closure of Pitlochry High School;
  - People think that more pupils will stay on in 5th and 6th year if they remain at Pitlochry High School; and
  - The bus journey has a negative impact on S5/S6 pupils.
- 2.34 There was strong support from the community to include S5 and S6 pupils at Pitlochry High School (option 2). There was a view that this will benefit the pupils who currently have to travel to and integrate at Breadalbane Academy at a critical point in their education.
- 2.35 As the options which relate to S4, S5 and S6 (options 2 and 4), known as the senior phase, affect Breadalbane Academy as well as Pitlochry High School, it is proposed that these be developed further as part of a wider review of the delivery of senior phase education across Highland Perthshire. The wider review will be carried out having regard to the principle that neither school will experience any educational detriment. It will consider factors such as enhanced transition, virtual and digital learning, working with other partners and building stronger relationships between both schools.
- 2.36 It is proposed that any potential catchment review for Pitlochry High School (option 3) should not take place, if at all, until the outcome of this wider review of senior phase education is known. This is because the potential impact of any catchment review cannot be considered without first knowing the outcome of the wider review.
- 2.37 Models for senior phase education (S4, S5 and S6) in Highland Perthshire will be developed for consideration and it is proposed that staff, pupils and parents will be fully engaged in this process. It is anticipated that the outcome of this process will be reported to this Committee on 4 September 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter.

- 2.38 The aim of the wider review will be to develop a model of senior phase education for S4, S5 and S6 which will deliver educational benefits for all pupils across Highland Perthshire and possibly the wider community in working with other partners. Therefore the option to close Pitlochry High School should be removed from the options appraisal. There is a presumption against closure of rural schools, and as a potential alternative has been identified, it would not be appropriate to continue to consider closure of Pitlochry High School.

### **Ruthvenfield Primary School**

- 2.39 The school was included in the School Estate Transformation Programme due to the condition rating of the school. The overall condition of the building is rated "C" (Poor – showing major defects and/or not operating adequately). The overall suitability of the building is rated "B" (Satisfactory – Performing well but with minor problems).
- 2.40 At Census 2015 the school roll was 61 with an occupancy level of 67%. The school roll at Census 2018 was 58 which is an occupancy level of 64%.
- 2.41 A high level feasibility study has been undertaken on the school which has informed options for improving the suitability and condition of the school building at Ruthvenfield. Detailed analysis of the feasibility is now required.
- 2.42 Detailed analysis of house building in the Ruthvenfield Primary School catchment area and surrounding areas, which includes the strategic sites at Almond Valley and Perth West, also has to be considered in relation to future plans for the school.
- 2.43 The outcome of the detailed analysis of the feasibility study in parallel with further analysis of house building will be reported to this committee on 4 September 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter.

## **3. CONCLUSION**

This provides an update in relation to all schools within Phase 2 of the School Estate Transformation Programme.

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

### **Cleish Primary School**

- (i) Notes the current status of the Cleish Primary School options appraisal;
- (ii) Instructs the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to submit the findings of the detailed feasibility study to Lifelong Learning Committee on 22 May 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter.

### **Grandtully Primary School**

- (iii) Approves that education provision continues at Grandtully Primary School;



### Logierait Primary School

- (iv) Notes the proposal to review provision for the ELC community group associated with Logierait Primary School as part of the options appraisal for Logierait Primary School;
- (v) Instructs the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to submit the completed options appraisal to Lifelong Learning Committee on 4 September 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter;

### Pitlochry High School

- (vi) Notes that the condition of the building at Pitlochry High School has now been graded as condition 'B' due to works that have been carried out recently;
- (vii) Notes the proposal to review the delivery of senior phase education for S4, S5 and S6 across Highland Perthshire as part of the options appraisal;
- (viii) Approves that the closure option for Pitlochry High School is removed from the options appraisal; and
- (ix) Instructs the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to report to Lifelong Learning Committee on 4 September 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter on proposals for the delivery of senior phase education in Highland Perthshire.

### Ruthvenfield Primary School

- (x) Notes the current status of the Ruthvenfield Primary School options appraisal;
- (xi) Instructs the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to submit the findings of the detailed feasibility study to Lifelong Learning Committee on 4 September 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter.

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### Approved

Name	Designation	Date
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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes / None</b>
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	Yes
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	Yes
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	Yes
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	Yes
Legal and Governance	Yes
Risk	Yes
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	Yes

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 The proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement in terms of the following priorities:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to all of these objectives.

#### Corporate Plan

1.2 The Perth and Kinross Community Plan 2013-2023 and Perth and Kinross Council Corporate Plan 2013/2018 set out five strategic objectives:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to all of these Objectives.

1.3 The report also links to the Education & Children's Services Policy Framework in respect of the following key policy area:

- Maximising Resources

## 2. Resource Implications

### Financial

2.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report other than those reported within the body of the main report.

### Workforce

2.2 As a result of this report there will be workforce/resource implications for the School Estate Transformation Project Team.

## 3. Assessments

### Equality Impact Assessment

3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

3.1.1 The information contained within this report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome and has been assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

3.2.1 However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report. This is because these matters relate to the School Estate Strategy which is being considered under the Act as part of The

### Sustainability

3.3 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions. The information contained within this report has been considered under the Act. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report.

## Legal and Governance

- 3.4 The Head of Legal and Governance Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## Risk

- 3.5 A risk log is being maintained for the School Estate Transformation Programme.

## **4. Consultation**

### Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Legal and Governance Services, Head of Property Services, Head of Corporate Asset Management and Head of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

### External

- 4.2 This report details the consultation which has been carried out to date in regards to the development of this report.

## **5. Communication**

- 5.1 A communication plan has been prepared which will support effective communication and engagement with stakeholders, and to promote the anticipated efficiencies and benefits of this Transformation Project as well as the links to the wider Transformation Programme. A range of methods will be used to consult with internal and external stakeholders as identified in the draft communication plan, such as meetings, briefings, community consultation and focus groups.

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

## **3. APPENDICES**

Appendix A – Grandtully Primary School