
EDUCATION REVIEW – REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL ESTATE

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This Report recommends that the Council pass the resolutions required to proceed with consultation on the proposals contained in the attached appendices in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council notes the contents of the reports and proposals at Annexes 1-6 hereof ; and
- 2.2 That the Council agrees the recommendations numbered 1-4 contained within the report at Annex 2, hereof, *Review of the School Estate – Amalgamation Proposals* . Specifically, under recommendation number 3, that Council agrees to proceed to statutory consultation in respect of:

1. Keills with Port Charlotte
2. Ulva with Dervaig
3. Lochdonhead with Salen
4. North Bute with Rothesay
5. Toward with Innellen
6. Kilmodan with Strachur/ Tighnabruaich
7. Luss with Hermitage Primary
8. Rosneath and Kilcreggan with Garelohead
9. Parklands with Hermitage Academy/ John Logie Baird
10. Southend with Drumlemble
11. Strone with Sandbank
12. St Kieran's with Castlehill
13. Ardchattan, Achaleven and Barcaldine with Lochnell
14. Kilchrenan with Taynuilt
15. Ardchonnell with Dalmally/ Kilmartin
16. Skipness, Rhunahaorine and Glenbarr with Clachan
17. Ashfield with Tayvallich
18. Achahoish with Adrishaig
19. Glassary and Minard with Lochgilphead

- 2.3 That the Council agrees the recommendation by the Executive Director of Community Services to withdraw the proposal to amalgamate Luing Primary School with Easdale Primary School. Please see detail at paragraph 4.9 of Annex 2 to this report.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 The Executive agreed at its meeting on 17 May 2010 that the Executive Director of Community Services should be delegated with the power to undertake an informal consultation to determine stakeholders' views as to how education services should be provided on a more sustainable basis.
- 3.2 This consultation was undertaken by Education, in conjunction with Mr Keir Bloomer, in June 2010 and the conclusions drawn are described in the report at Annex 1 – *Review of the School Estate – Informal Consultation*.
- 3.3 At the same meeting the Executive Director was instructed to identify the relative efficiency of the properties in the school estate, using a set of agreed criteria, and review and identify the feasibility of any option to reduce the school estate with regard to any particular school. This work has been undertaken and the results are contained within the report at Annex 2 – *Review of the School Estate – Amalgamation Proposals*. This report also identifies the list of proposals that are intended to be taken forward for formal consultation in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. An exemplar proposal is included at Annex 3 for information.
- 3.4 The report included at Annex 4 – *Review of the School Estate – Financial Impact* notes the likely improvement to the Education financial position should the proposals listed in the report be agreed by the Executive. The likely net saving to the Council of these proposals would be around £1.925m (assuming agreement to withdraw the Luing/ Easdale proposal).
- 3.5 If the Council agree to take forward to formal consultation the proposals included in Annex 6 of this report, the Council will require to follow the process set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The report at Annex 5 – *Review of the School Estate – Consultation Process* identifies how the Council intends to meet the consultation requirements contained in the Act and arrangements for public meetings to be held to consider the detail of each proposal.
- 3.6 The Council, at its meeting of 2 November 2010, continued consideration of the proposals included at Annex 6 of this report for clarification/ verification of the presented information or for additional information to be added. In particular clarification has been obtained in relation to the following:
- The matter of travel distance and time has been reviewed. The Council assessed the relevant journey time by undertaking and timing the relevant journey to ascertain the maximum travel time for a child to attend the receiving school. An outline of the methodology, together with the conclusions, is contained at Annex 7 of this report.
 - The Head of Strategic Finance has provided a note in regard to the matter of Rural Schools GAE and this is contained within

Annex 8 of this report

- Further information in clarification of the population projections from the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) has been included in the Proposals. In the event that consultations proceed, this information will be referenced on the Council's website. A link to the GROS website from which the information is obtained is <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/popproj/2008-based-pop-proj-scottish-areas/detailed-tables.html>

This link will take you to a page where you can access the table titled "2008-based principal population projections for council areas by sex and single year of age, by council area, 2008-2033"

- Additional detail has been added to the proposal documents in response to submitted correspondence to the schools consultation e mail and postal addresses and from questions raised by elected members at the seminar of council and subsequent council meetings on the 2nd November 2010.
- Head Teachers of the Schools have been afforded a further opportunity to comment on the proposals. No material or significant alteration of the proposals was required as a result of that.
- Elected members have had an opportunity to make comment on the content of the proposals and to seek further clarification on information

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 No decisions have been taken regarding the amalgamation of any of the schools in the Council's estate. No decision can be taken regarding a proposal to amalgamate schools until a period of formal consultation has been undertaken in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. If members agree to the recommendations contained in this act the proposals listed in Annex 6 will be taken forward for formal consultation. At the end of this process the Council may take a decision to proceed with any or all of the proposals in the light of the results of the consultation.

5. IMPLICATIONS

<i>Policy:</i>	As noted in the accompanying reports.
<i>Finance:</i>	As noted in the accompanying reports.
<i>Personnel:</i>	As noted in the accompanying reports.
<i>Legal:</i>	As noted in the accompanying reports.
<i>Equal Opportunities:</i>	As noted in the accompanying reports.

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