

SCHOOL CONSULTATION ACT 2010 – ARDCHATTAN/ASHFIELD PRIMARIES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides details of the options appraisals for Ardchattan and Ashfield Primary Schools in satisfaction of the Preliminary Requirements of s 12A of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.
- 1.2 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee members:
- a) Note the outcome of this consideration of the preliminary requirements and,
 - b) Agree that officers now formulate a draft proposal that will come back to the next meeting of the Committee for approval by members which would subsequently trigger the formal consultation process under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 When considering the future of a rural school the Education Authority must meet the preliminary requirements of s.12A the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.
- 2.2 The Committee in August 2018 asked officers to commence the process in terms of the Schools Consultation Act 2010. As the schools in scope are rural schools there are preliminary requirements which include consideration of any proposal and the alternatives to that in regard to:
- a) The likely educational benefits;
 - b) The likely effect on the local community having regard to the sustainability of the community and the availability of the school premises to the community, and
 - c) The likely effect that would be caused by any different travelling arrangements on the school's pupils and staff and any other users of the school's facilities and any environmental impact.

This report addresses these preliminary requirements and addresses on how the matter should now be progressed.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee members:
- a) Note the outcome of this consideration of the preliminary requirements and,
 - b) Agree that officers now formulate a draft proposal that will come back to the next meeting of the Committee for approval by members which would subsequently trigger the formal consultation process under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 This report provides details of the options appraisals, in satisfaction of the Preliminary Requirements of s.12A of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended, for Ardchattan and Ashfield Primary Schools.

- 4.2 The options appraisals for Ardchattan Primary is contained within Appendix One and for Ashfield Primary in Appendix 2.
- 4.3 Five alternative options have been reviewed in considering the future of Ardchattan Primary School and 4 alternative options for Ashfield Primary School. For each option, information was collated and consideration was given to:
- Community feedback;
 - Pupil numbers;
 - Financial Information;
 - Assessment of rural factors, including community impact (to include community sustainability and availability of the school for the community), travel arrangements and their impact on staff, pupils and other users of the school, environmental impact, and
 - Educational Benefits.
- 4.4 An authority that is formulating a rural school closure proposal must satisfy the preliminary requirements set out in s.12A of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 before formulating a proposal paper.
- 4.5 After consideration of the preliminary requirements, as set out in the Act, and the options, and having regard to the specific reasons identified at section 2 of this report closing Ardchattan Primary School and redrawing its catchment area to Lochnell Primary School is the most reasonable option in order to address the reasons for the possible proposal.
- 4.6 After consideration of the preliminary requirements, as set out in the Act, and the options, and having regard to the specific reasons identified at section 2 of this report closing Ashfield Primary School and realigning its catchment area to Tavyallich Primary School is the most reasonable option in order to address the reasons for the possible proposal.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Options Appraisals for Ardchattan and Ashfield Primaries has been prepared in satisfaction of the Preliminary Requirements of s.12A of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.
- 5.2 After consideration of the preliminary requirements, as set out in the Act, and the options, and having regard to the specific reasons identified at section 2 of this report closing Ardchattan Primary School and redrawing its catchment area to Lochnell Primary School is the most reasonable option in order to address the reasons for the possible proposal. Officers are now in a position to formulate a draft proposal that will come back to a future meeting of the Committee for approval by members which would subsequently trigger the formal consultation process under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy – An authority that is formulating a rural school closure proposal must satisfy the preliminary requirements set out in s.12A of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 amended before starting to prepare its proposal paper.
- 6.2 Financial – there are financial implications for each option.
- 6.3 Legal – The Options Appraisals for Ardchattan and Ashfield Primaries has been prepared in satisfaction of the Preliminary Requirements of s.12A of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended
- 6.4 HR – None
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty: None at present
 - 6.5.1 Equalities – None at present
 - 6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty - None at present
- 6.6 Risk – None at present
- 6.7 Customer Service – None at present

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