

**SCHOOLS CONSULTATION SCOTLAND ACT 2010 – ARDCHATTAN AND
ASHFIELD PRIMARIES**

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report provides details of the draft proposals for Ardchattan and Ashfield Primary Schools after satisfaction of the Preliminary Requirements of s12A of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 1.2. It is recommended that the Community Services Committee agree the draft Proposals, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 hereof, as relevant Proposals that are now to proceed to statutory consultation in compliance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

**SCHOOLS CONSULTATION SCOTLAND ACT 2010 – ARDCHATTAN AND
ASHFIELD PRIMARIES**

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. Both Ardchattan and Ashfield Primary Schools have been mothballed since April 2014 and since that time have had no pupils enrolled.
- 2.2. On 14th December 2017, the Community Services Committee agreed that the Education Service would undertake the required preliminary consultation and an options appraisal for Ardchattan and Ashfield Primary Schools. The Community Services Committee received a report on 15th March 2018 presenting and outlining details of a potential formal consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (as amended) and a broad timeline of this process.
- 2.3. The statutory process for the closure of a rural school is laid out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The Act, as amended, introduced a presumption against closure of a rural school and details specific requirements which the education authority is required to follow if they are formulating a proposal to close a rural school. This includes the introduction of a preliminary consultation process. These proposals will enable Community Services: Education to identify and consider the options put forward. The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 makes special arrangements in regard to rural schools that is in effect a presumption against their closure.
- 2.4. There is a requirement to have special regard to the rural schools factors prior to formulating a proposal to close a rural school. In particular it is necessary to consider any reasonable alternatives before considering closure. It is also necessary to consider the impact on the wider community of a potential closure and the impact of any different travel arrangements. These factors

have been considered in the preliminary requirements which were undertaken prior to these proposals being written.

- 2.5. Councils, as an Education Authority, 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. This is reflected in “Our Children, Their Future” which is the Education Vision and Strategy for Argyll and Bute Council.
- 2.6. This report addresses the requirements in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and gives information to members on the proposal to move to formal consultation on closure of Ardchattan and Ashfield Primary Schools.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee agree the draft Proposals, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 hereof, as relevant Proposals that are now to proceed to statutory consultation in compliance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

4. DETAIL

- 4.1. Both Ardchattan and Ashfield Primary Schools have been mothballed since April 2014 and since that time have had no pupils enrolled. They are both rural schools within the definition contained in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010
- 4.2. The statutory process for the closure of a rural school is laid out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (the Act) as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The Act introduced a presumption against closure of a rural school and details specific requirements which the education authority is required to follow if they are formulating a proposal to do so. This includes the introduction of a preliminary consultation process and this has been previously carried out and reported to the Community Services Committee. The proposals at appendices 1 and 2 hereof and the consultation process as set out in the Act, will enable Community Services: Education to identify and consider the options put forward and report these to the Committee. The Act makes special arrangements in regard to rural schools that is in effect a presumption against their closure.
- 4.3. The draft proposals at appendices 1 and 2 hereof include an assessment of;
 - The school rolls and predicted school rolls,

- Teacher numbers,
 - The condition of the buildings.
- 4.4. The Council has also undertaken an assessment of likely educational benefits or effects which these proposals may have if implemented on;
- The pupils of any affected school
 - Any other users of the schools facilities
 - Any children who would (in the future but for implementation) be likely to become pupils of the schools
 - The pupils of any other schools in the Council area
- 4.5. The Council has also taken special regard to the following factors if this proposal was to be implemented, as Ardchattan and Ashfield Primary Schools are classified as rural schools.
- Likely effect on the local community
 - Availability of the school's premises and other facilities for use by the school community
 - Likely effect caused by different travelling arrangements
 - Environmental impact
 - Financial Impact
- 4.6. In addition, the Council has also considered how to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the implementation of this proposal.
- 4.7. The proposal for Ardchattan Primary is contained within Appendix 1 and for Ashfield Primary in Appendix 2.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 This paper provides draft proposals for Ardchattan and Ashfield Primary Schools in satisfaction of the Preliminary Requirements of s12A of the Act and which are recommended as relevant Proposals that are now to proceed to statutory consultation in compliance with the Act.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy – preparation of draft Proposals for statutory consultation is in accordance with previous decisions of the Community Services Committee.
- 6.2 Financial – The financial implications are considered in the draft Proposals and will be subject to consultation if agreed.
- 6.3 Legal – The proposal papers for Ardchattan and Ashfield Primaries have been prepared after satisfaction of the Preliminary Requirements of s.12A and in compliance with the general requirements of the Act.

- 6.4 HR – None at present
- 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

Douglas Hendry
Executive Director of Customer Services

Councillor Yvonne Mcneilly
Policy Lead for Education

For further information please contact:

Louise Connor
Head of Education: Learning & Teaching

Alison MacDonald
Education Manager: Performance and Improvement
31st January 2019

Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft Proposal for the closure of Ardchattan Primary School

Appendix 2: Draft Proposal for the closure of Ashfield Primary School