Education Service

CONSULTATION REPORT

Report on the outcome of the consultation relating to the proposal to relocate the Tobermory 2-18 Campus

November 2026

This document has been issued by Argyll and Bute Council in accordance with the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act* 2010, as amended.

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1. SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSAL

1.1 The Proposal is to relocate the current Tobermory 2-18 Campus at Erray Road, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6PB to a new purpose-built 2-18 campus school building located on the site which is situated to southern edge of Tobermory with the western boundary adjacent to the A848. The Proposal, if approved, will be implemented when the new accommodation has been completed.

2. REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL

2.1 This Proposal is being advanced because Tobermory 2-18 Campus currently suffers from poor accommodation that struggles to suit modern education practices. Relocating the school would permit the construction of a new purpose-built campus building and considerably improved Education accommodation. Construction of a new campus on the proposed site also allows the existing campus to continue operating in the meantime and prevents disruption to education provision as a result of construction works. The opportunity to build a new campus has arisen from the successful application for funding from the Scottish Government's Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP).

3. INTRODUCTION

3.1 This is a Consultation Report prepared in compliance with the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act* 2010, as amended (the 2010 Act), on the above Proposal.

3.2 The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide a record of the total number of written responses made during the statutory consultation period;
- Provide a summary of any written responses;
- Provide a summary of any oral representations made at the public meeting, held on 17th September 2026.
- Provide a statement of the Council's response to any written and oral representations;
- Provide the full text of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland's (HMIE) report and a statement of the Council's response to this report;
- State how the Council reviewed the proposal based on all of the representations received during the statutory consultation period and receipt of the report from HMIE; and
- Provide details of any omission from, or inaccuracy in, the Proposal Paper and state how the Council acted upon these.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Tobermory 2-18 Campus is a co-educational, non-denominational school serving the town of Tobermory along with the surrounding area. The school is situated in Erray Road, in Tobermory. Tobermory Campus is an all-through school with children and young people aged 2 – 18 years. The campus consists of an early learning and childcare (ELC) provision, a primary and a high school. The campus has four different buildings associated with it. The original block B was built circa 1930s with Block F being added in the 1970s. The Art block was then added between 1980/1990 and the Pre5 unit built in 2010.

4.2 The ELC setting provides flexible placements for 38 weeks of the year during term time. Children and young people attending ELC and Primary are usually, but not exclusively, based in Tobermory while the Secondary School serves North and Central Mull, with associated primary schools of Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen and Ulva.

4.3 There are also children and young people attending the secondary school on placing requests (from Highland Council and from the South of the island). Children and young people benefit from Gaelic Learner Education delivered across the school and Literacy and Gàidhlig in the secondary stages. The catchment areas for the primary and secondary are shown in **Appendix 4**.

4.4 The school roll, as of census day 9th September 2026, is as follows:

Education stage	**Year group**	**Number of pupils**
Primary	P1	9
Primary	P2	10
Primary	P3	11
Primary	P4	10
Primary	P5	19
Primary	P6	8
Primary	P7	6
Primary total	**All primary year groups**	**73**
Secondary	S1	33
Secondary	S2	36
Secondary	S3	25
Secondary	S4	24
Secondary	S5	30
Secondary	S6	19

Education stage	Year group	Number of pupils
Secondary total	**All secondary year groups**	**167**
Early learning and childcare	ELC	13
Combined overall total	**Primary, secondary and ELC**	**253**

4.5 Given the current Tobermory Campus is assessed to be 'C - poor' in terms of suitability, there is an ambition to improve the situation. This is currently the only school building in Argyll and Bute with that suitability rating. The lower grading of Tobermory Campus building is largely driven by accessibility, restrictive drop off space, lack of social spaces and restricted specialised classes. The building currently sits across an undulating and sloping site, with little scope to improve this. Analysis of the council expenditure on the campus also highlights a trend of increasing reactive or maintenance spend and a sizable sum of investment on addressing degrading fabric at the school over the past five years. Roof works, water ingress and building fabric repairs are common sources of expenditure. The condition of the building can be improved from further investment; however, the suitability is much more challenging to be upgraded without significant refurbishment. Such year-on-year construction can be detrimental on both pupils and staff over long periods of time, and/or would require decanting of operations for periods. Other environmental (climate change) standards or digital enhancements also remain below the minimum standard compared to a new build LEIP school.

4.6 In December 2021 the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills outlined to the Scottish Parliament that LEIP Phase 3 would seek projects within 12 months. Applications for LEIP funding are made on the basis of condition or expansion, and therefore the Council proceeded with an application for funding for the Tobermory Campus based on the condition of the premises. The project team worked on developing the application adhering to the detailed requirements set out by the Scottish Government:

- Local investment priorities and their context within the 'Place'
- The proposed Vision, Strategic Outcomes and Objectives for the project(s)
- Alignment with Learning Estate Strategy 2019 Guiding Principles
- Ensuring political and financial commitments are in place for the investment priorities
- Demonstrating implementation of the terms and conditions of the programme on Phase 1&2 projects (where applicable).

4.7 The Council submitted a bid for Scottish Government LEIP funding in October 2022 for a 2-18 campus on Mull. In October 2023, the bid was accepted. The bid met the LEIP eligibility criterion on the condition that funding would be provided to replace the existing Tobermory campus.

4.8 The Council, in April 2024, decided to commence the Business Case, undertake engagement exercises and commence the site selection process.

4.9 In August 2024, the council issued an open call for sites for the new campus to identify potentially suitable sites. The council carried out an extensive community engagement exercise in September 2024 to ask the community what was important to them when considering a site for the new campus. Councillors considered the findings in December 2024:

Community Engagement Analysis Report

4.10 On 20th December 2024, the Council confirmed that the new Campus would continue on a single-site basis.

4.11 A detailed site appraisal was carried out with the output presented to the Council on 7th March 2025. This process included an Integrated Impact Assessment, and views were sought from community groups to inform this to supplement the Engagement Analysis Report.

4.12 On 7th March 2025 the preferred site was confirmed at the Special Council meeting as 'Tobermory South'. The site is situated to the southern edge of Tobermory with the western boundary adjacent to the A848. This is illustrated in relation to the existing campus on the map in **Appendix 2**. Councillors made this decision based on evidence presented through a comprehensive preferred site recommendation report with a large suite of appendices, the culmination of six months of activity. The meeting minute and report are available at this link:

Special Meeting, Argyll and Bute Council - 7th March 2025

4.13 Following the decision on the preferred site, as Tobermory South, by councillors, it was thereafter appropriate to formally consider a statutory relocation Proposal in parallel with the development of the outline business case.

4.14 On 5th June 2025, the Council's Community Services Committee agreed to undertake a statutory consultation exercise on a Proposal to relocate the current Tobermory 2-18 Campus. However, before that consultation exercise could commence, a Petition for Judicial Review was lodged in the Court of Session – challenging the Council's decision of 7th March 2025 to locate the new campus on the Tobermory South site.

4.15 Members of the Community Services Committee thereafter considered a report on 28th August 2025, seeking the Committee's endorsement of officers' actions not to commence the statutory consultation exercise previously agreed, and to pause all other work on the Project, due to the material change in circumstances that had arisen by virtue of the Judicial Review court proceedings. After those court proceedings concluded, the Council agreed on 29th April 2026 to resume the project under a revised timeline.

4.16 On 4th June 2026, the Community Services Committee agreed to adopt a draft proposal to relocate the Tobermory 2-18 Campus as a relevant proposal that would proceed to a statutory consultation under the 2010 Act.

4.17 It is proposed that the new building will include the appropriate number of learning spaces, modern practical subject specific rooms, a larger gym hall and a larger dining hall. The outdoor environment will be accessible and suitable for outdoor learning.

4.18 More information about the Campus is available on the Council's website.

4.19 Full details of the Proposal can be found within the Proposal Paper, which is attached as **Appendix 1**.

5. INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 The Council is required to carry out impact assessments in relation to certain policy and service changes to ensure it considers how those changes may impact different groups, in accordance with the Council's statutory duties relating to equalities, inequalities of opportunity, children's rights and wellbeing, consumers and island communities.

5.2 The full Integrated Impact Assessment in respect to the proposal to relocate the Tobermory 2-18 Campus is attached as **Appendix 2**. This Integrated Impact Assessment was informed by data and feedback gathered from all relevant sources over the course of the consultation exercise.

5.3 The assessment identifies potential educational, accessibility and community benefits from relocating Tobermory's 2–18 campus to a purpose-built site at Tobermory South, including improved learning spaces, digital infrastructure, outdoor learning, sports and library facilities. It anticipates particular benefits for disabled learners and those with Additional Support Needs, while recognising risks around transition anxiety, changed travel arrangements, affordability and access to after-school activities, alongside an uneven distribution of benefits across island communities. Community, pupil and staff engagement has informed the proposal. However, the final design, safe walking routes, transport and operating arrangements remain under development, so some impacts cannot yet be confirmed.

6. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

6.1 Following the Community Services Committee's decision of 4th June 2026 – where it agreed to adopt the Proposal as a "relevant proposal" in terms of the 2010 Act and issue it as a basis for consultation – the Proposal Paper was made available on the Argyll and Bute Council website: School consultations and proposals | Argyll and Bute Council (argyll-bute.gov.uk)

6.2 A Summary of the Proposal (including details of where/how to access the full Proposal Paper) was made available to the following "relevant consultees" in terms of the 2010 Act:

- The Parent Councils of Tobermory 2-18 Campus
- The Parent Councils of Dervaig, Salen, Lochdonhead and Ulva Primary Schools
- The parents of pupils at all affected schools
- The parents of any children expected to attend any of the affected schools within two years of the date of publication of this Proposal Paper
- The pupils at the Tobermory 2-18 Campus (in so far as the Education Authority considers them to be of suitable age and maturity)
- The pupils at the associated primary schools – Dervaig, Salen, Lochdonhead and Ulva Primary Schools (in so far as the Education Authority considers them to be of suitable age and maturity)
- All employees at the affected schools
- Trade union representatives of employees at the affected schools
- Mull Community Council
- All relevant users of the Tobermory 2-18 Campus
- Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership

6.3 A Summary of the Proposal (including details of where/how to access the full Proposal Paper) was also made available to:

- Argyll and Bute Councillors for Ward 4 – Oban South and the Isles
- The constituency MSP for Argyll and Bute
- List MSPs for the Highlands and Islands region
- The constituency MP for Argyll, Bute and South Lochaber
- Mull and Iona Community Trust

6.4 It was also possible for the Proposal Paper to be made available in alternative forms or translated by contacting Argyll House, Dunoon.

6.5 Hard copies of the Proposal Paper were made available for inspection, free of charge, at the Council Headquarters (Kilmory, Lochgilphead), the Tobermory 2-18 Campus, Dervaig Primary School, Salen Primary School, Lochdonhead Primary School and Ulva Primary School.

6.6 Summary Proposals were emailed to notify HMIE and all relevant consultees (as prescribed by Schedule 2 of the 2010 Act) of the Proposal and consultation exercise. All consultees were invited to make representations as part of the consultation process.

6.7 The consultation period started on 24th August 2026 and ended on 2nd October 2026 – a minimum period of six weeks which included at least 30 school days, as required by Section 6(4) of the 2010 Act. Interested parties wishing to make written responses to the proposal were invited to respond no later than close of business on 2nd October 2026.

6.8 A public meeting was duly convened on 17th September 2026 in Tobermory 2-18 Campus, Erray Road, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6PB at 6:00pm. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting and participate was welcome to do so. Advance written notice of this meeting was given to all relevant consultees, in terms of the 2010 Act and advertised for the attention of the wider public, via the project website, newsletter and on Argyll and Bute social media channels. The meeting was convened by the Education Authority who presented the reasons for bringing forward the proposal. An opportunity was also available for questions to be asked and comments to be made on the proposal. A note of the public meeting is attached as **Appendix 3**.

6.9 This Consultation Report is the Council's response to the representations made in relation to the proposal as part of the consultation exercise. It will be published on the Council's website for a period of no less than three weeks prior to the final consideration of the proposal by the Council's Community Services Committee on 10th December 2026.

7. PUPIL ENGAGEMENT

7.1 The Proposal could have an impact on pupils, parents, communities and schools. In this regard, pupils' views are a significant part of the consultation process and pupils took part in sessions to identify their views on the Proposal.

7.2 Officers from the Education Service invited engagement on the Proposal from children living in the Tobermory Campus Catchment area and from pupils attending Dervaig Primary School, Lochdonhead Primary School, Salen Primary School and ELC and Ulva Primary School, as the affected schools. These sessions took place in the schools during the 8th,9th and 10th of September 2026.

7.3 Age-appropriate sets of information slides were developed to accompany the sessions, one for Primary and one for Secondary. These were sent to schools prior to the sessions to allow staff to make any adaptations required for the needs of the children and young people they know well in their settings. A3 sized maps to outline where the building currently is and where the proposal suggests it will move to were also shared during the sessions. Sessions took place in a supportive, inclusive, and age-appropriate environment where pupils were encouraged to share their views openly with staff that know them well. School staff and Officers outlined that participation was entirely voluntary, and any pupil who choose not to take part or share their views had their decision respected.

7.4 It is recognised that some children and young people needed additional support to access the information and this was facilitated by staff in their schools that knew the best approaches and strategies to use to assist the children and young people expressing their views. In addition to this, the children and young people were informed that their views would be recorded and passed on to councillors to inform decisions they make. The children and young people were also given the option not to express their views. For the ELC children, a visual approach was taken through the use of a floor book and the sessions used drawing and playing with toy vehicles along the route from the existing location to the

proposed new location of the campus to allow them the opportunity to be involved in the consultation. Learning Centre pupils also had the opportunity to engage with adapted consultation materials in their classroom setting with the staff they work with on a daily basis. Secondary aged young people that were absent on the day of the in-person session had the age-appropriate information slides shared with them, along information on how to contribute their views should they wish to do so. For primary pupils that were absent, school staff ensured they had access to the age- appropriate information and the staff were able to gather and forward on the views shared.

7.5 All pupils in the groups for Primary and Secondary sessions were deemed to be of suitable age and maturity to be able to communicate a view on the Proposal.

7.6 The pupils were given age-appropriate versions of the information shared with the wider public regarding the Proposal, and asked for their thoughts and ideas. We know children and young people have valuable perspectives, and this consultation has given them an opportunity to share their thoughts, ideas and feelings about a matter that may affect them. Listening to pupils' views is an important part of the consultation process and helps to ensure that their experiences and opinions are considered in decision making that affects them. The information shared was in the format of a slide show and a map appropriate to pupils' age and stage. The slide shows are detailed in **Appendix 4**, along with pupil responses, which can be summarised as follows:

Most comments were practical suggestions rather than a simple yes/no response, therefore, stance is shown separately from the themes. Regarding their stance on the proposal, 61.6% of the responses from pupils were neutral and offered suggestions, 4.9% were uncertain and asked a question, 12.2% were opposed or prefer the current arrangement, 0.9% were mixed, conditional responses and 20.4% were supportive of the proposal. There were a number of questions from pupils from Tobermory Campus during the sessions. Many of these were answered during the sessions and the remaining were collated after the sessions and Officers have issued responses back to the school staff to share with the pupils.

8. RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE

8.1 A total of 307 written responses were received by the Council in relation to this consultation exercise, either through the Council's online platform or via email. Of these, 22 responses were duplicates, 24 were received after the deadline and 6 were received from respondents who submitted more than one response. The written responses from those who gave their permission for their responses to be published are detailed in **Appendix 6**. A number of respondents did not give permission for their written representations to be published and restricted to officers and elected members only. Those responses will be produced for members of the Community Services Committee on a confidential basis to inform their decision-making on the Proposal, to be taken at their meeting on 10th December 2026.

8.2 A public meeting was convened in Tobermory 2-18 Campus on 17th September 2026, in accordance with the 2010 Act requirements, to gather oral responses to the Proposal. Representatives from the Education Authority, an Inspector from HMIE and 55 members of the public attended. The note of that meeting recorded all oral representations made in relation to the Proposal and is attached as **Appendix 3**.

9. EDUCATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO WRITTEN AND ORAL REPRESENTATIONS

9.1 As per Section 8 above, 307 written responses were received in response to the consultation either through the Council's online platform or via email. Of these, 22 of these responses were duplicates, 24 were received after the deadline and 6 were received from respondents who submitted more than one response. The stance reflected in the valid responses totalled 70 in support of the Proposal and 165 opposed.

9.2 The views of pupils have been a crucial element to the consultation on the Proposal. Pupils' views were gathered through focus groups and are summarised in Section 7, above, with detailed responses attached as **Appendix 4**.

The key themes from the pupil views are detailed below:

- Sports, play and outdoors – pupil comments indicated they would like to see improved outdoor and sports provision, including larger pitches, gyms, playgrounds, parks, woods and activities such as football, shinty and basketball.
- Location, and site – pupils identified a preference to have the option to walk or cycle to school, whilst raising concerns about longer distances, buses and parking.
- Space, size and capacity – pupils wanted a larger school with more and bigger classrooms, toilets, study areas, parking and general space. Some comments also questioned whether the proposed building would provide enough capacity and rooms.
- Community access and amenities - pupils suggested shared amenities such as a publicly accessible library, a community centre and a public swimming pool, valued links with local facilities.
- Food, canteen and shops - Pupils requested better and more varied food, larger or improved canteen and lunch areas, drinkable water and tuckshop provision, while discussing convenient access to shops, bakeries and takeaways.
- Building Condition and design - pupils gave contrasting views of the existing building, with some perceiving it as old, damaged or in need of replacement and others considering repair or retention sufficient, while aspiring to a modern, attractive, sustainable and well-designed school with improved internal features.

- Learning and specialist spaces - pupils requested libraries, dedicated study and homework spaces, music and art rooms, IT facilities, computers, better Wi-Fi and learning resources, alongside opportunities such as school trips and links with theatre.
- Staff, teaching and curriculum - pupils requested more teachers, subject-specialist staffing, staff housing and suitable staff offices, alongside broader subject and qualification provision.
- Safety and wellbeing – pupils raised concerns about perceived building hazards, traffic, roads, water, parking, buses, construction, moving disruption, long journeys, wet-weather provision and continuity, while also seeking comfort, fairness, social opportunities and a supportive school environment.
- Accessibility and inclusion – pupils emphasised the need for inclusive provision, including ramps, disabled access, flat layouts, accessible computers and libraries, dyslexia support and arrangements that enable pupils from different communities and travel circumstances to participate.
- Cost and value for money - pupils questioned whether new-build spending would represent good value compared with repairing, refurbishing, extending, reinforcing or retaining the existing school, while also recognising that a larger or improved building could benefit pupils if the investment were justified

9.3 The Education Service has specifically taken account of the pupil comments regarding sports, play and outdoors. These views will inform the next stage of the detailed design in the project if the proposal is accepted.

9.4 The Education Service has specifically taken account of the pupil comments concerning location and site. These views will be considered in assessing the accessibility of the proposed provision. The practical implications of journeys to and from the site and the effect of travel arrangements on pupils and families will inform the Education Service's consideration of how access and transport requirements should be addressed as the Proposal is developed and implemented. These views have also highlighted the importance of minimising environmental impacts and enabling safe, practical opportunities for walking and cycling wherever possible. They will be taken into account in considering site access, travel planning and the environmental performance of the new campus building. These matters will remain part of the detailed development and implementation process.

9.5 The pupil comments relating to space, size and capacity have been specifically considered in examining whether the proposed accommodation can support the projected school roll and the range of activities required to be undertaken in a contemporary and future proof school environment. The Education Service anticipate the size, space and capacity of the new campus that is developing will be sufficient to accommodate future school rolls.

9.6 The Education Service has specifically considered the pupil comments about community access and amenities. These views have reinforced the importance of providing appropriate opportunities for physical education, recreation and informal play and outdoor learning for all the stages of children and young people that will access the campus. Officers will endeavour to ensure the availability of access to these resources should the proposal be implemented.

9.7 The pupil comments regarding food, canteen and shops have been specifically taken into account. The Education Service recognises that dining and social spaces contribute to pupils' daily experience and that the campus also has an important relationship with the community. These views will be factored into the ongoing design work for the new campus.

9.8 The Education Service has specifically taken account of the pupil comments relating to the current building condition and the design of a new campus. These representations have been considered alongside the evidence and information underpinning the proposal, including the suitability of the existing accommodation and its ability to meet current and future educational requirements. The views expressed have therefore contributed to the Authority's assessment of the need for improvement and the anticipated educational benefits of the proposal, as set out in the Proposal Paper.

9.9 The pupil comments on learning and specialist spaces have been specifically considered by the Education Service. These views have informed consideration of how the spaces within the campus can support effective learning across a range of subjects and provide access to specialist facilities and will be factored into further design work for the new campus and its implementation if the proposal is agreed.

9.10 The Education Service has specifically considered the points made by pupils relating to staff, teaching and curriculum. The proposed campus will support high-quality teaching by providing flexible, well-equipped learning environments that allow staff to deliver a broad and well-balanced curriculum while responding effectively to pupils' differing needs. The campus model will continue to provide opportunities for greater collaboration among staff, the sharing of expertise and resources, and improved continuity in learning across Early Learning and Childcare, Primary and Secondary stages. Detailed planning will continue to consider appropriate staffing arrangements, access to specialist teaching and the professional support required to deliver positive educational outcomes for all learners.

9.11 The pupil comments on safety, wellbeing, inclusion and accessibility have been specifically considered by the Education Service and treated as fundamental to the project. These views have informed consideration of a safe, accessible and supportive campus that promotes dignity, belonging and wellbeing for all pupils. Accessibility considerations will remain central to the design and implementation of the building, including inclusive access to buildings, learning spaces and facilities alongside safeguarding measures and support for pupils with a range of needs.

9.12 The Education Service has carefully considered the pupil comments on cost and value for money. It recognises the importance of ensuring that public investment in the proposed campus is financially sustainable and delivers long-term educational and community benefits.

9.13 The key themes from the written responses are detailed below:

- Site capacity, design and sports provision – respondents raised points regarding suitability, building capacity and outdoor and sports provision.
- Education offer, staffing and pupil opportunities - curriculum breadth, specialist spaces, staffing and wider opportunities were raised by respondents in this theme.
- Central/ island wide secondary provision – calls for a central or split-site model serving more of the island featured in this theme.
- Consultation, governance and trust – respondents expressed views on the quality of the consultation, transparency and decision-making within this theme.
- Community sustainability and population – respondents raised points on potential effects on population, housing and sustainability in this theme.
- Boarding, family separation and equity – points in this theme referred to children leaving home to board during the week, family separation and equitable access.
- Travel, transport and road safety – comments from respondents on travel times, bus logistics, active travel and road safety featured in this theme.
- Support for Tobermory / urgency – within this theme respondents expressed support for replacing the existing school and progressing with the Tobermory Campus Project.
- Cost, affordability and value – comments from respondents on cost, affordability and value for money featured in this theme.

9.14 The Education Service has considered the points raised in the responses regarding the theme site capacity, design and sports provision. The fact remains that the current school has design and accessibility limitations. In comparison, the new campus will be designed to be more accessible, and to meet the current and projected roll requirements in the Tobermory catchment area. Current projections show substantial improvements through the proposal: sports hall capacity will increase by more than 80%, early years play space will be over 25% larger and overall, the total indoor space will be larger. There will also be a new modern Community Gym and Library provisions. The preferred site, Tobermory South, can accommodate the full footprint and external space required for the campus including expansion room and a 7-aside pitch which is larger than the existing pitch. The current school has a Gross Internal Floor Area (GIFA) of approximately 3,000m². By comparison, the new campus is planned to provide just over 4,000m² of GIFA. This represents a substantial increase in internal accommodation and confirms that the new campus will be large enough to support the planned educational provision across Early Learning and Childcare, Primary and Secondary stages.

9.15 In relation to the theme within the responses relating to education offer, staffing and pupil opportunities. The new campus will support the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum, with access to appropriate learning experiences, specialist teaching and wider opportunities for pupils. Staffing at the secondary stages is determined by the applicable staff-to-pupil ratio as per the agreed national standard for secondary schools, with the projected secondary roll therefore informing the number of secondary teachers allocated to the school. Primary staffing is similarly determined through the relevant staffing formula, agreed as per the national standard for primary schools, which takes account of pupil numbers when establishing the number of teachers required for that sector of the campus. These arrangements will continue to be reviewed in line with the projected and actual pupil rolls to ensure that staffing supports effective curriculum delivery and positive outcomes for pupils across the campus.

9.16 The Education Service's response to the theme of central/island-wide secondary provision focusses on the key purpose of a 2-18 campus. The key purpose of the campus model is to promote the development in children and young people in Argyll and Bute of the attributes, skills and knowledge they require to be successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors. This integrated approach facilitates continuity, community and collaboration bringing a range of educational benefits leadership and mentoring opportunities; transition benefits; and sharing good practice. It is acknowledged that there is a desire from some members of the community to provide a split campus – two school – option, but following a decision made by councillors at a Council meeting in December 2024 and reaffirmed at a subsequent Council meeting on 7th March 2025, the project mandate is to progress with a single site campus. Based on this direction, and following the site selection process in March 2025, Tobermory South has been identified as the preferred site due to the educational benefits, economic impact, modes of travel and environmental impact it offers. This is the Proposal being consulted on in terms of where it is proposed that the Campus should relocate to. This consultation does not involve exploration of alternative sites. Those issues have already been determined through previous formal council decisions.

9.17 The Education Service's response to the theme on consultation, governance and trust is that the Council identified the preferred site in March 2025, following an extensive engagement exercise and after following due process, and that decision was subject to Judicial Review which was successfully defended by the Council. The Court of Session held that in relation to the selection process which led to Tobermory South being identified as the preferred site and consequently the subject of this Proposal, the process of engagement carried out by the Council at that time did not require to have the formality of a formal legal consultation. The Court also held that, even if a formal legal consultation process had been required, the Council had done enough to meet that standard. The Council's position is that it has carried out a detailed process of engagement to

arrive at the preferred site, validated by the Court of Session decision, and that this consultation process is not a competent vehicle to re-open that issue. The matter of selecting a site which forms the basis of a Relevant Proposal in terms of the 2010 Act is a matter for the Council as Education Authority. An Integrated Impact Assessment was considered by Members in March 2025 before Tobermory South was confirmed as the preferred site. The Assessment considered potential impacts on relevant groups across Mull and the surrounding islands and is currently being reviewed as part of this overall process, with an Integrated Impact Assessment specific to this statutory consultation exercise being prepared and attached as **Appendix 2**. The project will continue to be kept under review so that any further legal, procedural or governance requirements are addressed as it progresses. The Education Service recognises that there are varied views within the community about the Tobermory Campus Project. While some members of the public have expressed concerns, others support the project and the educational and wider community benefits that a modern campus could provide. The project team and wider partners will continue to engage with all sections of the community as the project progresses through the design stage and into the next formal planning stages.

9.18 The Education Service has carefully considered the comments relating to community, sustainability and population. The proposed campus represents a significant long-term investment in Tobermory and is intended to support a strong, sustainable community by providing modern education and community facilities that meet current and future needs. Retaining high-quality provision locally can help make the area an attractive place for families to live, learn and work, while supporting community confidence and resilience. Population trends and projected pupil rolls will continue to be reviewed as the project progresses to ensure that the campus is appropriately planned, adaptable and capable of responding to future changes in demand.

9.19 The Education Service has carefully considered the comments relating to the theme of boarding, family separation and equity. It recognises the concerns raised about the potential effect of boarding arrangements on pupils and families, including time spent away from home and the differing circumstances of individual children and young people. Officers acknowledge the strength and sincerity of the concerns expressed regarding this matter and also acknowledge the concern the project may not deliver the outcome preferred by many of the residents of Southwest Mull. The Council is required to pursue children's rights conscientiously and progressively while making proportionate decisions about available options and resources. The Council will continue to consider equality and equity impacts so that pupils can access suitable educational opportunities.

9.20 The Education Service has carefully considered the comments on the theme relating to travel, transport and road safety. It recognises the importance of safe, reliable and practical journeys to and from the proposed campus for pupils, staff and families. Travel and transport arrangements will be developed with regard to journey times, accessibility, school transport provision, traffic management and safe routes for walking and cycling. The Authority will continue to work with relevant transport and roads services as the project progresses to identify and address road-safety risks and to ensure that appropriate measures are incorporated into the detailed design and operational planning of the campus.

9.21 The Education Service has carefully considered the comments on the theme expressing support for investment in Tobermory and emphasising the urgency of progressing the project. We recognise the importance of providing modern, suitable and accessible facilities that can meet the educational needs of children and young people and support the wider community and implementation of the proposal will help to deliver this. The Service also acknowledges concerns about the limitations of the existing accommodation and the need to avoid unnecessary delay. The project will therefore continue to be progressed through the required design, consultation, planning and governance stages as efficiently as possible, while ensuring that decisions are properly informed and that statutory, financial and technical requirements are fully addressed.

9.22 The Education Service has carefully considered the comments relating to theme cost, affordability and value. It recognises the importance of ensuring that public investment in the proposed campus is financially sustainable and delivers long-term educational and community benefits. The project will continue to be developed through appropriate financial planning, cost review and governance arrangements, with consideration given to capital costs, ongoing operational requirements, affordability and risk. Options and design decisions will be assessed to secure value for money over the life of the campus, while maintaining the quality, accessibility and suitability of the facilities required to meet current and future needs.

9.23 The key themes from the oral representations recorded at the Public Meeting held on 17th September 2026 are as follows:

- Insufficient detail and meaningful consultation - Participants questioned how they could respond meaningfully to the relocation proposal without detailed plans, room sizes and clear information about facilities.
- Site Suitability - Concerns focused on whether the preferred site could accommodate the proposed campus and facilities, given its size, slopes and ongoing ground investigations.

- Educational Facilities - Participants sought clarity on classroom numbers, specialist teaching spaces and secondary provision, including how these would compare with the current school.
- Sports Provision - Questions centred on the absence of a full-size pitch, the proposed seven-a-side pitch and whether the sports hall would meet sportscotland standards.
- Access, transport and safety - Participants raised concerns about safe walking and cycling routes, bus drop-off arrangements, traffic from nearby developments and lengthy pupil journeys.
- Affordability, funding and delay - Questions highlighted rising costs, the financial impact of delays, reliance on Scottish Government funding and uncertainty about alternatives if the project became unaffordable.
- Design and project timetable - The panel explained that detailed design would follow later project stages, with construction planned for early 2028 and pupil transfer for January 2030, subject to progress.
- Land ownership and Acquisition - Participants sought clarity on land purchase negotiations, while the panel confirmed that the Council did not yet own the site and was in discussions with both landowners.
- Island-wide fairness - Contributors questioned whether the Tobermory location and consultation process fairly reflected the needs of children and communities across Mull, particularly those in the south of the island.
- Additional Support and early years provision - Questions addressed transition support and direct access for children with additional support needs, alongside the potential for childcare and early years provision within the new campus.
- Transparency and public engagement - Participants called for wider access to presentation slides, plans, costs and meeting information, as well as further opportunities to influence the developing proposals.
- Future of the existing site - Participants asked what would happen to the existing pitch, tennis court and play area, with the panel noting that no firm proposals existed and assets could be repurposed where possible.

The response given to each of the individual questions asked at the public meeting are noted in **Appendix 3** and constitute the Education Service's response to those representations. In addition, the following statements further outline the Education Service's position regarding the key themes raised at the public meeting.

- The Proposal is for a single 2-18 campus at the preferred Tobermory South site.
- The Council considers the site viable and suitable; and investigations and design work remain ongoing.
- Detailed design information will be shared at later project gateways.
- The proposed pitch is seven-a-side rather than full size and is larger than the current provision.
- The Council remain committed to delivering a 2-18 campus.
-

10. HMIE REPORT

10.1 In accordance with Section 8(2) of the 2010 Act, HMIE produced a report on the educational aspects of the Proposal.

10.2 In preparing their report, HMIE considered all relevant documentation in relation to the Proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents. They also visited Dervaig Primary School, Lochdonhead Primary School, Salen Primary School, Tobermory 2-18 Campus and Ulva Primary School to seek the views of stakeholders at the "affected schools" in terms of the 2010 Act; as well as visiting Bunessan Primary School and Oban High School for the same purpose. A representative of HMIE was present at the Public Meeting on 17th September 2026 as an observer.

10.3 The HMIE report is attached in full at **Appendix 5.**

10.4 The HMIE report's findings are summarised at Section 4 thereof:

"HM Inspectors acknowledge the clear educational rationale for replacing the ageing Tobermory 2-18 Campus. HM Inspectors agree that a new purpose-built campus has the potential to improve learning environments, wellbeing, attainment and achievement and provide educational benefits. However, most stakeholders expressed concerns about the proposed Tobermory location and the single site model. Most stakeholders favoured further consideration of alternative options, including a more centrally located secondary school to improve equity of access across Mull. This alternative option could reduce the need for young people from the south of the island to live away from home during the school week to attend a secondary school in Oban. Whilst there was broad support for investment in new facilities, stakeholders sought greater clarity regarding the chosen site, educational benefits, future capacity, transport arrangements and traffic management. The majority of parents and carers who met with HM Inspectors expressed concerns about the council's consultation process and felt their views had not been fully considered. In preparing its consultation report, the council should provide more detailed information on how the proposal would deliver its intended educational benefits and give further consideration to the concerns and alternative options put forward by stakeholders."

11. EDUCATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO HMIE REPORT

11.1 The Education Service has carefully considered the terms of HMIE's report and notes in particular (at Paragraph 3.1 thereof) their finding that there are potential educational benefits stated in the Council's Proposal. The Service also considers it necessary to provide its response to the following passages of HMIE's report:

11.2 **Paragraph 2.2:** HMIE makes reference to, but do not fully explain, the extensive engagement exercise that was previously carried out by the Council at the outset of the project and particularly in relation to the site selection process (see Paragraphs 4.6 – 4.12, above). The statutory consultation exercise, which this Proposal is the subject of, is narrower in scope and the legislation itself provides

definitions of specific *"relevant consultees"* and *"affected schools"* which the Council was required to adhere to throughout the consultation process. Nonetheless, the statutory consultation exercise was a public one, and anybody was entitled to participate in it and submit their views. For that reason, the Education Service does not agree with HMIE's statement that *"The current statutory consultation does not include those who live out with the Tobermory 2-18 Campus catchment area."*

11.3 **Paragraph 2.3:** The total number of written responses submitted to the consultation have been outlined at Paragraphs 8.1 and 9.1, above. HMIE's outline of the breadth of consultation responses is noted, including representations made regarding alternatives to the proposal (e.g. an alternative Craignure location). However, for the avoidance of any doubt, the Proposal that was subject to consultation was one to relocate the Tobermory 2-18 Campus from its current location to a new building on the Tobermory South site. Relocation proposals under the 2010 Act do not require the education authority to assess reasonable alternatives to the proposal throughout the statutory process, nor does this particular Proposal include the incorporation of the associated primaries into the new campus building and will not change the current leadership and management structure within the 2-18 campus, nor will it involve any school closures.

11.4 **Paragraph 2.4:** The Education Service consider that this paragraph does not adequately reflect the extensive consultation activities that the Council carried out with children and young people at the affected schools. Further detail in relation to this important part of the process is set out in Section 7, above.

11.5: **Paragraph 3.1:** The Education Service agrees with HMIE's statement that there are potential educational benefits stated in the Council's proposal. Also, HMIE agree with the underlying reasons for this Proposal that the current school building is in need of replacement; and a new purpose-built campus has the potential to provide modern facilities, which could enhance children's and young people's engagement, wellbeing, attainment and achievement. However, in response to HMIE's statements that the Council could provide more specific information about the proposed new school and the chosen site, HMIE will be aware that the Council is following the RIBA design process as part of the funding requirements set by the Scottish Government and that the project is not yet at an advanced stage to be able to be more definitive in regard to the proposed school facilities other than the general principles that have been stated as part the overall project and in the Proposal Paper. It is also clear that the project cannot progress to a more detailed stage until certain procedural and statutory processes are satisfied, this consultation exercise being one of them.

A large volume of information relating to the project, the site selection exercise and supporting reports has previously been made publicly available on the Council's dedicated Tobermory Campus Project webpage. HMIE will be aware of the extensive engagement exercise carried out by the Council to reach the point of identifying the current site, now subject of this proposal. The Council identified the site in March 2025 and that decision was subject to Judicial Review which was successfully defended by the Council. The Court of Session held that

in relation to the selection process which led to Tobermory South being identified as the preferred site and consequently the subject of this Proposal, the process of engagement carried out by the Council at that time did not require to have the formality of a formal legal consultation. The Court also held that, even if a formal legal consultation process had been required, the Council had done enough to meet that standard. The Council's position is that it has carried out a detailed process of engagement to arrive at the preferred site, validated by the Court of Session decision, and that this consultation process is not a competent vehicle to re-open that settled issue. The matter of selecting a site which forms the basis of a Relevant Proposal in terms of the 2010 Act is a matter for the Council as Education Authority.

An Integrated Impact Assessment was also considered by Members in March 2025 before Tobermory South was confirmed as the preferred site. The assessment considered potential impacts on relevant groups across Mull and the surrounding islands and is currently being reviewed in the context of this particular part of the overall process (see **Appendix 2**).

Finally, the Service would reiterate that there is ongoing engagement with the Scottish Government, including meetings with the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Culture and Gaelic around possible financial flexibilities which would potentially improve the financial viability of the Tobermory Campus project and allow additional facilities to be provided in a manner which will continue to secure educational benefits for children and young people.

11.6 **Paragraph 3.2:** Whilst stating the views of the majority of stakeholders with whom HMIE have met that a split-site alternative to the proposal should be explored, HMIE have not addressed the fact that the Council are not required to examine and assess reasonable alternatives of a relocation proposal under the 2010 Act; nor have they addressed the fact that a split-site alternative has already been considered and ruled out by the Council in December 2024 under the Council's formal decision-making processes (see Paragraph 4.10, above) based on educational benefits, the funding metrics, and the advice of the Council's Chief Financial officer. The fact that this earlier decision had already been made through formal processes at an earlier point was picked up on by Lord Cubie in his Judgment in relation to the Judicial Review proceedings as follows:

> *"[138] Despite senior counsel's focus on the site selection, I found myself, increasingly, in preparing for the this hearing, presiding over the hearing and in preparing this decision, identifying the decision of 20 December 2024 as the decision against which the petitioner truly took issue in relation to the determination that there should be one "like for like" campus for 2-18 education, a decision which had been justified by the respondent in relation to financial considerations and educational considerations. That rendered any discussion about the possibility of a split site redundant."*

11.7 **Paragraph 3.3**: The HMIE report recommends that the Council should more fully demonstrate within the Consultation Report how the proposed educational benefits will be achieved to address the concerns raised by stakeholders around

the size and suitability of the proposed site. In response, the Education Service wish to be clear that the size and suitability of the Tobermory South site was objectively assessed on a technical and operational basis which had due regard to a range of relevant factors. That body of evidence lead to the identification of Tobermory South as the preferred site, which was subsequently agreed by the Council on 7th March 2025. The Education Service wish to re-emphasise the point that current Tobermory Campus is the only Category C premises in the Council's learning estate, and the provision of a much-needed new campus presents an opportunity to deliver a much-improved educational environment for children and young people.

The emerging accommodation is intended to provide a broader and more accessible range of facilities than the existing campus. Key elements include enlarged early learning and childcare provision; improved specialist teaching and vocational skills spaces; a dedicated Learning Centre for pupils with Additional Support Needs (ASN); a larger sports hall and seven-a-side 3G pitch; a community library and fitness suite; and flexible internal and external spaces. Also being considered as part of the design process are accessible play areas, dedicated outdoor learning opportunities and capacity for future expansion. The final configuration will remain subject to design development, affordability and the necessary approvals.

The Council's approach is to provide accommodation suited to the current and forecast school roll, while making more effective use of space. The existing campus has developed over many decades and contains areas which are underused or do not readily support contemporary teaching arrangements. Despite the concerns raised with HMIE by stakeholders on this point, the Education Service wish to be clear that a reduction in the number of individual classrooms should therefore not be interpreted in isolation as a reduction in educational provision. The design is intended to support the full curriculum through an appropriate combination of general teaching rooms, specialist accommodation and flexible learning spaces, rather than an assumption that each member of teaching staff requires a dedicated classroom. The suitability of these arrangements will continue to be tested by the Project Team with input from the Education Service, and the school community, as the design develops.

Furthermore, the external spaces and landscape design considerations seek to make effective use of the site's topography and changes in level to create varied, imaginative and age-appropriate spaces for learning, play and social activity. The requirements of early learning and childcare, primary and secondary pupils and the Learning Centre will inform the arrangement of external areas, with appropriate separation, boundary treatments and safeguarding measures. Inclusive access must remain a central consideration as these proposals are developed, so that the opportunities offered by the landscape can be enjoyed by pupils with a range of needs.

11.8 **Paragraph 3.4**: HMIE have reflected in this paragraph the views they received from stakeholders with whom they met regarding traffic management on the chosen site. In response, the Education Service wish to be clear that safe access, parking and school transport arrangements are integral to the ongoing design

work being undertaken by the Council. That work includes consideration of dedicated bus pull-in and pupil drop-off areas within the site, alongside parking and safe pedestrian circulation. Further development of routes connecting the campus with Tobermory will seek to support walking, cycling and other active travel, with the detailed arrangements to be considered through the design and planning processes. These elements need to be considered together to provide a coherent approach to arrival, departure and movement around the campus.

11.9 **Paragraph 3.5**: The Education Service note and highlight that within the last sentence of this paragraph, HMIE specifically acknowledge that their recommendation therein regarding extending whole island approaches is outwith the scope of this statutory consultation exercise.

11.10 **Paragraph 3.6:** Whilst highlighting the concerns that HMIE heard from the stakeholders with whom they engaged regarding the proposal, the Education Service would respond that the HMIE report does not on the same subject fully acknowledge the extensive process of engagement that the Council has already followed throughout the process of arriving at the decision on the preferred site, as detailed above. Assessing the impacts on all relevant affected groups has been, and will continue to be, a key consideration throughout that process.

In particular, the Education Service recognises the importance of obtaining and giving due consideration to the views of affected children and young people. Children and young people from the Ross of Mull, including pupils associated with Bunessan Primary School and the Oban High School catchment, participated in extensive engagement undertaken in September 2024 that fed into the decision on the preferred site in March 2025. Their views informed the Mull Engagement Analysis Report and the subsequent site-selection process. That earlier engagement was distinct from this Proposal and the statutory consultation process that requires to be followed as set out in the 2010 Act.

The process of statutory consultation for this Proposal has included the relevant consultees, including the affected schools, as defined in the 2010 Act. The fact that some of those consulted, and those with whom HMIE engaged with, express disagreement with the proposal does not, by itself, demonstrate that children's views were not sought or considered. See Section 7, above, which sets out how children and young people were consulted with in this regard.

11.11 **Section 4:** In summary, the Education Service agree with HMIE's acknowledgement that there is a clear educational rationale for replacing the Tobermory 2-18 Campus, and that this Proposal provides the appropriate means to do so. A new purpose-built campus has the potential to improve learning environments, wellbeing, attainment and achievement and provide educational benefits for children and young people. The concerns that were raised by stakeholders with HMIE are duly noted. However, in reiterating its above responses, the Education Service wish to be clear that it has had due regard to all relevant factors at each stage in this overall process to inform all of the previous relevant decisions of the Council in relation to this project. The Education Service notices breadth of views expressed on this matter to date, but maintain that the process followed under this consultation complies with the 2010

Act's requirements; and is fair and equitable. Similarly, the Service maintains that the processes to reach earlier decisions in the project were likewise based on the best evidence available and followed due and fair processes. That position was affirmed by the Court of Session in the Judicial Review decision. The Education Service notes that some stakeholders strongly disagree with the decisions that have been made to date, but that disagreement with the outcomes is not evidence that the process the Council applied is, or was, flawed. This position is supported by the following passage of Lord Cubie's Judgment on the Judicial Review proceedings regarding the earlier site selection exercise:

> *"[53] The respondent had to reach a decision against a background of any decision being unsatisfactory to some; certain criticisms - bad faith for example - were not pled, or purported promises made. Strong opinion, however strongly expressed, represented advocacy for the petition and not evidence. And strength of feeling does not heighten the legal obligations upon the respondent."*

12. COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 9(1) OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

12.1 After the consultation process concluded and the Education Service received HMIE's report, officers carried out a further review of the proposal, having regard (in particular) to:

a) Representations made in writing, at the public meeting, and those made at the pupil consultation sessions; and

b) HMIE's report.

12.2 The Education Service has listened carefully to the points made by all of the above respondents and have considered equally carefully the stakeholder views as reflected within the HMIE report. Responses to all relevant points are set out above. The Proposal was reviewed to consider whether any of the representations made led the Education Service to reconsider the Proposal. All of the evidence available has been duly reviewed, and officers are of the view that there are more benefits to implementing the Proposal than not implementing it.

12.3 In considering the stakeholder representations made through the consultation responses and HMIE's report, officers continue to be of the view that implementation of the Proposal will realise the following benefits:

- Relocating the school would permit the construction of a new purpose-built campus building and considerably improved Education accommodation.

- Construction of a new campus on the proposed site also allows the existing campus to continue operating in the meantime and prevents disruption to education provision as a result of construction works.

- A new purpose-built campus will bring the following improvements: better-quality accommodation, more attractive learning environment, access to modern technology, improved disability access and improved indoor and outdoor learning environment.

- The Education Service also have confidence that the new building will provide excellent facilities for use outwith school hours that could be used to help meet the learning, leisure and social needs of the children and young people and the community.

- The design of the new campus will ensure that accessibility for all, including learners with disabilities, complies with the Council's Accessibility Strategy and the *Equality Act* 2010. It will be designed in such a way as to promote accessible and inclusive learning which will meet the needs of learners including those with Additional Support Needs.

12.4 **Based on the above, officers consider that the benefits of the Proposal outweigh the possible disadvantages. As such, officers have concluded that there is no cause to reconsider the Proposal based on all of the evidence available.**

12.5 The Educational Benefits Statement was also reviewed by officers in respect of the pupil consultation sessions feedback, the HMIE report and representations made therein. There were no factors included in the HMIE report or other representations made that officers consider now require any aspect of the Educational Benefits Statement to be reconsidered. It should also be noted that the Education Authority do not anticipate any impacts on those children and young people attending schools outwith the Tobermory Campus catchment area. Having reviewed the HMIE report and feedback from consultees, the Council has concluded that implementation of the Proposal continues to be the most appropriate response to the underlying reasons for formulating it.

12.6 The Education Service has carefully considered the Proposal alongside the wide range of views expressed throughout the consultation. The contributions of children and young people during the pupil sessions were particularly encouraging and valuable to this exercise, conveying genuine enthusiasm for the prospect of a significantly improved learning environment. Their thoughtful feedback highlighted a clear aspiration for spaces that would enrich their learning experiences and enhance their enjoyment of school.

13. ALLEGED OMISSIONS OR INACCURACIES

13.1 Section 10(3) of the 2010 Act places a requirement on the Council to provide details of any inaccuracy or omission in the Proposal Paper which has either been identified by the Council or raised by consultees. This provision also requires the Council to provide a statement on the action taken in respect of the inaccuracy or omission, or if no action was taken, to state that fact and why.

13.2 In the course of the statutory consultation, there were no areas identified by the council as being inaccurate or omitted from the Proposal Paper that was

published as the basis for the consultation. A large range of views were expressed from respondents. The themes and education authority responses to those can be found in section 9 of this report. None of those representations raised any inaccuracies or omissions in the content of the published Proposal Paper.

14. CONCLUSION

14.1 **It is proposed that the current Tobermory 2-18 Campus at Erray Road, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6PB is relocated to a new purpose-built 2-18 campus school building located on the site which is situated to southern edge of Tobermory** with the western boundary adjacent to the A848. The Proposal, if approved, will be implemented when the new accommodation has been completed.

15. RECOMMENDATION

15.1 On the basis of the entirety of feedback gathered as part of this consultation exercise, along with HMIE's report, it is recommended that the Proposal is implemented.

Appendix 1 – Proposal Paper

We are looking for your views on a Proposal to relocate the Tobermory 2-18 Campus

Closing date for written responses: 2nd October 2026

A public meeting will be held on: 17th September 2026 in Tobermory 2-18 Campus, Erray Road, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6PB at 6.00pm

This document has been issued by Argyll and Bute Council for consultation under the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act* 2010.

If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.

Phone: 01369 708601
Email: schoolsupport@argyll-bute.gov.uk

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1.0 THE PROPOSAL AND CONSULTATION PROCESS

1.0 **The Proposal** being consulted on is as follows:

To relocate the current Tobermory 2-18 Campus at Erray Road, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6PB to a new purpose-built 2-18 campus school building located on the site which is situated to southern edge of Tobermory with the western boundary adjacent to the A848. The Proposal, if approved, will be implemented when the new accommodation has been completed.

1.1 **Decision to Undertake the Consultation**

This Proposal is being advanced because Tobermory 2-18 Campus currently suffers from poor accommodation that struggles to suit modern education practices. Relocating the school would permit the construction of a new purpose-built campus building and considerably improved Education accommodation. Construction of a new campus on the proposed site also allows the existing campus to continue operating in the meantime and prevents disruption to education provision as a result of construction works. The opportunity to build a new campus has arisen from the successful application for funding from the Scottish Government's Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP).

1.2 **Consultation on the Proposal**

Under the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act* 2010 (the 2010 Act), if a local authority proposes to relocate a school, it must undertake a statutory consultation involving the 'relevant consultees' affected by the Proposal. In this instance, located within the current campus:

- Tobermory ELC
- Tobermory Primary
- Tobermory High

and the following primary schools that are associated primaries:

- Dervaig Primary School
- Salen Primary Gaelic and English medium School and ELCs
- Lochdonhead Primary School and
- Ulva Primary School

are the "affected schools" in terms of the 2010 Act.

For the avoidance of any doubt, this proposal does not include the incorporation of the associated primaries into the new campus building and will not change the current leadership and management structure within the 2-18 campus, nor will it involve any school closures.

The formal consultation on the Proposal within this document will be undertaken under the terms of the 2010 Act. The consultation period will start on **24th August 2026** (with due written notice of the Proposal issued to the relevant consultees listed in **Appendix 1**) and end on **2nd October 2026,** which is in accordance with the requirements of Section 6(4) of the 2010 Act. Written representations must be received by the close of business on the closing date in order to be taken into account.

At the outset of the consultation period, the Council will also publish details of the consultation exercise, including a copy of this Proposal Paper, on the Council's website for the wider public to access the consultation materials and submit responses.

1.3 **Public Meeting**

A public meeting will be held on **Thursday 17th September 2026 at 6pm in Tobermory 2-18 Campus, Erray Road, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6PB**. Anyone wishing to attend the public meeting is invited to do so. The meeting will provide those in attendance with an opportunity to:

- Hear about the Proposal;
- Ask questions about the Proposal, and
- Express views about the Proposal.

A note will be taken of any views expressed and/or questions asked at the public meeting so that they can be taken into account as part of the consultation process. A representative from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland (HMIE) will attend the public meeting as an observer. In addition to the public meeting, written representations will be able to be made during the consultation period. A copy of the Consultation Response Form can be found at **Appendix 6,** and an online version of the Response Form can be completed and submitted **here**.

1.4 **Children's Views**

Children who are capable of forming their own views will be able to express them as part of the consultation exercise. In particular, officers from the Education Service will conduct visits to the affected schools to undertake face-to-face engagement sessions with pupils, supported by school staff that know the children well. The school staff will provide relevant support and specific adaptions for the children according to their needs to allow them to participate fully in the session and to express their views. During these sessions, officers intend to use a consistent set of PowerPoint presentation slides, which will be shared with school staff in advance, and any adaptations required for any individual children or specific groups of children will be made prior to the sessions.

The presentation slides will clearly explain what a consultation is, outline the specific Proposal that is being consulted on, and set out that the Authority are

seeking pupils' views on the proposed relocation of the school building. All views expressed by the children will be recorded during the session in a variety of ways appropriate to the specific groups being engaged. For example, some pupils may prefer to provide oral responses, which the school staff and officers will write down for them. Other pupils may choose to draw, type, or write their response themselves during the sessions. For engagement with Early Years children, officers plan to use a Floor Book to facilitate gathering and recording their views. A standard response form will be used for each school to ensure the pupils' views are collated in a consistent and structured way.

The above approach will be tailored to individual groups of pupils to ensure that pupils are provided with full, accessible, diversity-sensitive and age-appropriate information about their right to express their views freely. The consultation process has also been planned to ensure that children's views are given due weight as part of the review of the Proposal at the conclusion of the consultation period. These steps in particular are being taken to ensure that the consultation exercise is compatible with the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act* 2024, and in particular, Articles 2, 3, 6, 12, 28 and 29 of the Convention.

1.5 **HMIE Involvement**

At the start of the consultation period, the Council will provide HMIE with a copy of this Proposal Paper. When the consultation period has ended, the Council will collate all of the written and oral representations. Thereafter, this information will be provided to HMIE and include;

- A copy of written representations made to the Council on the Proposal (or summary of them if agreed with HMIE),
- A summary of oral representations made at the public meeting, and
- Other relevant documentation, so far as is practicable.

HMIE will prepare a report on the educational aspects of the Proposal taking account of the above, and insofar that HMIE considers them relevant, any written representations made directly to them. HMIE may also visit the schools affected by the Proposal, engage with relevant consultees directly, and make any other enquiries as they consider appropriate. HMIE require to send their report to the Council no later than three weeks (or longer if agreed with the Council) after having received the above listed information from the Council.

1.7 **Consultation Report**

After receiving HMIE's report, the Council will review the Proposal taking account of written representations received during the consultation period, oral representations made during the public meeting, children's views gathered from the facilitated focus groups with pupils (outlined at Section 1.5, above), and HMIE's report. The Council will then prepare and publish a Consultation Report, which will include a recommendation regarding implementation of the Proposal and make it available for inspection. The

Consultation Report will be published no later than three weeks before it is formally considered by the Council's Community Services Committee.

1.8 **Inaccuracies or Omissions**

Where any inaccuracies or omissions are discovered within this Proposal Paper, the Council will determine whether relevant information has been omitted or, if there has been an inaccuracy. Appropriate action will then be taken by the Council, which may include issuing corrections, re-issuing a corrected Proposal Paper or an extension of the consultation period. In any of these events, all of the Relevant Consultees (and where applicable the notifier(s) of any omissions or inaccuracies) and HMIE will be advised of the action that is taken.

1.9 **Integrated Impact Assessment**

The Council is required to carry out impact assessments in relation to certain policy and service changes to ensure it considers how those changes may impact different groups, in accordance with the Council's statutory duties relating to equalities, inequalities of opportunity, children's rights and wellbeing, consumers and island communities.

The statutory consultation exercise will enable officers to consult with the above-mentioned groups and gather evidence pertaining to potential impacts of the Proposal. Those impacts will be assessed by officers on an ongoing basis, and an Integrated Impact Assessment will be published alongside the Council's Consultation Report.

2.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE FOR THE PROPOSAL

2.1 The Proposal, if accepted, would be implemented when the building works for the new school campus have been completed. Officers currently anticipate that, in accordance with the current project plan, this will be from late 2030. This is an estimate, is dependent on a number of milestones set out in the current project plan and therefore may be subject to change.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Tobermory 2-18 Campus is a co-educational, non-denominational school serving the town of Tobermory along with the surrounding area. The school is situated in Erray Road, in Tobermory. Tobermory Campus is an all-through school with children and young people aged 2 – 18 years. The campus consists of an early learning and childcare (ELC) provision, a primary and a high school. The campus has four different buildings associated with it. The original block B was built circa 1930s with Block F being added in the 1970s. The Art block was then added between 1980/1990 and the Pre5 unit built in 2010.

The ELC setting provides flexible placements for 38 weeks of the year during term time. Children and young people attending ELC and Primary are usually, but not exclusively, based in Tobermory while the Secondary School serves North and Central Mull, with associated primary schools of Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen and Ulva.

There are also children and young people attending the secondary school on placing requests (from Highland Council and from the South of the island). Children and young people benefit from Gaelic Learner Education delivered across the school and Literacy and Gàidhlig in the secondary stages. The catchment areas for the primary and secondary are shown in **Appendix 4**.

The school roll, as at 22nd April 2026, is as follows:

Education stage	**Year group**	**Number of pupils**
Primary	P1	8
Primary	P2	12
Primary	P3	10
Primary	P4	19
Primary	P5	7
Primary	P6	6
Primary	P7	17
Primary total	**All primary year groups**	**79**
Secondary	S1	36
Secondary	S2	25
Secondary	S3	22
Secondary	S4	36
Secondary	S5	27
Secondary	S6	16
Secondary total	**All secondary year groups**	**162**
Early learning and childcare	ELC	15
Combined overall total	**Primary, secondary and ELC**	**256**

3.2 Given the current Tobermory Campus is assessed to be 'C - poor' in terms of suitability, there is a requirement to improve the situation. This is currently the only school building in Argyll and Bute with that suitability rating. The lower grading of Tobermory Campus building is largely driven by accessibility, restrictive drop off space, lack of social spaces and restricted specialised

classes. The building currently sits at 41.91% incline with little scope to improve this. Analysis of the council expenditure on the campus also highlights a trend of increasing reactive or maintenance spend and a sizable sum of investment on addressing degrading fabric at the school over the past five years. Roof works, water ingress and building fabric repairs are common sources of expenditure. The condition of the building can be improved from further investment; however, the suitability is much more challenging to be upgraded without significant refurbishment. Such year-on-year construction can be detrimental on both pupils and staff over long periods of time, and/or would require decanting of operations for periods. Other environmental (climate change) standards or digital enhancements also remain below the minimum standard compared to a new build LEIP school.

3.3 In December 2021 the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills outlined to the Scottish Parliament that LEIP Phase 3 would seek projects within 12 months. Applications for LEIP funding are made on the basis of condition or expansion, and therefore the Council proceeded with an application for funding for the Tobermory Campus based on the condition of the premises. The project team worked on developing the application adhering to the detailed requirements set out by the Scottish Government:

- Local investment priorities and their context within the 'Place'
- The proposed Vision, Strategic Outcomes and Objectives for the project(s)
- Alignment with Learning Estate Strategy 2019 Guiding Principles
- Ensuring political and financial commitments are in place for the investment priorities
- Demonstrating implementation of the terms and conditions of the programme on Phase 1&2 projects (where applicable).

The Council submitted a bid for Scottish Government LEIP funding in October 2022 for a 2-18 campus on Mull. In October 2023, the bid was accepted. The bid met the LEIP eligibility criterion on the condition that funding would be provided to replace the existing Tobermory campus.

3.4 The Council, in April 2024, decided to commence the Business Case, undertake engagement exercises and commence the site selection process.

3.5 In August 2024, the council issued an open call for sites for the new campus to identify potentially suitable sites. The council carried out an extensive community engagement exercise in September 2024 to ask the community what was important to them when considering a site for the new campus. Councillors considered the findings in December 2024:

Community Engagement Analysis Report

On 20th December 2024, the Council confirmed that the new Campus would continue on a single-site basis.

A detailed site appraisal was carried out with the output presented to the Council on 7th March 2025. This process included an Integrated Impact Assessment, and views were sought from community groups to inform this to supplement the Engagement Analysis Report.

3.6 On 7th March 2025 the preferred site was confirmed at the Special Council meeting as 'Tobermory South'. The site is situated to the southern of Tobermory with the western boundary adjacent to the A848. This is illustrated in relation to the existing campus on the map in **Appendix 2**. Councillors made this decision based on evidence presented through a comprehensive preferred site recommendation report with a large suite of appendices, the culmination of six months of activity. The meeting minute and are available at this link:

Special Meeting, Argyll and Bute Council - 7th March 2025

3.7 Following the decision on the preferred site, as Tobermory South, by councillors, it was thereafter appropriate to formally consider a statutory relocation Proposal in parallel with the development of the outline business case.

On 5th June 2025, the Council's Community Services Committee agreed to undertake a statutory consultation exercise on a Proposal to relocate the current Tobermory 2-18 Campus. However, before that consultation exercise could commence, a Petition for Judicial Review was lodged in the Court of Session – challenging the Council's decision of 7th March 2025 to locate the new campus on the Tobermory South site.

Members of the Community Services Committee thereafter considered a report on 28th August 2025, seeking the Committee's endorsement of officers' actions not to commence the statutory consultation exercise previously agreed, and to pause all other work on the Project, due to the material change in circumstances that had arisen by virtue of the Judicial Review court proceedings. Now that the matters pertaining to that earlier decision have been concluded and following the Council's consideration of a further report and decision on 29th April 2026 to resume the Project under a revised timeline, it is now considered appropriate to revisit the Proposal for a statutory relocation consultation under the 2010 Act.

3.8 The new building will include the appropriate number of learning spaces, modern practical subject specific rooms, a larger gym hall and a larger dining hall. The outdoor environment will be accessible and suitable for outdoor learning.

3.9 More information about the Campus is available on the Council's website.

4.0 EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT – ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSAL

4.1 **Benefits for Present Pupils at Tobermory Campus**

Should the school be relocated and built on the new site, there will be benefits for current pupils. A new purpose-built campus will be a significant, more efficient improvement on the current establishment. These improvements include better-quality accommodation, more attractive learning environment, access to modern technology, improved disability access and improved indoor and outdoor learning environment. The Education Service also have confidence that the new building will provide excellent facilities for use outwith school hours that could be used to help meet the learning, leisure and social needs of the children and young people and the community.

The design of the new campus will ensure that accessibility for all, including learners with disabilities complies with the Council's Accessibility Strategy and the *Equality Act* 2010. It will be designed in such a way as to promote accessible and inclusive learning which will meet the needs of learners including those with Additional Support Needs. It will be designed to be an inspiring learning environment which is fully able to support new and innovative digital learning and engage pupils with the curriculum.

4.2 **Benefits for Future Pupils of Tobermory Campus**

The development of a new campus in Tobermory will see children and young people benefit from a well-resourced single site which retains capacity to meet future educational needs as they arise. A new purpose-built campus offers the prospect of strong educational benefit arising from improved accommodation and learning environment for the pupils. A degree of flexibility and adaptability will be built into the design in order to provide options to alter spaces in the future in response to the changing needs of the campus population. This approach is likely to optimise the use of available space.

The new campus will include new sports facilities which will significantly enhance opportunities for Physical Education and related activities. Pupils will have the opportunity to make links within and across disciplines through interdisciplinary learning adding depth and relevance to experiences. It would be expected that these improvements in facilities and the associated impact on practices would have a positive impact on the Health and Wellbeing of children and young people.

The new campus will be fully responsive to future learning requirements, and the design process will ensure that all spaces support learning and teaching relevant to the society pupils will enter as adults. It will be designed to be an inspiring learning environment which is fully able to support new and innovative digital learning and engage pupils with the curriculum and allow them to develop skills for lifelong learning.

Facilities such as a science laboratory, technology workshop, home economics room, music suite, and library will support and enhance learning as well as supporting transitions. These facilities will also benefit pupils who access mainstream/enhanced provision learning arrangements across the

wider campus. With carefully considered timetabling, the whole campus would have access to the facilities.

Outdoor Learning provision will also be improved for all learners and will be at the heart of the design process. This will provide enhanced opportunities for learning beyond the classroom for all learners. As part of the design for the outdoor environment consideration will be given to ensure safe pick up and drop off points for pupils arriving by a variety of transport modes and suitable parking facilities for staff and visitors. This should include a safe walking route and will allow better management of any risks in and around the vehicle and pedestrian interface. Appropriate use of CCTV will help manage/reduce unauthorised entry, bullying and vandalism and can also help pupils feel more secure.

The digital learning environment would be enhanced through implementation of the Proposal. Staff knowledge and skills in using digital platforms for learning and teaching will be more effectively shared among colleagues, and teachers across the campus and across the authority will work collaboratively to build online learning experiences and resources. Such improvements in provision would be underpinned by the advanced digital facilities and accessibility planned into the design of the new campus.

4.3 **Effects on Other Users of the School's Facilities**

In line with Argyll and Bute's Learning Estate Strategy and in accordance with the Scottish Government Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP) requirements the use of the new building should benefit the wider community. This ensures high quality partnership working and community engagement is at the heart of the Education Service. For the new campus this would involve planned use of the library and sports facilities and the opportunity to book rooms, at appropriate times, by other users in the community. The new campus may also have the benefit of attracting and retaining staff as they could be drawn to the first-class working environment at the new campus.

4.4 **Effects on Pupils of Tobermory Campus**

As the new campus will be located a short distance from the current site, there is not expected to be any significant effect on school transport arrangements for pupils. However, the Education Service would monitor the suitability of transport arrangements prior to, during and following any move to a new campus on an ongoing basis to assess the ongoing suitability of school transport arrangements and take steps to mitigate any adverse impacts for individual pupils.

Key aspects that will improve the environment for pupils will be considered during the design phase. These include acoustics and noise, air quality, lighting, temperature control and classroom size. The improved physical environment is likely to impact positively on attendance as pupils will find the new environment a nicer place to be. In addition to this, improved physical

spaces can result in a physically and mentally healthier environment leading to less time off for illness.

The Education Service also plan to prepare for the transition of pupils over to a new campus to ensure that this takes place as smoothly as possible for all children and young people. This planning process will consider the individual needs and requirements of pupils with a view to mitigating any adverse impacts that could potentially arise for children and young people as a result of changing their learning environment. However, as stated above, the physical learning environment is anticipated to be significantly improved within a new campus. Accordingly, no significant adverse effects arising from the same are currently anticipated. Nonetheless, the position will be continually monitored by the Education Service on an ongoing basis, with a focus on the individual needs of pupils.

In addition to enhancements to the physical environment, improvements to the layout of the teaching areas and classrooms will encourage high levels of collaborative and collegiate work among the educational staff, positively impacting on levels of attainment and achievement. Opportunities for inclusive and collaborative learning (where appropriate) through access to flexible learning spaces can further promote positive attitudes to diversity. The flexible learning spaces will facilitate working across school stages, allowing varied and enhanced social interactions and provide opportunities for pupils to experience quiet spaces when required, which positively impacts on emotional wellbeing. Strengths across the school will be shared. Existing good practice will be recognised and identified within the school and incorporated into strategic planning to improve provision and ensure equity of experience for young people across the school.

4.5 **Implications for Pupils if the Proposal was not Implemented**

The Council's Learning Estate Strategy 2021 sets out an ambition to provide a school estate that is of category A or B in terms of suitability and condition plus a number of other modern standards. Delivering a new campus in Tobermory supports that ambition, because Tobermory 2-18 campus currently has poor suitability accommodation as outlined in the school condition survey for the campus. Relocating the campus would permit the construction of a purpose-built campus.

Whilst there have been ongoing maintenance and improvement works; the current school is graded "C - Poor" for suitability, which means the physical element of the campus does not carry out its function effectively without continuous repair and it shows considerable signs of age. There are significant issues with accessibility due to the multiple sets of stairs and changes in level throughout the campus and narrow corridors.

If this Proposal is not implemented, this is likely to have a negative effect on student perception, comfort and well-being whilst learning within the building. In addition to this, students or staff with limited mobility will struggle to access all of the current school. There have in recent years been representations from

senior pupils asking for improvements. As an older school building, the ongoing maintenance required to keep the campus in a useable condition can be disruptive to learning and routines. Classroom environments can be noisy as they are not designed for modern teaching methods. Another consideration is that classrooms can often be too hot or too cold, with no real way to regulate the temperature at a consistently comfortable level. In addition to this there are challenges with the external environment, this is evident through insufficient parking and a tight road infrastructure serving the current site. This affects bus drop off and pick up points and active travel routes for the current site.

5.0 ASSESSING THE IMPACT ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AFFECTED BY THIS PROPOSAL

5.1 With the construction of the new purpose-built campus, there may be potential benefits for the local communities of the affected schools. These include the current ELC, primary and secondary sectors of the campus as well as the associated primary schools of Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, and Ulva. Schools influence the attractiveness of an area for potential residents and, in turn, the value of future housing developments. A new campus in Tobermory may have potential to contribute towards an increase in the value of properties in the area, as well as making it more attractive for families with children to move to the area. This may also apply to the local areas that are in the catchment area for Tobermory secondary. Community members will also benefit from opportunities to access new sports facilities and library in evenings and weekends at the new campus.

6.0 EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Staffing arrangements will continue to be consistent with the Argyll and Bute Council Staffing Standards and other local arrangements. For the avoidance of any doubt, this proposal does not include the incorporation of the associated primaries into the new campus building, does not require any school closures, nor will it change the current leadership and management structure within the 2-18 campus.

6.2 Key aspects that will improve the environment for staff will be considered during the design phase. These include acoustics and noise, air quality, lighting, temperature control and classroom size. Improved physical spaces can result in a physically and mentally healthier environment leading to less time off for illness. Improved accessibility will make the building suitable for anyone experiencing mobility issues. The new campus's enhanced digital technology capabilities will empower staff to design and deliver modern lessons while fully integrating digital tools across the curriculum.

7.0 CONCLUSION

7.1 This is a Proposal to relocate the current Tobermory 2-18 Campus at Erray Road, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6PB to a new purpose-built 2-18 campus

school building located on the site which is situated to southern edge of Tobermory with the western boundary adjacent to the A848. The matter is being considered by way of a statutory consultation exercise in accordance with the 2010 Act.

8.0 RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION

8.1 Interested parties are invited to respond to the consultation exercise by making written submissions on the Proposal, using the form at **Appendix 6**, by no later than close of business on **2nd October 2026**.

Responses can be posted to:

Argyll and Bute Council
Education Service
Argyll House
Alexandra Parade
Dunoon
PA23 8AJ

Or emailed to: schoolsupport@argyll-bute.gov.uk

An online version of the response form is also available to be completed and submitted on the Council's website.

8.2 Those submitting a response, whether by letter, email or online should be aware that their response will be published as part of the Council's final Consultation Report.

8.3 If respondents do not wish their response to be publicly available, they should clearly indicate on the document by ticking the box which states: *"I wish my response to be considered as confidential with access restricted to elected members and officers of Argyll and Bute Council."* Responses received from children will be anonymised. Otherwise, it will be assumed that the respondent agrees to their response being made publicly available.

Appendix 1 – Distribution List

Distribution list and how to access a copy of the Proposal Paper

A Summary of this Proposal (including details of where/how to access the full Proposal Paper) will be provided to the following 'Relevant Consultees' in terms of the Act:

- The Parent Councils of Tobermory 2-18 Campus
- The Parent Councils of Dervaig, Salen, Lochdonhead and Ulva Primary Schools
- The parents of pupils at all affected schools
- The parents of any children expected to attend any of the affected schools within two years of the date of publication of this Proposal Paper
- The pupils at the affected schools (in so far as the Education Authority considers them to be of suitable age and maturity)
- The pupils at the associated primary schools – Dervaig, Salen, Lochdonhead and Ulva Primary Schools (in so far as the Education Authority considers them to be of suitable age and maturity)
- All employees at the affected schools
- Trade union representatives of employees at the affected schools
- Mull Community Council
- All relevant users of the Tobermory 2-18 Campus
- Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership

A Summary of this Proposal (including details of where/how to access the full Proposal Paper) will also be made available to:

- Argyll and Bute Councillors for Ward 4 – Oban South and the Isles
- The constituency MSP for Argyll and Bute
- List MSPs for the Highlands and Islands region
- The constituency MP for Argyll, Bute and South Lochaber
- Mull and Iona Community Trust

The steps listed below have also been taken to ensure that the proposal is widely available:

- This Proposal Paper will be published on the Argyll and Bute Council website
- This document can be made available in alternative forms or translated by contacting Argyll House, Dunoon, telephone: 01369 708576 or schoolsupport@argyll-bute.gov.uk;
- Hard copies of this Proposal Paper will also be available for inspection, free of charge, at the following locations:
    - Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT
    - Tobermory 2-18 Campus, Erray Road, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6PB
    - Dervaig Primary School, Dervaig, Isle of Mull, PA75 6QW
    - Salen Primary School, Salen, Isle of Mull, PA72 6JS

- Lochdonhead Primary School, Lochdon, Isle of Mull, PA64 6AP
- Ulva Primary School, Ulva Road, Isle of Mull, PA73 6LT

The steps outlined below will also be taken to ensure that the Proposal is made available to children potentially impacted by the proposal in a child-friendly way, in compliance with the UNCRC requirements, and in particular Article 12 (respect for the views of the child):

Officers from the Education Service will conduct visits to the affected schools to undertake face-to-face engagement sessions with pupils, supported by school staff that know the children well. The school staff will provide relevant support and specific adaptions for the children according to their needs to allow them to participate fully in the session and to express their views. During these sessions, officers intend to use a consistent set of PowerPoint presentation slides, which will be shared with school staff in advance, and any adaptations required for any individual children or specific groups of children will be made prior to the sessions.

The presentation slides will clearly explain what a consultation is, outline the specific Proposal that is being consulted on, and set out that the Authority are seeking pupils' views on the proposed relocation of the school building. All views expressed by the children will be recorded during the session in a variety of ways appropriate to the specific groups being engaged. For example, some pupils may prefer to provide oral responses, which the school staff and officers will write down for them. Other pupils may choose to draw, type, or write their response themselves during the sessions. For engagement with Early Years children, officers plan to use a Floor Book to facilitate gathering and recording their views. A standard response form will be used for each school to ensure the pupils' views are collated in a consistent and structured way.

The above approach will be tailored to individual groups of pupils to ensure that pupils are provided with full, accessible, diversity-sensitive and age-appropriate information about their right to express their views freely. The consultation process has also been planned to ensure that children's views are given due weight as part of the review of the Proposal at the conclusion of the consultation period.

Appendix 2 – Map of location of the new campus site

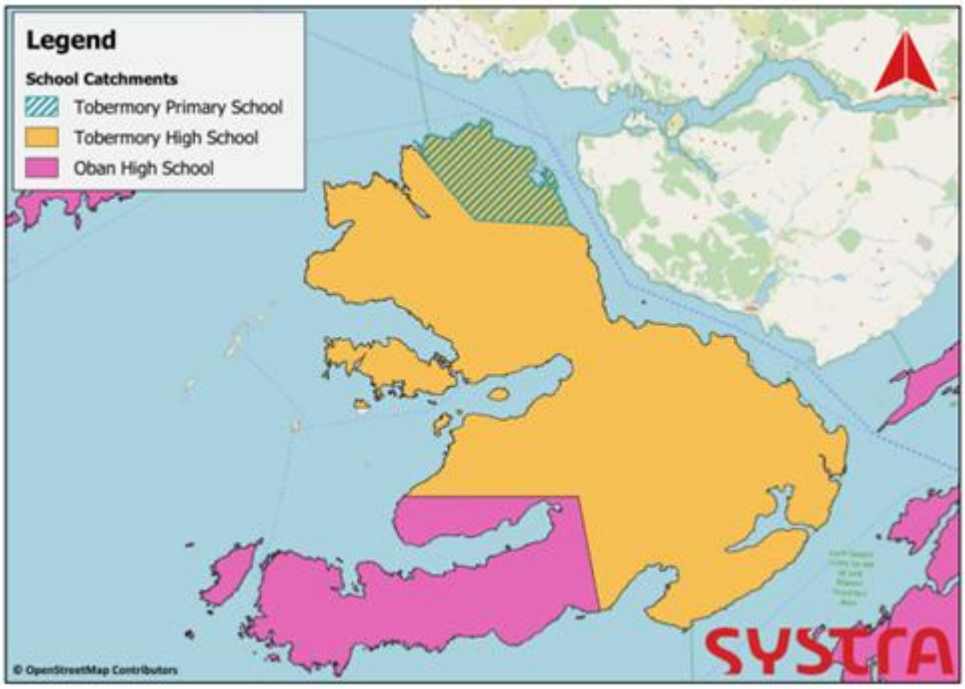


Appendix 3 – Potential Site Layout of the South Tobermory site and front elevation design sketch





Appendix 4 Catchment areas



Appendix 5 – Tobermory 2-18 School Roll Data and Projections

Year	ELC - Roll	Primary – School Roll	Secondary – School Roll
2014-15		61	139
2015-16	17	59	139
2016-17	17	63	144
2017-18	21	58	143
2018-19	24	61	126
2019-20	17	62	132
2020-21	16	62	136
2021-22	26	68	138
2022-23	18	76	160
2023-24	15	73	151
2024-25	19	80	154
2025-26	12	78	162

* Historical roll figures taken from Census of each year.
* Current school session figure accurate as at 22nd April 2026.

Year	ELC - Roll	Primary – School Roll	Secondary – School Roll
2026-27	15	70	157
2027-28	15	77	156
2028-29	15	80	156
2029-30	15	63	168
2030-31	15	66	181
2031-32		66	190

*NHS provide birth data up to January 2026 - all projections after this is based on averages.

Appendix 6 – Response Form

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Education Service

Please use this form to let us know what you think about the proposal

You can submit a written representation by downloading this Response Form in Word format, populating it, and emailing the completed form to: schoolsupport@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

Alternatively, you may wish to print out this form, complete it by hand (please use block capital letters), and return the completed form by post to: Education Services, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon, PA23 8AJ.

The closing date for responses to be received by the Council is **5pm on 2nd October 2026.**

Proposal

Argyll and Bute Council is seeking the views on the following proposal, namely:

- To relocate the current Tobermory 2-18 Campus School building to a new school building located on the site which is situated to southern edge of Tobermory with the western boundary adjacent to the A848.

If you **do not wish your response to be publicly available**, you must tick the box below. Otherwise, it will be assumed that you agree to your response being made publicly available.

☐ ***"I wish my response to be considered as confidential with access restricted to elected members and council officers of Argyll and Bute Council."***

Name	
Address	

I agree with the proposal (please tick) Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided ☐

If you wish to comment on the Proposal please use the space below. Please attach another sheet should you require to do so:

I am responding in my capacity as a (please indicate by ticking the appropriate box)

Parent/ carer of child at Tobermory ELC/Primary /Secondary	☐	Trade Union	☐
Parent/ carer of child at affected primary school (Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Primary School)	☐	Elected representative	☐
Pupil	☐	Community Council	☐
Tobermory PS / Tobermory HS Parent Council	☐	Member of the public/ community	☐
Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Parent Council	☐	Member of staff	☐
Other	☐	Details: _____	

Handling your response - Please note that:

- We will use the information you provide for the purpose(s) of this consultation, including statistical and analytical purposes;
- We will pass a full copy of your written response to His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland, or a summary of it of agreed with them; and
- We are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and therefore would have to consider any request made under that Act for information relating to written responses/ records of oral representations made to us relating to this consultation.

This consultation, and all other school consultation exercises, can be viewed online on the Council website at:

School consultations and proposals | Argyll and Bute Council

You can also complete and submit this response form online using the above link.

Thank you for taking time to respond.

Appendix 2 – Integrated Impact Assessment

Section 1: Proposal

Title of Proposal
Integrated Impact Assessment for Proposal for Statutory Consultation on relocation of Tobermory Campus for new building in Tobermory South

Intended outcome of the Proposal
The development of a new campus in Tobermory will see children and young people benefit from a well-resourced single site which maintains capacity to meet future educational needs as they arise. A new purpose-built campus offers the prospect of strong educational benefits arising from improved accommodation and learning environment for the pupils. The new campus will be fully responsive to future learning requirements, and the design process will ensure that all spaces support learning and teaching relevant to the society pupils will enter as adults. It will be designed to be an inspiring learning environment which is fully able to support new and innovative digital learning and engage pupils with the curriculum and allow them to develop skills for lifelong learning.

How does your proposal align with strategy?
The Council's Learning Estate Strategy 2021 sets out that the ambition is to provide a property school estate that is of category A or B in terms of suitability and condition combined with a number of other modern standards. Seeking to deliver new build estate on Mull, supports that ambition. This proposal is being advanced as Tobermory 2-18 campus currently has poor suitability accommodation as outlined in the school condition survey for the campus. Relocating the campus would permit the construction of a new and improved purpose-built campus. Whilst there have been ongoing maintenance and improvement works; the current school is not suitable in its layout as a 2-18 campus. The current grading of the campus is "C" which means the physical element of the campus does not carry out its function effectively without continuous repair and it shows considerable signs of age. There are significant issues with accessibility due to the multiple sets of stairs and changes in level throughout the campus and narrow corridors.

Description of the Proposal
The proposal seeks to replace the current Tobermory 2-18 Campus School building with a new school building located on a site at Tobermory South which is situated to southern edge of Tobermory with the eastern boundary adjacent to the A848. This Proposal is being advanced because Tobermory 2-18 Campus

currently suffers from poor suitability accommodation. Relocating the school would permit the construction of a new purpose-built campus and provide considerably improved accessible Education accommodation. The opportunity to build a new campus building has arisen from the successful application for funding from the Scottish Government's Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP)

.

Evidence

What data have you used to inform the IIA?

The following data has been used to inform this IIA:

Mull Campus Engagement Strategy Report - November 2024- by Ryder Architecture.

Mull Campus Community Engagement Report - November 2024 - by Ryder Architecture.

Mull Education Transport Considerations- January 2025 by SYSTRA.

Mull Campus Integrated Impact Assessment Report - February 2025 by Stantec.

Proposal Paper to relocate Tobermory 2-18 Campus, published in accordance with the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act* 2010 – August 2026

Responses to the proposal to relocate Tobermory 2-18 campus under the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act* 2010 - October 2026.

Pupil consultation feedback to the proposal to relocate Tobermory 2-18 campus under the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act* 2010 - October 2026.

Other information – This may include reference to reports by other people / organisations relevant to the impacts you identified.

Consultation – What consultation / engagement have you carried out to inform the IIA?

The following engagement and consultation activities have informed the IIA:

<u>Engagement Activities</u>

As part of engagement with communities of Mull and Iona, a series of drop-in public engagement sessions were held between 17 and 25 September 2024. In addition to this, Community contributions were sought for the earlier Integrated Impact Assessment (February 2025) as part of the Site Selection report information for the preferred site decision.

In addition to this pupil workshops, design charrettes and staff engagement have provided opportunities to inform the developing design.

Statutory Consultation

A Statutory Consultation on the relocation proposal was held from 24th August 2026 to 2nd October 2026. Responses were sent either through the Council's online platform or via email. Officers from the Education Service invited consultation on the Proposal from children living in the Tobermory Campus Catchment area and from pupils attending Dervaig Primary School, Lochdonhead Primary School, Salen Primary School and Ulva Primary School, as the affected schools. These sessions took place in-person within the schools during the 8th,9th and 10th of September 2026.

Age-appropriate sets of information slides were developed to accompany the sessions, one for Primary and one for Secondary. These were sent to schools prior to the sessions to allow staff to make any adaptations required for the needs of the particular groups of children and young people they know well in their settings. A3 sized maps to outline where the building currently is and where the proposal suggests it will move to were also shared during the sessions. Sessions took place in a supportive, inclusive, and age-appropriate environment where pupils were encouraged to share their views openly with staff that know them well. School staff and Officers outlined that participation was entirely voluntary, and any pupil who choose not to take part or share their views had their decision respected.

It is recognised that some children and young people needed additional support to access the information and this was facilitated by staff in their schools that knew the best approaches and strategies to use to assist the children and young people expressing their views. In addition to this, the children and young people were informed that their views would be recorded and passed on to councillors to inform decisions they make. The children and young people were also given the option not to express their views. For the ELC children, a visual approach was taken through the use of a floor book and the sessions used drawing and playing with toy vehicles along the route from the existing location to the proposed new location of the campus to allow them the opportunity to be involved in the consultation. Learning Centre pupils also had the opportunity to engage with adapted consultation materials in their classroom setting with the staff they work with on a daily basis. Secondary aged young people that were absent on the day of the in-person session had the age-appropriate information slides shared with them, along information on how to contribute their views should they wish to do so. For primary pupils that were absent, school staff ensured they had access to the age-appropriate information and the staff were able to gather and forward on the views shared. The themes from the views expressed by the pupils in these sessions and the education authority's response to them are found in section 9 of the report.

A Public Meeting took place on Thursday 17th September, during the meeting information was shared regarding the proposal, councillors and officers answered questions from those present, and oral representations on the proposal were recorded.

Gaps in evidence
Safe walking routes, transport, design and operating arrangements will be explored and defined in the detailed design stage of the project.
Knock on affect.
Yes, this is detailed below
Knock on affect details
Positive The new build campus may attract more school staff to the area- which will have a benefit to the current recruitment issues, due to the island location. The Education Service also have confidence that the new building will provide excellent facilities for use outwith school hours that could be used to help meet the learning, leisure and social needs of the children and young people and the wider community. The proposal envisages the existing campus remaining operational until the replacement is ready and this allows continuity for the pupils during the construction phase. In addition to this there will be wider community access to the proposed sports and library provision. Safe walking routes and pedestrian access remain matters for design development, therefore effects on independent travel, drop-off and traffic management will be explored in the detailed design stage of the project. Negative As with any change in routine or environment, some children and young people may experience anxiety or sensory overload, there will be extended transition programmes developed by school staff to mitigate this impact this as much as possible.
Monitoring – How will you monitor the impacts of your proposal?
The risk register for the project records identified risks, their analysis, countermeasures and status. The progress of the project against the plan is reviewed monthly and presented to the Strategic Board where decisions are made and risks reviewed. As well as examining the progress of recent weeks, comparing planned completion dates to actual dates, there is also a lookahead to planned activities and an indication of whether they are on track or not. This is regularly reviewed and updated by the project team and the strategic board and enables them to identify specific types of risk, their probability, and their severity, and maintain a real-time view of the evolving risk environment, this includes risks related to costings.

Section 2: Fairer Scotland

Impact on service users

Service users	Impact
Mainland rural population	No impact
Island population	Positive
Low income	Potential Negative
Low wealth	No Impact
Material deprivation	No Impact
Area deprivation	No Impact
Socio-economic	Potential Negative
Communities of place	Positive
Communities of interest	No Impact

Impact details
<u>Island Population</u> Should the school be relocated and built on the new site, there will be benefits for current pupils. Improvements include better-quality accommodation, a more attractive learning environment, access to modern technology, improved disability access and improved indoor and outdoor learning environment. It will be designed in such a way as to promote accessible and inclusive learning which will meet the needs of learners including those with Additional Support Needs. It will be designed to be an inspiring learning environment which is fully able to support new and innovative digital learning and engage pupils with the curriculum. Outdoor Learning provision will also be improved for all learners and will be at the heart of the design process. This will provide enhanced opportunities for learning beyond the classroom for all learners. As part of the design for the outdoor environment consideration will be given to ensure safe pick up and drop off points for pupils arriving by a variety of transport modes and suitable parking facilities for staff and visitors. This should include a safe walking route and will allow better management of any risks in and around the vehicle and pedestrian interface. Key aspects that will improve the environment for staff will be considered during the design phase. These include acoustics and noise, air quality, lighting, temperature control and classroom size. Improved physical spaces can result in physically and mentally healthier environments leading to less time off for illness. Improved accessibility will make the building suitable for anyone experiencing mobility issues. The new campus's enhanced digital technology capabilities will empower staff to design and deliver modern lessons while fully integrating digital tools across the curriculum. All of these improvements may play a part in encouraging families to move to the island.

Low Income
Changed walking or transport arrangements could make attendance at after-school activities harder for some pupils.

Communities of place
Regarding Communities of place this proposal will have a positive impact if the new build is completed as there will be enhanced community pride and engagement with the new campus facilities, including improved community use of the library and sports facilities.

Impact on Service Deliverers

Service deliverers	**Impact**
Mainland rural population	No Impact
Island population	Positive
Low income	Don't know
Low wealth	No Impact
Material deprivation	No Impact
Area deprivation	No Impact
Socio-economic	No Impact
Communities of place	No Impact
Communities of interest	No Impact

Impact Details
Island Population The design phase will consider acoustics, noise, air quality, lighting, temperature control and classroom size to support staff wellbeing and effective service delivery. Improved accessibility is intended to reduce barriers for staff with mobility needs. Enhanced digital infrastructure, supported by appropriate equipment and training, could enable staff to integrate digital tools into teaching and learning. These are potential benefits rather than guaranteed outcomes.
Don't Knows
Further assessment is needed to establish whether changed travel arrangements or associated costs could disproportionately affect lower-paid staff.
Due Regard

Further assessment will give due regard to relevant factors. It will establish whether measures are needed to reduce adverse impacts.

Section 3: Consumer Duty

Does your proposal affect individuals, businesses or both?
Individuals
On the basis of your assessment, what are the likely impacts of your proposal?

Consumer	**Impact**
Choice	Positive
Fairness	Positive
Redress	No Impact
Safety	Positive
Information	Positive
Access	Positive and Negative
Representation	Positive

Positive Impacts you have identified

Choice - Improved learning spaces, digital facilities and proposed sports and library provision could widen the learning and recreational opportunities available to pupils and community users, subject to the final provision and access arrangements.
Fairness - The proposed accessible and inclusive learning environment could reduce barriers experienced by disabled learners and those with Additional Support Needs. Wider benefits will depend on ensuring that travel arrangements, affordability and community access do not disadvantage particular groups.
Redress - No additional positive impact on redress has yet been demonstrated.
Safety - The design is intended to improve management of pedestrian and vehicle movements through appropriate pick-up, drop-off and parking arrangements. Safe walking routes remain subject to design development and assessment. Appropriate use of CCTV will help manage / reduce unauthorised entry, bullying and vandalism and can also help pupils feel more secure. The installation and use of CCTV may engage children's privacy rights under article 16, as well as offering the aforementioned potential safety benefits. In the detailed design stage of the project the coverage and access and monitoring arrangements for the CCTV will be developed and the decision will be made on whether a data protection impact assessment will be required.

Information - Regular project newsletters, a dedicated website and a project mailbox provide channels for updates and enquiries. This provides the stakeholders a better understanding of the proposal and allows opportunities to raise questions.

Access - The design of the new campus will ensure that accessibility for all, including learners with disabilities complies with the Council's Accessibility Strategy and the Equality Act 2010. It will be designed in such a way as to promote accessible and inclusive learning which will meet the needs of learners including those with Additional Support Needs.

Representation- Pupil workshops, design charrettes and staff engagement have provided opportunities to inform the developing design.

Negative Impacts you have identified

Access

Retaining the new campus in Tobermory, with existing catchment arrangements unchanged, means that the pupils in the Ross of Mull and Iona would not automatically benefit from the new campus as their catchment school. Existing primary provision and arrangements for secondary education at Oban High School would remain unchanged. This represents a continuation of existing geographical differences in provision, rather than a new loss of school access caused by relocation.

Changed walking or transport arrangements could make attendance at after-school activities harder for some pupils.

What alternatives have you considered which can improve outcome for customers and/or reduce harm?

A range of sites were considered for the new campus. In August 2024, the council issued an open call for sites for the new campus to identify potentially suitable sites. The council carried out an extensive community engagement exercise in September 2024 to ask the community what was important to them when considering a site for the new campus. Councillors considered the findings in December 2024:

Community Engagement Analysis Report

On 20th December 2024, the Council confirmed that the new Campus would continue on a single-site basis. A detailed site appraisal was carried out with the output presented to the Council on 7th March 2025. This process included an Integrated Impact Assessment, and views were sought from community groups and children and young people to inform this to supplement the Engagement Analysis Report.

On 7th March 2025 the preferred site was confirmed at the Special Council meeting as "Tobermory South". Councillors made this decision based on evidence presented through a comprehensive preferred site recommendation report with a large suite of appendices, the culmination of six months of activity. The meeting minute and report are available at this link:

Special Meeting, Argyll and Bute Council - 7th March 2025

How have you reduced harm to consumers through the development of your proposal?

This proposal has reduced harm to consumers in the following ways:

As of March 2025, 30% of primary and 40% of secondary age children walk to the current Tobermory 2-18 campus. If a central site was chosen, this would reduce to less than a handful.

Four additional buses that would be required to transport children to a central site, at an estimated additional cost of £222k per annum

A central site would treble the total vehicle miles and carbon emissions compared to a Tobermory location. Carbon emissions from the 4 additional buses and travel required would generate significantly more carbon emissions than a Tobermory south site. Overall travel times for a centrally located school would increase by 120% (5,989 minutes per week) compared to the preferred site at Tobermory South.

If you have not been able to reduce harm to your consumers, why not?

The table above outlines the ways harm has been reduced.

Section 4: Children rights and wellbeing

In exercising its statutory functions under the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act* 2010, the Council is subject to the duty in section 6 of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act* 2024 to act compatibly with the UNCRC requirements incorporated into Scots law, insofar as it is exercising relevant functions for the purposes of that Act. This Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment therefore considers the potential impact of the proposal on children and young people and supports the Council in ensuring that relevant UNCRC rights are appropriately considered in its decision-making.

DIRECT and INDIRECT impacts on children and young people

Direct refers to policies/measures where children are the focus of the proposed changes. Examples include childcare, school breakfast clubs, child protection, looked after children or youth sports activities.

Indirect refers to policies/measures that are not directly aimed at children but will have an impact on them. Examples include local welfare support schemes, work preparation classes for parents, housing supply and design, policies on air quality, or local transport schemes.

Are there any aspects to your proposal which directly impact on children?
Yes
Direct impact on children details.
Positive Impacts Relocating the school would permit the construction of a new purpose-built campus building and provide considerably improved Education accommodation. The new building will include the appropriate number of learning spaces, modern practical subject specific rooms, a larger gym hall and a larger dining hall. The outdoor environment will be accessible and suitable for outdoor learning. The Education Service also have confidence that the new building will provide excellent facilities for use outwith school hours that could be used to help meet the learning, leisure and social needs of the children and young people and the community. Negative Impacts Disruption during transition, unfamiliar spaces and routines could cause anxiety or difficulty settling for some children, particularly those needing predictability or sensory adjustments. Individual preparation and support for extended transitions will be necessary for some pupils. School staff will work closely with children, young people and their families to identify and support those that will require an extended transition to the new building. For those will a child's plan or a coordinated support plan this will be prepared and reviewed through the existing processes and will be individually tailored to meet the child's needs. Familiarisation visits and accessible information will be provided, and the children and young people will made aware of the key spaces in the new campus that will be particularly important to them, e.g. Accessible toilet facilities, quiet spaces. The

children will be supported through the extended transition arrangements with trusted staff that know them well. Unequal access to benefits, practical access to community facilities may vary with distance, transport and affordability; this remains an assessment question rather than confirmed exclusion.

Are the any aspects to your proposal which indirectly impact on children?
Yes
Indirect Impacts on Children Details
Positive Impacts A more attractive workplace could help retain staff, potentially supporting continuity of teaching and trusted relationships. Proposed community facilities could support local groups and family activities, potentially strengthening children's support networks. Negative Impacts If relocation changes parents' travel, childcare arrangements or working hours, children could experience changes in family time or financial pressure.

Children Rights

Children's rights	**Impact**
Article 1: (definition of a child) A child is a person under 18.	No Impact
Article 2: (non-discrimination) The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, sex, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.	Positive
Article 3: (best interests of the child) The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.	Positive
Article 4: (implementation of rights) Governments must take appropriate measures to put children's rights into practice, using the maximum available resources for economic, social and cultural rights.	Positive
Article 5: (parental guidance and evolving capacities) Parents and carers should guide children in exercising their rights in ways that reflect their developing abilities.	No Impact

Article 6: (life, survival and development) Every child has the right to life. The council must do all it can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.	Positive
Article 7: (birth registration, name, nationality, care) Every child has the right to be registered at birth, to have a name and nationality, and, as far as possible, to know and be cared for by their parents	No Impact
Article 8: (protection and preservation of identity) Every child has the right to an identity. Governments must respect and protect that right, and prevent the child's name, nationality or family relationships from being changed unlawfully.	No Impact
Article 9: (separation from parents) Children must not be separated from their parents against their will unless it is in their best interests (for example, if a parent is hurting or neglecting a child). Children whose parents have separated have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this could cause them harm.	No Impact
Article 10: (family reunification) Applications for children and parents to reunite across borders should be handled positively, humanely and promptly; children should be able to maintain contact with parents abroad.	No Impact
Article 11: (illicit transfer and non-return) Governments must act to prevent children being taken abroad unlawfully or kept abroad unlawfully.	No Impact
Article 12: (respect for the views of the child) Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times, for example during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.	Positive
Article 13: (freedom of expression) Children have the right to seek, receive and share information and ideas, subject to lawful restrictions protecting others and the public interest.	Positive
Article 14: (freedom of thought, conscience and religion) Children have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, with parental guidance appropriate to their evolving capacities.	No Impact
Article 15: (freedom of association and peaceful assembly) Children have the right to form and join groups and meet peacefully, subject to lawful restrictions.	No Impact
Article 16: (privacy) Children must be protected from arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence, and unlawful attacks on their reputation.	No Impact

Article 17: (access to information) Children should have access to information from diverse sources that supports their wellbeing, with protection from harmful material.	Positive
Article 18: (parental responsibilities and state assistance) Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their child and should always consider what is best for the child. Governments must support parents by creating support services for children and giving parents the help they need to raise their children.	No Impact
Article 19: (protection from violence, abuse and neglect) Children must be protected from physical and mental violence, abuse, neglect, maltreatment and exploitation while in the care of others.	No Impact
Article 20: (children deprived of their family environment) Children unable to remain with their family are entitled to special protection and suitable alternative care, respecting their background and continuity of upbringing.	No Impact
Article 21: (adoption) Adoption must prioritise the child's best interests and be subject to proper authorisation and safeguards.	No Impact
Article 22: (refugee children) Children seeking refugee status or recognised as refugees are entitled to appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance.	No Impact
Article 23: (children with a disability) A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community. Governments must do all they can to support disabled children and their families.	Positive
Article 24: (health and health services) Children have the right to the best attainable health and access to healthcare, including measures addressing nutrition, clean water, disease prevention and health education.	No Impact
Article 25: (review of care and treatment) Children placed by competent authorities for care, protection or treatment have the right to regular review of their treatment and placement.	No Impact
Article 26: (social security) Children have the right to benefit from social security, taking account of their circumstances and those responsible for their care.	No Impact
Article 27: (adequate standard of living) Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development. Governments must help families who cannot afford to provide this.	No Impact
Article 28: (right to education) Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of	Positive

secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.	
Article 29: (goals of education) Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.	Positive
Article 30: (minority and indigenous cultures, religion and language) Children belonging to minority or indigenous communities have the right to enjoy their culture, practise their religion and use their language.	No Impact
Article 31: (leisure, play and culture) Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.	Positive
Article 32: (child labour and economic exploitation) Children must be protected from economic exploitation and work that is hazardous, disrupts education or harms their health or development.	No Impact
Article 33: (drug abuse) Children must be protected from illicit drug use and from involvement in the production and trafficking of drugs.	No Impact
Article 34: (sexual exploitation and abuse) Children must be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.	No Impact
Article 35: (abduction, sale and trafficking) Governments must act to prevent the abduction, sale or trafficking of children for any purpose.	No Impact
Article 36: No Impact (other forms of exploitation) Children must be protected from all other forms of exploitation harmful to their welfare.	No Impact
Article 37: (inhumane treatment and deprivation of liberty) Children must not face torture or cruel treatment, unlawful or arbitrary detention, or prohibited sentences; detention must be a last resort, for the shortest appropriate time, with legal safeguards.	No Impact
Article 38: (armed conflict) Children must be protected and cared for in armed conflict, with safeguards concerning recruitment and participation in hostilities.	No Impact
Article 39: (recovery and reintegration) Children affected by neglect, exploitation, abuse, torture or armed conflict should receive support for recovery and social reintegration in conditions promoting dignity and wellbeing.	No Impact

Article 40: (child justice) Children accused of breaking criminal law have the right to fair procedures and treatment that respects their dignity and supports reintegration.	No Impact
Article 41: (respect for higher standards) The Convention does not reduce any stronger protections for children provided by national or international law.	No Impact
Article 42: (knowledge of children's rights) Governments must make the Convention's principles and provisions widely known to adults and children.	No Impact
First optional protocol – Article 4: (recruitment and use of children by armed groups). Armed groups distinct from State armed forces should not recruit or use under-18s in hostilities; governments must take feasible steps to prevent and prohibit this.	No Impact
First optional protocol – Article 5: (stronger protections). The protocol does not displace national or international provisions that better protect children's rights.	No Impact
First optional protocol – Article 6: (implementation, awareness and recovery). Governments must implement and publicise the protocol on involvement of children in armed conflict, secure release of children unlawfully recruited or used, and support recovery and reintegration.	No Impact
First optional protocol – Article 7: (international cooperation and assistance). Governments must cooperate in prevention, implementation, rehabilitation and reintegration, including through technical and financial assistance.	No Impact
Second optional protocol – Article 1: (prohibition of sale and sexual exploitation). Governments must prohibit the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography as provided for in the protocol.	No Impact
Second optional protocol – Article 2: (definitions). Defines sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography for the purposes of the protocol.	No Impact
Second optional protocol – Article 3: (criminal offences and penalties). Specified acts involving the sale and sexual exploitation of children must be covered by criminal law, with appropriate penalties and safeguards concerning adoption.	No Impact
Second optional protocol – Article 4: (jurisdiction). Sets out when States must or may establish jurisdiction over offences covered by the protocol.	No Impact

Second optional protocol – Article 5: (extradition). Sets out arrangements for treating offences under the protocol as extraditable and for handling alleged offenders where extradition does not occur.	No Impact
Second optional protocol – Article 6: (mutual assistance in criminal proceedings). States must provide assistance with investigations, criminal proceedings and extradition relating to offences under the protocol, including obtaining evidence.	No Impact
Second optional protocol – Article 7: (seizure, confiscation and closure). Provides for seizure and confiscation of relevant materials and proceeds, cooperation with related requests, and closure of premises used for offences.	No Impact
Second optional protocol – Article 8: (protection of child victims in criminal proceedings). Children's rights, best interests, safety, privacy and support needs must be protected throughout criminal justice processes.	No Impact
Second optional protocol – Article 9: (prevention, recovery and remedies). Requires prevention and public awareness measures, support for victims' recovery and reintegration, access to compensation procedures, and action against material advertising offences.	No Impact
Second optional protocol – Article 10: (international cooperation). States must cooperate to prevent and address offences, support victims and tackle underlying causes, including through international assistance.	No Impact
Second optional protocol – Article 11: (stronger protections). The protocol does not displace national or international provisions more conducive to realising children's rights.	No Impact

Have you identified any other article as being relevant to your proposal?
No

Which articles are relevant to your proposal?
Articles as indicated in table above.

If you have identified any positive impacts, describe what these are?
Improved Learning Environment

Modern inclusive learning spaces could reduce barriers and enable disabled children and those with Additional Support Needs to participate more equally. Replacing unsuitable accommodation could better meet children's learning and accessibility needs. (Article 23). Improved indoor and outdoor learning environments could support children's physical, social and educational development. (Article 31). Pupil workshops and engagement continue to provide opportunities for children to influence their future school. (Article 12). Better-quality accommodation, modern technology and improved learning spaces could strengthen children's educational experience and access to learning. (Article 28).

Improved Accessibility

A new Tobermory Campus has the potential to deliver benefits for children with disabilities. (Article 23). At present, there are concerns around inadequate accessibility at the existing Tobermory 2-18 School site which does not include suitable level access provision and is constrained by narrow corridors and split learning spaces over many levels accessible by stairs and narrow passages. The new campus will offer benefits as accessibility and inclusion will be built into the design. Some pupils could develop greater independence accessible facilities and clear signs can enable children to move around and make choices with less reliance on adults. Accessible classrooms, practical teaching spaces, and specialist equipment can remove physical barriers to taking part in the full curriculum. Spaces and infrastructure that support assistive technology and augmentative and alternative communication can help children express ideas, needs and preferences and allow better opportunities for communication. Accessible playground routes, equipment, outdoor learning areas and sports facilities can widen children's choices and participation alongside friends. (Article 28).

Negative Impacts

Possible transition anxiety for some children and young people, unfamiliar routines and spaces, and potentially unequal access to facilities. The indirect impacts also identify possible changes to family time and financial pressure.

What options have you considered to reduce negative impacts?

Extended transitions, familiarisation visits, accessible information and individual support where required are identified measures for transition-related impacts. They do not address possible unequal access to facilities or financial pressure. Mitigation for those effects remains dependent on the detailed transport, community access and operating arrangements.

If you cannot implement measures to mitigate impact why not?

This cannot yet be confirmed for every potential impact because the detailed design, transport and community access arrangements have not been finalised. This would be undertaken at a latter stage in the overall project. Transition support will be planned, however, measures addressing unequal access, family travel and possible financial pressure will require further assessment as the project progresses.

If you have identified relevant articles for which you don't know what the likely impact will be, how will you monitor impact as your proposal progresses?
Uncertain impacts on children's rights will be kept under review as the detailed design, transport and operating arrangements develop. Monitoring will focus on whether changed journeys, create barriers to school attendance, after-school activities or community facilities. Where adverse impacts emerge, mitigation will be reviewed.

Children's Wellbeing

For each wellbeing indicator, review whether your proposal will result in an improvement to children's wellbeing or not. List of Wellbeing Indicators, with an explanation of what they are. Please note this assessment supports but does not replace the assessment of compatibility with the incorporated UNCRC requirements.

Children wellbeing	**Impact**
Safe (Relevant UNCRC Articles 11, 19, 22, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38)	**Positive:** As part of the design for the outdoor environment consideration will be given to ensure safe pick up and drop off points for pupils arriving by a variety of transport modes and suitable parking facilities for staff and visitors. This should include a safe walking route and will allow better management of any risks in and around the vehicle and pedestrian interface. Appropriate use of CCTV will help manage / reduce unauthorised entry, bullying and vandalism and can also help pupils feel more secure.
Healthy (Relevant UNCRC Articles 3, 6, 24, 39)	**Positive:** Improved acoustics, lighting, ventilation and temperature control could support physical comfort and wellbeing. Extended transitions to the new building will help mitigate anxiety around the move.
Achieving (Relevant UNCRC Articles 4, 18, 28, 29)	**Positive:** In addition to enhancements to the physical environment, improvements to the layout of the teaching areas and classrooms will encourage high levels of collaborative and collegiate work among the educational staff, positively impacting on levels of attainment and achievement.

Nurtured (Relevant UNCRC Articles 4, 5, 18, 20, 21, 25, 27)	**Positive:** A degree of flexibility and adaptability will be built into the design in order to provide options to alter spaces in the future in response to the changing needs of the campus population. This approach is likely to optimise the use of available space. This flexibility should allow pupils to be able to continue to learn in small groups or individually and find a quiet spot when required. This should help increase their feeling of being nurtured within the campus building.
Active (Relevant UNCRC Article 31)	**Positive:** The new campus will include new sports facilities which will significantly enhance opportunities for Physical Education and related activities. Outdoor Learning provision will also be improved for all learners and will be at the heart of the design process. This will provide enhanced opportunities for learning beyond the classroom for all learners.
Respected (Relevant UNCRC Articles 2, 3, 4, 8, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18)	**Positive:** Pupil engagement has offered, and will continue to offer opportunities for children and young people to influence the design of the campus.
Responsible (Relevant UNCRC Articles 3, 12, 14, 15, 40)	**Positive:** The integrated campus model with a single building could enable easier opportunities that support leadership, mentoring and collaboration between age groups.
Included (Relevant UNCRC Articles 3, 6, 18, 23, 26, 27)	**Positive:** Opportunities for inclusive and collaborative learning (where appropriate) through access to flexible learning spaces can further promote positive attitudes to diversity. The flexible learning spaces will facilitate working across school stages, allowing varied and enhanced social interactions and provide opportunities for pupils to experience quiet spaces when required,

	which positively impacts on emotional wellbeing.

For the indicators where you believe your proposal will result in reduced children's wellbeing, explain what these reductions might be.
The positive ratings outline the anticipated benefits rather than an absence of possible temporary adverse effects. Some children may experience temporary reductions in wellbeing associated with transition anxiety and unfamiliar routines. Possible financial pressure and unequal access may also affect wellbeing, but their extent and duration are not yet established and will depend on the final transport and operating arrangements.

If you have identified any negative indicators as being relevant to your proposal, but you do not know what the impacts will be, explain how you will monitor impact as your proposal progresses.
Uncertain impacts on children's rights will be kept under review as the detailed design, transport and operating arrangements develop. Monitoring will focus on whether changed journeys, create barriers to school attendance, after-school activities or community facilities. Where adverse impacts emerge, mitigation will be reviewed.

Section 5: Island Community

How many islands does your proposal affect?
2

Which islands are affected by the proposal?
The proposal affects the islands of Mull and Ulva.

Does your proposal impact on the island communities?

Island community	**Impact**
Demography	Positive
Economy	Positive
Society	Positive

Describe any positive impacts you have identified
Demography Building the new campus would positively impact pupils, families and community members currently utilising the existing Site through the re-provision of enhanced and contemporary facilities. These improved educational facilities could help retain families and make Tobermory and its catchment more attractive to families considering moving there.
Economy Investment in modern education facilities could support the area's attractiveness and development. The economic assessment forecasts greater economic benefit from a Tobermory location than a central-island location.
Society The new campus is likely to have a positive effect in terms of operational emissions and sustainability due to appropriate design and energy measures. Accessible learning environments and proposed community sports and library facilities could improve opportunities for learning, recreation and social participation.

Describe any negative impacts you have identified
By maintaining a campus in Tobermory, concerns about depopulation in the Ross of Mull have been cited during a number of community engagement events. This is not evidence that the proposal will itself cause population decline in that area. Benefits may be concentrated in Tobermory rather than distributed equally across the island of Mull. The forecast economic advantage of the Tobermory location does not demonstrate equivalent benefits for every household or community. Differing views about the location and a single site model remain, creating a need for continued engagement and clear explanations of decisions. (Existing secondary catchments and boarding arrangements for the Ross of Mull and Iona would remain unchanged should this proposal be implemented.) Environmental impacts are likely to arise during construction but will be appropriately mitigated against.

If you do not know what the impacts will be, you should reflect this in your monitoring arrangements for the proposal.
During the detailed design phase, safe walking routes to school, transport for children and young people to school and safe access to the school site for drop-offs will continue to be monitored.

How will you ensure your proposal delivers equivalent levels of service to the islands communities you have identified compared to other areas, including mainland areas?
Central-island locations at Craignure and Garmony: assessed as alternatives to Tobermory. They offered different geographical access opportunities, but the assessment identified trade-offs involving increased overall travel, additional bus services and emissions. Split-site provision: retaining early years and primary education in Tobermory, with secondary provision elsewhere. This could respond to some communities' access concerns but was assessed as unaffordable because the Council would need to fund the additional costs. On 20th December 2024, the Council confirmed that the new Campus would continue on a single-site basis. The existing Tobermory site: included in the transport appraisal. Its proximity to housing supported walking, but site constraints restricted access for buses and construction vehicles. On 7th March 2025 the preferred site was confirmed at the Special Council meeting as "Tobermory South" following appraisal, including educational, transport, environmental, deliverability and affordability considerations. Its selection does not mean that all adverse impacts have been removed. Further measures—such as improved walking routes, transport arrangements and accessible community use are mitigation options to be considered in more detail as the project progresses.
If you have not been able to mitigate impacts- why not?
Not all potential impacts can be fully mitigated at this stage because the detailed design, transport and community-access arrangements have not yet been finalised.

Section 6: Equality Impact

Equality impact on service users

Service users	Impact
Disability	Positive
Race	No Impact
Marriage and civil partnership	No Impact
Religion or belief	No Impact

Sex	No Impact
Pregnancy and maternity	No Impact
Age	No Impact
Sexual orientation	No Impact
Gender reassignment	No Impact

Impact on Service Users
The project to complete a purpose-built new campus in Tobermory will have a positive impact on children, staff and all other users of the campus with disabilities. The current campus is the only school building in Argyll and Bute assessed to be 'C - poor' in terms of suitability. The lower grading of Tobermory Campus building is largely driven by poor accessibility, and restrictive drop off space. The building currently sits at 41.91% incline with little scope to improve this. A new purpose-built campus will improve disability access. The design of the new campus will ensure that accessibility for all, including learners with disabilities complies with the Council's Accessibility Strategy and the *Equality Act* 2010. It will be designed in such a way as to promote accessible and inclusive learning which will meet the needs of learners including those with Additional Support Needs. It will be designed to be an inspiring learning environment which is fully able to support new and innovative digital learning and engage pupils with the curriculum. The current assessment records no impact for race, marriage and civil partnership, religion or belief, sex, pregnancy and maternity, age, sexual orientation or gender reassignment; this is best understood as no differential impact identified at this stage, rather than confirmation that none could arise.

Don't knows identified
The full equality impacts cannot yet be confirmed because the final design, transport and operating arrangements remain under development.

Equality impact on service deliverers

Service deliverers	**Impact**
Disability	Positive
Race	No Impact
Marriage and civil partnership	No Impact
Religion or belief	No Impact
Sex	No Impact

Pregnancy and maternity	No Impact
Age	No Impact
Sexual orientation	No Impact
Gender reassignment	No Impact

Impact on service deliverers
Key aspects that will improve the environment for staff, visiting partners and professionals will be considered during the design phase. These include acoustics and noise, air quality, lighting, temperature control and classroom size. Improved physical spaces can result in a physically and mentally healthier environment leading to less time off for illness. Improved accessibility will make the building suitable for anyone experiencing mobility issues. By reducing physical access barriers, a more accessible working environment will be provided. The new campus's enhanced digital technology capabilities will empower staff to design and deliver modern lessons while fully integrating digital tools across the curriculum. The current assessment records no impact for race, marriage and civil partnership, religion or belief, sex, pregnancy and maternity, age, sexual orientation or gender reassignment; this is best understood as no differential impact identified at this stage, rather than confirmation that none could arise.

Don't knows identified
The full extent of equality impacts on service deliverers cannot yet be confirmed while the design and operating arrangements remain under development.

Due regard - The Education Service has had due regard to all relevant factors at each stage in this overall process to inform all of the previous relevant decisions of the Council in relation to this project.

Lead officer details:	
Name of lead officer	**Louise Lawson**
Job title	**Education Officer**
Department	**Education**
Appropriate officer details:	
Name of appropriate officer	**Wendy Brownlie**
Job title	**Head of Education – Performance and Improvement**
Department	**Community Services - Education**

Sign off	
Date of sign off	12/11/2026

Appendix 3 – Note of public meeting

TOBERMORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER TOBERMORY CAMPUS

Panel
Douglas Hendry – Executive Director Customer Services
Kieron Green - Policy Lead for Education
Ross Moreland – Policy Lead for Finance
Jen Crocket – Head of Education
Wendy Brownlie – Head of Education

Council Attendees
Fiona Ferguson – Directorate Support Officer
Laura Blackwood – Directorate Support Officer
David Logan - Head of Legal & Regulatory Services
Louise Lawson - Education Officer
Ross McLaughlin – Head of Commercial Services
Jack Keillor - Project Manager
Fraser Gillon - HMIE

Councillor Green welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the panel.

Mr Hendry then outlined the objective of the meeting, to hear the views of the community, parents and all other stakeholders. He set out the proposal, which is being consulted on, to relocate Tobermory 2-18 Campus at Erray Road to a new purpose built 2-18 Campus building, information was provided on the statutory process which the Education Service must follow and the timeline for this. Ms Crocket set out the educational benefits and provided information about the new site. Following the presentation Councillor Green opened the meeting to questions which are noted below.

Question 1	Can you please clarify whether only a single campus is being considered and that there is no funding available for a split site?
Panel Response	Yes, only a single campus. Reiterated that the campus is being replaced on a like for like basis. The issue of funding for a split site is not the subject of tonight's consultation.
Question 2	Wish to pass on apologies for Councillor Hampsey who is unable to attend due to car issues. A live stream of the meeting would have been useful for those unable to attend. Is it possible to share the presentation slides? A lot of people didn't want to attend tonight as they could be misconstrued as being seen to upset others or be disruptive.

Panel Response	Yes, a copy of the slides can be put on the relevant pages of the Council website.
Question 3	Will a minute of the meeting be taken? The issue of affordability has been raised and the significant impact of delays on project delivery, which could make it undeliverable. Can assurances be provided that Officers intend to build a new school and have not reverted back to a refurbishment.
Panel Response	A note of the questions raised, and responses will be prepared and sent to HMIe. It is accurate to note the risk of affordability regarding the recent pause in the project. A business case / update on affordability will be prepared for the Council in December 2026. Officers and members are committed to building a campus in Tobermory.
Question 4	In regard to accessibility, will pedestrian access be improved to the proposed site?
Panel Response	We are currently in the design development phase of the project and active/safe travel routes are a key element of that process. There are no firm proposals at present, but the issue has been identified and will be developed to allow as many active/safe travel routes as possible.
Question 5	Accessibility to the proposed site currently funnels through one of the most unsafe routes, which is a concern.
Panel Response	This is useful feedback, which is one of main purposes of tonight's meeting. New foot/cycle paths have been put in place for other new schools/campuses and there will be engagement with relevant stakeholders to obtain local knowledge for Tobermory, which will be fed into the design phase at the relevant point in time.
Question 6	What will be the size of the school specific in the secondary? What will be the sizes of classrooms? What will be the size of gym hall? Will all these rooms be bigger?
Panel Response	We are not at the point of having a finalised design but in the recent Tobermory Campus update we shared indicative sizes, for example, the gym hall will be 87% larger than current facility and the total indoor space will increase by 33%.
Question 7	Confirm the number of classroom spaces in the new school compared to the current school

Panel Response	Don’t have that level of detail yet
Question 8	Good to hear the presentation tonight, but the devil is the detail, we are being consulted on something that cannot be quantified. IN documentation I have, it appears the proposal for the gym hall does not meet the Sportscotland criteria for a gym hall Looks like secondary provision reduced by 27% on paper Looks like there is only 1 science lab instead of current 3. One Art Studio proposed instead of 2. Far fewer secondary classes Why is this not being explained? Why are we being sold a pig in a poke
Panel Response	The Council needs to consider options. There is no definite detailed plans as yet of what the campus will look like. There will be more opportunities for pupils/parents to be engaged in this regard. There are specific classrooms proposed. The current school is designed for a larger pupil roll. Modern Schools are built differently to maximise efficiency / sweat the asset. The designs for Tobermory Campus will be consistent with other campuses being built across the region.
Question 9	Celebrate this opportunity to relocate the school as the building is poorly maintained and does not meet the needs of pupils. Bunessan Primary School has been excluded from this process Do not support this relocation.
Panel Response	Comments noted.
Question 10	Can we have questions from those within the catchment areas?
Panel Response	We are taking questions from as many people as possible with their hands up
Question 11	What will happen to the other existing facilities such as the pitch, tennis court and play area?
Panel Response	Don’t have a firm proposal at this time. we know that certain aspects are held in common good, but we would look to repurpose assets where possible.
Question 12	You have set out the preferred site - are there any further sites under consideration in the area?

Panel response	No
Question 13	The plans which Jenni had are they publicly available to others?
Panel Response	Some of the detail has not been put out in the public domain as they are development documents/work in progress. Once we are at the relevant gateway within the project we will share more widely. Further detail will be included as part of the report being developed for December.
Question 14	I am from Dervaig. Does not impress me that we keep hearing we are not quite there yet. why are we here tonight?
Panel Response	The point we are at in the process is about the change of site. Get the questions in relation to detail but we are not at that stage. We will be consulting more when we reach these gateway points This meeting is in relation to a statutory process.
Question 15	This meeting should have been held four years ago. Every child on the island should have the same education opportunities. Have you bought the site? Are you going to build on it?
Panel Response	There is a strong commitment from the Council to build a new campus. We have followed a process through and have been honest in our commitment to the project. No we don't currently own the site we are in negotiations with both landowners.
Question 16	Can we have clarity in respect of the negotiations to buy the land. how many stakeholders are in this?
Panel Response	Via the land registry we have identified and are in discussions with the landowners. This is a process and as we move through the process, including getting planning permission and the funding becomes available, we will then look to purchase the land.
Question 17	When moving to the new site will there be support for children with additional support needs
Panel Response	Absolutely, there will be the opportunity for site visits for a range of pupils, particularly those that struggle with change. Videos and photos will also be used to familiarise pupils/parents/carers with the site. It is important to ensure a smooth transition for all of our learners.
Question 18	The philosophy to Learning and teaching is appreciated. Areas of benefits development being 0.5 hectare for the site. There are

	economic and housing challenges on the island. Is this the most ambitious proposal which could be put forward?
Panel Response	An Economic Impact Assessment was undertaken at time of site selection options appraisal. £3.5m economic benefit for the preferred site, compared to other more central locations. Further economic impact assessments will be carried out moving forward.
Question 19	For those children travelling by bus will they be dropped off on the main road or will they disembark at the campus.
Panel Response	This is in design development. A bus layby/drop off will be created and there will be off-site parking for drop off near to new coop site. Children with ASN will have direct access to their entrance
Question 20	Commercial development near the preferred site with the co-op moving up there. Does this have an impact on the school site?
Panel Response	It will have traffic implications and will be factored into the design along with any other housing and industrial developments.
Question 21	Lochdonhead PS Parent Council rep - commute each way can be up to 2 hours. have we ever done a study on the impact it has for children who are travelling long distances each day?
Panel Response	We do have quite significant travel time in many of our schools across Argyll and Bute. Have not carried out a study but happy to engage with families on an individual basis and to have a discussion about this as it is a valid and important point.
Question 22	Given all the details that have been raised tonight and require to be catered for, is the Council confident that that the site is going to be adequate?
Panel Response	The site meets the brief and the current design fits on site. site investigations are ongoing in respect of ground conditions and topography. At present the site is adequate to requirements. Will be kept under review as the project progresses.
Question 23	Can you give us any indication when this campus will start as costs are escalating day by day.
Panel Response	Construction will start early 2028 assuming all goes to plan Pupils will transfer January 2030 given the current plan
Question 24	Echo what has been mentioned from others - from reading the proposal there is no detail so cannot respond to the current

	consultation as we don't know the sizes of the spaces, detail of the building.
Panel Response	This theme has come up a few times tonight. There are a number of processes which have to be undertaken. We are talking about the principle of this, and we are going through the Schools Consultation 2010 Act. We have a site that currently fulfils our requirements but won't have design details/proposals for size of pitches and rooms until further down the road. Tonight is a step in the process to move towards being able to provide that level of detail.
Question 25	I suspect that the Council have not done their financial planning and maybe don't have any idea what this is going to cost. what is plan B if we can't afford the site.
Panel Response	Don't agree with that. We do know the costs, and they are increasing on a daily basis. At present the estimated cost of the project is £46m. The costs for the project and how we will pay for the project have been reported consistently. we have been very open and honest about the financial challenge of completing this project.
Question 26	It is lovely to see everyone in support of a school that needs replaced. Do you feel that you have done the best for every child on Mull or is it a case of its good enough for Mull. do you genuinely feel you have done the best you can.
Panel Response	That is a political question. We have just set out the financials, and I am absolutely clear that we have done our best. This project is a huge undertaking for the Council and requires difficult decisions for councillors such as possible council tax increases. I am extremely confident that we have done our best. I have visited many schools and seen the benefit of new campuses across the area.
Question 27	I welcome the Council being here and really need and want a new school. I can't make a decision based on the lack of information. Have you done the best for the kids of Mull? We have just heard about money. Have councillors visited the South of Mull when you are asked are we doing the best in compliance with human rights?
Panel Response	The Council are looking at this from an educational point of view and is 100% committed to delivering this.

Question 28	Pleading for nursery care on the island. John Swinney has pledged to have wraparound care from 9 months old. What plans are there for this in the new school.
Panel Response	It is a new commitment, and the Council are closely engaged with the Scottish Government. This will not be a universal offer. It is being explored within the current stage of the design process. There is a difference between childcare and early learning and spaces have to be quite separate.
Question 29	Is it typical to do this kind of consultation and not be able to advise on the detail for facilities and space of the new school. How can we meaningfully judge without this information. Given the lack of detail how can you comment on educational benefits.
Panel Response	Yes, it is the norm for consultations of this type in terms of the 2010 Act and the level of detail being looked for tonight is not there. In terms of educational benefits, the Education professionals have looked at a whole range of options, including the benefits of a campus model. The number of teachers or number of subjects delivered is not determined by the building itself. The building should enhance the experience and environment of learning.
Question 30	It is difficult to comment on the appropriateness of the move when there is no detail. Will the sports pitch be full size?
Panel Response	The site cannot accommodate a full-size pitch there is a 7 a side pitch which conforms with Sportscotland standards.
Question 31	Site preparation costs – when will these be publicly released? The Geology report which was prepared suggests the Tobermory South site is too small for the intended development and would need expansion. Are there plans to extend the site/purchase additional land? Are there compromises that need to be made? The same report states that the land slopes to the east and west. How are we going to mitigate against it?
Panel Response	Consideration will be given to whether this information can be released. Aware of the slope and the site investigations to date conclude that we can work with the slope of the land and have a tiered design. Accessibility will be a key factor and will be in line with guidance. Surveyors/consultants view is that the gradients are acceptable. Further phase of investigations will be undertaken and any issues or otherwise will be crystallised. It does feel uncomfortable to not provide the detail, but the purpose of tonight's meeting is to seek views on the proposal to relocate the Tobermory 2-18 Campus.

Question 32	When asked if the site is big enough you say yes, but it can't fit a full-size pitch – contradictory. The site selected is the smallest and not big enough. Can you commit to a full-size pitch? Can you commit that the sports hall will be compliant with Sportsscotland?
Panel Response	The sites selected did comply with requirements. There is no statutory requirement for a full-size pitch to be available but proposed pitch will be larger than what is currently at the school. Schools' regulations and guidance determine requirements.
Question 33	We don't have a pitch; it is a community pitch that the school is allowed to use.
Panel Response	Noted.
Question 34	Important to the children who have requested a full-size pitch. It is interesting that the site is unviable and small. Funded by the Scottish Government for affordable housing. Why that site?
Panel Response	It is a viable site.
Question 35	What if the preferred site turns out not to be suitable following geological investigations? Is it best value for money if suitable?
Panel Response	At present the site is viable. We will learn more as the project develops – water access, topography investigations etc. At each individual gateway we will continue to review the position.
Question 36	The Mull Campus Working Group – the delay in the process is down to the court case lost. We need to move on as costs are ongoing.
Panel Response	This was answered earlier – any delay in the project costs around £120K per month. The project is ambitious but deliverable. But we cannot afford any more delays and need to move forward.
Question 37	The Scottish Government has caused delay; the school should have been built 20 years ago. What is plan B? A renovation.
Panel Response	If for any reason the LEIP bid was to fail, the Council has made a provision of 50% funding for a new school. If this funding is no longer available from the SG the council could not afford 100% payment for a new campus.
Question 38	What happened to Mull Campus for all children?

Panel Response	In 2022 the Mull Campus bid was prepared. There was an open call for sites and a community engagement process. The RIBA process was adopted to distil down to a preferred site. Economic impact, deliverability, affordability, travel factors etc have been used to identify Tobermory South as the preferred site. There are pros and cons from communities and different impacts from that site.

The Chair closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.
You have until 2nd October to submit your views on the proposal.

Appendix 4 – Pupil Focus Group Notes and Information Slides

Primary Sector Information Slides

Pupil Consultation Tobermory Campus

Classification: OFFICIAL

What is a consultation?

A consultation is a when adults ask children and other people what they think before making a decision.





Argyll and Bute Council want to ask you a question about Tobermory School.

Bute • Helensburgh • Islay • Oban • Mull • Campbeltown • Iona • Dunoon • Tiree • Lochgilphead • Seil … #abplace2b

Tobermory Campus



Tobermory Campus is made up of an early learning centre, a primary school, a learning centre and a high school.

The school is in the town of Tobermory.

Classification: OFFICIAL

Tobermory Campus



People are thinking about building a brand new school because it could give children a better place to learn and play.

Moving to a new place would let us build a brand new school that's made just right for learning and growing.

Bute • Helensburgh • Islay • Oban • Mull • Campbeltown • Iona • Dunoon • Tiree • Lochgilphead • Seil … #abplace2b

What is the question?

We want to hear what you think about the Council's idea to move Tobermory school to a new place and build a brand new campus designed especially for learning.



Classification: OFFICIAL

Tobermory



Where the school is just now

Planned site for brand new school

Bute • Helensburgh • Islay • Oban • Mull • Campbeltown • Iona • Dunoon • Tiree • Lochgilphead • Seil … #abplace2b

Tell us what you think…

What do you think about the idea of building a brand new Tobermory 2-18 campus and moving it to a different place?

Is it a good idea?

Why or why not?

You may not have any ideas and that's ok too.



You or your teacher will write down what you say. Any ideas shared with us will be used in a report about the Council's proposal.

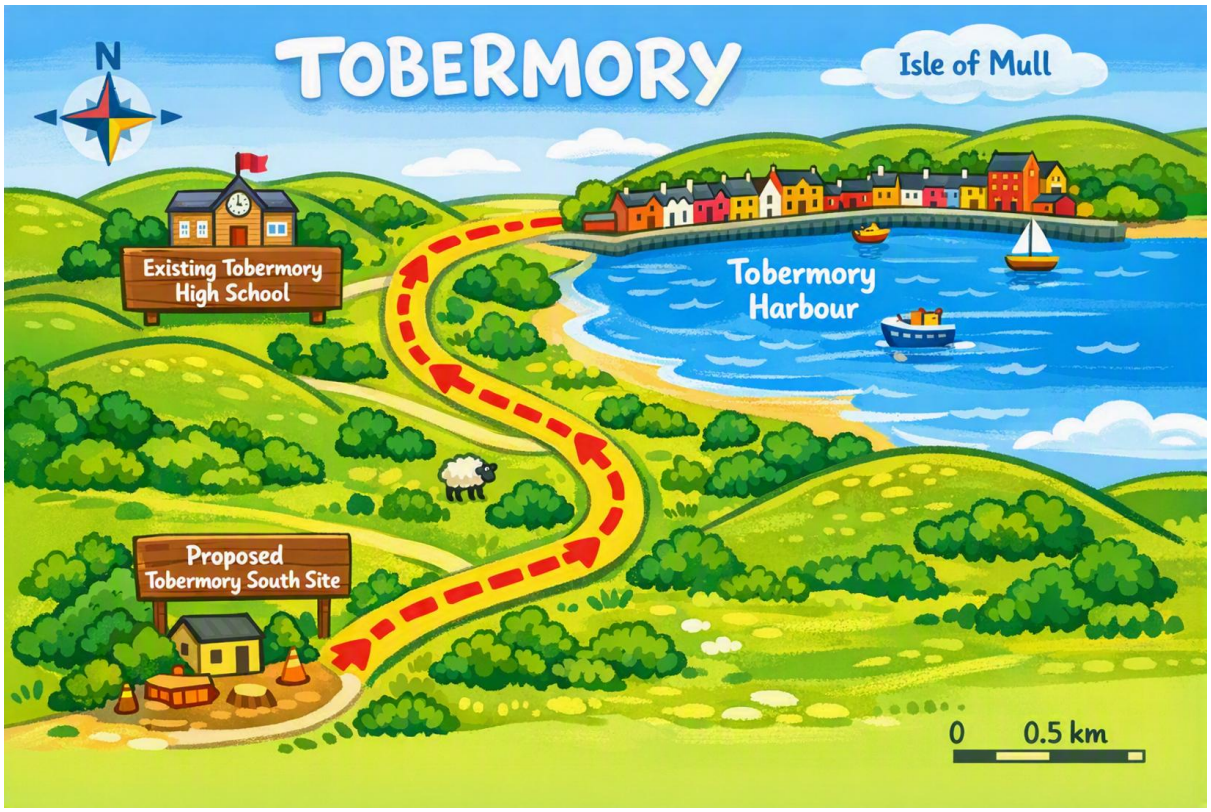
Classification: OFFICIAL

Thank you for giving your views!



Bute • Helensburgh • Islay • Oban • Mull • Campbeltown • Iona • Dunoon • Tiree • Lochgilphead • Seil … #abplace2b

Visual Representation for primary pupils



Primary Pupil Comments

Dervaig PS 09-09-26
comments
yes it is good because it has more sings and make it clealy
we need to make sure the classes are big enough- they are too small now
yes it is a good idea because there would be less problems. It would be nice to have a bigger lunch room
I think it would be good because it would be more accessible for many people
Yes it is a good idea because it is a shorter ride on the bus
little bit closer to the people that have a long trip
I think it is a good idea because it would be a shorter journey for me and you wouldn't have to go through all the streets to get there
I think its good because it's a purpose based school
I think it's a great idea because it will be just that
I think it is a good idea because it is a shorter drive for proplr living far away.
Lochdonhead PS 08-09-26
comments
I think it is a good idea to move it, but it should be in Craignure so it is more accessible
comments
I hope the bus stop is outside the new school
I would like it to have a lego room
I would like the playground to have swings
Maybe closer to town
near stables
I want to make it closer to my house so I can just walk to it
I want monkey bars
it is good
A football pitch and a basket ball pitch
I would like it close to my house and to have a library (I live in Lochbuie)
Garmony- because it eill be better for people who live far away and it is perfect space
library cause people like reading and maybe manga books and the series of Tom Gates
I think should be in Garmony not as far to travel
I think it should be bigger for more learning space
new football pitch
it should be in craignure or garmony so more people can access
I would like to stay in tobermory because I don't want to be on the bus all the time
It should be in Craignure so more people can access it without needing to to Oban
I would like the high school to have a library

When I go to high school I would like to see friends and it is a good place where it is

Salen PS and ELC 10-09-26
comments
Don't know
I don't know
free food
The new school should be in Garmony or Craignure so everyone on the island can go
If there are more porple in a class doesn't that mean the teacher's salary goes up and that means they can get better equipment for the school
parking
it is a very good idea because my neighbours go to that school
I think you should be between Ulva and arosso it’s a bit near to craignure
I think it is a good idea because there is a lot of people on Mull
I like the idea because the high school is having quite a lot of problems right now
I think it is a good idea because the old high school is falling to bits
I think it is an ok idea because it will be spending a lot of money but for other kids as well
I think that is great place to build it :)
more classes, parking spaces and you shouldbuild it flat, build a ramp instead
yes it is a good idea, I like Tobermory
yes
no
yes because it will have more space
I think it is a good idea because it is not a long distance for the bus drivers to drive
we think it is is good idea because it might be bigger and there might be more children
I would like it if my mum's job was the same as it is just now and classrooms are the same.
It should be far away from the water so the children can be safe
a good idea because I think the children will have a new school
primary school in Tobermory should move
Tobermory school should be painted pink
yes, everyting will be new

it is a good idea because the school needs more classes and parking
I think it is a good idea
good idea so they can fit more prople in, it would not be a good idea if it was small
think it is a good idea because it might be a bit bigger and people might like it more- I just want a new one
good idea because it would be new
Not a good idea, suppose while the school is moving, the school day do not have newer to go to school
why don't they build it flat to help people in wheelchairs
want to take a boat to school, or a bike, want to drive a big truck to school
the building will be too small (new building)
I don't think it should be in Tobermory because people that live down the bottom of Mull sometimes have to send their children to Oban High School- or so I've heard
build a football pitch
I think it should have a gym hall in it
I think it would be good to make it a bit closer to Craignure
I think there should be real grass on the pitch
It be at Garmony or Craignure because people in Bunessan have to pay and go to Oban in a hostel
No it hasn't be built
I think it is not a good idea because I think it is in a good place already
What if people don't want to go to the new School?
I don't think it is a good idea because the money needed to build and the one right now is OK on its own.
No - I will miss the old school
No it makes me feel upset when mummy told me about it because it would waste a lot of money on building a school and I don't want mummy and classroom to change (current Tobermory school)
parking places, big playground, better toys, harder work, more classes, can round about near build
only girl teachers please
girl teachers except Mr Cellar
deagh bheachd- good idea

Tobermory PS 09-09-26
comments

I want to move because I can just walk and bike to school because I live close
yes- we need bigger classrooms more space to play
yes- bigger playground and more space inside
Yes- this school is ols, it leaks (rats and spiders)??
yes- easier ofr some to get to school
yes new school better stuff- you can walk / bike from my house
yes we need a bigger art room
no might increase the number of people that need to drive , bad for the environment
no - building costs
no - views better from current school
no- not on that site
no- it's not near the park
no- too much work to move everything
no- new site is where my horses are kept- memories of old school
yes because I've never had one before
yes because it might be bigger
yes because we can make new friends
yes because we'll have bigger classrooms and put more art work on the walls
yes because this school is really old and a new one would be cool
yes because there are hooks on the wall
I want a new school because I've never had one before
yes because there would be more space, toys and activities- outside
yes because its new
yes because I want to see how many toys they have
yes in case this one breaks on top of us
yes because there's rubbish on the walls - staples, holes, screws etc
yes I want a new school because I will be able to walk and it right next to my horses field
yes but I want us to have a pitch not a playground and climbing frames
we want good car park
we want good gym
swimming pool, we don’t want to go to Craignure
my dad starts work at 7.30, my mum starts work at 8.00, I am 10 I am not walking that far
yes we should get a new school because this school is too old!
it shouldn't be in Craignure because the teachers in Tob and students will travel so far and the ones down Bunessan, Iona chose to live there and Oban school is better!
shinty, golf, football, hard footballs
IT room for primary
football and shinty
no because they are wasting money
mini golf, hard football, go karting, darts, pool

no I think it should be in Craignure because people from Bunessan and Iona have to get up at 4am to get a ferry and 2 if you are from Iona
I like the woods and I would like football goals if it gets built
I think it is a good idea, it is just that I love the park and the woodsand I also think that it ill be a bit mad/crazy because of the ELC kids. But I do like the idea and it is close to my house(which is a good thing)but if at lunchtimethe high schoolers love to go down the street but it might take a long time to go to the co-op
a plane, a boat, a cat café and a sea world aquarium
what about the woods? What about the playpark?
Things I want - bigger gym, pools, more school trips, library, study room, mini trampoline park, art room, go karts, computers, cinema, every Friday we go swim, fun stuff, better lunch hall
I think it would be nice for a change of scenery, but I think here is superior
It means having to drive for most pupils- some can't drive or don't have a car
football team that can play maytches against other schools, like Salen, Ardnamuchan etc
award room - pupils that are the best get to go in the award room
no I don't like the site- I wish it could be in Craignure
no- because this school is good. Just rebuild and fix the problems in the school
shinty, golf, football, hard footballs
football goals full size
I think the new school should be in Craignure
to be honest it is an ok idea, I'm okay with it but not, I'll miss this one. Also I understand that it's old and stuff
I want us to move school but we wont have the park and we wont have the woods
we need lots of outdoor space, go cars, cinema
I will have to wake up 5 minutes earlier and my sister will have to wake up as well.
bigger gym hall, bigger football pitch and a tennis court
can we have a swimming pool so that we don't have to go to Craignure and a jacuzzi and a gaming/ IT room
I want it to be built, yes,yes,yes,yes,yes,yes, I need better food
I want to move to a new school, so it can be ore room for everyone
I would be happy to move to a new school so we can all be together
If it went ahead and got built it would be close to my house
I feel happy because we will all be together, I feel angry because what is wrong with this school. I feel excitied because I want a new classroom for us!
I don't know exactly, as some people walk and it would take long to get there! But it would also be good for space. But what is the bus gets messed up? I think I'm OK
I don't know but I think I like the new school better, but I LOVE this school. I have to say I want the new school!!!(but my dad might not get his car back)
I don't really want a new school because I walk to school and it would be farther than my house but it would be nice
I think it is a good idea to have a new school because I can walk to schooland why do we have a new school, I will like it but I will be sad because it is a good school

Do I feel comfortable, I'm not sure. I don't think driving is good for the .....

Ulva PS 09-08-26
comments
classrooms should be light
new school needs a nice large entrance
It's a good place because its out of town
It's a good idea because the school is old
new school would need agood bus shelter
It needs to have safe parking for the buses
It will be a short walk to the new co-op
It should have swings and a trampoline
I think it's a good idea to build a new school because the old one is too old
Important to be near houses / people
It should have abig enough pitch for all the children
I think it is a good idea to make the pitch bigger and have benches
I think it is a good idea because the old one is getting old and it is easier to get to
I would like different places to go when it is wet
I think we should have it near the same place
I also think it is a good idea for the co-op to be closer
How big is the whole site?
How many classrooms will there be?
Can it be in a more central place, but I think it is a good idea
where will the library be in the new school?
can there be seats around the football pitch
I don't think it's a good idea because you could just reinforce it. And there is a new school we should keep it in the same place

Secondary Sector Information Slides

Pupil Consultation Tobermory Campus

Classification: OFFICIAL

What is a consultation?

A consultation is a formal process used to gather views before decisions are made.



The Council wants to hear pupils' opinions before deciding to move and build a new campus.



Argyll and Bute Council want to ask you a question about Tobermory School.

Tobermory Campus







Tobermory Campus is made up of an early learning centre, a primary school, a learning centre and a high school. The school is in the town of Tobermory.

Any pupils that go to

Tobermory High, Primary and ELC,
Dervaig Primary School,
Salen English and Gaelic Primary School and Salen English and Gaelic ELCs,
Lochdonhead Primary School and
Ulva Primary School,

go to Tobermory Campus for their high school stages.

Classification: OFFICIAL

Tobermory Campus







Why is change being considered?

The school you have just now is not in great shape with many level changes, so moving would help us have a better place to learn.

Moving to a new place would let us build a brand new school that's made just right for learning and growing.

We have a chance to build a brand new school because the Scottish Government's Learning Estate Investment Programme(LEIP) and the council are giving money to make it happen.

Bute • Helensburgh • Islay • Oban • Mull • Campbeltown • Iona • Dunoon • Tiree • Lochgilphead • Seil … #abplace2b

Background

- This consultation **does not** cover the following:-
  - Building 2 new schools;
  - Building a split site or
  - Building a central campus

- The single site joint campus new build was agreed by Councillors 18 months ago, and was subject to previous engagement sessions

Classification: OFFICIAL

What is the question?

We want to hear what you think about the Council's idea to move Tobermory school to a new place and build a brand new campus designed especially for learning.

Bute • Helensburgh • Islay • Oban • Mull • Campbeltown • Iona • Dunoon • Tiree • Lochgilphead • Seil … #abplace2b

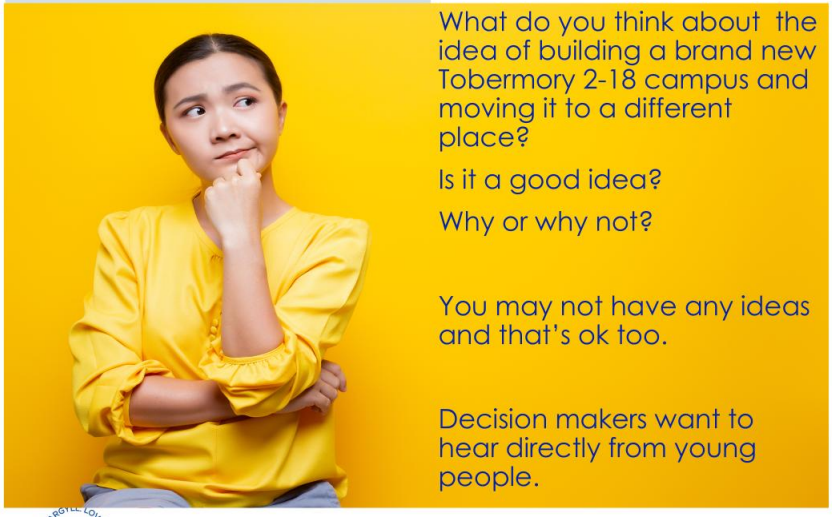
Tobermory



Where the school is just now

Planned site for brand new school

Tell us what you think…



What do you think about the idea of building a brand new Tobermory 2-18 campus and moving it to a different place?

Is it a good idea?

Why or why not?

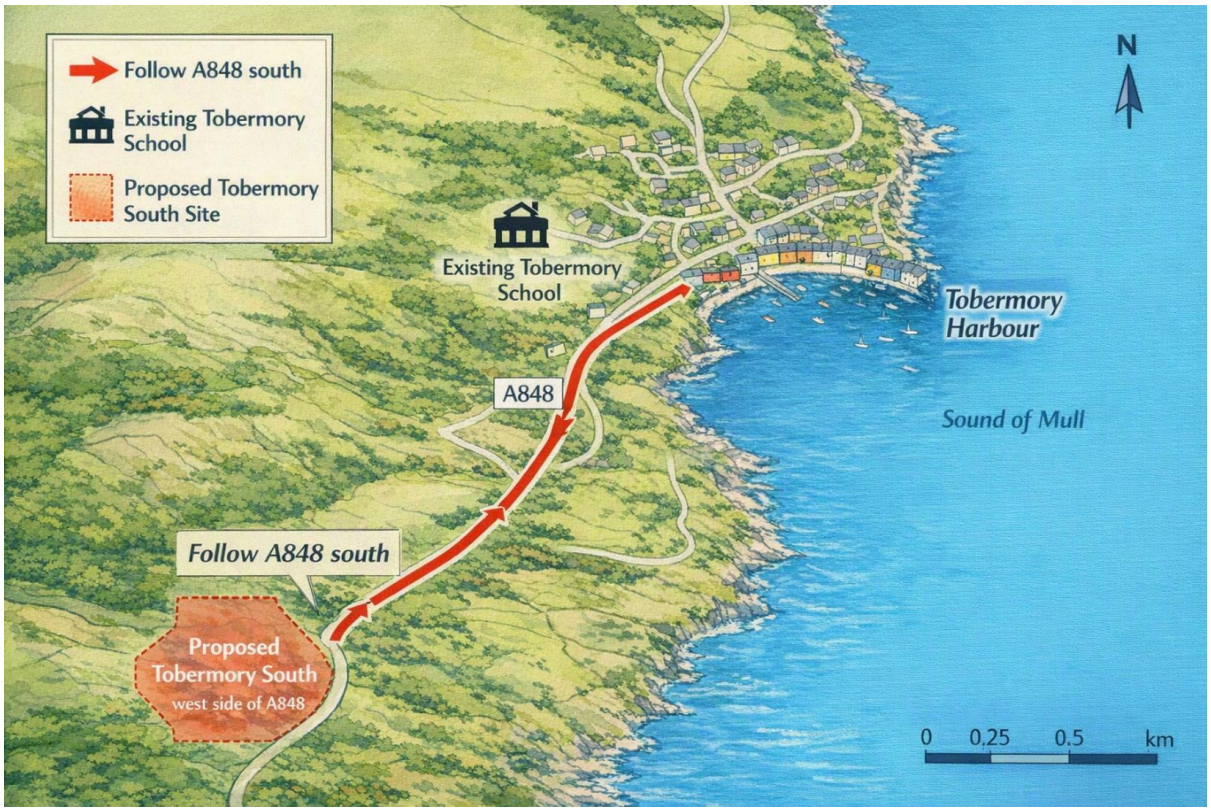
You may not have any ideas and that's ok too.

Decision makers want to hear directly from young people.

Thank you for giving your views!



Visual Representation for Secondary Pupils



Tobermory secondary 09-09-26
comments
New bus stop, new corner shop, Less maintenance, better drinking water
Bigger pitch, bigger court, we need more seating areas
Fresh cold water would be good
Just outside Tob doesn't make sense, it is not in Tobermory - you can't go down town and is not far enough out from other parts of the island
Why is the new school smaller
Fix here, not a smaller one elsewhere or make the new one bigger
No point of moving schools this is a good area so why move
More Toilets
What is the point of putting it a mile away
Yes to move
We don't want a big wooden box
More disabled access, more music supplies
Bigger canteen
Stepped seats
Courtyard
Outdoor seating
Better wifi
Access to Youtube and accessbile computers
Access to Youtube and accessbile computers
Bigger hallway
More classrooms
Council to listen to us
Ardnamurchan High School - court yard replica; Yes just copy it; Community Centre
Accessible library for students connected to the school also accessible to the public on a regular basis
No AI maps that show us where the school is
More dedicated study spaces
Bigger hall
Work with theatre
Sustainable
Home rooms - especially S6
Lockers for all years
Drinkable water
Central Campus
Large enough corridor for 2 way system
Wall of Alumni

Is this for legal purposes or will you actually read this
The new location is good as it allows for a new modern campus that will be more suitable for students
School photo's
Six periods a day, half day Friday - like Ardnamuchan
Court and pitch
Artistic influences for building
Artistic influences for building
Longer lunches to accommodate for longer walk into town
The school should only go up to S4, then all go to Oban unless the new campus can offer a wider ranges of highers and advanced highers
We need more subjects so make th eschool bigger- drama, dance, advanced highers
We should have access down the street -maybe a tramline/bus/taci
No student will be bothered to walk down and up the huge hill to town
Why build a new school - add an extension to this school
Our school is in central tobermory - easy to go down the street- if you move it, we won't have as much freedom
What is the point of building a brand new high school when you could just repair this one
Build this school up instead of acompletely new school = cheaper
Having the school site outside of tobermory is good as the buses can keep to the bigger roads and not have to go through the tiny streets
No bacause it means more people are soending more money to get to school
If it isn't in tobermory how are we supposed to get food that isn't from the canteen
If a CoOp is built outside of Tobermory people won't want to travel outside of Tobermory
Teacher housig = more subjects taught
I think the location is good as if in future a larger coop is built in the same area people can still get lunch
I like the idea of a new location
The school should have chairs for assembly
I hope there is bigger halls
What will happen to the current school when the new one is built
I'd like it if it wasn't rotting/falling apart
I don't really mind
Yes to move

Bigger sports and more pitch
We could have a pool for swimming
Builld it near the co-op
build it soner
this school is properly fine
In Craignure
a pool
better food
More Toilets
no scary boiler
build 11 aside football pitch
gaming room
add a pool
good music room
in Tobermory
the same as before without asbestos
more food
yes good idea
2 maths and 2 english classesin craignure
better food
football pitch
in Tobermory
school should be built in foeld next to hospital
it might take a while to so to the co-opor other stuff down the street
yes good decision
build in Tobermory
good music room
public pool
more good thoughts
it will be good
better canteen
pack with room
yes good idea
an area fo lunch or break and a pitch
there is less of a distance for prople that live outside of Tob
ask people's parents from primary and youger because they will actually go to it
bigger classrooms
get more teachers
big gym!
can we have a bigger gym hall?

no old teachers
lots of teachers
get a proper teacher from each school
mote teachers please!!!
will there be more teachers?
there will be more space for the teachers to have their own offices
good idea
this school stinks of mould!!!!
more teachers
it is better because the buses will actually have room on the roads to drive. They won't come face to face with everyone else.
yes, I think it is a good idea because that way there's more space for learning and people in here
good idea because it would be better for travelling on bus for less distance
big classrooms
good idea
we need more teacehrs if so
can it be hughe?
places for more teachers to stay to teach
bigger classroom?!
bad idea because it eould be longer to walk to it if you live in Tobermory
will the schools- secondary and primary be one big building or separate buildings
it is a good idea this school is old and damaged
Stay in Tob and give them a bigger PE space
put it above Donlad MacKinnon's as it all flat and bigger
why have or is there diging at the site at the moment?
accomodation for more teachers
yes please move it
yes - bigger area
more open space so you can put more facilities
swimming pool
yes, more space for sports or bigger classrooms
I think the school should be in Tobermory
It s lots of people and it would be hard to transport them
make tsure the buses are not full every day and transport works well
Tobermory has good shops and food that’s accessible for school kids
if we didn't have the food doen the street we would have to have more food in school
platpark abd stuff to do in Tob

I think that all of this is a good idea
more space
dyslexia helpers
fresh water
keep in Tobermory
better classrooms
more resources
not as strict dress code
better desks
close to Mull Youth theatre
keep in Tobermory
clean bathrooms- no mould
more places to hang out instead of classrooms
better buses- no druggies
better hallways
keep it here so it is easier to access things like the part, the pitch, the netball court, the street
have more ramps rather than stairs
if it is moved they would need to make a new netball court and playgrounds, primary do not go on the pitch for play breaks
make sure its bigger, canteen, more people, classrooms
needs disabled access
if the new school gets built this one stays then you don't get rid og it, reuse it - make it a hall or something
no because there's no chippy
we shouldn't move it because then we wouldn't be able to go down the street
our school is fine as it is
good- maybe bigger, slightly shorter bus journey, new blue seats, bigger PE dept?, car park
bad- far away from co-op, no football pitch or netball/basketball court, closer to main road, no bus drop off/pick up, noise pollution from main road, not the OG Tob High, on a horses field
we don’t know if it’s a good idea as we will not be in school.
A new school is a good idea if it is bigger and better than this one
In an open area for proplr to walk around at break and lunch
the decided site in Tobermory changes nothing and it continues to create travel issues for as young as 12/13 years old
Craignure or Garmony is much better and less travel for children around the island. TSL also offerred plumbing and land for free and still got decided

pros - modern school, better than Craignure, more subject pls, school not falling apart, opposite new co-op-yay, better in Ton than Craignure
cons- smaller, far away from everything, businesses loose customers, you close to main road, far away from pitch/park, not pedestrianised, little space for sporting areas, bus parking?
If its built in Tobe we probs need a hostel or a better one
not a good sight too far from main street
I think it should be in Craignurethats a more central location for all the schools to go to
if you are going to be building a new school will it be bigger? If not why not just refurbish the old school?
I like th eidea of a new campus but I feel it shouldn't be where it is planned to be. If its staying in Tob, keep it in its original place (here) because more people live round it and its easier access
I think if parents don't want their kids getting the bus because they think womething bad will happen, make all the buses private. I feel as though they should be private anyways now but oh well.
I feel as though they're building a new campus there should be new sports facilities too, like a pitch and court- too scale netball court and things like that
we do need a better education, it is a good idea to get a new better school
we think they should build a new one here because it is easier access to the shops
a bigger gym hall, pitch
if they build here they have to build a hostel because its not fair the ones on the bottom end island having to stay away from home for 5 days
what is modern teaching?
bad idea!!!
will have to walk eas brae to go down street
please co=op bakery on other side of street
location for new school- no logic!
no more outside PE
cant do certain things for PE or most things
no pitch/park/tennis court which means no more fater school stuff really buses will struggle parking and letting everyone offf in time on a main road
more people having to walk farther or drive to school
school will also be next to a grave yard ~spooky
the school should not be moved
the school shouldn't be moved current location is next central amount of houses and easily accessed to down the street
good ideas

put it on the plot of land they were offred in Garmony
Don't put it anywhere near Jake Edward Bentley's
better chips I beg
can we have salt?
move it now
no bad
its in a bad spot
don't matter I'm getting the bus no matter what
It next my house - I happy!
add salt and pepper for ""
it should be in th centre of Mull, Craignure, Garmony- if not stay here
We can't decide because we don't know what the new school will be like
swimming pool, rugby field, football pitch, basketball court, park
distance = sore legs, tired and sad
not everyones paremts can drive or have time to due to work
we all think the school should stay here because it is a whole load of mucking about to try to move everything and its also affecting people who live in tob because it will be more distance to walk. Laos we wouldn't have the park. Also theres no point because everyone knows their way around the school so it will get people confused
I think we should stay here
a homework/study room
2 story libraray- bean bags
a football pitch
yes we think it is a good idea because it will be next to the co-op and its not in Craignure!!
why is it still in tobermory? The whole idea of the new school was that it would be in a different location
bad idea
it is in the same location which creates the eact same problem
would it still have th esmae facilities? Pitch etc
firs the bad teachers
not in central town so hard to access co-op/corner shop
don’t just think about Tob people remember there is people comes from lochbuie, ulva and other places so put it out of Tob, there is more space elsewhere
add hostel
yes- build it near spar shop
no- put it in different location, it doesn’t make sense that its in Tob again
I hope there is still a park- please add park
there should be a sports pitch, court and a playpark

it would be good cause a new campus
is there going to be a play park?
I don’t think it is going to be good because there were loads of houses around that area and I don't think the people that live there are going to be happy.
How long would it take to build?
When would it start to be built?
once it is buuilt- how long until we can go in?
what woud happe to the school we are in now?
would there be a gym hall?
how would I get there if I live in Tobermory?
more classrooom space- the current school is too crampt
more space inside to go at break / lunch
put the school in Craignure for whole islans but good idea
it is a good idea
yes!!
good idea
yes it’s a good idea
nah - I just want this one
I think it is a good idea cause this one is falling apart
yes new school- I agree
it is a good idea
good idea!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
its tiny- the main street is far away
I want to see blueprints because there might not be eough classes or space
stay in current location and be home schooled while they rebuild
basketball court
make the school in Tobermory
needs lots of classrooms
not many options of where to go for lunch/ break in a new location
harder access down the main street meaning shops getting less profit as students are their main buyers
no- why move it 5 mins away from where it already is
a proper teacher for each subject, better dresscode, more lunch options
more variety of food
I don't mind where or if theres a new school, but a new building would be nice
add more food varietys like risto, pasts and salads
better food, bus stops
need x2 courts
need big cateen

swimming pool
small co-op inside
need x2pitch
bigger pitch
need tuckshop
better PE hall
new goals ??
good toilets
shower curtains
pool

Floor book Page from ELC Sessions



Appendix 5 – HMIE Report

HMIE | His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland
Luchd-sgrùdaidh an Rìgh airson Foghlam ann an Alba

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by HMIE addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Argyll and Bute Council to relocate the Tobermory 2-18 Campus.

November 2026

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from HMIE has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of a proposal by Argyll and Bute Council to relocate the Tobermory 2-18 Campus. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' view. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it alongside any relevant considerations the council received and then prepare its consultation report. The council's consultation report should include this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its consultation report at least three weeks before it takes its final decision. With all proposals the council needs to follow all statutory obligations set out in the 2010 Act.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the schools; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 17 September 2026 in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others;
- consideration of further representations made directly to HMIE on relevant educational aspects of the proposal; and
- visits to the sites of Bunessan Primary School (PS), Dervaig PS, Lochdonhead PS, Oban High School, Salen PS, Tobermory 2-18 Campus and Ulva PS including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

2.1 Argyll and Bute Council undertook the consultation on its proposal with reference to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

2.2 A previous consultation concerning a 2-18 campus on Mull in 2022 involved islanders, including those from the Ross of Mull and Iona. The current statutory consultation does not include those who live out with the Tobermory 2-18 Campus catchment area. The statutory consultation ran from 24 August to 2 October 2026. The council published the proposal paper on its website and made copies available to

stakeholders and in various council buildings. The council held a public meeting on 17 September 2026. Attendees asked a range of questions to gather more detail about the proposal. These included the accessibility and suitability of the site, and building design. Attendees raised queries about education provision for children and young people with additional support needs. They also asked whether the proposal represents the best long-term solution for children and young people across the island of Mull.

2.3 The council received 262 online survey responses, including 22 duplicates. Six respondents submitted more than one response. A further 24 responses were received after the statutory consultation closed. Of the valid responses, 70 supported the proposal and 165 opposed it. Supporters felt the catchment outlined in the proposal would benefit a large proportion of Mull's population and reflected the current location in Tobermory. Some respondents highlighted the need to develop active travel routes to the school, which would require further assessment. Respondents, both for and against the proposal, raised concerns about the size and suitability of the proposed site, particularly whether it would provide enough classroom space and capacity for future growth. Those opposed argued that the proposal does not adequately meet the needs of all families on the island, particularly young people who need to stay away from home during the school week. A few respondents highlighted the right to a family life under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Concerns were also raised on behalf of pupils from the

Ross of Mull and southern areas of the island who attend secondary school in Oban, where ferry disruptions can affect access to in-person education. Iona residents raised concerns regarding Iona-Fionnphort ferry disruptions, should they be required to attend a school on Mull. Respondents who favour an alternative Craignure location suggested it would allow all young people on Mull to attend the same secondary school while supporting the island's cultural, social and economic development. They expressed its proximity to the ferry terminal could improve access for sports, educational excursions and activities, and make travel easier for specialist teachers.

2.4 Argyll and Bute Council officers supported age-appropriate engagement with children and young people from Lochdonhead PS, Dervaig PS, Salen PS, Ulva PS, Tobermory PS and Tobermory Secondary School to gather their views. Children and young people said what they would like to see in a new school. They also offered suggestions about the potential location, with support for both Tobermory or a more central campus on Mull.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 HM Inspectors agree that there are potential educational benefits stated in the council's proposal. The council recognises the limitations of the current accommodation at Tobermory 2-18 Campus. The council proposes to build a new single site campus to the southern edge of Tobermory. HM Inspectors agree that the current school building is in need of replacement or significant refurbishment. A purpose-built campus has the potential to provide modern facilities, which could enhance children's and young people's engagement, wellbeing and attainment and achievement. However, the council could provide more specific information about the proposed new school and the chosen site. This includes how the council will make effective and efficient use of its resources to continue to secure educational benefits for all children and young people.

3.2 HM Inspectors met with a range of stakeholders including children, young people, parents, carers, staff and community members. All stakeholders agreed that there was a need for significant investment and replacement of much of the Tobermory campus. However, most stakeholders raised concerns about the proposed location and the single site. They do not believe that the current proposal represents the most appropriate long-term solution for children and young people on Mull. Most young people, parents and carers and a few staff who met with HM Inspectors believe that the council should consider an alternative split site, with Tobermory retaining early learning and childcare and primary provision, and the secondary school being relocated to a more central part of the island. Most parents and carers who met with HM Inspectors want the council to use the opportunity for a new school to end the practice of young people being separated from their families for education. They believe this would create greater equity and better suit the needs of more families across Mull.

3.3 Almost all stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors agree there are potential benefits that could come from a new school building and facilities. Children and young people identified features they would like to be included such as a library, digital technology, sports facilities, outdoor learning areas and age-appropriate spaces. A few stakeholders expressed support for locating the campus wholly in Tobermory. However, most expressed concern about the size and suitability of the proposed site. The proposed development may reduce teaching, specialist, social, sports and outdoor facilities when compared with the existing provision and may not allow for growth if the school roll increases.
Stakeholders believe the council could provide further detail on educational benefits of the proposal including teaching spaces, outdoor learning provision and future capacity. A few questioned whether the pre-school provision could remain in-situ. In its consultation report, the council should more fully demonstrate how the education benefits in the proposal will be achieved to address the concerns raised.

3.4 Most parents, carers and staff who met with HM Inspectors expressed concern about traffic management on the chosen site, including the lack of parking and suitable drop-off and pick-up areas. They are concerned about the volume of traffic and would like more clarification on changes to roads, walkways and cycling paths that will support safe routes to school. A few parents, carers and staff raised questions about transport arrangements, including the use of public transport. A few stakeholders who live in the south area of the island, but within the Tobermory catchment, told HM Inspectors that travel times to and from the proposed site would be too long for children and young people.

3.5 The majority of stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors expressed the importance of access to out of school activities. Children and young people described the social benefits of mixing with their peers in other recreational activities and whole island events. Parents and young people in the Oban catchment said that, although they could access these opportunities throughout the week, young people can be restricted from joining clubs that meet during the weekend. As a result, they have less opportunity to participate in clubs and team activities to progress their chosen interest, such as music and sport. Although this is out with the scope of this statutory consultation, the council may wish to consider introducing or extending whole island approaches to increase access.

3.6 A majority of parents and carers who met with HM Inspectors reported their lack of trust in the council's consultation process. They do not feel that the council has adequately considered their views or been fully transparent with them. They expressed disappointment that the proposal is different from what they expected when it was first discussed in 2022. They would like the council to give further consideration to alternative models, including a secondary school for the whole island. Children in the Bunessan PS catchment expressed their excitement about the possibility of a new secondary school, which could mean they did not need to leave home during the week to receive their

secondary education. All parents and a few young people from the Ross of Mull, in the Bunessan PS catchment, who met with HM Inspectors , questioned whether the council had considered fully the views of children and young people in relation to its duties under the UNCRC. A significant majority of parents and carers do not agree that the council should implement the current proposal. The council may wish to consider how it works with these families to address their concerns.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors acknowledge the clear educational rationale for replacing the ageing Tobermory 2-18 Campus. HM Inspectors agree that a new purpose-built campus has the potential to improve learning environments, wellbeing, attainment and achievement and provide educational benefits. However, most stakeholders expressed concerns about the proposed Tobermory location and the single site model. Most stakeholders favoured further consideration of alternative options, including a more centrally located secondary school to improve equity of access across Mull. This alternative option could reduce the need for young people from the south of the island to live away from home during the school week to attend a secondary school in Oban. Whilst there was broad support for investment in new facilities, stakeholders sought greater clarity regarding the chosen site, educational benefits, future capacity, transport arrangements and traffic management. The majority of parents and carers who met with HM Inspectors expressed concerns about the council's consultation process and felt their views had not been fully considered. In preparing its consultation report, the council should provide more detailed information on how the proposal would deliver its intended educational benefits and give further consideration to the concerns and alternative options put forward by stakeholders.

HM Inspectors
November 2026

On behalf of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education in Scotland

Appendix 6

Response Capacity	Comments on Proposal
Member of the public/ community	Sire is not suitable, should be a primary school in Tobermory and a high school central on the island, serving the whole community. I am from Bunessan and had to go to Oban from the age of 11 for 6 years. This was originally called the Mull campus, without serving the full island, such a short-sited and self-interested decision to keep the status quo. Craignure area has perfect site, located close to the swimming pool, sports facilities at Garmony and the ferry port, allowing the option of extra classes for pupils in Oban.
Member of the public/ community	There should be a central school suitable for the whole of the islands children as promised at the beginning of this whole process
Member of the public/ community	N/a
Isle Of Mull	Never agreed - never consulted. Central location only option
Parent/ carer of child at Tobermory ELC/Primary /Secondary	Why are the south end being ignored again as an inconvenience! That is not the right place for a school to be built. Safe guarding the island future you've just killed half the island!!!
Member of the public/ community	As someone who is keen to move back to Mull to take up caring responsibilities for a relative, I am unable to do so while children from the Ross of Mull are required to board in Oban. My child has additional needs which mean she is unable to live away from us and has left us as a family divided. A school central to the island would ensure ALL of Mulls children as seen as equals and ensure that families are not made to make choices that years families apart
Member of the public/ community	The school should be built half way for all of the children to attend. It's absolutely disgusting that this is going ahead!! Argyll and Bute council should be ashamed of themselves! Everyone here wants it central it's ridiculous
Member of the public/ community	Location of the proposed campus in Tobermory • The choice of a greenfield site for the proposed new campus within walking and cycling distance of residences in Tobermory is sensible, facilitating and promoting active travel to and from school by both pupils and staff who live locally. • There should, however, be an assessment by A&B Council of the routes to be taken by pupils, particularly those who use bicycles, to ensure safe travel. This might require installation of new cycle lanes and consideration of road junctions and street lighting. This issue becomes important: (a) in winter, given the shift to GMT and the shortness of daylight

(continued)	hours; (b) in summer, given the increase in motorised traffic associated with tourism. Indicative site layout • In an early portrayal of the site, it appears that the bus arrivals would use laybys on the A848 alongside the proposed campus. Some buses will arrive travelling southwards meaning that pupils will exit the vehicle on the road unless the bus turns through 180 degrees. On safety grounds, all bus arrivals, whether from north or south, would best enter the campus before pupils alight. The August 2026 bulletin indicates a roadway and 'turning circle' within the campus, suggesting that buses will indeed enter the campus before pupils
(continued)	alight. This must remain a feature of the site plan. • There are no extensive covered bicycle racks shown on any of the indicative site plans, yet a MUGA is included in early versions. In the context of encouraging active travel by pupils and staff, this omission needs rectifying. Indicative building layout • Given the current UK-wide discussion of the need for not only 'academic' subjects but also 'technical' training at secondary level in order to cater for both the range intellectual capability of children and the present and future needs of employment, the indication that the 'Technology Studio' will occupy a space that appears smaller
(continued)	than the 'Art Class' and 'Kiln Room' seems to be counter to increasingly recognised national education requirements. I would hope that those planning and approving the final building layout recognise the importance of both 'academic' and 'technical' education and incorporate into the final plans suitable space to cater for each. Choice of site in Tobermory Although the choice of a site in Tobermory has been contentious, it is pragmatic, sensible and, indeed, vital for a number of reasons: • Important is the question of staff retention and, as important, (future) staff recruitment. The availability of housing is much higher in Tobermory and
(continued)	its immediate vicinity; current staff will have organised their living arrangements in the context of a campus in the town and would be unhappy at the prospect of a long daily commute were the new campus in Craignure. Future staff will have greater opportunity of finding housing in Tobermory and its vicinity and are less likely to be attracted to an island job if life were to involve a long daily commute. Teaching staff recruitment in the county is already challenging and commuting is unlikely to be advertised as one of the attractions, especially given the nature of the roads on Mull. • Locating the campus in Tobermory and not in Craignure

(continued)	removes what otherwise would be the penalties to health and cultural and social interaction of losing the availability, daily, of an hour to an hour-and-a-half of extramural activities and/or time with family and friends for the majority of the island's pupils. In other words, locating the campus in Tobermory will facilitate the availability of more than 50,000 pupil-hours per year* for such activities and benefits, pupil-hours that would otherwise be spent travelling by bus. • Locating the campus in Tobermory will also allow pupils who live locally to participate in extramural activities in that they would not be constrained by the need to
(continued)	travel home by bus, which almost inevitably would depart a distant campus as soon as the school day ends. • Costs of pupil transport will remain at present levels. Were the campus to be located in Craignure, the cost of providing transport would be borne indefinitely by the local authority and be an opportunity cost that reduces other provision, whether educational or other, such as care for the elderly. • A further problematic issue of a logistical nature were the campus sited other than in Tobermory would be the need to provide another four buses and at least four more part-time PSV-licensed drivers during term-time from an island
(continued)	population of less than 3000.I20
Parent/ carer of child at Tobermory ELC/Primary /Secondary	There should be a central site which will be closer to full size rugby pitches, soon to be indoor sport's facility, golf course, swimming pool and closer access to the ferry terminal so teachers can come from Oban everyday if needed! Also means that children from the South end can attend a school on Mull
Parent/ carer of child at Tobermory ELC/Primary /Secondary	I think the best way forward would be a split campus with Tobermory and Craignure which would be fare on the whole island and limit traveling times for pupils and have it so teachers are moved between the sites. I strongly disagree with one site in Craignure
Parent/ carer of child at Tobermory ELC/Primary /Secondary	Failure by the council to build a centrally based high school on the island for the benefit of all - while replacing the early years/pre-school in Tobermory. The new proposed site is vastly unsuitable for the requirements of the school as a lot of Tobermory residents are now understanding. In my opinion the benefits of a central high school on Mull far outway any detrimental effect Tobermory would have with the loss of the High School.
Member of the public/ community	The site is too small for the purpose. The site is very expensive to build on. The South of the island aren't in the catchment area and so it wont serve the whole island community and all of its children. Children from the south will still be forced to separate from their families and move away from their home therefore this location doesn't comply with the united nations human rights laws that states that a child has the right to a family life.
Parent/ carer of child at Tobermory ELC/Primary /Secondary	The new site is not fit for purpose and will cost more money just to break ground. NO child should have to board and be away from their parents a week at a time...11 to 17 year old need nurturing and guidance from their parents.we live in 2026 where we have an opportunity to right our wrongs so let all the kids of mull have the right to education on the island not the mainland

Parent/ carer of child at affected primary school (Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Primary School), Member of the public/ community	My children are within the catchment area of current Tobermory high School, they spend 1 hour and 45 minutes travelling to amd from school. Almost a 4 hour commute and they are within the catchment. The island has sports fields, a hospital and ferry all at or around Craignure as it is the most central part of the island for the entire island, you have made a decision to build the school in Tobermory cutting off the south and forcing children like mine to continue these hellish commutes. The design you are putting forward is small, offers no credible sports facilities, certainly no better to the current set up. The school will be built on on
(continued)	sloped land that will make it difficult for anyone with a physical issue, it looks like stairs are dotted about with no space for ramps etc. The land was deemed unsuitible to build housing in due to the geology of the area. This is a terrible decision which will continue to depopulate the island and make it more difficult for the best teachers to want to work at the school. A disgusting legacy being forced upon the children of the island who will be sent away to Oban instead of being able to be home with families
Member of the public/ community	This proposal is concerning, and ignorant to the intial stated aim of achieving an island wide approach to schooling for all. The continued track of the council, pursuing an option which fails to achieve equitable schooling for the whole island is bizarre. This was an opportunity to change taking children away from their families for high school education. This should have been the paramount concern. As an Argyll family with children in school, it is concerning that our Education dept and council are doing this. We clearly cannot trust them in competent decision making. It is also difficult to understand the wider impact this could have on
(continued)	the service provision and roll count in oban high school. There is obviously a dire need to replace Tobermory, and a primary must remain there, but there should have been work done to pursue a split site option, recognising the impact like for like will have. Passion and drive to pursue the right decision for a whole community would be welcome. Doing the right thing is not always easy, but as community members we do require integrity ,grit, hardwork and determination from our council officers and elected councillors. There must be vision and enthusiasm to look beyond what is a basic like for like, and uninspiring plan. Communities deserve
(continued)	this, and have been horribly let down. Do the right thing, drive forward something to be proud of that will unite island families, improve education and family life for generations to come. Be part of this fix, and show the whole country what can be achieved.
Parent/ carer of child at Tobermory ELC/Primary /Secondary, Parent/ carer of child at affected primary school (Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Primary School)	I dont not belive that a FULL island consultation has been taken into account. To attend high-school my child has to be up at 0600 and doesnt get l home til 1730, leaving no time for family and no time for after school clubs, leaving an 11 year old child isolated not only from her familiy day to day but also her peers at school. Building in Tobermory is a narrow minded solution. Tobermory has no scope to grow, and with no new families able to move into the town it is no longer the hub of the island and fast becoming a retirement village meaning more and more locals and new families moving to the more remote locations on the Island. A more

(continued)	central school between Craignure and Salen is a far more viable long term solution to help with not only schooling for the while island but also the economy and future population.
Parent/ carer of child at Tobermory ELC/Primary /Secondary, Parent/ carer of child at affected primary school (Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Primary School)	I feel strongly the site is not suitable because there isn't enough space, the children don't appear to be gaining any out door space, there isn't even room for a full size sports pitch so again our children are being cut short of what should be a priority. The location is very close to one of the busiest roads on Mull, not ideal for a bus to be stopping and off loading children. I also feel that a central school would have been a better option for the whole island. Easy access to mainland school teachers/relief staff not needing accommodation. Thu, 1 Oct 2026 - 19:04 The site itself does not seem suitable, the vanity of one of the busiest
(continued)	the roads on the Island is concerning. We have been promised more outside space but there isn't room for a full size pitch. It seems the children will be losing the opportunity for many activities. We can not accept a proposal of this site when questions still could not be answered at the last consultation. The council's asking is to make a decision with very little facts. We still feel it is a very sad situation that give this one opportunity you are not considering a central based school. The primary should stay in Tobermory and secondary should be central so ALL children have the option to attend school on the island.
Parent/ carer of child at Tobermory ELC/Primary /Secondary, Parent/ carer of child at affected primary school (Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Primary School)	The way in which A&B council have conducted themselves through this project is absolutely disgusting, to think that this new proposal is of any benefit to Mull children is very wrong.
Parent/ carer of child at Tobermory ELC/Primary /Secondary	N/a
Ex Pupil	This is a wonderful proposal for the pupils of Tobermory and surrounding schools and will help the economy of this small town as to remove the school from here would finish Tobermory. Why not consider adding a small hostel as this might help pupils from the south of the island to attend if they don't want to travel to Oban

Pupil	This is not in the best interest in the children of the Isle of Mull. I, myself have experienced living in Oban hostel and really struggled, since moving back home and going to Tobermory and coming home every night I have thrived, achieving all As and National 5 and Higher due to the support and motivation I have received from my parents at home
Member of the public/ community	I feel as a former pupil that the new school should be in craignure as there is more room for expansion in the future, as the site proposed is only just big enough for the school and doesn't show space for a full pitch and play ground. The site in craignure would also be beneficial with the stalling pool close by and the ferry to oban so if need be teacher can come over from oban for relief. As a pupil that commuted to salen primary from Tobermory I it wasn't a problem and was just what it was. I do agree that the primary should remain in Tobermory but could remain in the existing building and look in to renovation of the primary building
Member of the public who has worked all her life as a social worker upholding children's rights and picking up the pieces where rights are denied.	When children's rights are denied to some, all children and other members of the public suffer. The right to education and a family life for children on the Ross of Mull is jeapardised. Minimal savings do not justify the loss of both 3 weeks a year education because ferries are unreliable. Nor does it justify forcing them to leave their families. The integrated 5-18 model is not substantiated by any research evidence. It is just used as an excuse to divide the Island and persuade Tobermory residents to support this unimaginative proposal.
Member of the public/ community	The proposed site excludes the students from the Ross of Mull, is undersized and totally inappropriate to provide future education to the whole of Mull, something which is essential if the island is to thrive for decades to come. The councils reluctance to change their minds on this matter when a huge majority of the ISLAND wants a centralised school is nothing short of astounding. The council has a chance here to make a huge difference to the future of education on Mull, one that would benefit the future pupils for generations, the Scottish government have offered to meet you and discuss how this may be achieved and yet you have simply
(continued)	decided to forge ahead with your poor decision I hope that this final consultation might help you change your minds but in all honesty I think it's simply going to lead to you abandoning the whole idea of building a new school and that you'll spend another ten years patching up tobermory high school.
Parent/ carer of child at Tobermory ELC/Primary /Secondary	I would very much like to see a new campus built as soon as possible, as the school is currently struggling and the facilities are not what they should be. I would have liked to see a central location considered more fully and I think it is a disgrace that the families in the south of Mull are not included in this consultation, however if this is the final location chosen, which it seems to be, then I would not wish to hold things up further by opposing it. I would however ask that you consider more fully the sports facilities. This is a perfect opportunity to ensure a really good indoor sports hall and full size pitches are made available to

(continued)	the school and the community. I also wonder if there will be any play park facilities built, as the school children do use the park a lot and it is very convenient being located next to the current school campus. I worry about the children walking down into town from the proposed location, as they will be walking along and down the main road into Tobermory which does get busy. I hope there will be further traffic calming measures put in place. Finally the image that is loaded, showing the plans of the school are unclear and unreadable.
Member of the public / community	N/a Thu, 1 Oct 2026 - 22:07 N/a
Member of the public/ community	N/a Thu, 1 Oct 2026 - 21:43 Does not ccover all children in Mull
Pupil	NA
Parent/ carer of child at Tobermory ELC/Primary /Secondary, Member of staff	My concern is the size of the secondary section of the campus that is being proposed. The number of classrooms will not allow for the level of teaching that currently takes place in the school. A strength of the school is the ability to offer bespoke timetabling to senior pupils to ensure that their education needs are met. With a limited number of classrooms in the new proposal, there will not be physical capacity to offer these choices. At times the current secondary timetable uses 15 teaching spaces at the same time. Whilst I appreciate that the sporting facilities will be much improved in the proposal, it does not consider the number of
(continued)	academic subjects that are taught in the same lesson time. In each Secondary 1 and 2, there are currently 2 classes of pupils and it is likely that pupil numbers will continue to grow. In the senior phase the number of pupils remaining in school to study Highers and Advanced Highers continues to grow - with this in mind we are not future proofing the education for the children on Mull as the proposed plan for the school is simply not going to be big enough. In fact, the proposed building would really only be big enough to house the secondary. As both a parent, whose children attend the school and a teacher I have serious concerns about the
(continued)	education that the new facility would be able to accommodate. I feel that some parents may therefore choose to have their children educated in Oban for the senior stage of their education, due to the lack of options that may be available with such a small number of teaching spaces. Again this does not future proof long term education on Mull. Selfishly, as a teacher we will be nomadic- having to teach from boxes of materials as we move around the school, as there will be no subject specific teaching areas.
Parent/ carer of child at affected primary school (Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Primary School), Member of the public/ community, Member of staff	NA

Member of the public/ community	NA
Member of the public/ community	NA
Parent/ carer of child at Tobermory ELC/Primary /Secondary, Member of the public/ community	I agree that the school should be in Tobermory it has the biggest population of school children . I disagree with it in Craignuir as there is no facilities parents would have to collect there children if they had dental appointments not all families have cars. Transport is also not available as the cost of putting buses to take children to the school will be high also we don't have enough buses to transport them. There will be no after school clubs again how do parents get them there then collect them. Sending two to 7 year old children on a bus 5 days a week would be impossible . This has gone on long enough how many consultations do we need
(continued)	. Education is important and the school at the moment has served its purpose. The south side of the island parents knew there children would have to go to Oban High school ,Oban high school is a good school children who attend it get to socialise and have lots of out of school activities . Personally I feel this has gone on long enough Thu, 1 Oct 2026 - 21:14 It says it in the name Tobermory campas started out to replace Tobermory High School as it is in poor condition it should remain in Tobermory as majority of children live near to Tobermory. This has gone on long enough the money that has been wasted objecting to this could have repaired
(continued)	the existing high school . The cost of children travelling to Craignuire and transport would affect the children's education please leave it in Tobermory
Member of the public/ community	This is once in a lifetime opportunity so it must be in middle of mull . I offered 23 acre of ground at Garmony
Member of staff	NA
NA	Dear Sir/Madam Please see below my response to the proposal. I would prefer that this response is not summarised for presentation to HMIE as I do not trust that my comments will be properly reflected in such a summary. • The Campus must have a full size sports pitch as recommended by Sport Scotland for new secondary schools. • The Campus must have a full size sports hall as recommended by Sport Scotland for new secondary schools. • I understand that the current "concept design" includes a sub-standard sports hall and sub-standard sports pitch and that when discussed with Sport Scotland, they were astounded that A&BC would consider such a
(continued)	retrograde step. Clearly, our future pupils will continue to be disadvantaged compared to pupils from other schools which benefit from sporting facilities which are in line with the Sport Scotland recommendation. When taking part in sporting competitions against mainland schools, our pupils will have learnt on sub-standard pitches and in sub-standard sports hall. This disadvantage could perhaps be mitigated if lessons are moved to the Isle of Mull Rugby Club or to the proposed Isle of Mull All Weather Sports Hall. However, travel time and cost will be a major factor against such mitigation. • The ICIA produced by the Mull Campus Team noted

(continued)	"It is recommended that the new Campus could integrate community spaces and services that meet the needs of the wider community as a whole." Lack of childcare beyond the Statutory 1,140 hours funded by Scottish Government remains one of the main factors of depopulation of the working age demographic and in suppressing economic development. The Mull Campus Team has confirmed in writing to me that the new Campus will not include the necessary space to accommodate Wraparound Care, nor will it include the necessary space to accommodate children from 9 months of age. This despite the direction of travel of the main political parties towards policy
(continued)	changes to extend ELC down to 9 months and to include provision for Wraparound Care. • In order to strengthen the Outline Business Case, opportunities to generate earned income should include: o Provision of ELC and wraparound childcare for 50 weeks a year over extended working days in order to allow parents the option of taking on full time employment o Wraparound childcare should be available for children from 9 months and over o Access to the sporting facilities including pitches, sports hall, kinetic gym, IT facilities etc. • The social benefits of the providing wraparound care from 9 months should be accounted for in the OBC, with
(continued)	estimates for o Gross Value Added and for o Council Tax receipts and for o Reduced travel time (and therefore cost) for carers if there are more working age people across the island. This should also have been properly factored into the economic impact assessment of the proposed location for the High School • The design of the building should avoid the need for any stairs, ramps or passenger lifts to move around the ground floor of the school building. In other words the school building should be on level ground to avoid wasting limited capital funding on "traffic space". If the footprint requires two or more levels to the school building
(continued)	then of course stairs and passenger lift(s) will be justified. • I understand that the "preferred site" selected by the Mull Campus Team is on a slope which makes it necessary to have different levels for the ground floor. This should have been factored properly into the scoring matrix for the site selection. The alternative central locations are on flat level ground. The space taken by traffic space between different levels of the ground floor I money wasted when compared to what the alternative central sites would have cost. • The initial LEIP bid secured written support from the Community under false pretences. We were told that nothing
(continued)	had been decided about the detail of the Mull Campus, nothing was cast in stone and nothing would be until after a full community consultation which would take place if the bid were approved. We were not told that the bid was based on the "Like for Like" criteria. We were not told that in effect the 2-18 Campus would have to be on a single site and that that site would have to be in Tobermory. For the avoidance of doubt, no-one believes that even A&BC would suggest Tobermory should lose its ELC and Primary School. Much of the support expressed for the bid would not have been forthcoming had the community been made aware of the implications of

(continued)	the Like for Like criteria. Under duress of time pressure we mistakenly lent that support. The best possible outcome for Mull would have been a split site Campus with ELC and Primary retained in Tobermory and High School located in Craignure. This may well have involved changes to e.g. Lochdonhead Primary School. • Others will comment on the significant breach of Human Rights law by the actions of the Mull Campus Team. But I share those concerns and would like them noted. Please confirm that my message will be shared in full with HMIE
member of staff	School proposal plans have fewer classrooms than what is available right now. We are already struggling now, as when exams or assessment take place we don't have room for pupils which require separate accommodation, what will happen in a smaller school? The numbers of students needing 1-1 are only going to increase. Not enough rooms also means that every lesson won't have a smooth start as every teacher is moving in and out and will have to log in, bring books etc resulting in lost learning time and a more chaotic learning environment. What is the point of spending so many millions to have less?
Member of the public/ community	FORMAL OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED RELOCATION OF TOBERMORY 2-18 CAMPUS TO TOBERMORY SOUTH. I object to the proposed relocation of Tobermory 2-18 Campus to the Tobermory South site. My principal concern is that the site appears too constrained to provide the educational, sporting, transport and community facilities that should reasonably be expected of a new 2-18 campus. I am also concerned that the original minimum site requirement of 2.3 hectares may itself have been inadequate and that, at the point when the community is being consulted on relocation, insufficient detail has been provided about the building and facilities that will actually
(continued)	be delivered. THE ORIGINAL 2.3-HECTARE SITE REQUIREMENT The Council's August 2024 call for sites stated that proposed sites needed to be at least 2.3 hectares (23,000 square metres). The Council should confirm the precise area of Tobermory South as originally submitted, its current gross area and its net usable area, and identify any additional land subsequently incorporated.This is important because the technical assessment of Tobermory South proceeds on the assumption that additional parcels beside the A848 are included as part of the overall site. If the original site was below 2.3 hectares and was subsequently enlarged, the Council should
(continued)	explain how this complied with the original call for sites and whether other potential sites were given an equivalent opportunity."LIKE FOR LIKE" SHOULD NOT HAVE DETERMINED THE LAND REQUIREMENTThe Council has described the LEIP funding as providing a "like for like replacement 2-18 campus", comprising early learning, primary and secondary education. Mull Campus Newsletter August 2024.In my view, "like for like" should describe the educational provision being replaced, not impose a restriction on the amount of land required to provide that education properly.Before issuing the call for sites, the Council should have established what facilities

(continued)	were required for a modern, future-proof 2-18 campus and then calculated the land necessary to accommodate them. That calculation should have included appropriate indoor and outdoor sports provision, early years and primary outdoor areas, outdoor learning, safe bus drop-off and collection, parking, servicing, drainage, landscaping and meaningful capacity for future expansion.The site should have been selected to accommodate the educational brief. The educational brief should not have been reduced to fit a constrained site.SPORTS PROVISION AND THE COMPARISON WITH CRAIGNURE AND GARMONYThe consequences of selecting a constrained site are
(continued)	particularly apparent in relation to sport.Sport Scotland guidance identifies a four-court sports hall as the minimum recommended hall size, with a playing area of 34 m x 19 m and a minimum unobstructed height of 7.6 m. Sport Scotland also recommends 100 m x 60 m as the dimensions of a full-size sports pitch, with additional safety and run-off areas. By contrast, the Council's assessment of Tobermory South refers to a seven-a-side all-weather pitch and records significant limitations of space. The comparison with the rejected central sites is important. The Council's own scoring records that there is "More space in Craignure/Garmony sites".
(continued)	Craignure and Garmony each scored 9/10 for the ability to accommodate the brief in full, compared with 5/10 for Tobermory South. For quality of external space for outside learning and sport, the scores were 9 for Craignure, 10 for Garmony and 6 for Tobermory South. For future expansion they were 9, 9 and 5 respectively. Craignure was identified as a 3.27-hectare site and assessed as having sufficient capacity to accommodate the campus together with a full-size all-weather pitch, external learning areas, car parking, servicing and bus drop-off on site. The assessment also identified capacity for future expansion. Garmony was substantially
(continued)	larger overall, and the Council found sufficient usable capacity to accommodate the campus, a full-size all-weather pitch, external learning areas, parking, servicing and bus drop-off. These are significant differences. If selecting Tobermory South means accepting reduced sports facilities that could have been provided at alternative sites, that should be explicitly acknowledged and justified.THE CONSTRAINED AND SLOPING SITE.The physical characteristics of Tobermory South introduce further concerns.The Council's technical assessment records significant level changes and states that the design solution will have to address these through a
(continued)	stepped floor plan. It also anticipates retaining walls and excavation. More recently, the Council described its concept proposals as responding positively to the natural slope, with floor levels arranged to work with the existing ground conditions.Where occupied areas are at different levels, accessible circulation will have to be provided between them. Depending on the final design, this may require ramps, lifts or other circulation solutions.In my view, these requirements have the potential to consume valuable internal floor area and introduce additional construction, servicing and maintenance requirements compared with a building on a
(continued)	flatter site. The Council should therefore publish how much of the gross internal floor area is devoted to circulation and negotiating changes in level, what lifts, ramps or other measures are required, and what impact this has on the net floor area available directly for classrooms, specialist teaching, sport, pupil support and other educational purposes. The relevant comparison should be based on net usable educational floor area and whole-life cost, not simply the nominal size or footprint of the building.TRANSPORT AND USABLE SITE AREA. The Council's assessment states that, because of limitations in space, 14-metre buses would need to be

(continued)	accommodated in a lay-by beside the A848 rather than within the site. Safe bus drop-off, collection and manoeuvring should have formed part of the calculation used to determine the original minimum site requirement. The gross site area is also not necessarily the same as the genuinely usable area.Tobermory South has topographical constraints, excavation and retaining-wall requirements, while the Council's technical assessment states that a significant proportion of the lowest-lying area may need to be allocated for sustainable drainage. The Council should therefore disclose the net usable area of Tobermory South after these constraints are
(continued)	taken into account.WAS 2.3 HECTARES EVER SUFFICIENT?I consequently question whether 2.3 hectares was an adequately calculated minimum in the first place.Before inviting offers of land, the Council should have calculated the area required for the complete campus, including appropriate indoor and outdoor sports provision, outdoor learning and play, safe transport arrangements, drainage and infrastructure, and future expansion.As an indicative planning estimate rather than a statutory requirement, I consider that around 3 hectares of genuinely usable land would have represented a more credible minimum search requirement, with 3.5 to 4 hectares
(continued)	providing a more prudent allowance for the full range of facilities and future needs.Rather than relying on my estimate, however, I ask the Council to publish its own calculation showing how it originally determined that 2.3 hectares was sufficient.The 3.27-hectare Craignure site is a particularly useful comparison because the Council's own assessment found that it could accommodate a full-size pitch, external learning, parking, servicing and bus drop-off on site, together with capacity for future expansion. FUTURE EXPANSION AND FUTURE EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS The Council's site-selection criteria included capacity for future expansion, and
(continued)	Tobermory South scored substantially below Craignure and Garmony on this criterion. This concerns me because a school building is a very long-term investment.Future expansion should mean more than identifying a nominal area on a drawing. The campus needs flexibility to respond to changes in pupil numbers, educational policy, curriculum, additional support needs, childcare provision, community use and other requirements that may develop over its lifetime.If the initial development already requires compromises to its pitch, bus provision, external areas and building configuration, it is difficult to understand how meaningful capacity for future
(continued)	expansion can be assured.INSUFFICIENT DETAIL ABOUT THE PROPOSED BUILDING A fundamental concern is that the Council is asking the community to express a view on relocation before sufficient detail is available about what the proposed building will actually deliver. The Council itself describes the designs published in August 2026 as early-stage concepts rather than final proposals and states that significant design and technical work remains. Tobermory Campus plans taking shape following school community feedback.This leaves many important questions unanswered.For example:Will sufficient space be available if Scottish Government-funded

(continued)	childcare or wraparound provision is expanded in future, including any future provision extending to younger children?What accommodation will be available during examination periods for invigilators, examination administration and associated requirements?What specialist teaching, pupil-support, staff, storage and community accommodation will actually be provided?How much flexible space will be available to respond to changes in curriculum and educational policy during the life of the building?What capacity exists to expand childcare, additional support or other services without sacrificing classrooms, sport, outdoor learning or community
(continued)	facilities?How much of the building's gross floor area will be required for circulation and negotiating the stepped levels caused by the sloping site?How much physical land is genuinely being reserved for future expansion, and what could actually be built on it without removing another essential facility?Until a detailed schedule of accommodation, net usable floor areas and dimensioned plans are available, I do not believe it is possible to assess properly whether Tobermory South can accommodate the campus Mull needs.CONCLUSION.My objection is therefore not based on a single issue. There is uncertainty over the adequacy of the original
(continued)	2.3-hectare land requirement; clear evidence that Tobermory South is more constrained than rejected alternatives such as Craignure and Garmony; reduced outdoor sports provision; uncertainty over indoor sports provision; transport limitations; significant topographical constraints; potential loss of usable internal space in accommodating stepped floor levels; and substantial unanswered questions about future educational, childcare and support requirements.The "like for like" nature of LEIP funding should not be used to reproduce the shortcomings of the existing campus or to justify an inadequate site area. The Council should first establish
(continued)	what a modern, flexible and future-proof 2-18 campus requires and then ensure that the selected site is capable of delivering it.This is a once-in-60-years decision. The consequences of selecting an inadequately sized or physically constrained site will be experienced by children, staff and the wider Mull community long after the current project and funding constraints have passed.In the absence of sufficient detail about the proposed building, and taken together with my concerns regarding site area, sports provision, the constrained and sloping nature of the site, safe transport arrangements and future expansion, I cannot be satisfied that
(continued)	Tobermory South is capable of providing the campus Mull requires.I must therefore object to the proposed relocation.
Parent/ carer of child at affected primary school (Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Primary School)	We are strongly in favour of a split site with the high school in Craignure. The proposed new site in Tobermory is smaller than the current Tobermory site so not suitable.
Member of staff	I agree that A and B should be investing in our young people to lead for better outcomes and more educational opportunities. Mull should be a place that offers the best educational offer in the UK. A new facility with improving staffing and varied resources will help the future of Mull. I think play, outdoor learning, sport, health, nutrition should be priorities that back up core curriculum areas

Member of the public/ community	I feel that basing the school in Tobermory is wrong as a site in Craignure has been offered for free which would mean all the Mull children could use it, there is room for a sports pitch or two , there is a swimming pool within walking distance, there is planed indoor sports hall not far away which could be used in the winter, it is near the Oban ferry which means specialist teachers could come over or students could go to Oban , there would be the possibility of sports or other activities with mainland pupils and families would not leave the island to keep the children at home , I have lived on the Ross for over 50 years and have known lots
(continued)	of families leaving for that reason ,finally a central school would create a more joined up unified population. Fri, 2 Oct 2026 - 15:04 I Object to the site in Tobermory as it will not provide education for all 2-18 children on the island which is what the government funding was granted for. The site is not large enough to provide a full sports pitch. I believe the cost of ground works will be very high and access to the site will be very poor and in a layby next to the main road . The cost of providing hostel accommodation and ferry charges for children from the south of the island does not appear to be mentioned. The free site in Craignure
(continued)	will address all these issues , will let children from the south have a family life, has space for a full sized sports pitch , is within walking distance of the swimming pool, and would help unite all the island .
Member of the public/ community	The new school for Mull must be in a central location to ensure children from the whole island can attend. It's very simple; this is fundamentally the wrong site and continues the decades long discrimination against the south and south West of the island.
Parent/ carer of child at affected primary school (Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Primary School)	We live south of the island and are still in tje tobermory school catchment area. Our children will be traveling up to 2 hours each way to get to school. The proposed site is to small, it will not have full size facilities, You were gifted sites and decided they didn't work, but actually you know full well they work better. A split sight, tob primary and a central high school allowing the whole of mull to benefit.
Parent/ carer of child at affected primary school (Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Primary School)	Terrible consultation process with the community, culminating in this tick-box exercise and a question akin to "do you want to be slapped on the left cheek or the right cheek". The current school position is terrible. The proposed new school position is terrible - site is too small, going to be expensive to build (as anyone with any sense knows on this island) and no consideration for future-proofing in terms of expansion (which you would think is important if you want to 'sweat the asset' in the words of your policy lead). Dangerous access for children coming out of Tob and poor access for buses and vehicles to drop-off at an already
(continued)	restricted site. Whoever forced this proposal through should be ashamed of what they are doing to Mull and their contribution to the depopulation of the island community. Yet another example of how ABC either a) don't care, b) are incompetent, or c) are maliciously driving young folk to the mainland. Maybe all three. Prove me wrong.

Member of the public/ community	I object to the relocation of Tobermory High School to the site which is situated to southern edge of Tobermory with the western boundary adjacent to the A848. 1. The site is unsuitable. Size: The site is, by the admission of Argyll and Bute Council, too small. Outdoor space is restricted, and looking at the boundaries, will be further reduced because awkward boundary angles create supervision problems, so will likely be fenced. The site is too small for a full-sized pitch. The proposed 7-a-side pitch may meet minimum standards, but it disadvantages pupils when they go to compete with their peers, which effects their confidence and
(continued)	well-being. Slope: The site is on a slope. The provision of a lift may ameliorate this problem, but is not a reliable solution because when the lift breaks down an engineer will need to book a space on the ferry – and there seems little hope of ferry provision improving any time soon. Forcing people unable to use stairs to 'take the outside way round' in all weathers or face exclusion, is not acceptable, and could be avoided if a flat site had been selected. Cost of development: The site is in a bog and will likely be more expensive to develop than other proposed sites. Accessibility: The new site does not improve pedestrian safety. It
(continued)	merely changes the addresses and direction of children who have to walk along Breadalbane Street to get to school. 2. The site chosen excludes children from the Ross of Mull In section 5.0 of the Consultation, "Assessing the impact on the local community affected by this proposal", it is stated that "Schools influence the attractiveness of an area for potential residents and, in turn, the value of future housing developments. A new campus in Tobermory may have potential to contribute towards an increase in the value of properties in the area, as well as making it more attractive for families with children to move to the area." By
(continued)	implication, areas outwith the catchment area are less attractive to families with children. In section 1.4 of the Consultation document much is made of the steps taken to ensure that the United Conventions of the Rights of the Child are respected, but these rights are only being applied in a limited sphere, to consultation with just some of the children on Mull – those within the current catchment area of THS. 3. The consultation on the proposed new school has been inadequate at every stage The original consultation done in 2022 included people from the whole of Mull and from Iona. At no stage was an explanation given by Argyll and Bute as
(continued)	to why families /children from the Ross of Mull should be treated in a less favourable way than those in the catchment area of the current THS. No explanation has been given as to why Argyll and Bute Council submitted an application, and either acceded to, or were unaware of, LEIP funding conditions that allegedly required a school to be built in Tobermory. Has the council attempted to negotiate with the Scottish Government to remedy this oversight? Information provided at every stage has been scant. Why, for example, has there been no discussion of the possibility of relocating Lochdonhead to a new campus at Craignure? Why has no information

(continued)	been forthcoming about actual journeys made by Mull children? Over half of THS secondary school pupils travel into school by bus. The journeys of children from Salen, Craignure and Lochdon would be shorter if the school was located in Craignure. And primary-age children travel by bus to Gaelic medium in Salen. Catchment areas are not set in stone: a new school outwith Tobermory would require new boundaries, with their own implications for travel. At the Consultation meeting on 17th September we were told that "There is no Plan B"- we either have this site, or we have to put up with all the defects listed in section 4.5 No-one who is familiar
(continued)	with the current school would disagree with any of these defects. But if the only way to demonstrate the benefit of the new site is to threaten us with the existing school, we have not consulted, we've been bludgeoned into acquiescence. It's deeply concerning that alternatives have been dismissed, despite evidence – a case of ipse dixit. 4. The benefits of a new build given are not specific to this site. Education benefits? The justifications for building a much-needed replacement for the existing THS given in the consultation paper (section 4.2 – 4.4) and in the presentation given on 17th September at THS are equally applicable to all
(continued)	sites, and to any new building. The "new sports facilities which will significantly enhance opportunities for Physical Education and related activities", only stretch to a 7-aside pitch. How does it encourage depth, relevance and experience when THS children are discouraged from competing with peers at other schools because they have not benefitted from a full-size pitch? I understand that the proposed new gym hall does not meet Sports Scotland's recommendations. No information was available at the consultation meeting about what classroom space will look like in the new school. Section 4.2 says that "Facilities such as a science laboratory,
(continued)	technology workshop, home economics room, music suite, and library will support and enhance learning" . Does this mean that a single science lab will be expected to support the needs of three sciences? "Carefully considered timetabling" is made even trickier when a school has a small number of teaching staff, and will result in a restriction of option choices. I understand that the science teachers have already expressed their concern that the conflicting needs of labs for chemistry, physics and biology have not been taken into account. With regard to Outdoor Learning provision and "staff knowledge and skills in using digital platforms", all
(continued)	the sites proposed, including the current THS site have outdoor space, and are close to outdoor space; and digital use does not rely on the physical building of a school, so the proposed site does not bring any advantage to the status quo. Safe travel to school Council officials at the consultation meeting seemed surprised to learn that children will be expected to walk along a collapsing road with ten-year-old temporary traffic lights and no footpath to reach the proposed new site. Whilst it is true that pupils are currently having to do this, a new and correctly chosen school site would allow children to be able to walk to school safely.
(continued)	Community use The vision expressed for community use in section 4.3 is disappointingly lacking in ambition, and does not appear to have been given anything other than token thought. House prices and depopulation At 4.3 it is suggested that "the new campus may also have the benefit of attracting and retaining staff as they could be drawn to the first-class working environment at the new campus". The critical factor in attracting and retaining staff is availability of housing, and any draw from a new build will be short-lived. However, section 5.1 of the proposal states that "Schools influence the attractiveness of an area for potential

(continued)	residents and, in turn, the value of future housing developments. A new campus in Tobermory may have potential to contribute towards an increase in the value of properties in the area". House prices in Tobermory already exclude young families, first time buyers. Raising house prices is going to make it harder, not easier, to attract teachers. The current school is out-of-date, fails to meet current accessibility needs and design guidelines for school buildings, and has suffered from years of poor maintenance and repair. Any school will be an improvement, but this is the wrong site. A site that is flat, larger, convenient for the ferry and
(continued)	centrally located is available, but has been dismissed out of hand, despite the fact that scoring for the various sites was close, and did not take into account the fact that the Craignure site was offered free of charge. Given the lamentable lack of consultation, the lack of information available and the contemptuous treatment of Mull residents, it is hard to have any confidence in the current school site proposal. As a council tax payer, I object most strongly to the misuse of my money in this way. Mull's children deserved a school that is accessible to all, built with ambition and long-term vision, but instead we are being fobbed with the
(continued)	vary barest minimum. Please, work with the Scottish Government and reconsider this proposal and do the right thing for Mull's children, and not for house prices.
Member of the public/ community	This new Primary and Secondary joint campus school should be on land near Craignure which is available. This would allow all secondary pupils in the islands of Mull and Iona attend a new 2-18 campus beside Craignure. Unfortunately Argyll and Bute Councillors have chosen to only listen to the views of pushy parents in Tobermory instead of looking at the big picture. As a result despite spending tens of millions of pounds of Argyll and Bute council taxpayers money, secondary pupils in South Mull and Iona will still have to spend Monday to Friday in lodgings in Oban while they attend Oban High School
Parent/ carer of child at Tobermory ELC/Primary /Secondary	The site that has been selected is not fit for purpose. The island will outgrow that school you have planned in no time at all. The lack of future proofing is astounding. The only way forward is to have Tobermory Primary school build in that site and the a high school for ALL Mull children more central in the Island.
N/a	Please note my views AS REQUESTED BY YOU IN TERMS OF THE CONSULTATION. Dear councillors and officials who attended at the meeting at 6pm atTobermory High School on 17th September. It became very clear that not much preparation of facts has been done about the site and it's all round suitability and size. It looks like Tobermory people are realising that your proposal is not adequate as a replacement. Please amend the plans to a spilt site and central High School. Please think outside the box for the benefit of the whole island. Please build a school on a large flat site that will be a High School to serve all the islanders. Something you
(continued)	will be proud of for many many years.Something that will last for a very long time and will be ripe for development as its success as a flagship dedicated High School Campus serving the whole Island will be acknowledged far and wide. This concept will allow the Island to develop too as population becomes more evenly distributed geographically. It would be more comparable to Islay and Skye in that respect. The Ross of Mull would soon become a busy place to suit all age groups. Instead there is a sinking feeling there as young people realise they do not want their children to go away from home to attend High School. Also the older generation

(continued)	wonder where they will find carers and staff to work at hospitality and shop premises and businesses wonder where they will find staff as population is not growing the way the businesses are.
N/a Fri, 2 Oct 2026 - 12:05 - Parent of 2 children in SW Mull who refused to attend Oban High School, and grandfather of one who suffered and rejected Glencruitten Hostel life, leaving school prematurely because of his bad experiencehostel life	Hi Campus Team, MCWG and SIF colleagues and contacts, Elected Representatives, Scottish Government Officials, media folk and others interested in the Mull Campus saga. Statutory consultation on controversial plans to relocate Tobermory's 2 - 18 Campus to a less suitable site on the edge of town a mile south of the existing but decaying school complex is now under way. It is controversial because there is no evidence that the 2-18 approach delivers educational benefits but there is abundant evidence that the corollary of Argyll and Bute Council's ill founded proposals will be contrary to the best interests and human rights of children from
(continued)	SW Mull who will be still be excluded from attending our island's only secondary school because daily travel between home and school is impractical for them. Instead, from the age of 11, as ever, cohorts are likely to be required to attend Oban High School which entails sleeping in a mainland hostel for four nights per week during term time for up to 6 years. This might suit some but it is certainly not an agreeable arrangement for all of them or for their families or home communities. Many of us had been hopeful that a £47 million budget for public investment in new school buildings for Mull would have readily allowed for well overdue
(continued)	provision of a new centrally located High School to meet the needs of every island child and thereby serve every community on the island. Argyll and Bute Council seems only now to be reluctantly coming to terms with the fact that its discriminatory family separation policy which has been the established but dysfunctional way of things for half a century is so profoundly unpopular locally, and has (hopefully) finally had its day, except for kids who are willing and keen to live away from home, perhaps to pursue particular subjects or learning or sporting or cultural opportunities unavailable to them on Mull. Now that UNCRC provisions
(continued)	ensuring children's Rights to family life and equality of educational opportunity are enshrined as obligations incumbent upon local and national government duty bearers in Scottish Law, positive change is surely inevitable. The current statutory consultation is an indication of the Council's continuing but unsustainable denial that UNCRC provisions must necessarily apply to its operations policies and decisions and especially so in the immediate context of the Mull Campus project. The associated stooshie is now ripening with the Council scheduled to announce its decision on pressing forward or not with its increasingly untenable and

(continued)	unpopular proposals in December. One of the appended documents details a couple of recent questions which I asked of the Council and its reply to me. The other document sets out my personal position in response to that reply as a contribution to the open call for feedback on the Council's Tobermory Campus proposals in the context of the statutory consultation process currently in progress. Please let me know what you think... or better still, please tell them. *Summary Proposal - Tobermory Campus
N/a	Dear Sir/Madam, Re: Formal complaint regarding the proposed location of the new Tobermory Campus. I am writing to formally raise my concerns regarding the decision to locate the proposed new campus in Tobermory, and to request that the decision be reconsidered in favour of the proposed Craignure site. I believe the choice of location requires much greater scrutiny, particularly when considering the long-term needs of the whole island, accessibility for families across Mull, transport requirements, population distribution and the future sustainability of the facility. 1. Accessibility for the whole island. A major concern is whether Tobermory
(continued)	is the most appropriate central location for a facility intended to serve the wider population of Mull. Craignure is strategically positioned at the main transport gateway to the island and is considerably more accessible for residents travelling from the south, east and central areas of Mull. Locating a major campus there would provide a more geographically balanced option for families across the island rather than placing the facility at one end of Mull. The location of a school or campus should not simply be considered in terms of the population immediately surrounding it. It should take into account the people who will be required to
(continued)	travel to it, now and in the future. 2. Transport and travel times.. The decision should also consider the practical consequences of daily travel for pupils, parents and staff. A campus at Craignure could make better use of the island's existing transport infrastructure and ferry connections. Craignure is already the principal arrival and departure point for the island and is therefore a natural transport hub. I would ask that a full comparison be published showing the expected journey times and transport requirements for pupils from different parts of Mull under both the Tobermory and Craignure options. This should include: • Daily
(continued)	school-bus journey times; •The number of pupils affected by longer journeys; •Transport costs; •Journey times in winter conditions; •The impact of ferry disruption; •The impact on families who live in the south of Mull; •The impact on staff travelling to the campus; • Future population and housing changes. 3. Long-term sustainability. This is a major infrastructure decision which should serve Mull for decades. It is therefore important that the council considers not only where pupils live today, but where future housing, employment, tourism and population growth are likely to occur. Craignure has significant strategic importance because of

(continued)	its position as the island's main transport gateway. A purpose-built campus there could potentially form part of a wider longterm strategy for the island rather than simply addressing the needs of one particular geographical area. 4. Equality of access. I am also concerned that locating the campus in Tobermory could create an imbalance in access for children and families living elsewhere on Mull. Every child on the island should have reasonable access to education and associated facilities, regardless of where their family lives. I therefore believe that the council should demonstrate clearly how the Tobermory proposal meets its obligations
(continued)	regarding equality of access and whether Craignure would provide a fairer geographical distribution of educational provision. 5. Full consideration of the Craignure alternative. I am not satisfied that the Craignure option has been given sufficient consideration in comparison with Tobermory. Before such a significant decision is finalised, I believe the council should publish a transparent comparison of both sites covering: • Capital construction costs; • Land availability and suitability; • Transport infrastructure; • Travel times for pupils; • School-bus requirements; • Future population growth; • Accessibility for the whole island; •
(continued)	Environmental considerations; • Potential for future expansion; • Running and maintenance costs; • Resilience during severe weather and ferry disruption; • Wider community benefits. The decision should be based on objective evidence rather than simply on the existing location of educational provision. 6. A decision for the whole island. The proposed campus represents a major investment in Mull's future. It should therefore be considered as an island-wide project, rather than primarily as a project for Tobermory and the surrounding area. I respectfully request that the council reconsider the proposed Tobermory location and undertake a
(continued)	full and transparent reassessment of the Craignure site. At a minimum, I would ask that the council publish the evidence and criteria used to determine that Tobermory is preferable to Craignure, together with the full comparative assessment of both sites. I would also request clarification on: 1. Who made the final decision regarding the location; 2. What alternative sites were considered; 3. What assessment was undertaken of the Craignure site; 4. How pupil travel times were assessed; 5. How future population changes were taken into account; 6. What consideration was given to the island's transport network; 7. Whether a fresh independent assessment
(continued)	of the two sites can be undertaken. This is an important decision which will affect children, families and the wider community for generations. I therefore believe it is essential that the location is demonstrably the most appropriate one for the whole of Mull, rather than simply the most convenient option based on current arrangements. I ask that this letter be treated as a formal complaint and that I receive a full written response addressing each of the points raised above.
N/a	I have read the Education Service Proposal Paper, and attended the Public Meeting on 17th September, but I am still unclear as to what the specific advantages of the proposed Tobermory South site are? Specifically, are there any educational benefits listed in Section 4 of the Proposal Document which would not apply equally well to a new school in any location? The only tangible benefit that I can see listed in the Proposal Paper is in Section 5.1, "A new campus in Tobermory may have potential to contribute towards an increase in the value of properties in the area, as well as making it more attractive for families with children to move to

(continued)	the area." However, this seems to be a benefit for landowners and home-owners, rather than an educational benefit, and that surely can't be correct? Many thanks for your help in clarifying this point for me,
N/a	I wish to object to the proposed relocation of Tobermory 2–18 Campus to the Tobermory South site. My principal concern is that the proposed site appears too constrained to accommodate the educational, sporting, transport and community facilities required for a modern, flexible and future-proof 2–18 campus. Site Area and the Original Requirement: The Council's August 2024 call for sites identified a minimum requirement of 2.3 hectares. The Council should publish the precise area originally submitted for Tobermory South, its current gross area, and its net usable area after accounting for topography, drainage, infrastructure and other
(continued)	constraints. I also question whether 2.3 hectares was itself an adequately calculated minimum. The site requirement should have been established from the facilities and land necessary to deliver a modern 2–18 campus, including indoor and outdoor sport, early-years and primary outdoor space, outdoor learning, safe transport arrangements, parking, servicing, drainage, landscaping and realistic provision for future expansion. The principle of a "like for like" replacement should relate to the educational provision being replaced, rather than restricting the land available to deliver that provision properly. Sports, External Space and Alternative
(continued)	Sites. The Council's own site assessment identifies significant differences between Tobermory South and the alternative sites at Craignure and Garmony. Tobermory South scored substantially lower for accommodating the brief in full, external space and future expansion. The 2022 report states the Tobermory south site has" insufficient space to locate grass pitch on site" and was rejected- Topography and scale of this site make this an unviable option! The assessment found that the 3.27-hectare Craignure site could accommodate the campus together with a full-size all-weather pitch, external learning areas, parking, servicing and bus drop-off,
(continued)	with capacity for future expansion. Garmony was also assessed as having sufficient capacity for these facilities. By comparison, Tobermory South is proposed with a smaller seven-a-side pitch and has acknowledged limitations of space. If the selection of Tobermory South results in a reduction in sporting, outdoor-learning or other facilities that could have been provided on alternative sites, this should be clearly acknowledged and justified. Site Constraints and Transport: The sloping nature of Tobermory South presents additional concerns. The Council's technical assessment identifies significant level changes, excavation and retaining-wall
(continued)	requirements, with the proposed design responding through stepped floor levels. Again, the 2022 report states the Tobermory south site "falls from west to east across site across rocky ground. Rejected- Topography and scale of site make this an unviable option! The Council should demonstrate why this site has become the preferred option despite being rejected in 2022, Further to this - the implications of these constraints for accessibility, circulation, construction and whole-life costs, including how much internal floor area is required to accommodate changes in level and how much remains as net usable educational accommodation should also

(continued)	be demonstrated. There are also concerns regarding transport. The Council's assessment indicates that, because of site constraints, 14-metre buses would need to use a lay-by beside the A848 rather than being accommodated within the site. Safe bus drop-off, collection and manoeuvring should be fundamental considerations when determining whether a site is suitable for a 2–18 campus. Future Expansion and Educational Requirements: The Council's own assessment identifies limited capacity at Tobermory South for future expansion. Given that this will be a long-term investment, the campus should have sufficient flexibility to respond to changes in
(continued)	pupil numbers, curriculum, childcare, additional support needs and community use and be accessible and within reasonable reach for the population of the whole island! I am also concerned that the community is being asked to support relocation without sufficient detail about the final building and facilities. The current proposals are described as early-stage concepts, with significant design and technical work still outstanding. Before a final decision is made, the Council should publish a clear schedule of accommodation, net usable floor areas, dimensioned site plans and details of: • indoor and outdoor sports provision; •early-years,
(continued)	primary and secondary accommodation; •outdoor learning and play space; •pupil-support and specialist teaching facilities; •staff, storage and community accommodation; •bus and vehicle arrangements; • accessibility and circulation requirements; •provision for future childcare and other emerging requirements; and •the land genuinely available for future expansion. Conclusion: My objection is based on the cumulative effect of these concerns: uncertainty regarding the adequacy of the original 2.3-hectare requirement; the constrained and sloping nature of Tobermory South; reduced outdoor sports provision; transport limitations; potential loss of
(continued)	usable space arising from the site's levels; and insufficient evidence that the site can accommodate future educational requirements. This is a major, long-term investment for the Mull community. The site should be capable of accommodating the educational brief rather than requiring that brief to be compromised to fit the site. Until the Council demonstrates, through detailed and publicly available evidence, that Tobermory South can provide the required facilities, accessibility, transport arrangements, outdoor space and capacity for future development, I cannot be satisfied that it is an appropriate site for the new Tobermory 2–18 Campus. I
(continued)	therefore formally object to the proposed relocation to Tobermory South.
Parent/ carer of child at Tobermory ELC/Primary /Secondary	This proposal is unfair to the families in the Ross of Mull and is completely short sighted. To ask parents to send their 11 and 12 year olds away is unforgivable when there is an opportunity to build a school which can benefit all. A split site is the only sensible and humane solution.
Member of the public/ community	All of the arguments for and against have been well documented but I will add a very strong objection as to why the council want to choose a site that is not only impractical but generally unpopular and bulldoze a principle which I thought was now fully accepted which is equal access to all. Other subjects such as disabled access is accepted that everything possible is done to ensure all have EQUAL opportunity irrespective of cost or numbers wishing to be included.
Member of the public/ community	Mull needs a central school for ALL children not just a select few !

Parent/ carer of child at affected primary school (Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Primary School)	Response to the Tobermory 2–18 Campus Relocation Proposal We support the need for significant investment in education on Mull and recognise the limitations of the existing Tobermory campus. The Council itself acknowledges that the current building has poor suitability, restricted drop-off space, accessibility issues, limited outdoor space and significant constraints. However, we do not believe that simply relocating the existing 2–18 model to another site on the edge of Tobermory represents the best long-term solution for Mull. ## We need to plan for the future of the whole island Mull is a growing and attractive place to live, and if we
(continued)	want families and young people to continue choosing the island, we must address education as a fundamental part of that future. The Council itself recognises that schools can influence the attractiveness of an area to families and potential residents. A new school is therefore about much more than replacing an ageing building. It is an opportunity to create the educational infrastructure that Mull will need for the next generation. The secondary school already serves a much wider area than Tobermory, including pupils from Dervaig, Salen, Lochdonhead and Ulva. It therefore makes sense to consider its location from an **island-wide
(continued)	perspective**, rather than continuing to concentrate major infrastructure in Tobermory. ## A central secondary school should be considered. We believe Mull would be better served by a **purpose-built central secondary school, supported by an appropriate network of feeder primary schools**. A genuinely central site would provide the space and facilities required for a modern high school, including substantial sports pitches and outdoor learning areas. It could also allow Mull to host visiting schools for sporting competitions and other events, giving our children opportunities that are currently difficult to provide. A location with good
(continued)	access to the ferry would also make it easier for pupils to travel to other schools for competitive sport, educational trips and other activities. The Council already identifies improved sports and outdoor facilities as a benefit of the proposed new campus. We believe the opportunity should be taken further by considering what could be achieved with a genuinely spacious and central secondary school. ## We should question the current primary school structure There is also a wider issue which needs to be addressed. The Council proposes to retain separate associated primary schools, including Dervaig and Ulva, while retaining primary provision
(continued)	within the Tobermory 2–18 campus. The proposal specifically states that the associated primary schools will not be incorporated into the new campus. We believe this deserves much greater scrutiny. If very small rural primary schools are considered important enough to retain, then why should the possibility of a **separate purpose-built primary school in Tobermory**, serving the largest concentration of primary-aged children, not also be considered? This is not an argument against small rural schools. It is an argument for looking honestly and objectively at the **whole education estate on Mull**. If changes, reductions or rationalisation are
(continued)	required in the future, the Council should examine all schools and all possible models of provision and determine what is most beneficial and sustainable for children and communities across the island. We should not allow historical arrangements or bureaucracy to determine the future shape of education on Mull. **Rules and administrative structures should serve the needs of children and communities, not prevent better solutions from being considered.** ## This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity. The Council states that the proposed new campus is intended to retain capacity for future educational needs and provide flexibility for a changing

(continued)	school population. We therefore believe the Council needs to look beyond simply replacing the existing building. A new school should help: * support the future growth of Mull; * attract and retain families and young people; * provide excellent educational and sporting facilities; * serve children from across the island fairly; * improve access to sporting competitions and educational opportunities beyond Mull; * provide space for full-size sports pitches and outdoor activities; * make better use of the island's transport links; * and create an education system capable of meeting Mull's needs for decades to come. Significant public funding is
(continued)	being invested in this project. That makes it even more important that the decision delivers the best possible long-term outcome. **Anything less than a genuinely long-term solution risks wasting a once-in-a-generation opportunity and public investment.** We therefore urge the Council to reconsider the current approach and properly examine the case for a **central purpose-built secondary school with an appropriate network of feeder primary schools**, including consideration of a separate primary school in Tobermory. Mull needs an education system designed for the island it is becoming — not simply a new building designed around the
(continued)	arrangements of the past. **We should be ambitious enough to get it right.**
A past resident of Craigard Hostel Oban, a parent of 4 children that had to leave home at 11/12 and grandparent of two residing in the hostel now. I know too much about the disruption to education and family life, to let this pass without having a say!	The proposal is in no way considering the island as a whole, the welfare and education of children of high school age from the south end of Mull and Iona completely excluded. There are factors that are not being addressed with very poor consultation with the wider community. There is no requirements for all schoolchildren be in one place, primary education in Tobermory perfectly acceptable with an island wide high school in Craignure, not only would it be the sensible option it would be an excellent way for the island to integrate in a greater way.
Member of the public/ community	This proposal is a bad solution for Mull as an island, all the other islands have a single high school for all the islands children. It comes as no surprise that some residents of Tobermory are against the relocation of the school on purely selfish grounds and therefore they should be ashamed of this behaviour. However this decision needs to be made on a higher more selfless level to show equity and fairness to ALL of Mull's children.
N/a	Thank you for the opportunity to share my views on the proposal. Summary position: I do not support this proposal Given my closeness to this project, the information I hold, and my experience of it including of the statutory consultation meeting on the 17th September the only safe answer I can give is no. It has been suggested by a significant number of people that this is the worst decision Argyll & Bute Council have ever made. Some Councillors such as Julie McKenzie and Amanda Hampsey have been raising concerns about the process. This has been a deeply damaging experience for the Mull community due to the Council's failure to engage and

(continued)	consult with the community in an appropriate manner. I would welcome a chat with HMIE inspectors and to share any information on any matters they deem relevant. • I was the chair of Tobermory High School parent council at the time the bid for LEIP funding was submitted. • I was a Mull Community Councillor reporting on education matters • A director of the Mull Campus Working Group LTD that was the mechanism set-up to lodge the Judicial Review petition. • I am the chair of the Mull Campus Working Group. • I have worked in Tobermory High School. The reasons I have for saying no include the following (please note this list is not
(continued)	exhaustive): 1. Legal ones including the breach of human rights legislation 2. The narrow interpretation of the statutory consultation rules 3. The way the children were engaged throughout falls below the expected standard 4. The comments of children were used in a way that could be interpreted as being selective so as to secure a preferred result/desired outcome 5. There has been potentially inference by officers in the role of Councillors (political interference) 6. The approach by the project team, and others such as Hub north has been bullish in nature 7. The support for the funding application was secured on the basis it was to
(continued)	benefit the whole island and this proposal does not achieve that 8. The “like for like principle” was not explained to the community before the bid for funding was nor was the “like for like” slide that I now know exists (it is in a Ryder Architecture document completed pre-submission of the bid for funding, and was shared with the Council) included in the Council’s presentation to the community pre-submission of the bid. Why? The Council indicated our support as a community was important to securing the funding, and if we knew what we know now it is likely the support for the proposal would have been very much lower. We were misled,
(continued)	whether that was intentional or due to poor communication I don’t know. The Council is failing Argyll & Bute communities in the manner with which they consult them. Communication is often unclear and confusing or omits people it should include. There are so many examples of this at the moment including the Visitor Levy and the attempts to put traffic lights on the Clachan Bridge 9. The benefits of the 2-18 model can be secured out with the model, and it is unclear why they are been given precedence over human rights law/provisions 10. The Education Team’s document on educational benefits lacks substance. I have a Freedom of Information
(continued)	Response detailing the work on the statements, and I shared this with those who worked in education, and they thought the assessment poor and the assertions flimsy. Freedom of Information Requests to Council, the Scottish Government etc. was fruitless in terms of providing evidence of the benefits of the 2-18 model 11. Affordability of the site remains a huge concern as does the size of it 12. Access to ASN facilities and sporting facilities for all children is a concern 13. The manner in which those involved with the Community Sounding Board were treated by the Mull Campus Team including on one occasion requesting parents/carers to choose

(continued)	which of them should remain in a meeting because the Tobermory Campus Team had invited more than one representative per Parent Council (too many)it was shocking, as was the manner in which the community were treated regarding the impact assessments call 14. Limitations of the space for outdoor learning in the current proposal is another reason I can support this. We have lots of space yet our Council never seems to maximise it. Salen PS and the refurbishment of it is a prime example and the small play area 15. The abject failure of the Council to plan for a new campus 16. I sense as seems to be par for the course the Council will do
(continued)	what it likes, and it is just going through the motions. I was surprised so many Council officials attended the statutory consultation meeting, and that we learnt so little 17. Weightings included calculation based on transporting ELC and primary age children currently in Tobermory High to all sites This heavily weighted the scores in favour of a Tobermory site. But no one in our island communities wants to see Tobermory children aged 2 to 11 denied access to education close to home 18. The Council has no firm plans for school drop off and pick up other than at a "layby". This is clearly inadequate. The site is opposite a proposed new Coop
(continued)	supermarket which will create increased road traffic. All pedestrians from Tobermory will have to cross an A road to access the school. Many will be funnelled across a junction, bridge and roundabout with only partial pavement The Council promised when refurbishing Salen Primary to sort out the parking etc. My understanding is it is still an issue with cars parked all over the pavement. Our Council is known for shifting the goal posts 19. We have been told that there will be "gradual gradients" and lifts but we have seen no plans to show how this will work. Lifts are expensive to install and incur long term maintenance costs. 20. We need a
(continued)	campus which can respond to future changes in population and community need, for example, the provision of wrap around childcare 21. This site will not meet youngsters' sporting and educational ambitions. We need a campus with full indoor and outdoor sports provision as recommended by Sport Scotland We do not have clear, shared information about planned provision for learning and teaching. How can make a meaningful decision without the full facts? We are concerned about the suggestion that "flexible" classroom divisions will be used, as we remember the impracticality of the open plan layout of Tobermory Primary before 2006 and the open plan
(continued)	secondary Maths suite 22. This site will not deliver the right for all Mull children to have a full family life, as enacted in Scottish law Our community's lived experience has not been considered. The children of the Ross of Mull deserve access to secondary education without having to leave their families and their communities behind for extended periods. We need an Isle of Mull S1 to S6 central campus for the long term economic, social and cultural growth of the whole island 23. Parents of children not yet of pre-school age have indicated they weren't aware of the Statutory Consultation I have detailed some of these concerns below. Legal

(continued)	Concerns 1. United Nations Right of the Child (UNCRC) Human Rights experts have advised me that the proposal is open to legal challenge and that should further legal action be taken there is likely to be intervention by Human Rights bodies. What should have been an exciting opportunity for our community has instead been potentially divisive, a nightmare. The proposal has attracted a lot of public attention and the Judicial Review has shone a light on our situation. The court did not scrutinise compliance with human rights (or educational benefits) so it should not be assumed the decision was lawful in relation to the human rights dimension
(continued)	because this has not been legally assessed. Undertaking in an Islands Impact Assessment is not enough to demonstrate the project is UNCRC compliant. This proposal fails to address concerns of the community that have been repeatedly raised for years. A dip into the Mull archives highlights the need to give consideration for a central high school in the 1970's. There are letters from Parent Council representatives across the Island to one another discussing this, there are letters from those off island that they contacted including the head teacher at Arran who notes the significant increase of children of school age when all children could be
(continued)	educated on island. The potential importance of accessibility of high school education to help maintain and grow population or reverse depopulation. I have a letter from a gentleman that is decades old. It details concerns that are being raised again now. A consultation is mentioned about building the future it seems our Council talks the talk but fails to action things and goes around in circles for decades. The Council do not appear to listening to the communities affected and there is an absence of data regarding the impact of hostel life on children and their families; their long-term educational outcomes; community cohesion, identity
(continued)	and the loss of culture such as Gaelic speakers and the pipe band etc. No acceptable explanation has been given as to why the rights of these children and families can not be progressed. They have been left out of the statutory consultation without a communication explaining to them and their children why. They have been part of the process to date, and an email could simply have been sent to state they weren't included nor were their children but that they could attend the public meeting. These children all go to Rights Respecting schools I can only imagine how hollow that concept must feel to some community members. There was confusion as
(continued)	to who could participate in the public meeting partly due to the exclusion of Bunessan PS parents/carers from the "consultation". The position had to be clarified. Communication should be clear, and this barrier to participation in the "consultation" could have been removed. These community members are in danger of becoming even more invisible in the system. I do respect that they will now have the opportunity to meet with HMIE, but this I am guessing is intervention prompted by concern and may not have been initially planned for. It is most welcome. The Council's failure to plan for a New Mull Campus Our Council has taken a shortsighted
(continued)	approach to the replacement of its learning estate. It should have planned years in advance for the replacement of the Tobermory High School Campus. Or Council lacks vision. Students started campaigning for a new school years ago I have copies of their research and detailed reports. They made a video which highlighted the poor state of the school, and it was my understanding that they were invited to share their information, but were blocked in some way/it was limited who their work was shared with as it was suggested it was too embarrassing for the Council (the state of repair the school was in). 2. Learning Estate Funding Programme (LEIP)

(continued)	– Islands Act - The proposal does not take account of our unique island needs. It is not Islands Act proofed. The rules are too restrictive and we need a more flexible approach. I am aware of the bespoke arrangement made for the Barra and Vatersay Campus I personally believe Mull needs the same to meet its unique island needs. 3. Engagement of the children - The engagement is not enough for human rights compliance. I have sought advice regarding this. I have also chatted to my own child about his experiences when engaged. I have the comments from the children's sessions and I have secured other documents by making Freedom of Information
(continued)	Requests. I personally feel the narrative does not reflect the children's views. I am not suggesting that is the intentional. Engagement to date has not met Lundy model of participation, nor UNCRC compliant in terms of right to be heard (in other words, listening to children is not the same as creating the circumstances to respond and take action to allow their voices to influence decisions). It was indicated to me by a community member, that in one school members of the campus team "ran around to tick the box" that they had engaged the children. 4. Correspondence I have collated the Facebook comments of the community at the time of the
(continued)	engagement sessions in 2024 and when the preferred site was approved in March 2025. The above demonstrate the lack of trust and confidence our community has in the way the Council "consults" with them regarding decisions that affect them. As a Parent Council chair and an administrator for the Argyll & Bute Network of Parent Councils I once found myself without the necessary documents to support the parent forum with a "consultation" they weren't sent to me. I had to call and request them and for other parent council representatives as well. I found out the "consultation" was live by chance, and it was all the more embarrassing as I was then a
(continued)	regular attendee of the Council's Parental Advisory Group meetings, and we had been asked to review the documents before release yet we weren't sent a copy. The Council knew from the Empowering Our /EOE debacle in 2022 that Parent Councils did not want the responsibility (they have no resources) for collating all the parent forum's responses etc. it was too onerous. We still however wanted to receive consultation documents. Procurement documents I secured by Freedom of Information Response for the marketing company doing the work on the EOE "consultation" highlighted the Council wanted to "drive acceptance" "use the silent majority" (as they
(continued)	seem to think there was). The documents were shocking and took about 10 months to secure. I fear we are being exposed to more of the same with this project. 5. Funding for the benefit of the Whole Island The following advice was shared with me: The funding was for the "whole island". All children's best interests are applicable. "Immediately, this requires engagement with children who currently board to understand what the interference with right to family life means in practice – evidence gathering on education attainment, living conditions, psychological impact of being away from home – then assessing whether there was an alternative that
(continued)	could provide right to education and right to family life under the new funding model". The children attend Rights Respecting schools yet they seemed to be dropped from the process along with their parents and carers without explanation. If their rights are not progressed then this should be explained to them. I believe the children and their parents/carers have been appalling treated. 6. Educational Benefits – what are we teaching our children The following was shared with me: "My experience of trying to secure evidence of the importance of the 2-18 has also largely proved fruitless. Educational Officers in the Council, Education, and the

(continued)	Scottish Government. are unable to provide data or other evidence to support this claim, in response to FOI requests. The scoring matrix for selection of a site for the new school foregrounded this claim, as did the briefing paper for Councillors in October 2024. But it is based on no evidence whatsoever. It's smoke and mirrors".I have a Freedom of Information Response that details correspondence and work undertaken on the educational benefits. I asked professionals with the relevant education experience to study these they were concerned. They described the evidence as flimsy. They indicated the benefits can be achieved out with the 2-18
(continued)	model. Given our unique situation and the risk of further depopulation particularly South West Mull the weight given to educational benefits is inappropriate. I attended a meeting regarding the delivery of another new campus in East Dunbartonshire and the Council didn't use a scoring matrix a senior officer highlighted they can be open to manipulation. Extract from a document I asked someone to prepare re the benefits of the 2-18 model "Only Tobermory PS children will directly benefit from the 2-18 model. Dervaig, Salen, Ulva and Lochdonhead won't. There is no requirement for primary children to learn in specialist secondary teaching areas,
(continued)	in the Curriculum for Excellence". It may prove difficult to ensure access for both primary and secondary aged children and why should the schools aforementioned the children attending them not have the same benefits. Are primary aged children being discriminated upon on the basis of location could this lead to more requests for children to attend Tobermory PS and could all be accommodated? "Sharing Good Practice Benefits: there were longstanding arrangements (at one time involving all the Mull and Iona primary schools) to share best practice, discuss curricula and pedagogy, and since the introduction of the Curriculum for Excellence, to
(continued)	moderate assessments of children's academic progress. Staff development with all primary and secondary teachers learning together is enriched by the variety of approaches across the linked primary schools. It is not dependent on all colleagues working together in one campus". I have noted the following information in a document by Jenny Des Fountain who was Head Teacher at Tobermory Highschool and who worked for HMIE. Conclusion: A well led 2-18 campus can do a good job for its children and young people but the reality is, many 2-18 campuses run as two schools on one site. HMIe's key findings in Rothesay and Lochgilphead illustrate this:
(continued)	benefits are not automatic, just because you put children and teachers 2-18 on the same site. Rothesay Joint Campus and Pre-Five Unit inspection report, Argyll and Bute Council 19/08/25 Staff should work together to continue to improve the consistency of learning and teaching across the campus. This includes improving the feedback provided to children and young people on their learning. This will help children and young people to understand clearly their next steps in learning. Lochgilphead Joint Campus, June 2024 : https://education.gov.scot/inspection-and-review/find-an-inspection-report/find-an-inspection-report/details?id=3502 . At pace,

(continued)	senior and middle leaders and staff should develop a shared understanding of high-quality learning, teaching and assessment. This should result in learners' experiences being consistently planned and delivered effectively, based on a relevant and dynamic curriculum. When the head teacher was appointed at Lochgilphead Joint Campus a few years ago parents etc. contacted me as they felt they were not being listened to. I have correspondence relating to this. 7. The Tobermory South Site The safety of children is of huge concern. I would have expected a new campus to have room for all the buses to enter the school grounds so the children could
(continued)	disembark safely. Where the new campus is to be located is close to a busy road. A New Co-op is being built there and community members have indicated they are afraid a child will be hurt or worse crossing the road. Children walking to and from the school will be at least a significant number of them walking on narrow roads with no pavements. I listened with interest as concerns were raised at the statutory consultation meeting on Thursday the 17th September by several attendees. A Council staff member seemed to indicate that pavements, cycle tracks etc would be built but there was no information regarding this. As the Parent Council chair
(continued)	for Tobermory I was involved in meetings for the Salen decant. Salen PS was renovated and the students attended THS temporarily while renovations were undertaken. I listened then when it was stated after the work on the school was finished how a traffic team would come in and sort the parking etc. Issues are regularly raised about parking etc. several years on at Mull Community Council. Gradients of slopes The current campus has issues with accessibility I don't understand why this site has been selected when more suitable flatter sites are available. A site that there have been several attempts to build affordable housing on but that were
(continued)	abandoned because the housing units could not be delivered at the relevant unit cost. A site the Scottish Government provided funding on. It is worrying and it begs the question was there some prior arrangement regarding this site. Limited room for expansion The site has been described as "tight" and it fails to deliver a full-sized pitch for the children. This is something early on the children indicated they wanted from a new school. Given we live on an island and there are limited facilities for the children I think in the circumstances this is a reasonable ask. Sport teaches are children so many skills including team work. I know from my
(continued)	own child how important the facilities are to them. For instance, with football. The children are often disheartened by their sporting performance off island as they don't get to train on a full side pitch or one of a decent size to when they play competitively it takes some adjusting to. In addition, forming a strong island team proves difficult as so many children/young people attend Oban High School. A campus that would allow all children to be educated on island would promote community cohesion and a stronger sense of Island identity. To grow our island community and sustain it for generations now and in the future. There is considerable
(continued)	fear that locating the school near Tobermory will lead to further depopulation and turn the South West of the Island into "a retirement home". I have correspondence I shared with the Council several years ago that highlight the fears of the community that there are those who have left the Island and won't return to it until their children can have an all through education on Mull. The decision is being closely monitored by those who want to return or those who may leave as their children reach High School age. Data - The lack of defined terms and data throughout this process has caused a huge amount of friction. We are being asked to approve

(continued)	something that could later prove to our detriment which I personally believe is legally and morally wrong. ASN Facilities The children form SW Mull will miss out on the benefits of the learning centre they will not be able to avail them in the same way as other children. Their community will also miss out on the community elements of the New Campus. I sat in a meeting/call about the Integrated Impact Assessments with fellow community members I listen to them beg for them to be undertaken properly. They were afraid they would be hung out to dry. There are parts of this process that will never leave me. I however remain firmly committed to
(continued)	resolution, and I do believe a resolution can be reached with others that is in the best interests of all Mull's children but not the one currently proposed. This is not, and I leave you with the words of some children (thank you for your time). The spelling errors etc are their own. I worry that some while they have shared their views have not been given the support etc they need as per Lundy Model to understand the consequences of them! "being shipped away to Oban at 11 or 12 years is such a massive thing. I personally think it is so difficult, so a high school on Mull would prevent thisproblem. Praemts feel like they don't know what is
(continued)	going on with their kids lives over here as some may not communicate with them. This makes parents feel like they are not involved which is awful. Mull is like 2 islands, one being Bunessanand Peenygael- the south and the 2 being Tob, Salen(the North). It should be there, I personally hate Oban and and would have rathered a school at home where I could mak relationships with others on the island. I do not think it is fair to be in Tob, like kids from Lochbuie, Salen and Calgary. It should be in the centre of the island as it would be equal and fair If the new school was in Tob, none of the Rosschildren would want to go as it is far.It's only
(continued)	fair for it to be hal way, not all about Tobermory. It's hard to go to the hostel in Oban at age 11. Kids that age should have a choice to go tohigh school on Mull or Oban. If the high school gets built in the midddle of the island, the whole of Mull should have a chance to go to Oban or Mull. And if it was built in the middle more people would choose to move to the Ross of Mull, creating a more lively community and not just a retire place to go.don't build it *Apologies I don't currently have access to a printer and this is a bit repetitive. Decisions like this should not be made in an atmosphere of fear; the conversation
(continued)	regarding a New Mull Campus was not properly supported; there is an absence of data; it seems the law is being breached; there has been no meaningful assessment of the impact of this proposal on the children of SW Mull etc; community members have been asking important questions for a very long-time to no avail; Councillors who are trying to help the community are raising concern; the trauma of part of the community is not being acknowledged. This process has been poor; damaging and the Council had years to plan for this.
Parent/ carer of child at affected primary school (Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Primary School)	The proposed site is too small to facilitate a like-for-like development, with the plans showing fewer teaching and specialist lab spaces, as well as no space to accommodate a full-sized sports pitch. There is also no room for future expansion / development to allow the school to accommodate a greater school roll in future, which is surprising when one considers the council should be working towards growing the island's population! It is not clear how the site can provision for the demands of ELC and wraparound childcare being advanced by the Scottish Government. The site does even not meet the minimum size threshold originally put forward by

(continued)	the council in its site-selection criteria. The site does not offer the best opportunity to deliver on the council's own identified priorities for education. Geological surveys of the site suggest it will not be easy to develop, and that any development will likely be complicated by the character of the ground and local hydrology. The chances are, therefore, that any development will be expensive and risks failing to deliver best value for money. The site presents challenges for access, requiring a development across multiple stories, and with pedestrian access for pupils and staff taking them along a busy road that lacks (at present)
(continued)	appropriate pavement and crossing infrastructure. School buses will also likely have to disembark pupils on the main road, rather than on site, due to its small size. Ensuring ease and safety of access for students will require further investment, thus inflating the cost of the project. Public consultation has been hampered by the lack of a detailed proposal being put forward by council officers. Consequently, no meaningful consultation can take place and the absence of further available information. The context in which original bid for LEIP funding was submitted has changed. The First Minister and others have indicated that flexibility in
(continued)	funding and political will exist to advance an alternative proposal that would benefit a far greater number of the island's children; enable selection of alternative, more suitable and cost-effective sites; and allow for a development better aligned to strategies for growth and development across Mull as a whole. It is nonsensical to continue with this proposal, given it reflects a different, past set of circumstances.
Member of the public/ community, Resident of 50 years on the Ross of Mull. Parent to 3 children 1990s schooled on mainland Scotland	The Council unashamedly 'used' The Ross of Mull and its population in their bid for LEIP funding for a new Campus for All on Mull. The decision making process was weighted in favour of replacing the school at a site in Tobermory. Tobermory South site is too small to allow for any increase of students in the population of the current catchment area. The playing field is not full size. The ground is awkward and expensive to build on due to the sloping nature of site. Not good value. Road, pavement and parking access to the proposed school is inadequate, dangerous and will inevitably lead to further costly improvements to these facilities. The
(continued)	worldwide appeal of Tobermory town will not be adversely affected should the school be sited at a central location accessible to all residents of the Isle of Mull. Whether or not the population and value of houses and businesses in Tobermory decreases, as forecast, similar values and populations will increase in the Ross of Mull, contributing to a more balanced wealth, economy and wellbeing across the whole island.

Parent/ carer of child at affected primary school (Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Primary School)	As a parent with children who will attend the new school, I strongly disagree with the proposal to relocate the existing 2–18 campus to the Tobermory South site. I remain deeply disappointed by the way the Council has handled consultation and engagement with the wider Mull community throughout this process. For a decision that will shape education on the island for generations, I do not believe families have been given sufficient opportunity or information to properly consider what is best for Mull as a whole. In my view, the fundamental mistake has been the insistence on retaining a single 2–18 campus. I strongly believe the most sensible
(continued)	and equitable solution is to separate primary and secondary provision. Tobermory is an important community and absolutely should retain its own primary school. However, the secondary school serves the whole island and should be located centrally, where it can be more fairly accessed by children and families from across Mull. I find it particularly difficult to understand why this option has not been properly pursued when the project was originally presented as a "Mull Campus" intended to serve the whole island. I am also concerned that, despite the project having progressed this far, there remains insufficient detail on exactly what
(continued)	educational, sporting and recreational facilities our children will receive. A new school should represent a significant improvement on the existing facilities and provide sufficient space and flexibility for future generations, rather than simply deliver a newer building. There are also well-known local concerns about the Tobermory South site itself, including its size, topography and access. I am concerned that the challenges associated with developing this site have been underestimated and could ultimately result in compromises to the school and significantly greater costs. Most importantly, this decision will affect generations of
(continued)	children long after the current project team and decision-makers have moved on. I believe history will judge the decision to locate Mull's only secondary school at the northern end of the island as a colossal injustice to families in the south of Mull, whose children will continue to face leaving the Island every week to access their education. There was an opportunity here to create a genuinely island-wide solution: retain a primary school in Tobermory for the community it serves and build Mull's secondary school in the centre of the island for the whole island it serves. I remain strongly of the view that this would be the fairest, most
(continued)	sensible and most sustainable long-term solution for Mull.
Member of the public / community	The proposal denies the rights of children on the Ross of Mull to full time education or to a family life. It denies the relevance of the culture of the Island. This is a once in a life time opportunity to put right historical wrongs.

Member of the public/ community	As a parent of former pupils of Tobermory High School it amazes me that the opportunity of having one centrally located school for all island pupils is not eagerly taken up. With a school for all our island children this would give equal opportunity to all young people. It would stop the sad separation and all the many disadvantages of having to leave family and board in Oban, at a young and crucial age. The chance of building a new school in a central location with, gifted , adequate land should ceased. To pursue a very restricted site in Tobermory is not at all future proofing education and island needs and will be detrimental for
(continued)	generations to come. The Ross of Mull has suffered for so long as people will not invest in their futures, if it means sending children away from home for education. The population and investment will continue to decrease in the area. The financial investment involved in both options, I feel, should be scrutinised in detail.
Member of the public / community	N/a
Grandfather of two children at Primary and two who will be joining the new campus upon completion	So many reasons to find the proposal to move the campus from Tobermory as nonsensical not least the travelling distance from both ends of the island but I'll just stick to the fact that a shared campus from 2-18 (as per slide) would mean primary school pupils having to undergo a 44 mile round trip from Tobermory. each schoolday and leave the largest population centre on the island as being the only one without Primary provision.
Parent/ carer of child at Tobermory ELC/Primary /Secondary, Parent/ carer of child at affected primary school (Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Primary School), Member of the public/ community	There is an opportunity to genuinely improve not only the education and home lives of the children of Mull for years to come, but to make the whole of Mull a far more cohesive community. For some inexplicable reason, the council are desperately trying to avoid this open goal, and, instead, to perpetuate the appalling status quo. So desperate do the council seem to not build a single high school for the whole island that they can ride roughshod over their own requirements and criteria for a replacement school. If the proposed project goes ahead, history will rightly judge this administration very harshly.
Member of the public / community	As the majority of primary and pre-school age children on Mull (I'm not counting Iona) do not live in Tobermory, it makes no sense to build a high school at the far north of the island when a more central site at Craignure has been offered, free of charge. In addition, ninety houses are due to be built in Craignure and some are being built in Salen, meaning there will be even more children living outwith Tobermory. Currently, pupils are bussed to the only swimming pool on Mull, which is at Tobermory. If the school was built there it would be in walking distance. Specialist subject teachers from the mainland could access a Craignure site by
(continued)	taking a ferry as foot passengers to enable them to teach a single or double period. This is/would not be feasible for a Tobermory site. (Ferry places for cars are much less available and more expensive.) Please do not make a short-sighted, short-term decision. No-one disagrees that pre-school and primary school provision needs to stay in Tobermory, but a new high school, with better outdoor provision than the current plan's, should be built in the most suitable, accessible site for ALL of Mull's children - in Craignure.

Member of the public / community	I do not believe that the proposed site meets the needs of all Mull secondary age children. A new secondary school is needed in a central site to ensure * compliance with UNCRC rights to family life for all * the future social and economic sustainability of the whole island of Mull. I do not believe that this sloping site with geological issues, smaller than the 2.3 hectares defined in the Council's request for tenders, will provide value for money. I do not believe that it will provide safe pedestrian and vehicle access, while also being sited on the main A road, just yards from a 30mph sign. I have not seen any firm proposals for the
(continued)	building's floor plan e.g. the provision of classrooms or sports facilities. I cannot agree with a vague promise that all will be well if I agree.
Member of the public / community	This idea of Tobermory being the all encompassing power on the island has to stop. The south of the island parents are by law entitled to family life just like all the other children. Families on the south have been ignored for generations.
Member of the public / community	N/a
Member of the public / community	I'd like to express my strong feelings against the proposed relocation of Tobermory campus for for the following reasons This site will not provide the right for all Mull children to have a full family life as enacted in Scottish Law. The children of the Ross of Mull have as much right to return home in evenings as the children of the rest of the island. - the statutory consultation was too narrow - By asking the children and parents of Bunessan school how they'd like their new school to look like, it was reasonable to believe that a new school was an option , when in fact they've been excluded from the consultation and the hope of island
(continued)	secondary education -completely unacceptable to chose Tobermory secondary as the location for recent meeting for what should have been an island wide discussion in a neutral location. - we need an Isle of Mull S1-S6 central campus for the long term economic social and cultural growth of the whole island where division and inequality are things of the past not the future for generations to come. - with such a lack lustre engagement process , how is it possible to ascertain that all views have been heard and listened to? Please listen to the views and concerns of ALL the community as you make this massive next step
Member of the public/ community, Former transport manager of local coach operator.	Transport issues and lack of suitable infrastructure anywhere else on the island make Tobermory the obvious and correct location.
Parent of child who will be starting ELC in 2029	I feel that the only fair thing to do is have a split campus with pre school and primary school units kept in Tobermory and a centralised high school based in Craignure for high school pupils from all over the island can use. This is the only chance we have to get this right for the island children and their families.
Member of the public / community	N/a

Member of the public / community	The land is not fit for purpose and does not think of the later generations and community usage.
Parent/ carer of child at affected primary school (Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Primary School)	I am a parent of a child at Salen Primary School, one of the schools affected by this proposal. I do not support relocating the campus to Tobermory South. Rebuilding in Tobermory does not fix the main problem, which is access. Pupils from the south and west of Mull would still face the same long daily journeys. The council's own engagement report named travel as a major concern, including journey length, winter roads, younger children and after school clubs. I already travel so my children can get a good education, and I would rather they attended a school at the heart of their community. A central campus would give a bigger catchment, more
(continued)	pupils and more opportunity for every child on Mull. The council's site scoring put Tobermory South at 645 and Craignure at 628, a gap of only 17 points. A more central high school was also the most commonly requested option during community engagement.
Member of the public / community	This is a shameful flawed proposal that lets the whole island down. There is such a strong majority view on the island that we need a primary provision in Tobermory and a central high school near Craignure. We are being consistently ignored. There should be efforts being made to find a way to make this happen. It would deliver major long term benefits to the economies of the whole island by helping keep families on the Ross and attracting more people. The proposed site fails even the council's own requirements with a total disregard for any future proofing. As a previous member of the parent council at Tobermory I have never been so shocked
(continued)	at the attitude of public officials. To be told by a councillor I am not here to listen to what any of you have to say I am here to tell you it will be in Tobermory. Before a single site had ever been proposed. This whole process has been a sham and just leaves one wondering why on earth this can be allowed to happen. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the whole island and we are being ignored. I would love to know the real reason why and just who stands to benefit as it certainly isn't the children and families of the island.
Member of the public / community	The proposed site is not fit for purpose and I am appalled that it is even being considered by the council. The opportunity to build a central high school allowing all S1 to S6 pupils access to education while living at home with their families should be at the centre of the decision making process. The new school should reflect the councils ambitions for providing a campus that looks to the future and provides the young people of this island with a school that provides high quality facilities and has the potential to meet the needs of future generations. This current proposal is one which displays a lack of ambition, an acceptance of
(continued)	mediocrity and an utter disregard for the rights of the children and families on the island.
Member of the public/ community	This proposal to build (again) in Tobermory is fundamentally biased, unfair and without human compassion. Life isnt about £s or going with the " it's always worked for us so why should it change " ideology. As a parent who has raised two daughters on the Ross of Mull I know first hand the sacrifice and the long term damage having inaccessible secondary education on the island can cause. Do the right thing for ALL the children of Mull, not just the privileged few. You owe it to the future of the island.

Parent Council	Ulva Primary Parent Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the proposal by Argyll and Bute Council for the future development of education on Mull. We fully support the need to replace the current poor facilities and accessibility at the current campus, which is long overdue. The proposal paper provides a potential site layout and educational aspirations, but it lacks any sufficient detail to allow us to assess whether the site can accommodate all of the facilities that are required to meet the needs of children (in the catchment area), not only today, but for future generations. Therefore, in the absence of sufficient information,
(continued)	we cannot support the proposal. Site Capacity, Facilities and Future Provision. We would ask the Council to provide clear information on: ● the total site area; ● the maximum pupil capacity; ● the proposed building footprint and floor area; ● number and types of classrooms; ● the number of parking spaces; ● arrangements for school buses and pupil drop-off/pick-up; ● the type and amount of indoor and outdoor sports provision; and ● provision for future expansion. Geology and Topography. The proposed site is not flat and appears to have significant changes in level. We therefore need much more clarity regarding: ● the extent of the
(continued)	changes in level; ● how pupils and visitors with mobility difficulties will move around the site; ● how accessible the outdoor spaces will be; ● drainage and ground conditions; ● the extent of the ground engineering required; and ● the additional construction costs associated with developing the site. It is not clear whether the current site investigations are complete and, if not, how the Council can be confident that this is an appropriate preferred site before those investigations have been concluded. Transport and Pupil Safety. There is inadequate parking, tight road infrastructure and difficulties with bus drop-off and pick-up at
(continued)	the existing campus. The Council's proposal states that the new design will include safe pick-up and drop-off points, suitable parking and safe walking routes. We need to be provided with detailed evidence behind these statements, including: ● how many vehicles and buses the site can accommodate; ● where buses will wait; ● how pupil drop-off and collection will operate; ● how pedestrians will be separated from vehicles; Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP) Bid for a 2-18 Campus. Most importantly, we need to highlight that the above proposal needs to be put into a much broader context. There was no engagement with the community

(continued)	before the Council submitted a funding bid to LEIP for a 2-18 campus in October 2022. It appears most people were unaware the Council had even submitted a bid for a 2-18 campus. In October 2023, the bid was accepted. In September 2024, the Council's own community engagement meetings evidenced a very common theme from people: a desire to retain early-years and primary provision in Tobermory while providing a more central high school in order for all children on Mull to attend. However, in December 2024 the Council decided to proceed with a 2-18 campus model. In February 2025, an island wide survey undertaken by the Mull Campus Group
(continued)	again demonstrated majority support for exploring a split site model, with ELC/Primary retained in Tobermory and a Craignure site for the high school offered by Andy and Naomi Knight free of charge. Stantec produced an integrated impact assessment report on behalf of the Council in February 2025. There are many very important limitations to this assessment: ● It considers a 2-18 campus only and does not provide detailed assessment of a split site alternative. ● It is a high-level assessment and does not provide a like-for-like assessment of the individual short-listed sites. ● It doesn't fully quantify the potential long-term consequences
(continued)	for children and families on the ross of Mull of not having a centrally located high school. ● The economic assumptions use Scottish-wide evidence which may not adequately reflect Mull's housing market, geography, transport and demographics now and for the future. ● The education attainment model is based on a very specific assumption that students live within 2km versus more than 8km from an educational establishment. On Mull, journey time may be a more meaningful measure of accessibility than distance alone. ● Whether the 1.73% increase in property prices within 0.5 miles of a school can be transferred to Mull's small and distinctive
(continued)	housing market. ● It understates the value of keeping primary education in Tobermory. ● Carbon calculations don't capture all of the consequences of a 2-18 campus. ● The Tobermory site economic benefit may partly reflect the size of Tobermory rather than the quality or suitability of the site. Stantec acknowledged that neither a Tobermory nor central campus would provide a fully equitable solution for all children and young people living on Mull, but it did not assess whether a split-site model could provide a more equitable balance of educational accessibility across the island. Stantec also highlighted that the most commonly
(continued)	requested solution from the engagement was a split site with a centralised high school. In June 2026, Mull Community Council, Mull and Iona Community Trust, North West Mull Community Woodland Company, South West Mull and Iona Development and Iona Community Trust jointly sent an open letter to the Council expressing deep concern that the LEIP criteria and funding framework might not adequately account for the realities of island communities such as Mull, and that they had not been properly informed by effective consultation or the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Taking into account the above, we would

(continued)	like the Council to answer the following question: Why has a split-site model not been subjected to the same detailed, island-specific assessment of educational, economic, equality and children's rights impacts as the proposed 2-18 model? Conclusion. We fully support investment in new school facilities, which is long overdue. However, we are deeply concerned that the chosen model and location do not provide the best possible education outcome for all children on Mull, both now and for future generations. This is a once-in-a-generation decision which will have far reaching consequences for the whole of Mull. We believe that a split-site
(continued)	model should have been properly considered before submitting a funding bid to LEIP. The priority must be to develop an education model on Mull that is equitable, accessible and sustainable for the whole island. This is an opportunity to get this right for generations of children, and a split-site option should be properly considered. Ulva Primary School Parent Council. 1st October 2026.
N/a	Please find attached my response to the statutory consultation on the proposed relocation of Tobermory 2–18 Campus to the Tobermory South site. I strongly support investment in new educational facilities on Mull and the replacement of the existing Tobermory Campus. However, for the reasons set out in my attached response, I do not support the proposal to relocate the whole 2–18 provision to Tobermory South in its present form. My principal concern is that the published evidence makes a strong case for replacing the existing buildings, but does not, in my view, demonstrate with the same strength that all stages of education should remain
(continued)	co-located in Tobermory. In particular, I believe further consideration should be given to the different geographical requirements of local ELC/primary provision and secondary education serving the wider island. My preferred outcome would be retention of ELC and primary provision in Tobermory, combined with secondary provision at an appropriate central location on Mull. I recognise that this is not the proposal presently under consultation and that such an alternative would have additional financial and procedural implications. I have therefore sought in my response to focus on the evidence and questions that I believe the Council should
(continued)	consider when reviewing the current proposal. I would be grateful if the attached document could be accepted as my formal consultation response and taken into account, in full, when the Council prepares its Consultation Report and reviews the proposal. Please confirm receipt when convenient. I strongly support substantial investment in education on Mull and the replacement of the existing Tobermory Campus. I accept the Council's evidence that the present buildings are poorly suited to modern education and that purpose-built accommodation could provide significant benefits through improved accessibility, specialist teaching spaces, digital
(continued)	provision, sports facilities, outdoor learning and a better overall learning environment. My objection is therefore not to investment in a new school. It is to the specific proposal to relocate the whole existing 2–18 provision to Tobermory South. My preferred outcome would be to retain ELC and primary provision in Tobermory while providing Mull's secondary school at an appropriate central location. This broadly reflects the split-site arrangement which the Council's own earlier community engagement recorded as the most commonly requested solution. I recognise that this is not the proposal currently being consulted upon and that the Council

(continued)	previously decided to proceed with a single-site campus. I raise the split-site alternative because it is directly relevant to whether the evidence demonstrates that relocating all stages of education to Tobermory South is of overall positive educational benefit. THE CASE FOR A NEW SCHOOL SHOULD BE DISTINGUISHED FROM THE CASE FOR TOBERMORY SOUTH The Proposal Paper makes a persuasive case that the existing accommodation needs to be replaced. However, many of the principal benefits it identifies arise from construction of a modern replacement school rather than specifically from locating the entire campus at Tobermory South. Improved
(continued)	classrooms, accessibility, specialist facilities, environmental conditions, digital technology, sports provision and outdoor learning are compelling arguments for a new facility. They do not, by themselves, establish where every stage of education should be located. The current Scottish Government statutory guidance states that educational benefits should be at the heart of proposals such as this, that both benefits and disadvantages should be explored, and that the authority should demonstrate why the proposal is of overall positive educational benefit. It specifically recognises travel and its effects on pupils' broader social experiences
(continued)	and participation in out-of-hours learning as relevant educational considerations. I therefore ask the Council to distinguish clearly between: • the educational benefits of building a modern replacement school; and • the educational benefits which arise specifically from locating the complete 2–18 provision at Tobermory South. PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION HAVE DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHICAL REQUIREMENTS This distinction is particularly important on Mull. Tobermory ELC and primary provision serves a predominantly local population. Secondary education serves a substantially wider geographical population. The Transport Review recorded 157 pupils
(continued)	attending Tobermory High School alongside 36 secondary-age pupils from Mull and Iona attending Oban High School. It does not necessarily follow that the location appropriate for predominantly local early-years and primary provision must also be the appropriate location for secondary education serving a much wider island geography. The Council's assessment of central alternatives largely assumes that the whole 2–18 campus moves together. Consequently, a substantial part of the travel disadvantage attributed to a central site results from transporting young Tobermory children away from the community in which most currently live. That is a
(continued)	legitimate consequence of the Council's chosen single-site model. It is not, however, evidence that a central location is necessarily unsuitable for secondary education. A split arrangement is specifically intended to address this difference: • retain accessible local ELC and primary provision in Tobermory; and • consider the secondary school according to the wider geography of the population it serves. TRANSPORT EVIDENCE AND THE BURDEN ON CHILDREN I recognise that SYSTRA's modelling shows substantially lower aggregate travel time, mileage and transport emissions for Tobermory South than for relocating the complete current 2–18 campus to

(continued)	Craignure or Garmony. I do not dispute that finding within the assumptions used. However, the Transport Review states that its principal forecasting does not account for strategic changes in population distribution or pupils changing school, and assumes existing catchments. It also explicitly states that the existing travel time, distance and carbon emissions of Ross of Mull and Iona pupils travelling to and from Oban are not included in the baseline. This omission is significant when interpreting an island-wide secondary-school comparison. If Ross pupils are included, their current travel to Oban should be included in the Tobermory scenarios
(continued)	just as their daily journeys to a central school are included in the central scenarios. Doing so would make the comparison more complete, although it would not remove the present aggregate transport advantage of Tobermory South. More fundamentally, however, transport movement is not the same thing as the burden experienced by a child. Many Ross of Mull pupils attending Oban High do not make a daily return journey. They travel off-island and board in Oban during the school week. As a result, an aggregate transport model can make their existing arrangement appear relatively efficient simply because they make only a small number of long journeys
(continued)	each week rather than travelling home every afternoon. That does not establish that the arrangement imposes a lower overall burden on those children. Reduced recorded transport is achieved partly because the pupil is away from their home, family and local community for much of the school week. The Council's own impact assessment recognises concerns expressed about boarding, while also recording that some families value the opportunities offered by Oban and wish to retain that option. A balanced assessment should therefore preserve choice rather than assume that either boarding or daily travel is universally preferable. I believe the
(continued)	comparison should separately consider the effects of daily travel and weekly boarding, including: • time away from home and family; • participation in community life; • extracurricular opportunities; • ferry dependence; • resilience to disruption; and • the views of the children and families affected. A central secondary school may generate more recorded weekly transport movements than boarding in Oban simply because children would return home every day. Such an increase should not automatically be interpreted as an increase in the overall burden on the child. This distinction is particularly important because the statutory guidance expressly
(continued)	recognises that transport can affect broader social experiences and opportunities to participate in out-of-hours learning. THE TRANSPORT MODEL ANSWERS A NARROWER QUESTION THAN THE LONG-TERM EDUCATIONAL QUESTION The existing modelling is well suited to asking: "What happens to today's pupils and staff if the existing 2–18 campus is moved intact?" It is less well suited to asking: "How should Mull's secondary educational provision be located for the decades ahead?" The Transport Review also excludes wrap-around activities from its modelling. For a secondary pupil, the practical accessibility of school is not limited to arriving before lessons

(continued)	and leaving immediately afterwards. It includes sport, music, supported study, clubs, school events and social opportunities. I therefore believe that the Council should model the actual split-site alternative: • ELC and primary retained in Tobermory; and • secondary provision centrally located. That analysis should include: • existing off-island arrangements; • individual journey-time distributions rather than principally aggregate totals; • the longest journeys; • the number of pupils exceeding meaningful journey-time thresholds; and • a realistic late-transport service. THE INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIRES FURTHER SENSITIVITY
(continued)	TESTING I also have concerns about the transferability of some assumptions in the Integrated Impact Assessment. For example, £1.474 million of the reported £3.147 million economic difference attributed to a Tobermory location results from an assumed property-value effect for homes within 0.5 miles of a school. Under a split arrangement, Tobermory would still have a school. That element of the whole-campus comparison therefore cannot simply be carried across to the split-site alternative. The IIA also uses a relationship between distance from an educational institution and post-compulsory educational participation and translates this into
(continued)	estimated lifetime earnings. I am not suggesting that recognised appraisal methodologies should be rejected. My concern is whether material assumptions derived from wider populations have been demonstrated to apply to Mull's distinctive: housing market; settlement pattern; transport network; and educational geography. Where robust Mull-specific evidence is unavailable, sensitivity analysis would be more informative than reliance on a single assumed value. THE SPLIT-SITE ALTERNATIVE AND AFFORDABILITY I recognise that the Council previously considered a split-site arrangement and rejected it on affordability grounds. This is an important
(continued)	constraint and should not be minimised. A split arrangement would involve additional capital expenditure, some duplication of facilities and additional recurring operating costs. A single integrated campus also provides opportunities for sharing staff and specialist accommodation across age groups. However, if affordability remains the principal reason for rejecting the split configuration, I believe that should be presented transparently using current costs and weighed against the educational, equality, transport, demographic and island-community consequences of that configuration. It is particularly important that disadvantages derived from
(continued)	modelling a wholly central 2–18 campus are not treated as disadvantages of the split arrangement where they would not actually arise. The most useful comparison would therefore be between: • the proposal now being consulted upon; and • a clearly specified alternative consisting of retained ELC and primary provision in Tobermory and central secondary provision. That comparison should include the true additional capital and annual operating costs of the split arrangement. QUESTIONS I ASK THE COUNCIL TO ADDRESS Before reaching its final decision, I ask the Council to address the following questions: 1. Which educational benefits identified in

(continued)	the Proposal Paper arise specifically from Tobermory South rather than from constructing modern replacement facilities? 2. How has the Council assessed the substantially different geographical requirements of local ELC and primary provision and island-wide secondary education? 3. How would the transport assessment change if ELC and primary provision remained in Tobermory and secondary provision alone were located centrally, with the existing Ross of Mull journeys to Oban included in the baseline? 4. How has the Council compared the overall impact on children of daily on-island travel with weekly boarding in Oban, including time away from home
(continued)	and family, community participation, extracurricular opportunities, ferry dependence and pupils' own views? 5. What are the median, upper-range and longest individual journey times under the current proposal and a split-site alternative, rather than only aggregate or average figures? 6. What provision would be made for late transport so that pupils dependent upon buses could participate equitably in sport, clubs, supported study and other out-of-hours activities? 7. How would the economic and Integrated Impact Assessment conclusions change under a split configuration, particularly the property-value, parent-travel, staff-commuting and
(continued)	educational-participation assumptions? 8. If affordability remains the decisive reason for rejecting split provision, what are the current additional capital and recurring costs, which elements would fall outside LEIP support, and how have those costs been balanced against the wider educational and island-community impacts? CONCLUSION I strongly support replacing the existing Tobermory facilities and making substantial investment in modern education on Mull. However, I am not persuaded that the evidence presented demonstrates that relocating the whole 2–18 establishment to Tobermory South is the most appropriate way to secure those benefits
(continued)	for all of the different age groups and communities affected. For that reason, I do not support the proposal in its present form. My preferred outcome is retention of local ELC and primary provision in Tobermory combined with a new secondary school at an appropriate central location on Mull. I recognise that such a materially different arrangement would involve additional financial challenges and may require further statutory consideration. Nevertheless, the present consultation should genuinely test whether the proposed whole-campus relocation remains justified when consultation evidence is considered. In particular, I do not believe that
(continued)	lower aggregate transport movement should automatically be regarded as a better educational or wellbeing outcome where part of that reduction occurs because children board away from their homes during the school week. I therefore ask the Council, before reaching its final decision, to: • distinguish new-building benefits from location-specific benefits; • reassess material assumptions in an appropriately island-specific context; • include the actual transport and social burden experienced by children, not only vehicle movements and aggregate journey time; and • examine the actual consequences of the split-site alternative rather than relying
(continued)	on conclusions derived from relocating the complete 2–18 campus centrally.

Member of the public / community	Build it on the land next to the school playback. Save THS.
N/a	I strongly support investment in new educational facilities on Mull and the replacement of the existing Tobermory Campus. However, for the reasons set out in my attached response, I do not support the proposal to relocate the whole 2–18 provision to Tobermory South in its present form. My principal concern is that the published evidence makes a strong case for replacing the existing buildings, but does not, in my view, demonstrate with the same strength that all stages of education should remain co-located in Tobermory. In particular, I believe further consideration should be given to the different geographical requirements of local
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(continued)	arguments for a new facility. They do not, by themselves, establish where every stage of education should be located. The current Scottish Government statutory guidance states that educational benefits should be at the heart of proposals such as this, that both benefits and disadvantages should be explored, and that the authority should demonstrate why the proposal is of overall positive educational benefit. It specifically recognises travel and its effects on pupils' broader social experiences and participation in out-of-hours learning as relevant educational considerations. I therefore ask the Council to distinguish clearly between: • the
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(continued)	Reduced recorded transport is achieved partly because the pupil is away from their home, family and local community for much of the school week. The Council's own impact assessment recognises concerns expressed about boarding, while also recording that some families value the opportunities offered by Oban and wish to retain that option. A balanced assessment should therefore preserve choice rather than assume that either boarding or daily travel is universally preferable. I believe the comparison should separately consider the effects of daily travel and weekly boarding, including: • time away from home and family; • participation in
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(continued)	the Council should model the actual split-site alternative: • ELC and primary retained in Tobermory; and • secondary provision centrally located. That analysis should include: • existing off-island arrangements; • individual journey-time distributions rather than principally aggregate totals; • the longest journeys; • the number of pupils exceeding meaningful journey-time thresholds; and • a realistic late-transport service. THE INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIRES FURTHER SENSITIVITY TESTING I also have concerns about the transferability of some assumptions in the Integrated Impact Assessment. For example, £1.474 million of the reported
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(continued)	operating costs. A single integrated campus also provides opportunities for sharing staff and specialist accommodation across age groups. However, if affordability remains the principal reason for rejecting the split configuration, I believe that should be presented transparently using current costs and weighed against the educational, equality, transport, demographic and island-community consequences of that configuration. It is particularly important that disadvantages derived from modelling a wholly central 2–18 campus are not treated as disadvantages of the split arrangement where they would not actually arise. The most useful comparison
(continued)	would therefore be between: • the proposal now being consulted upon; and • a clearly specified alternative consisting of retained ELC and primary provision in Tobermory and central secondary provision. That comparison should include the true additional capital and annual operating costs of the split arrangement. QUESTIONS I ASK THE COUNCIL TO ADDRESS Before reaching its final decision, I ask the Council to address the following questions: 1. Which educational benefits identified in the Proposal Paper arise specifically from Tobermory South rather than from constructing modern replacement facilities? 2. How has the Council assessed the

(continued)	substantially different geographical requirements of local ELC and primary provision and island-wide secondary education? 3. How would the transport assessment change if ELC and primary provision remained in Tobermory and secondary provision alone were located centrally, with the existing Ross of Mull journeys to Oban included in the baseline? 4. How has the Council compared the overall impact on children of daily on-island travel with weekly boarding in Oban, including time away from home and family, community participation, extracurricular opportunities, ferry dependence and pupils' own views? 5. What are the median, upper-range and longest
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(continued)	recurring costs, which elements would fall outside LEIP support, and how have those costs been balanced against the wider educational and island-community impacts? CONCLUSION I strongly support replacing the existing Tobermory facilities and making substantial investment in modern education on Mull. However, I am not persuaded that the evidence presented demonstrates that relocating the whole 2–18 establishment to Tobermory South is the most appropriate way to secure those benefits for all of the different age groups and communities affected. For that reason, I do not support the proposal in its present form. My preferred outcome is
(continued)	retention of local ELC and primary provision in Tobermory combined with a new secondary school at an appropriate central location on Mull. I recognise that such a materially different arrangement would involve additional financial challenges and may require further statutory consideration. Nevertheless, the present consultation should genuinely test whether the proposed whole-campus relocation remains justified when consultation evidence is considered. In particular, I do not believe that lower aggregate transport movement should automatically be regarded as a better educational or wellbeing outcome where part of that reduction occurs because
(continued)	children board away from their homes during the school week. I therefore ask the Council, before reaching its final decision, to: • distinguish new-building benefits from location-specific benefits; • reassess material assumptions in an appropriately island-specific context; • include the actual transport and social burden experienced by children, not only vehicle movements and aggregate journey time; and • examine the actual consequences of the split-site alternative rather than relying on conclusions derived from relocating the complete 2–18 campus centrally.
Parent/ carer of child at Tobermory ELC/Primary /Secondary	My main concern is regarding safe walking and cycle routes to the site from Erray Road. If not safe then this will increase vehicles traffic to the site. Specifically address the road that currently has the temporary traffic lights. Could a footpath be created here

Parent/ carer of child at affected primary school (Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Primary School)	The site selected doesn't seem big enough for all of the features that are apparently to be incorporated. Surely with all the space available on Mull, a better location could future-proof and give flexibility, rather than shoe-horning the school in here and compromising on space? I was hoping that there would be space for better sporting facilities for school pupils and the wider community. Would it not make more sense to build a new high school more centrally and leave primary schools and ELC provision as it is? My understanding at the start of the project was that there was an opportunity to provide a central school so that children from
(continued)	the south of the island and Iona wouldn't need to board in Oban. That was what I was in favour of, a facility that would benefit the entire island, and I think the choice of preferred site is wrong. I'm concerned about the concept of shared classroom/flexible teaching space as I'm not sure that's appropriate in a modern school setting. The current high school is in a bad state, one of my children attends, so we need a new high school and its great that there is funding and the opportunity to build something amazing for all of the children that live here on Mull.
Member of the public / community	N/a
Member of the public / community	N/a
Member of the public / community	I feel this is a missed opportunity to include the whole island! Mull does not revolve around Tobermory!
Member of the public / community	Absolutely. Please build the replacement campus we have been promised. The existing buildings are not suitable for purpose and require to be replaced sooner rather than later.I am happy for the new campus to be based in Tobermory.
Member of the public / community	A Tobermory based campus does not meet the needs of the children across Mull. It disadvantages those living south of Craignure. Also the proposed Tobermory site is too restricted in capacity to meet even the local need of pupils. It is quite clear that a centrally based campus is the only logical & educationally acceptable answer for a new school.
Parent of previous children of Oban high school who wanted to stay at home on the Ross of Mull but had NO choice but reside in A hostel away from parents to be educated in Oban.	"Our children, THEIR future, thriving TOGETHER"... your own words, but they are not, the children of the south of the island of Mull are not connected learners and active in "their local and global communities" as you say in your education strategy. The children from South of Lochbuie are not given a CHOICE...they have to board in a different community, deprived of family and a local social life. Surely a duty of care to children on the island out sees saving money building a campus that does not serve all the Island. The decision on the campus is vital for the future of Mull. The decision for a Tobermory campus does not serve a purpose for
(continued)	the island children. I strongly back a central campus as you say "Thriving together"

Grandparent	Our community are not asking for anything that we are not entitled too. A good quality of education, in a building that meets the students and staffs needs. In a location that should fairly accommodate every student on the island of Mull, and surrounding islands. The islands of Uist can accommodate every student, from north and south. In their central campus, whilst all pre-school and primary students, can stay in their local towns and villages for their education. Why is this such a difficult, drawn out task for our island. Why Mull had a proposal of a 2-18 central campus, truly is shocking! That our local authority and education would even
(continued)	consider that proposal. A central campus for high school students only! is what is required. Keeping our primary schools in their villages and towns. Giving the Ross of Mull, the chance of a home life, young adults growing up in their own community. Parents helping their own children with homework and not in a hostel, boarding all week. In this day and age of our young ones dealing with all kinds of life pressures. Leaving home at 11, is and will continue to add upset to young people and their wellbeing. Money is and will always be an issue in projects, but should definitely not be to the detriment for our young people and the future of
(continued)	Mull. I was at the meeting in 2022, where we were asked, 'Do we need a new school?' 4 years on, why is there on going turmoil?? People have been getting paid, for ongoing upset and very wrong decisions being made. As a community we have been given very little information, you ask the students what they invisage their new school to be like? Giving false hope, and ripping the island apart. Heartbreaking, all down to money!! Central high school = Home life and community.
Member of the public / community	I taught at Bunessan Primary for twenty years and the children of the Ross of Mull and Iona so deserve to be taught at a Secondary School in a central site so that there will be no need for them to leave their families to board in Oban. I am 100% behind a Mull Campus for ALL the children on the island. MULL IS NOT JUST TOBERMORY!
Parent/ carer of child at Tobermory ELC/Primary /Secondary	There must be a new high school built centrally for the benefit of the whole island. There must be a primary school remains in Tobermory. This is our opportunity to get it right for every child on Mull
Member of the public / community	The site is too small. The topography is too challenging. The access and parking is inadequate and dangerous. The site does not allow any opportunities for future development or educational changes. It is not good value for money. It deprives half the island's secondary age children the opportunity to be educated on their island. The whole process has been flawed.
Member of the public / community	I am still very disappointed at the treatment of the Ross of Mull on this matter. I have lost alot of faith in Argyll and Bute council that they cannot do what is obviously right for every child on the Island. No I do not agree with the proposed site as I think the only fair way forward is a split site option with early learning facilities in Tobermory and a centrally located secondary school for the whole Island

Member of the public / community	While I do not reside on the island, I think my life experience can help to explain why it is so important to maintain family and community life in those important years of personal development - 12 to 18. The bonds you develop in these years are for your lifetime and taking children away from their families and communities weakens these bonds. I left to complete my education at Oban High School over 50 years ago - very, very few of my contemporaries have returned to the island. The children of the Ross of Mull, who leave the comforts of family and community, aged 11 or 12, have as much right to a family life as the children of secondary age
(continued)	in the community of Tobermory. The whole debate has been skewed by the proposal to make the project a 2 - 18 facility instead of looking at the needs of the whole of Mull.
Member of the public / community	Please forward this submission in full to HMIE. My submission includes images, and therefore I will send this also by email. Please forward to HMIE and publish the emailed version in full. I am a Tobermory resident. I have lived here for 42 years, since the age of 12. I attended Tobermory High School, and for 5th and 6th years boarded in Oban (at the time, Tobermory was a smaller, 'junior' high school). I have two grown-up children who have been educated at Tobermory Primary and High schools. This project was characterised at the outset as aiming to deliver a school "for the whole island". The community were deceived, by having the 'like
(continued)	for like' terms of LEIP funding concealed from them at the outset. "Like for like" makes anything other than a 2-18 campus re-build in Tobermory near-impossible. Families and organisations from the south-west of Mull were led to believe that 'nothing was cast in stone' regarding location. All fair-minded people on Mull hoped (and perhaps assumed) that a school "for the whole island" could only mean one thing – a high school that was accessible to ALL parts of the island (whilst maintaining primary provision in Tobermory). There was broad support from all parts of the island, until it became clear that a central high school was not
(continued)	planned. The council's site selection process was a sham. It was manipulated to deliver the intended outcome. It appears that "a school for the whole island" was an attractive headline for the LEIP application, but once funding was secured it was conveniently forgotten. A scant and unrealistic financial assessment of a 'split site' was discounted by council vote. They rejected it on the recommendation of officers who deemed it too expensive. However, there are many different ways in which catchments and schools could be adjusted on Mull to deliver accessible education affordably, but the council only looked at one narrow option that happened
(continued)	to be the most expensive. The goal from the outset should have been to strategically re-structure education delivery on the island, such that it ends the practice of enforced family separation. Instead, we have a myopic plan that seems to only be looking at the replacement of a set of buildings. If the island is considered as a whole, it is undeniable common-sense fact that placing our only high school in a location that makes it unreachable for a large section of the community is harmful and retrograde, in both social AND educational terms. I wish to add my personal support to the many representations you will have had advocating for a

(continued)	centrally-located high school. Significant educational and community harm will result from re-building the high school in Tobermory as currently planned. In judging that harm, I am considering the entire island, rather than just the town in which I live. I am not alone in being a Tobermory resident who can see beyond the narrow and selfish perceived interests of our town. The council (and other detractors) have attempted to characterise the community as 'split', and give the impression that they are attempting to finely balance the interests of competing groups. In truth, the island is remarkably united on this. You will have heard how Mull
(continued)	Community Council surveyed the entire island and found support for a central high school exceeding 70%. Whilst support is not as strong in Tobermory, there are plenty of fair-minded and considerate people (many of whom have experienced hostel life on the mainland themselves), who wish to see a new high school built centrally that serves the entire island. There is one aspect I wish to concentrate on however, because it may not be addressed by others. You will have heard that the chosen site is too small (smaller in fact, than the minimum size the council themselves advertised when beginning the site search). There is not enough space for a
(continued)	full-sized outdoor pitch. It seems that internal space will allow only for a sports hall that is equivalent to Sport Scotland's "starting point" requirement for a primary school. There is no space for a bus turning circle, and it is uncertain that there will be adequate parking spaces. The site is so rocky and uneven that building costs will be vastly inflated (spending a finite budget on rock removal rather than additional teaching spaces). Some of this is conjecture – because the council have not shared ANY detailed plans. How can anyone be asked to judge the educational benefits of a new school without knowing how many classrooms there
(continued)	will be, and how many subjects can be delivered? It makes a mockery of 'consultation'. What exactly are we being consulted on? So far, we only have vague assurances and a collection of buzzwords. But it is worse – it appears that the council have made efforts to skew the site selection process to a sub-standard plot, even within Tobermory. I attach the council's long list site appraisal document. Several sites were considered in Tobermory. Site 13 is the ultimately chosen site. (confusingly just called 'Tobermory', whilst others are referred to as 'Tobermory South', the name subsequently given to the chosen site). The site that was most
(continued)	obviously the best however, was site 14 Most sites were ruled out reasonably and fairly. But it appears that the assessment of site 13 was positively manipulated, whilst the assessment of site 14 was negatively manipulated. Please see the plans and aerial views at the end of this letter. • The area bounded in red is an area of 7.3 hectares, more than three times the size of the chosen site 13. • The area I have outlined is a naturally contiguous site of pastoral ground, with very moderate gradients. The predominance of bracken (brown in this image) and grass indicates well-drained, soily ground that makes for easy and low-cost development.

(continued)	• There is easy road access from the A848 to the south east, and walking routes from the north. • It is immediately adjacent to site 13, so therefore similarly close to the settlement area. • There are few immediate neighbours, avoiding significant 'neighbour issues' during construction and operation. The concerns about the comparative treatment of the two sites are as follows: • Site 14 is defined by the current ownership boundary. The adjoining area of very easily-developed land has been excluded, seemingly only because they are in separate ownership. However, site 13 has not been so artificially restricted. In fact, it is noted in the
(continued)	report that the ultimately chosen site is not viable unless adjoining land (an apparent 'ransom strip') is also used. Other long-list sites that I have personal knowledge of are also under multiple ownership, yet that has not dictated the site delineation. (eg sites 11 and 12). Why, in the case of site 14, was ownership used to delineate the site boundary, and very large areas of adjoining easily-developed land not brought into consideration? The assessment does not appear to have been even-handed and objective in this critical regard. • Half of site 14 is characterised as "boggy land", when it absolutely is not. I have walked through it and
(continued)	can verify that. But it is also plainly obvious from the aerial view. What the council's report delineates as 'boggy' is covered in bracken and grass. 'Boggy land' does not grow bracken and grass! • As a result of mis-characterising half the plot as 'boggy', the site for development is pushed southwards, into higher rocky ground, where there is "significant level change". This then negatively impacts the civils and transport commentary, noting that there would be hard digging and steep gradients for access. • The mention of 'drainage routes' running across the site as a 'con' is a serious over-stating of the problems they may present. This
(continued)	is a trivial matter in terms of ease of construction and suitability of the site. In my view, it appears that the council have distorted the site selection process in favour of a sub-standard site. Ultimately, this will have negative educational impact. Development costs are being inflated, such that there will be pressure to limit the size and scope of the school that will be built. It may be determined that the council cannot afford to build a full-sized pitch, or cannot afford to build a larger sports hall, or cannot afford to add more teaching space, or perhaps even cannot afford to build the new school at all. These are all very severe
(continued)	and direct educational impacts resulting from a site selection process that appears incompetent at best, and deliberately manipulated at worst. Why would the council be motivated to choose a sub-optimal site? The owner of the main portion (excluding the 'ransom strip') is the local housing association. They have deemed it uneconomic to develop for housing, due to the very challenging site conditions. As I understand it, it is proposed that the site be swapped for the old school, thereby gifting the housing association a more easily-developed site, already benefitting from full services, access and even buildings that can be converted. That
(continued)	may have a benefit in terms of the provision of affordable housing – but if that is shaping the site selection, it should be clear and open. If there is a housing 'gain', then that should be publicly and fairly balanced by the educational dis-benefits of the chosen site. And to be clear – the educational disbenefits of site 13 compared with the alternative Tobermory site are very significant. It is very difficult to conclude that the council have fairly and objectively selected the best site within Tobermory. So, whilst I strongly believe that the best and most equitable site for a new high school is in the centre of the island, I have equal

(continued)	concern that should the school ultimately be built in Tobermory, it will be very significantly compromised. The entire viability of a new school is being jeopardised by the apparent attempt to manipulate site selection in favour of a housing association. That objective is being hidden from the community and is absent from the comparative assessment. I urge HMIE to reject the council's chosen site on two grounds – 1. The educational harm that will be caused to communities in the south-west of the island resulting from re-building in Tobermory. 2. Should the school ultimately be built in Tobermory, the educational harm that will result from
(continued)	the selection of a compromised site. With thanks for your consideration,
Parent/ carer of child at affected primary school (Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Primary School)	The children and parents affected by these decisions are not being listened to. Craignure is a central location for most of the children living on the island. It seems the powers swaying these decisions have their own agenda, most of the people in agreement with Tobermory campus have no children of their own who will be affected. They do however have business interests they are protecting, sacrificing posterity for profits.
Member of the public / community	I cannot understand that the officers and councillors of this Council who are there to act in the best interests of all residents of this island, can totally ignore the wellbeing and education of a large proportion of the children of this island by insisting that the correct location for a replacement high school is in Tobermory. It is obvious to anyone with a grain of common sense, and integrity that to exclude a large number of children from a Mull High School is downright wrong. The offer of the Craignure site has NOT been properly assessed and honestly evaluated by the said officers and councillors. It is apparent that no consideration
(continued)	for the welfare of the southern eg Ross of Mull children has been taken into account. The requirement for the children to leave home at a very early time on a Monday to catch a ferry at 8.00 am,... for a ferry crossing of an hour, (so now into over 2 hours travelling) to then be compelled to stay away from home for the next 4 nights, missing the last lesson on a Friday evening to undertake the return journey home and be able then to undertake effective education is outrageous when there is an opportunity to give them a decent education here on the island. You have received many representations from these residents (the people for whom you
(continued)	act) as to why the Craignure site is vastly superior, and indeed is also superior also for the Tobermory (and surrounding catchment area) children.
Member of the public / community	Growing up on the Ross of Mull I experienced first hand the disruption caused to family and community life by having to board away from home during my school years. It is a well known fact that separation from parents during the critical years of adolescence can have extremely detrimental effects on the development of a child's ability to maintain a healthy balance of both social and family life integration. This is why it is crucial that every child and family should have options to school either from home or 'away' (boarding). Hence, I object strongly to plans to keep the current high school options as they are with no choice for access to

(continued)	schooling from the family home for residents of the Ross of Mull and Iona. I am sure you will already have plenty of feedback regarding the suitability of the site however I will the following as a matter of course: The proposed site in Tobermory is smaller than the minimum recommended size and would be considerably more expensive to than other available options due to the nature of the site on a steep rocky slope. This is the practical consideration for the construction purposes. It should not be preferred on the basis of what is practical or lucrative for residents of Tobermory only. I strongly disagree with the proposal on this
(continued)	ground. I also disagree with the proposal because it would not serve the population of the surrounding area which should also be considered - the residents of the rest of the Isle of Mull - as well as it could if it was located in a more central location on the island. I understand that a perfectly ideal site in Craignure had been offered as a gift which would be able to serve the entire island. So why use a less than ideal site in a location that would only serve Tobermory and the surrounding area? This is a once in a generation opportunity to improve schooling options on the Isle of Mull for all of the children and families here. Let us
(continued)	not miss it. Thank You for listening, and I hope we will make decisions that include the far sight of Wisdom and not just short sighted intellect!
Member of the public / community	N/a
Member of the public/ community	The Tobermory South site is quite obviously unsuitable for the proposed campus - it does not even meet Argyll & Bute Council's own criteria regarding size.There is therefore no room for a full size sports pitch, and it seems the accommodation for secondary pupils will actually be reduced in comparison to that at Tobermory High School. There is also no capacity for safe vehicle drop-off. Furthermore there are concerns about building on the site - West Highland Housing Association has owned it for a number of years and requested quotes for building housing - if these had been acceptable, surely they would have built on the site by now? I am
(continued)	also objecting as a resident of the Ross of Mull - I was categorically told at the initial 'engagement meeting' regarding the Mull Campus, that it would also offer me adult education. I cannot access this if the classes are held 56 miles away - a drive on our single track roads of just under 2 hours. Finally, an alternative site in Craignure has been offered free of charge - this site is in all aspects regarding the build superior, and lies within walking distance of the Community Swimming Pool and a short bus ride from the Rugby Club pitch, where plans are underway to also build an Indoor Sports Hall. The site is also within walking distance
(continued)	of the main ferry Craignure-Oban, facilitating links to Oban High School in terms of teachers coming over for the day or older students going across for classes, thus increasing the range of subjects available. Not to mention the fact that building a Mull Campus in Craignure would mean pupils from the Ross of Mull would no longer need to board in Oban during the week, saving the Council money as well as giving those families the family life they deserve and breathing life into our community here in the Ross of Mull. Why is that site not being considered?

Member of the public / community	I strongly believe the ELC and Primary School should remain in Tobermory and that the new High School S1 - S6 should be located centrally allowing every secondary age child the right to education on the island. We have one opportunity to make this happen and change the lives of our young people.
Member of the public / community	The secondary high school should be situated centrally to allow all island children access to a secondary education on the island. The ELC and Primary School should remain in Tobermory as all primary children have the right to be educated close to home. One island, one secondary school centrally.
Ex member of staff for 33 years wh has had experience in teaching in primary and secondary in all schools on the island	A split campus is absolutely the best option in this day and age. Secondary school situated in the Craignure area therefore allowing all island pupils to attend. You have been offered land for free and services to the site in this central area. Near swimming pool near the rugby complex plenty space. Close to the ferry where staff could travel from the mainland. Room for a full size playing field. Yet the proposed site in Tobermory is inadequate unsuitable and small.
Former Mull resident	As a former pupil of Lochdonhead Primary and Iban High School, I suffered the trauma of being relocated to Kilbowie hostel to attend Oban High School. The current proposals do not address the issues of the Mull community as a whole and the campus needs to in a location that all pupils can attend and return home in an evening
Parent/ carer of child at Tobermory ELC/Primary /Secondary	I do not agree that the proposal should be considered as a 2-18 campus as it makes it an impossible choice for residents of Tobermory, like me, who understand the need of a Primary School and ELC in Tobermory but also believe that the High School should be available for all the children on Mull and surrounding islands. Therefore, I disagree with the proposal site as it does not allow for all children on Mull to continue the secondary education on the island and be able to return home every night to their family. I understand the desire to use this site as it is significantly smaller than the other sites that were proposed resulting in a
(continued)	smaller campus, a reduced sized sports hall and outdoor sport facility then ultimately a cost reduction. As this is a multi-generational investment in the education for the island the this is falling short of what we need and giving us second best. Having attended Tobermory High School I was lucky to have the privilege of travelling to play on full sized basketball courts at Portree High School on Skye, the Nicolson Institute on Lewis and Islay High School in Bowmore and was amazed by their full size sports hall and it left me feeling disappointed by disadvantages we had caused by the facilities we had on Mull. Therefore, the claim "the new
(continued)	campus will include new sports facilities which will significantly enhance opportunities for Physical Education and related activities" is a bit misleading as it does not allow the children of Mull access to the same facilities as other islands or surrounding High Schools like Oban and Ardnamurchan. The new campus should have first class, full sized sports facilities to allow our children the same sport, health and well being opportunities as children do in other High Schools in Argyll and Bute, not a second class option to suit a budget.

Member of staff	Please forward this submission in full to HMIe. In summary, I cannot agree with the Council's proposal to build a new 2-18 campus at the Tobermory South site because 1. I believe that the cost of building on this problematic site will mean there are compromises on the quality of education provided. 2. I believe that the education of all Mull secondary age pupils would be much better served at a central, six year secondary school which could be attended by the children from the Ross of Mull. I am writing as a former headteacher of Tobermory High School (1995 to 2011) who was invited by HMIe to serve on secondary school inspections as an
(continued)	Associate Assessor, 2000 to 2010 and who, in 2009, was asked to deliver a presentation at an HMIe / Learning and Teaching Scotland conference on Learning Together in All Through (3-18) Schools in November 2009. I live in Tobermory and I continue to be actively involved in supporting young people by volunteering with Home Start and as a Befriender. 1. You will have read detailed submissions from others describing the problems with the Tobermory South site and its selection. I am going to focus on practical issues. 1.1 I have real concerns about the lack of space for safe vehicle and pedestrian access. At the public meeting on 19th September,
(continued)	we were told a "layby" would be provided. We were told that this site would provide a "safe walking route" and more people could walk to school. Both of those responses were inadequate. The lack of proper plans means the Council risks repeating the current chaotic arrangements at Tobermory High, but this time on an A road, just yards from a 30mph sign. All pedestrians would have to cross the A848 to access the school. For the majority of Tobermory folk, travel to the A road would involve walking along a section of road with no pavement (Breadalbane Street), through a traffic light controlled one-way section to a junction. There they would
(continued)	have to cross a narrow bridge with a very narrow strip of pavement at one side. Then they would negotiate a roundabout on the road which carries traffic to the Main Street, with no pedestrian crossing. I fail to see how that is manageable for a parent with a child in a buggy, another under 5yr old whose hand needs to be held and perhaps a third young primary pupil. The result would be a replication of the current situation, where parents must make the safer choice to drive their children to school. Hence the layby would have not only 3 school buses waiting, but also parents parking cars and juggling the drop off or pick up of children as
(continued)	young as 2 years old plus older siblings, leaving school at different times of the day. The Tobermory South site simply does not have enough space to do better. 1.2 There is a worrying lack of transparency about the proposed accommodation for learning and teaching. At the public meeting on 19th September, we were repeatedly told "we don't know" or "there are no firm proposals yet" when asked about the number of classrooms, specialised areas such as Science laboratories and sporting facilities. In fact, as FOI responses reveal, several options have been discussed: how could the Council estimate building costs without doing so? We were told
(continued)	that we simply had to take it on trust that the Education Officers' expertise would guide the planning. Given that the Council's proposal paper cites, for example "a" laboratory rather than the 3 currently in use, this was not reassuring. What is clear is that the sporting facilities do not meet Sport Scotland recommendations, with a gym which is the minimum for primary schools and an outdoor pitch which is not full size. Once again, the Tobermory South site simply does not have enough space to do better. At a previous meeting, two years ago, a Council officer told me there would be fewer secondary classrooms and more "flexible" arrangements

(continued)	with room divisions and this was repeated in the proposal paper. But previous experience with open plan classrooms indicates that the acoustics are likely to be problematic. I am left unconvinced that these proposals will improve the education of pupils. 1.3 Although the proposal asserts that the new campus facilities could be used to "help meet the learning, leisure and social needs of the children and young people in the community", the site restricts options. Our new school must be future proofed. On this cramped site, how could additional space be created to meet the future needs of the community for example, for the provision of wrap
(continued)	around daycare which is desperately needed to support working parents of young families on Mull? 1.4 I was shocked to read, in paragraph 5 of the proposals, that a predicted rise in house prices in Tobermory is seen as a benefit. Quite apart from the question of appropriateness, I fail to see how this would be of any benefit to the school. It is already difficult to recruit and retain staff because of a lack of affordable housing for rent or for sale in Tobermory. An increase in house prices could only make this worse. 2. There will always be a need for an ELC and primary school in Tobermory, the largest centre of population on the island.
(continued)	However, the majority of secondary pupils travel in by bus every day; some of them, from Lochbuie, with journeys up to 4 hours. Their education needs, and those of children in the Ross of Mull whose right to a full family life, defined by UNCRC and enacted in Scottish law, would be much better met by a centrally sited six year secondary school. A larger, more workable site is available at Craignure, where 90 new houses are planned. 2.1 The Ross of Mull children would boost the school roll, entitling the school to more teaching staff and thereby possibly expanding the range of subjects on offer. 2.2 Expanded Gaelic medium provision would
(continued)	broaden and foster bilingual development into the teenage years. Dr Alasdair Whyte, a former Tobermory pupil now a lecturer in Celtic and Gaelic at Glasgow University, has written a paper on this which I would be happy to forward to you. 2.3 A secondary school at Craignure would have easy access to a swimming pool and to transport links which would make it easier for guest speakers, peripatetic (and other) teachers and sport teams to visit the island - as well as for youngsters to visit the mainland. There could be real sporting, social, cultural, all-round education benefits. Finally, this is a crucial time for Mull. It is time to reverse
(continued)	an unsatisfactory historical decision on secondary education which contravenes all youngsters' right to full family life, which splits the island and which damages growth. The Scottish Government and Argyll and Bute Council has the opportunity to not only improve education facilities but also contribute to the growth of community cohesion and economic sustainability. Hence, I do not approve of the Council's proposals for a new campus at Tobermory South.
Former Hostel Pupil	Objection to the Tobermory Campus Proposal: Response from a Former Hostel Pupil 1. Introduction As a former hostel pupil (1993–1999), I am writing to strongly object to the proposal to maintain the secondary school footprint exclusively in Tobermory. I do so as someone who lived the very reality this proposal seeks to cement into the future of the island for generations to come. I was one of the children from the south of the island forced to board at a hostel in Oban at just 12 years old; some children were only 11. Out of a primary class of eight pupils, only five of us went on to Oban High School, a drop-off I am certain was due to the

(continued)	school and hostel setup. I know firsthand the profound familial, emotional, and educational impacts of this system. I wish to state clearly from the outset that I only support a split-campus model that establishes secondary provision at a central location on Mull. While I believe Tobermory needs to keep its primary school, a more centrally located high school for the island will benefit everyone in the long term. 2. Educational and Personal Cost The council's proposal prioritises administrative convenience and finances over the well-being of children. My own experience, alongside witnessing the lives of others, proves that separating a
(continued)	12-year-old from their parents does not build healthy resilience. Instead, it causes homesickness, overwhelm, and anxiety, as children are suddenly uprooted from a small, rural primary school and placed into a large town secondary school without daily support from their families. In my case, this environment manifested as rebelliousness and a lack of academic attainment, ultimately leading to hyper-independence in adulthood. Without daily parental guidance and a stable home environment, the risk of rebellion is incredibly high as is the risk of bullying which is certainly something I witnessed and seriously affected some peoples lives. This
(continued)	system does not just impact children at the time; it has a rippling effect throughout families. My parents separated when I was young. Later, my dad, stepmother, and younger sister moved away from the island entirely when she finished primary school, solely because they refused to let her live away from home during the week. My own mother, stepfather, uncle, and aunt also experienced this same passage through life, and I have listened firsthand to the lasting effects it had on them. These are not abstract concerns; they represent a multi-generational history that has affected island families for decades. While I have worked hard to forge a
(continued)	good life since, it is my firm belief that children from South Mull should not have to merely survive their education. They should be supported to achieve through it, by being given the choice to live at home. 3. Half a Life A child required to board on the mainland is forced to live half a life in Oban and half a life on Mull. This fractured existence deeply affects a child's sense of belonging, identity, and connection to their community. It directly violates the core principles of the Scottish Government's Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) guidelines, which state that children should grow up safe, healthy, and nurtured within their
(continued)	families and communities. 4. Challenging the Council's Economic Priorities There are many instances where decisions are economically difficult, yet communities accept them because they serve a higher moral purpose or the greater good. The council's £3.1 million economic argument turns this principle on its head. This is not an economic sacrifice for the greater good; it is the deliberate sacrifice of children's well-being to balance an administrative sheet. A model that measures the cost of bus fuel and shared brick-and-mortar facilities, but places a £0 value on a child's mental health—and the long-term economic productivity lost when a

(continued)	young person disengages from education—is morally and structurally flawed. 5. Demographics and the Democratic Process I respect the arguments and voices of the people whose children will be directly impacted, many of whom have not experienced hostel education themselves. While they may not see the wider, island-wide picture—and though change is always difficult—this decision impacts the entire community. Given that fewer than 40% of pupils actually live within Tobermory itself—meaning the vast majority of the island's children are already reliant on school buses—the council's "84% catchment" statistic is highly misleading. In light of this
(continued)	hidden disparity and the deeply divisive nature of the issue, the council must urgently put this decision to a democratic vote of the entire island, rather than forcing a flawed proposal through on a technicality. 6. Conclusion An educational strategy that requires children from one half of an island to sacrifice their family lives and educational attainment to subsidise the infrastructure of the other half is discriminatory and outdated. The split-site model—keeping primary provision local while creating a central secondary school accessible to all—is the only viable, ethical solution. It ensures every child on Mull can sleep in their own
(continued)	bed at night. This short-sighted decision will have a profound, long-term impact on the future of the island and its youth. What I see is a decision-making process that amounts to systemic, bureaucratic child abuse, perpetrated by a council that is clearly failing to deliver on its primary purpose: representing the true interests of its community.
Parent/ carer of child at Tobermory ELC/Primary /Secondary, Parent/ carer of child at affected primary school (Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Primary School), Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Parent Council	On behalf of Salen Primary School Bun Sgoil an t-Sailean Parent Council Argyll and Bute Council have not been able to demonstrate that the proposed site would be able to accommodate “considerably improved Education accommodation” as asserted in the Proposal Paper. At the public meeting on 17th September 2026 council officials were unable to confirm that the proposed site would be able to accommodate the same number of classrooms as the existing location. Officials did however state that the capacity of the new school would be less than the existing school. Relocation to the proposed site would represent a reduction in education capacity on
(continued)	the island. This would have negative implications both for educational opportunities for children on the island and the island’s future growth. All the more so when considering that the facilities which could be provided on the proposed site are fall short of those provided in other island catchments of a similar size, such as the catchment of the Sir E Scott 2-18 School in Tarbet, Isle of Harris. The catchment for Salen Primary School’s Gaelic Medium Education stream covers much of the island including Tobermory itself. Neither the Consultation Proposal Paper nor council officials at the 17th September public meeting demonstrated how safe

(continued)	access to the proposed site would be provided. Safety includes both road safety and security from crime. The location of the proposed site will concentrate pedestrian, cycling and bus access along the A484 main road, a 30 mile an hour trunk route and principal access to Tobermory lined with industrial and out-of-town retail land uses. At present pupils' routes to the existing site, whether from home or a bus stop, are distributed amongst residential roads with a 20 mile an hour speed limit. Residential roads offer passive surveillance not available along the route to the proposed site. The Proposal will significantly increase pupils'
(continued)	vulnerability to both crime and physical harm on their journeys to and from school. Salen Primary School Bun Sgoil an t-Sailean Parent Council
Parent/ carer of child at affected primary school (Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Primary School)	I have grave misgivings about the circumstances which led to the plot known as Tobermory South being declared the council's preferred option. I attended the recent public meeting in Tobermory but was not only did I leave unenlightened, but freshly aggrieved at the attempts of the officials to corral the conversation within terms they were comfortable with and stymie or obfuscate everything else. Known reasons for this plan to be objectionable include (but are not limited to) •no access to site for school buses • lack of comparable sports facilities to those available at current school • unresolved geological conundrums rendering cost analysis
(continued)	of site preparation purely speculative • scale of site making it undeniable that compromises will have to be made in terms of numbers of classrooms and size of classrooms • absolute unavailability of space for expansion upon site in future • with children based at this campus there may not be any use made of sports infrastructure (both existing and projected, which is to say the full size pitches and indoor sports hall) at Garmony • Forging ahead with this scheme willfully ignores (at best) the clarification which has been given by Scottish Government about provision of LEIP funding if the proposed new building is not "like for like". It
(continued)	therefore ignores the elephant in the room of assessing other sites on the island which could potentially be more efficient in terms of both money and time, not to mention educational outcomes for all children on the island. At the meeting I asked how many stakeholders the council was dealing with at Tobermory South. I had once been led to believe that it was owned in entirety by ACHA. This was sold as being a boon, because the sale would be between two agencies operating not for profit but for public good. It has come to light that there are multiple stakeholders, and there are what can only be described as ransom strips. I asked whether ABC
(continued)	had sought to learn whether these private landowners were amenable to a prospective sale before declaring the site the preferred option. The reply was that chartered surveyors would value the site according to the market, and that it wasn't unusual in large projects to interact with multiple stakeholders. This amounted to avoidance in revealing how many stakeholders there are, or whether they had indicated agreement in principle to sell. It is a lazy conceit on the part of the council to presume that they have "tools at their disposal" such as arbitration or procession to compulsory purchase. It needn't be popular locally, but private
(continued)	landowners have the right to resist such measures if they wish, and in such circumstances the process will drag on for years and cost millions. The assertion at the public meeting that the new school will be open in early 2030 is a busted flush before the project has even been greenlit. Nobody should assume that ABC would prevail in compulsory purchase just because the project is for "public good"; when the Gaelic medium unit was first proposed at Salen Primary School the proposal was to build a standalone structure in the field adjacent to the existing campus which was to be secured by compulsory purchase. In that instance the landowner

(continued)	prevailed in the ensuing legal procedures and the new pre5 units for both English and Gaelic, and the Gaelic medium primary school were shoehorned into the existing old building. The net effect has been to diminish learning outcomes for everyone, despite the best efforts of hard working resourceful staff. This is a cautionary tale of overloading a site which is challenged by insufficient scale and bedeviled by presumptions about securing land. I still demand to know how many stakeholders are involved in securing Tobermory South and whether arbitration or compulsory purchase will be involved. Regarding ABC's relationship with these
(continued)	stakeholders (or associated parties with limited degrees of separation) has any money changed hands to date, or been promised? It was repeatedly asked at the meeting whether there was a plan B, and the only answer forthcoming was that without LEIP money the council could not afford to build a new school. This amounted to both avoidance and scaremongering. The clarification offered by Scottish Government indicates that the LEIP money is not hogtied to the Tobermory South proposal, so safely assuming the chance of funding is still there, what is the plan if this preferred site is actually a non-starter by any and all pragmatic assessments? I
(continued)	categorically do not support the council bulling on with development of this project on this site given the multiplicity of unknowns, not to mention the shocking knowns, just because they have crossed a psychological Rubicon in declaring the site "preferred". If it is a pig in a poke they must do better for the community they represent, whose taxes they spend.
Parent/ carer of child at affected primary school (Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Primary School)	Missed Opportunities in this proposal. To secure funding that allowed an improvement to education on Mull for all children. The support for the LEIP application was secured from everyone under the false pretence this school was for all children. The wording in the LEIP application described a school for the “whole island”. It is troubling that the council ruled out anything other than a 2-18 campus in December 24 before even completing the island impact assessment to understand the consequences of that decision. The opportunity to work with the community to make a split campus and its associated costs affordable has been missed. No
(continued)	out-of-the box thinking was used to look at revenue generation, compromises, or even how the wider school estate could be adjusted to allow for it. To refuse and not properly assess the offer of free land at Craignure. This offer was explicitly clear that a sharing of infrastructure costs for the school with an adjacent housing development of over 90 houses meant savings for both projects. Not only was this offer ignored but it was misrepresented in council chambers by Douglas Hendry that it was not free as it came with strings attached, which was misleading to councillors voting on the site selection. Not including full-size sports
(continued)	facilities in the current proposals as far as they have been released. There are no full-size pitches easily reachable for children to practise meaning they are disadvantaged when competing against mainland sports teams who do have full-size facilities. I am also concerned to hear that potentially indoor sports hall facilities do not meet the advised size from Sports Scotland for a secondary school. The current proposal does not allow for growth of population on the island, instead reinforcing inequalities which will continue to diminish the southwest of the island. A central location chosen for the high school would immediately have a bigger

(continued)	school roll and encourage families to settle all over the island allowing that roll to grow. The current site selected makes it difficult or almost impossible for visiting teachers to come, whether they be experts or relief teachers. The location at Tobermory South also makes a better connection to the mainland more difficult due to travel times. A site at Craignure would allow students to attend after school activities in Oban. Lack of outdoor learning facility. From the current sketches and documents released there appears to be a lack of outdoor learning space. Paths around some flower beds do not constitute outdoor learning according to
(continued)	teachers I have spoken with. I also am concerned about talk of flexible classrooms. There is currently an issue with concentration in Salen primary in spaces where classes are open to circulation. Having spoken to several teachers and headteachers the idea that subjects will have no fixed classroom space is deeply worrying. Not allowing for materials, displays etc and making teachers homeless nomads who must carry all materials about rather than store them in a fixed subject space. I would also like assurance that there will be adequate parking on site for teachers, visitors, parents. Especially when there are events to prevent the main road
(continued)	being clogged with cars. Concerns There is no published Plan B from the council which leads me to believe that if investigations into the site at Tobermory South aren't successful the council will default to the proposed renovation of the existing school which they put before councillors in February 2024. Let me be completely clear, I helped in the campaign to avoid that renovation, and the current dilapidated buildings will not deliver a facility fit for purpose. These buildings have been described as "beyond renovation" by councillors, officers, and contractors in the past. Councillors have already unanimously voted against a renovation; we
(continued)	had better not see a repeat of that suggestion. The level of secrecy this project has operated under. For example, ahead of asking the community bodies to input into the island impact assessment less than half a page was produced to describe the project when people pleaded for more information. Only a few weeks later when the site selection was released hundreds of pages of varying reports were released as part of the process. Why was none of this available to allow meaningful input to the impact assessment? Again we have had the public consultation meeting held in Tobermory on the 17th September where no questions were answered on the size
(continued)	or design of the school. We were told details were still undecided, but FOIs had secured lots of working documents with floorplans and classroom numbers. Again, why could no working information be shared with the community to allow them to give meaningful feedback in consultation? I have real concerns over the viability of Tobermory South to accommodate a school development of this size. West Highland Housing Association have owned the largest part of the land for almost twenty years which they purchased with government money. They have been unable to develop it for affordable housing. Neighbouring projects have run into significant delays
(continued)	and costs due to the geology of the area. The 388-page geology report produced for the site selection highlighted concerns that the site is too small and difficult to develop and suggests Craignure is a much cheaper and suitable site. The sloping of the site makes accessibility difficult meaning ramps and lifts will be needed. They take up additional space on a site that is already too small (2.1 hectares when the site selection criteria requested 2.3). The lifts will require ongoing maintenance and probably 6 monthly servicing. What happens to disabled children, teachers and visitors in the event of a fire? There are concerns the drop off

(continued)	situation will lead to congestion and children having to cross a busy road behind buses as the current proposal does not have space for buses to turn onto the site and will have children dropped in a layby on the road. There is also a worry about the current situation for children walking to the proposed school. A big deal was made in the site selection report of children in Tobermory being able to walk to school, this did not consider the situation on Breadalbane Street where there is no pavement, the narrow bridge onto the roundabout which does not have sufficient space for parents to walk hand in hand with children or push large
(continued)	wheelchairs. I have seen no information or ambition to include wraparound childcare. With the Scottish government manifesto commitment to provide nursery care for every child from nine months, how will this happen on Mull? There is currently no nursery care on the island, and one parent currently cannot work for the first three years of a child's life. This is crippling the local economy and makes it harder for businesses to recruit. I am concerned that even when narrowing the objective of this project from Mull Campus project to Tobermory Campus project, no attempt has been made to mitigate the travel times of those in the far southern
(continued)	reaches of the catchment. Children from Lochbuie have a 3.5-hour daily commute. This school isn't even in the middle of its own catchment area and if you drew a circle around the current school in the far northeast three quarters of that catchment area is in the sea. I also have concerns about school children having to share buses with the public. This opens the possibility of issues or clashes with any member of the public and there is no chaperone for these children on the bus either. I also have concerns over the supposed benefits of a 2-18 campus. How will these benefits improve prospects for children in the other four feeder schools,
(continued)	Salen, Dervaig, Ulva, and Lochdonhead? I also have concerns over the incorporation of swimming lessons into the curriculum, does this happen currently? How much time is wasted in the school day bussing children to the pool in Craignure and back? It would be a huge loss to all children not to use the islands pool for teaching. My largest concern is how the proposed project is compliant with the UNCRC laws on children's right to a family life. As new funding has been awarded from the Scottish government this should be applied equitably for all children and look to progressively realise the rights of children that are already compromised having
(continued)	to live away from home. The council and Scottish government refuse to publish their advice to give the community assurance they have adequately considered this. Our independent advice from one of the world's leading experts on human rights and the rights of children (Professor Katie Boyle) says they currently are not meeting legal obligations. How do Argyll and Bute and Scottish Government plan to deal with any legal case that may arise from any affected child up to the age of 18 who decides to test the human rights law on this matter? We have been assured the human rights commission are keen to intervene if a case arises. This risk is
(continued)	ongoing if children are separated from their families to board in Oban. I am hugely disappointed in the lack of accountability during this process of key officials in Argyll and Bute Council. Our ward councillor Jim Lynch has refused all community meetings including those from Mull Community Council. The council refused Jenni Minto MSP's request of round table talks before the judicial review was submitted. No attempt was made by the council to try to avoid any legal action, and subsequently public money was wasted fighting a community instead of listening and working with them. I see any councillor dissenting from the officers' decisions in

(continued)	this process ostracised whilst pliable councillors or “yes men” are promoted in their place. I have seen many responses for councillors written by officers who are tightly controlling the narrative. I witnessed firsthand Douglas Hendry winking at Councillor Ross Moreland after a particularly stressful meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Education at Holyrood where we were supposed to be discussing constructive ways forward but instead were met with, there will be no change to this process or compromise. This council is entrenched in its position and cannot find a way to benefit all children on Mull. They are not open in their communication
(continued)	with community; they do not work in a collaborative way. Speaking to the community is seen as a “useless formality” (their own defence in the court case). They seem happier fighting with this community instead of delivering what over 70% of the community surveyed have asked for. This project from my experience is a total Boondoggle. I fail to see how this council truly intends to deliver a new school? I feel we have all been manipulated to tick boxes and that officer’s Plan B, which they won’t publicly tell us, is a disastrous renovation of a wreck of a school, which they’ve neglected for decades. In February 24 there was no plan for
(continued)	relocating all children if this did go ahead. Mull is out of site and out of mind again and our children will be shortchanged once more. The disaster of a renovation at Salen Primary shows us that this council cannot deliver what is needed for children on this island. On a smaller note, I am disappointed this consultation closes at 5pm on a Friday. This is not helpful for working parents when I am sure no one is looking at any responses until next week.
Parent/ carer of child at affected primary school (Dervaig, Lochdonhead, Salen, Ulva Primary School)	I have grave misgivings about the circumstances which led to the plot known as Tobermory South being declared the council's preferred option. I attended the recent public meeting in Tobermory but was not only did I leave unenlightened, but freshly aggrieved at the attempts of the officials to corral the conversation within terms they were comfortable with and stymie or obfuscate everything else. Known reasons for this plan to be objectionable include (but are not limited to) •no access to site for school buses • lack of comparable sports facilities to those available at current school • unresolved geological conundrums rendering cost analysis
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(continued)	therefore ignores the elephant in the room of assessing other sites on the island which could potentially be more efficient in terms of both money and time, not to mention educational outcomes for all children on the island. At the meeting I asked how many stakeholders the council was dealing with at Tobermory South. I had once been led to believe that it was owned in entirety by ACHA. This was sold as being a boon, because the sale would be between two agencies operating not for profit but for public good. It has come to light that there are multiple stakeholders, and there are what can only be described as ransom strips. I asked whether ABC

(continued)	had sought to learn whether these private landowners were amenable to a prospective sale before declaring the site the preferred option. The reply was that chartered surveyors would value the site according to the market, and that it wasn't unusual in large projects to interact with multiple stakeholders. This amounted to avoidance in revealing how many stakeholders there are, or whether they had indicated agreement in principle to sell. It is a lazy conceit on the part of the council to presume that they have "tools at their disposal" such as arbitration or procession to compulsory purchase. It needn't be popular locally, but private
(continued)	landowners have the right to resist such measures if they wish, and in such circumstances the process will drag on for years and cost millions. The assertion at the public meeting that the new school will be open in early 2030 is a busted flush before the project has even been greenlit. Nobody should assume that ABC would prevail in compulsory purchase just because the project is for "public good"; when the Gaelic medium unit was first proposed at Salen Primary School the proposal was to build a standalone structure in the field adjacent to the existing campus which was to be secured by compulsory purchase. In that instance the landowner
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(continued)	stakeholders (or associated parties with limited degrees of separation) has any money changed hands to date, or been promised? It was repeatedly asked at the meeting whether there was a plan B, and the only answer forthcoming was that without LEIP money the council could not afford to build a new school. This amounted to both avoidance and scaremongering. The clarification offered by Scottish Government indicates that the LEIP money is not hogtied to the Tobermory South proposal, so safely assuming the chance of funding is still there, what is the plan if this preferred site is actually a non-starter by any and all pragmatic assessments? I
(continued)	categorically do not support the council bulling on with development of this project on this site given the multiplicity of unknowns, not to mention the shocking knowns, just because they have crossed a psychological Rubicon in declaring the site "preferred". If it is a pig in a poke they must do better for the community they represent, whose taxes they spend.
Mull Community Council	Mull Community Council are concerned that the proposed Tobermory Campus does not meet the needs of all young people in Mull. Below are our concerns with the process and the plans as presented. • Elements of the statutory consultation process have been flawed. It was unclear whether the wider community would be allowed to participate in the public meeting on the 17th September 2026, or if participation was limited to those in the current catchment area. Effectively, the narrow interpretation of the statutory consultation rules led to a section of the community being omitted from the process. • The inadequate size of the selected site

(continued)	means drop off provision will be restricted to a lay-by. This is not fit for purpose, and we have grave concerns over the children's safety. Many of the local children walking to school will need to cross a single-track bridge with a narrow pavement on one side. All children will need to cross the main road to access the school. We are concerned that the unsafe access will encourage parents to drive their children to school, which will exacerbate the situation. Poor weather will also increase the risks for children walking and being dropped off. • The incline on the site will mean lifts and/or ramps will be required to allow proper
(continued)	access for all. As well as the cost to fit and maintain these systems, there will be inevitable breakdowns. There are concerns as to what would happen in a fire, when they should not be used. • The preferred site has been described as "tight" by the council. Any new campus must have room for expansion as the population grows. With the increase in home working, people are finding it easier to stay, move or return here. Community organisations in Mull are all working tirelessly with the council to increase the working age population. One element of this is the provision of wrap around childcare. This must be taken into consideration in a
(continued)	new campus design and space should be assigned accordingly. This site is not future proofed. • The sports provision at the proposed site is inadequate. There will be no room for a full-size pitch, and the indoor hall is said to be the size recommended by Sports Scotland for a primary school. • We understand flexible classroom divisions will be incorporated. Anything other than a proper wall does not give the sound proofing required to allow students to focus on the lesson. Open plan classrooms proved to have issues when used in Tobermory primary in the past. Members of MCC remember distraction issues with this design in their own primary
(continued)	school days. • At the consultation meeting, details on teaching and learning provision could not be given. The community cannot decide based on poor information. The entire Mull Campus process carried out by Argyll and Bute Council concerns us greatly. We understand a political decision to reject a split site option was taken before the relevant impact assessments were completed. The elected members of the council were pushed into accepting the decision before they had all the information required to make that decision. The current process appears to have moved away from the island-wide approach taken in the original Integrated Impact
(continued)	Assessment undertaken by Stantec on behalf of the council. The Stantec assessment considered the impacts across Mull and the surrounding islands and recorded the different needs of communities across the island. This included the strong desire for a central high school serving Mull, alongside the desire to retain primary and early years provision within Tobermory. It recognised that no option would provide an equal solution for all children and young people and that the consequences for different communities required careful consideration. This makes the apparent narrowing of the current assessment particularly concerning. The Council's

(continued)	September 2026 project update states that the updated Integrated Islands Assessment being prepared for the Outline Business Case will assess impacts on communities "within the Tobermory Campus Catchment Area." We would ask why the assessment of impacts has apparently narrowed from an island-wide consideration of Mull and the surrounding islands to the existing Tobermory catchment when the consequences of the location of secondary education extend considerably beyond that catchment. This is particularly important for communities in the Ross of Mull, whose young people currently leave their communities to access secondary education. Their
(continued)	experiences and the impacts of geography, travel and living away from home should not disappear from consideration simply because they fall outside the existing Tobermory catchment. It should be noted that children from out-lying areas in Mull already travel a long distance to the current high school. Children in Lochbuie, for example, are collected at 7.10 am for the 35-mile journey to Tobermory. A central school would allow children from the furthest reaches of the Ross of Mull to travel the same distance on better roads, in a shorter time. Stantec also recommended an ongoing rather than one-off approach to impact assessment. The
(continued)	assessment recommended that impact assessments should be updated iteratively as the project developed, with continued community involvement, and that children, young people and communities should remain closely involved in shaping the campus. The recommendations extended beyond the school building itself and recognised the importance of the campus to the wider community, including community facilities and services, extracurricular opportunities, breakfast clubs and wraparound childcare. These matters are particularly important in an island context where facilities and services are limited and where investment of this scale should consider the
(continued)	long-term needs and sustainability of the communities it serves. These recommendations should not simply form part of the historical record of the project. They arose from an assessment specifically intended to identify the different impacts of this major investment on Mull's communities. MCC believes they should remain visible within the current decision-making process and within the evidence presented to elected members before any final decision is taken. It has been drawn to our attention that when selecting a proposed site for the new school, a weighting of 32 % was given to the specific education benefits of a 2-18 campus. It seems
(continued)	officers at Argyll and Bute Council, HMIE and Education Scotland are unable to provide data to support this claim. This claim is further undermined when we consider that due to the geography of the island, the current high school draws from not 1 but 5 primary schools and will continue to do so. All are involved in work on curriculum and pupil transition into S1. The claim of educational benefits of a single 2-18 campus should not have been considered in this case. The injustice of breaching the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to a family life, based on spurious claims of educational benefits, cannot be allowed to
(continued)	happen. No child should be forced to stay away from home against their families wishes when there is an alternative solution. During the site scoring process, the assumption was made that if a central site was selected, all children from Tobermory ELC and Primary would follow the high school children and travel to the central site. As 8 of 32 points were allocated to travel, this obvious flaw in the process heavily weighted Tobermory as the preferred site. We are yet to meet a single person in Mull that wished for younger children to travel to a central location. The increase in the school roll of a central high school would increase the

(continued)	number of teachers required and subjects offered. This is a real and measurable educational benefit. A central site would offer access to the swimming pool, nearby Garmony sports pitch and the islands main ferry terminal, allowing guest speakers, teachers or visiting sports teams to visit the school, as well as allowing easier access to the mainland for students. Bringing the children from all parts of the island together will strengthen bonds and help to give the island a more sustainable harmonised community. At present the children from the two Gaelic medium primary schools are thrust into separate English-speaking high schools in S1.
(continued)	A new properly thought-out central high school could bring these children together and encourage them to remain bilingual into adulthood. This is about our culture as well as children's education. The historical decision to site the high school in Tobermory, half a century ago, cannot be replicated. The island's sustainability over the next half century relies on the correct decision being taken this time. Mull Community Council are concerned that the proposed Tobermory Campus does not meet the needs of all young people in Mull. Below are our concerns with the process and the plans as presented. • Elements of the statutory consultation
(continued)	process have been flawed. It was unclear whether the wider community would be allowed to participate in the public meeting on the 17th September 2026, or if participation was limited to those in the current catchment area. Effectively, the narrow interpretation of the statutory consultation rules led to a section of the community being omitted from the process. • The inadequate size of the selected site means drop off provision will be restricted to a lay-by. This is not fit for purpose, and we have grave concerns over the children's safety. Many of the local children walking to school will need to cross a single-track bridge with a
(continued)	narrow pavement on one side. All children will need to cross the main road to access the school. We are concerned that the unsafe access will encourage parents to drive their children to school, which will exacerbate the situation. Poor weather will also increase the risks for children walking and being dropped off. • The incline on the site will mean lifts and/or ramps will be required to allow proper access for all. As well as the cost to fit and maintain these systems, there will be inevitable breakdowns. There are concerns as to what would happen in a fire, when they should not be used. • The preferred site has been described as
(continued)	"tight" by the council. Any new campus must have room for expansion as the population grows. With the increase in home working, people are finding it easier to stay, move or return here. Community organisations in Mull are all working tirelessly with the council to increase the working age population. One element of this is the provision of wrap around childcare. This must be taken into consideration in a new campus design and space should be assigned accordingly. This site is not future proofed. • The sports provision at the proposed site is inadequate. There will be no room for a full-size pitch, and the indoor hall is said to be the

(continued)	size recommended by Sports Scotland for a primary school. • We understand flexible classroom divisions will be incorporated. Anything other than a proper wall does not give the sound proofing required to allow students to focus on the lesson. Open plan classrooms proved to have issues when used in Tobermory primary in the past. Members of MCC remember distraction issues with this design in their own primary school days. • At the consultation meeting, details on teaching and learning provision could not be given. The community cannot decide based on poor information. The entire Mull Campus process carried out by Argyll and Bute Council
(continued)	concerns us greatly. We understand a political decision to reject a split site option was taken before the relevant impact assessments were completed. The elected members of the council were pushed into accepting the decision before they had all the information required to make that decision. The current process appears to have moved away from the island-wide approach taken in the original Integrated Impact Assessment undertaken by Stantec on behalf of the council. The Stantec assessment considered the impacts across Mull and the surrounding islands and recorded the different needs of communities across the island. This included the strong
(continued)	desire for a central high school serving Mull, alongside the desire to retain primary and early years provision within Tobermory. It recognised that no option would provide an equal solution for all children and young people and that the consequences for different communities required careful consideration. This makes the apparent narrowing of the current assessment particularly concerning. The Council's September 2026 project update states that the updated Integrated Islands Assessment being prepared for the Outline Business Case will assess impacts on communities "within the Tobermory Campus Catchment Area." We would ask why the assessment
(continued)	of impacts has apparently narrowed from an island-wide consideration of Mull and the surrounding islands to the existing Tobermory catchment when the consequences of the location of secondary education extend considerably beyond that catchment. This is particularly important for communities in the Ross of Mull, whose young people currently leave their communities to access secondary education. Their experiences and the impacts of geography, travel and living away from home should not disappear from consideration simply because they fall outside the existing Tobermory catchment. It should be noted that children from out-lying areas in Mull
(continued)	already travel a long distance to the current high school. Children in Lochbuie, for example, are collected at 7.10 am for the 35-mile journey to Tobermory. A central school would allow children from the furthest reaches of the Ross of Mull to travel the same distance on better roads, in a shorter time. Stantec also recommended an ongoing rather than one-off approach to impact assessment. The assessment recommended that impact assessments should be updated iteratively as the project developed, with continued community involvement, and that children, young people and communities should remain closely involved in shaping the campus. The

(continued)	recommendations extended beyond the school building itself and recognised the importance of the campus to the wider community, including community facilities and services, extracurricular opportunities, breakfast clubs and wraparound childcare. These matters are particularly important in an island context where facilities and services are limited and where investment of this scale should consider the long-term needs and sustainability of the communities it serves. These recommendations should not simply form part of the historical record of the project. They arose from an assessment specifically intended to identify the different impacts of
(continued)	this major investment on Mull's communities. MCC believes they should remain visible within the current decision-making process and within the evidence presented to elected members before any final decision is taken. It has been drawn to our attention that when selecting a proposed site for the new school, a weighting of 32 % was given to the specific education benefits of a 2-18 campus. It seems officers at Argyll and Bute Council, HMIE and Education Scotland are unable to provide data to support this claim. This claim is further undermined when we consider that due to the geography of the island, the current high school draws from not 1
(continued)	but 5 primary schools and will continue to do so. All are involved in work on curriculum and pupil transition into S1. The claim of educational benefits of a single 2-18 campus should not have been considered in this case. The injustice of breaching the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to a family life, based on spurious claims of educational benefits, cannot be allowed to happen. No child should be forced to stay away from home against their families wishes when there is an alternative solution. During the site scoring process, the assumption was made that if a central site was selected, all children from Tobermory
(continued)	ELC and Primary would follow the high school children and travel to the central site. As 8 of 32 points were allocated to travel, this obvious flaw in the process heavily weighted Tobermory as the preferred site. We are yet to meet a single person in Mull that wished for younger children to travel to a central location. The increase in the school roll of a central high school would increase the number of teachers required and subjects offered. This is a real and measurable educational benefit. A central site would offer access to the swimming pool, nearby Garmony sports pitch and the islands main ferry terminal, allowing guest speakers,
(continued)	teachers or visiting sports teams to visit the school, as well as allowing easier access to the mainland for students. Bringing the children from all parts of the island together will strengthen bonds and help to give the island a more sustainable harmonised community. At present the children from the two Gaelic medium primary schools are thrust into separate English-speaking high schools in S1. A new properly thought-out central high school could bring these children together and encourage them to remain bilingual into adulthood. This is about our culture as well as children’s education. The historical decision to site the high school
(continued)	in Tobermory, half a century ago, cannot be replicated. The island’s sustainability over the next half century relies on the correct decision being taken this time.

Member of the public/ community, Grandparent and carer of pupil at Bunessan School	The site does not allow for all secondary pupils on Mull to have access to a secondary school on the island - Mull deserves the same as other islands of a similar size. Why has the Council not building a school which takes account of the child's right to a private family life, allowing all secondary pupils in the island to attend. The Council's scoring system in choosing a site ignored pupils from the south west of Mull entirely. If the Council thinks it has complied with human rights legislation applying to these children, why does it not publish its advice? Why has the size of the secondary school been reduced by a third in the plans? It
(continued)	appears that the level of provision for secondary pupils will be less than in the existing site - this runs counter to the argument in the consultation paper suggesting that it would make North Mull a more attractive place to live. It appears that the Council are planning for a smaller pupil roll in future. Why? The buses / parents and carers will have inadequate space for drop off and pick up, leaving access to the school dangerous. The proposals are still vague and seem to be ill thought through. How can we realistically comment if we don't have any firm proposals for the site? This appears to be another situation like when the Council
(continued)	decided to go ahead on a single site basis, without knowing what sites were available and whether any of them were suitable on this basis. The chosen site is one which has been earmarked for housing development for 15 years or so but geological problems have meant it is uneconomic to develop. We are concerned that the additional cost of dealing with this will mean that the proposals will be scaled back further in order to come in at budget, or significantly overrun on costs.
Member of the public / community	Summary This objection concerns Argyll and Bute Council's proposals to relocate Tobermory's existing school complex to a less suitable site nearby. I object to this emergent proposal because it is patently at odds with provisions of the United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (Scotland) (Incorporation) Act of 2024, as has been the whole development process. To proceed with this site would be to squander precious resources and perpetuate the family separation policy which has been a precondition for secondary education for children from families in South West Mull since Mull's first and only High School was established in
(continued)	Tobermory c.50 years ago. The exclusion of this geographically defined cohort of Mull's children from the benefits of £47 million investment in new school buildings on our island is discriminatory and certainly not in the best interests of every child suffering separation from their parents and home, generation after generation. Keen to understand the Council's legal justification for its considered choice to maintain Mull's unjust and dysfunctional educational status quo, I addressed a question to the Council's Oban, Lorn and Islands (OLI) Area Committee in March 2026, framed in these terms: How exactly does Argyll and Bute Council

(continued)	reconcile the legal rights of children to enjoy the benefits of family life and equality of educational opportunity with continuing reliance upon mainland hostel arrangements for children resident in South West Mull attending High School in Oban? During the course of two subsequent hybrid OLI meetings and three exchanges of emails with Council officials, responses to my question have mentioned the following considerations: i) "…. economics and practicalities……it would not be appropriate to disadvantage the majority to placate the minority…" ii) The conditionality of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) iii) 'Present
(continued)	arrangements have been established over many years.' iv) '…the unanimous decision in regard to the preferred site of the Tobermory Campus…" v) 'Information provided to Councillors before the March 2025 meeting included an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) Report which included a Children's Rights and Wellbeing impact Assessment (CRWIA)'. vi) 'The CRWIA was undertaken to ensure that proposals were developed and appraised in line with UNCRC (United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child)' vii) 'The CRWIA aimed to identify impacts on children's rights and wellbeing and to inform decision making' viii) 'CRWIA was one of a number of
(continued)	other IIA reports spanning Equalities, Transport, Island and Community Impacts and the Fairer Scotland Duty' ix) … 'children's rights, family life and educational provision, … were assessed through the IIA process, including the CRWIA' x) The issues which I raise … "have been considered as part of the overall assessment of the project, including factors such as deliverability, accessibility, affordability and the needs of the wider community across Mull". xi) The decision of the Council—taken on the basis of the information before Members—remains the Council's position. xii) The position set out above reflects the Council's considered
(continued)	response. I disagree that any of these considerations explains or justifies the manifest infringement of children's rights to which my question refers, as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Background Because I was not satisfied that discussions during the Oban, Lorn and Islands (OLI) Area Committee meetings in either March or June 2026, nor associated exchanges of emails had adequately addressed my concern that the Council appears to be acting unlawfully, the Chair accepted advice and suggested that I submit a formal complaint. This document and those accompanying it express the context of my
(continued)	complaint in deliberately full detail, in order to set all relevant matters out for consideration as a properly informed basis for any future appeal for adjudication by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman. In the event that HMIE approves Argyll and Bute Council's proposals, but the Council continues to withhold provision of a meaningful response to my question regarding its evident violation of UNCRC provisions in key campus matters of decision making, I shall certainly appeal. Meanwhile I very much hope that my words may influence HMIE consideration of the Council's perverse proposals to squander £47 Million of public money perpetuating

(continued)	educational injustice on the Isle of Mull for generations to come, because of an ill-considered Council decision in the 1970's. This submission to the formal statutory consultation process concerns Council proposals to indefinitely prolong Mull's unfair status quo in relation to equal access to secondary schooling for all of Mull's children, by relocating Tobermory's 2-18 learning facilities to an altogether less suitable site just a mile south of the existing school complex. The Substance of this Objection Below, I review and comment on each of the Council's 13 assertions itemised in my Summary above, made by or on behalf of Argyll and Bute
(continued)	Council in response to my original question: How exactly does Argyll and Bute Council reconcile the legal rights of children to enjoy the benefits of family life and equality of educational opportunity with continuing reliance upon mainland hostel arrangements for children resident in SW Mull attending High School in Oban? Having accumulated responses to this question over a period of months I have allocated a Roman numeral to each individual element as detailed above. Through my analysis, I am unable to discern any clear or helpful answer or guidance to justify or contradict the essentially unlawful nature of Argyll and Bute Council's
(continued)	approach to development of the Mull Campus Project. I believe I have considered the provisions and requirements of UNCRC legislation incorporated into Scottish Law in July 2024 more thoroughly than most elected Councillors, and perhaps too, A&BC's legal advisors. Accordingly, I present material that has been shared with me in this matter and provide commentary as follows: i) "…. economics and practicalities…" "…it would not be appropriate to disadvantage the majority to placate the minority…" Cllr. Kane used these phrases as a spontaneous personal response to my question, at the OLI Meeting of 11/3/26 [see OLIAC_Minutes_110326.pdf] but none
(continued)	of the other Councillors or Officers in attendance seemed minded to endorse his analysis. Another Councillor stated her understanding that costs of compliance cannot necessarily justify non-compliance with children's rights. She may have been aware of Scottish Government guidance on implementation of UNCRC provisions published in January 2024 which clearly states: "A lack of resources cannot justify inaction or indefinite postponement of measures to implement children's rights". (See section 2.7 of Taking a children's human rights approach: guidance - gov.scot .) She was one of three Councillors in attendance who affirmed their shared
(continued)	interest in my commitment to obtain a clear and authoritative response to my question. The second of Cllr. Kanes quoted remarks may bode ill for early prospects of unanimous Council support for the progressive realisation of children's rights on the Isle of Mull if such a reactionary perspective goes entirely unchallenged by his constituents, or by council colleagues, elected members and officers alike. ii) ECHR Article 8 [Email dated 16/3/26] Based on emergent proposals for a newbuild 2-18 campus on the southern edge of Tobermory, with no proposed mitigation or new provision to accommodate secondary school pupils from SW Mull

(continued)	historically consigned to the catchment area of Oban High School, Argyll and Bute Council (A&BC) appears to assume that the indefinite prolongation of discriminatory family separation arrangements into the future is a legitimate, necessary, and proportionate infringement of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) permissible in a democratic society. The Committee Manager writes: "While proposals may engage Article 8, any interference is considered to be in accordance with the law, to pursue legitimate aims, and to be necessary and proportionate in a democratic society." Although considered necessary for legitimate purposes
(continued)	of education half a century ago, no fresh justification has been offered for the indefinite prolongation of this normalised violation of children's rights not to be separated from their parents. The incorporation of the United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Scottish Law in 2024, in combination with emergent prospects of unprecedented levels of resources available to the Mull Campus Project through LEIP (the Scottish Government's 'Learning Estate Investment Programme') as well as refreshed priorities of The Scottish Government's new Islands Plan, surely ought to have triggered a fresh review of the Council's established
(continued)	dependency on the conditionality of ECHR Article 8 to justify mainland hostel accommodation arrangements for young people of SW Mull as a precondition for fulfilment of the Council's duty to provide secondary education for these children. iii) "The arrangements in regard to education and the provision of Hostel accommodation for pupils on Mull has been established over many years. [Email dated 16/3/26] It is precisely because present arrangements have been established over so many decades that there is so much abundant evidence of negative impacts on individual children and their families and the depopulation of local communities of SW Mull
(continued)	directly resulting from established arrangements for secondary education. Both CRWIA (Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment) and ICIA (Island Community Impact Assessment) reports refer to impacts on children's and families' mental well-being, as well to as to demographic challenges resulting from the outmigration of young families unaccepting of non-negotiable arrangements for the education of their children. Perhaps entrenched policy makers who opposed the abolition of slavery might have similarly resorted to asserting that arrangements had been 'established over many years', but surely no historical justification in law can
(continued)	assure the legitimacy of outdated policies increasingly resented as unnecessary, unlawful, harmful and counterproductive by contemporary standards? iv) "…the unanimous decision in regard to the preferred site of the Tobermory Campus…" [Email dated 16/3/26] I would contend that the 'unanimity' of the Council decision on March 7th2025 is literally not true insofar as five Elected Members specifically requested that their dissent be recorded albeit that the motion to accept officers' recommendation was agreed by a clear majority. Email correspondence dated 28/4/26 clarifies Argyll and Bute Council's interpretation of the 'unanimous decision'
(continued)	as a reference to the absence of any competent proposals for its amendment. Amongst those Councillors dissenting, two had been comprehensively briefed by community representatives beforehand. Notably few other Councillors seemed interested or receptive to perspectives of a clear majority amongst Mull's communities' on highly controversial campus matters, as expressed in testimonies of a three strong deputation of island mothers in attending Council Chamber to plead our communities' case. (See Agenda for Argyll and Bute Council on Friday, 7 March 2025, 1:00 pm - Argyll and Bute Council). If Councillors had been apprised of the particular and

(continued)	critical importance of ICIA and CRWIA reports amongst all the other information presented in the massive portfolio of required reading ahead of informed voting, perhaps some might have become sufficiently well acquainted with pertinent issues to address meaningfully challenging questions to their Officers rather than accept their recommendations with such acquiescence. Notwithstanding that disappointment, the (quasi) unanimous Mull Campus vote may represent a clear indication of the accomplished mastery of some senior A&BC decision makers in manipulating the provision of relevant information to elected members in order to contrive outcomes
(continued)	which may be in their personal, professional or party's best interests, even at the expense of obstructing policy benefits to some of the communities they purport to serve. It is understood that although unanimity is disputed, the majority decision of poorly informed elected members is plainly not negotiable at this stage. Had the motion been framed as a proposal to effectively disregard the rights of children of SW Mull to live at home during their years of secondary schooling, for another 50 years or more, perhaps most may have voted in a different way. There is no evidence at all that A&BC has taken UNCRC Articles into account other
(continued)	than as a guidance for the format of the CRWIA which concluded that there was no possible site for a new 2-18 campus which would not violate the rights of any group of children. Only a split site could achieve full UNCRC compliance. This was never highlighted to policy makers, there being a potential liability in terms of increased costs of a new High School to serve the whole island if compliance requirements could not be ignored, evaded or otherwise avoided. I wonder if all elected Councillors had unanimously instructed their Officers to renegotiate LEIP funding limits and terms with Scottish Government authorities, would the Officers have
(continued)	welcomed such a mandate or not? They did not seem to try very hard to argue the case, beyond an unminuted discussion with the Scottish Futures Trust. v) "Information provided to Councillors before the March 2025 meeting included an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) Report which included a Children's Rights and Wellbeing impact Assessment (CRWIA)." [Email dated 16/3/26] The IIA report (see *Integrated Impact Assessment Report) was finalised on 5/2/25 according to the document control sheet presented on page 2. The six-page CRWIA report features as section 7 of the 71-page IIA document which was designated as Appendix K to the Preferred Site
(continued)	Recommendation Report dated 27/2/25. Allegedly due to the exceptionally high volumes of required reading for conscientious Councillors in advance of important campus location decision making, the Meeting date was re-scheduled from 27/2/25 to 7/3/25. Despite that postponement, it is open to question how many elected representatives will have found opportunity to review, let alone reflect on the implications of the CRWIA, which clearly reported that there is no location on Mull where a new build 2-18 campus would not impinge on the rights of one or another group of children. Paragraph 7.4.8 of the CRWIA reports: "Testimonies provided by
(continued)	Bunessan Parent Council from current and former pupils with experience of boarding at Oban High School highlight some of the difficulties experienced by pupils who board, including adverse impacts on their mental health often linked with home sickness and feeling isolated from their families. Some former pupils said that these challenges affected their mental health in adulthood after finishing secondary school. If a Tobermory site is selected then, there would continue to be a proportion of pupils from the Ross of Mull who are likely to experience a range of difficulties boarding weekly in Oban for the duration of their secondary school

(continued)	education." This verbatim comment (and the one below) from Stantec, the consultants engaged by A&BC's campus team to fulfil their statutory duty to undertake assessments in order to take children's rights into account in its decision making. The CRWIA's final Paragraph 7.5.4 reads: "In conclusion, while the Mull Campus Proposals have the potential to significantly enhance education and children's rights on Mull, they also present challenges around travel, wellbeing, and equitable access, particularly for specific groups of children. Ongoing consultation and mitigation strategies will be critical. " The failure of Argyll and Bute Council to
(continued)	identify, propose or implement any effective mitigation strategies or even to acknowledge its clear infractions of the legal rights of children of SW Mull, as reported in the CRWIA and defined by multiple UNCRC Articles, is a principal concern of this formal objection to Council proposals to relocate the existing campus to a less suitable site. The project had been widely welcomed as an exciting boost for the whole island. Now the Council's duplicity in wasting so much time and resource to achieve no significant change for Mull as a whole is widely resented. vi) "The CRWIA was undertaken to ensure that proposals were developed and appraised
(continued)	in line with UNCRC (United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child)" [Email dated 16/3/26] The CRWIA's introductory sentence (see para. 7.1.1) reads: "The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires public bodies to consider whether existing and emerging legislation, policy and guidance have an impact on children and young people and to assess what further action is required to ensure compliance with the UNCRC". Although the CRWIA report acknowledges the relevance of UNCRC Articles 2,3,6,9,12,15,23, 24, 29, 30 and 31, it makes no suggestions or assessment whatsoever regarding specific steps required to achieve full
(continued)	compliance, beyond the recommendation of its final sentence "Ongoing consultation and mitigation strategies will be critical. " Proposals may have been appraised in line with UNCRC but 19 months later, it yet remains for Argyll and Bute Council "...to assess what further action is required to ensure compliance with the UNCRC". vii) "The CRWIA aimed to identify impacts on children's rights and wellbeing" and "...to inform decision making" [Email dated 16/3/26] The CRWIA does indeed identify multiple potential impacts of Mull Campus project proposals on children's rights and wellbeing. Not the least of these are considerations of the emotional
(continued)	wellbeing of some of the pupils required to leave their families when 11 years old, and to live in a mainland hostel during term time, for up to six years. The CRWIA reports that for some, such impacts impinge on their mental wellbeing as adults. Such impacts were likely unknown to key decision makers who allocated points to categories of weighted considerations in order to evaluate the relative merits of 4 possible sites which had been shortlisted. They were oblivious to this and other findings of the CRWIA report which had not yet been finalised before the second of two scoring sessions had already reported final scoring outcomes and de

(continued)	facto site recommendations. Impacts on rights and wellbeing were identified by the CRWIA but reported too late to shape the design of the technical scoring matrix or to properly inform the awareness of those anonymous but vital decision makers of the implications of some of their points allocation choices, made on the basis of the limited information available to them at that time. Somehow 'Habitat constraints' accounted for more valuable point scoring than considerations of 'Impacts on family life', according to this finalised version of the all-important Mull campus siting decision-making matrix. I doubt, however, that 'Habitat constraints'
(continued)	will have motivated a fraction of the effort being invested by Muileachs to properly inform HMIE of the calumny and disgrace of A&BC's decision making regarding 'Impacts on family life'. See: 2 SiteSelection_ScoringSession2_230125_FINAL.pdf The CRWIA report was finalised too late to inform the critically important consideration of the December 2024 decision not to pursue potential for a split campus site. See Item 7 of this agenda *(Public Pack)Agenda Document for Argyll and Bute Council, 20/12/2024 10:30 and these Minutes: For enquiries on this agenda please contact . Had a CRWIA report been finalised, read, digested, considered and
(continued)	discussed by Councillors in advance of the December Meeting, they would have had a clearer understanding of the implications of their vote, due to the CRWIA's important conclusion that there is no single location on Mull where a 2-18 campus could be located without compromising the rights and well-being of some children. Only a 'split site' campus could be fully compliant with UNCRC considerations, with Early Learning and Primary School provision retained in Tobermory, but with a centrally located high school accessible to every child on Mull. The Council claims its proposals to be 'in line' with UNCRC but have shamefully failed in their
(continued)	opportunity to deliver a Campus Project which is able to demonstrate full UNCRC compliance, and to serve every child on Mull for generations to come. Only a split site could meet needs of all children on Mull without excluding any group from the benefits of £47 million investment in our island's educational infrastructure. This is why requests for a split site were highlighted during and subsequent to the engagement sessions. Only a split site campus model can be fully compliant with all UNCRC requirements. The fact that technical specialists appraised the relative merits of four shortlisted sites without any consideration of necessary
(continued)	compliance with UNCRC requirements beyond the category termed 'Impact on Family Life' is clear evidence that critical decision making was not informed by the CRWIA, nor the UNCRC, but by post-it notes [see the 105 page Mull Engagment Analysis]. It is not clear what form of discussions concerning 'Impact on family life' or what manner of guidance was provided to arrive at the consensus agreement that 4 points should be awarded to the two sites which implied necessity for pupils from SW Mull to live away from home, compared to 5 points allocated to the two sites within daily travelling distance. See 2
(continued)	SiteSelection_ScoringSession2_230125_FINAL.pdf. The community engagement analysis report published on 15th November 2024 [see Mull Engagment Analysis] is said to have directly influenced and shaped the criteria and relative weightings used by the technical team to assess potentially suitable sites. Key themes of the feedback were location, travel, ease of access, family unity, equity, access to facilities, community stability and curriculum range. The feedback received is said to have been incorporated into the site selection criteria and relative weightings...and yet the popularity of our communities expressed preference for a two-site

(continued)	approach was summarily disregarded on grounds of unaffordable additional costs. A somewhat spurious briefing sheet advocating a 2-18 campus on the grounds of educational benefits without specifying any evidence nor any consideration of the implied relative disadvantages facing children attending any of Tobermory High's other feeder Primary Schools was circulated as Appendix 3 on page 435 of *(Public Pack)Agenda Document for Argyll and Bute Council, 20/12/2024 10:30. Since this briefing sheet has since been heavily criticised for its lack of evidence and effectively debunked by a former Head Teacher of Tobermory, the Councils only valid
(continued)	reason for rejecting a 2-site campus model was cost – and yet The Scottish Government's own Guidance clearly states: "A lack of resources cannot justify inaction or indefinite postponement of measures to implement children's rights". (See section 2.7 of Taking a children's human rights approach: guidance - gov.scot .) It seems that Relevant Authorities amongst Scottish Ministers and within A&BC have not realised (– or accepted? – or agreed?) that no glib justification for disregarding multiple UNCRC Articles throughout its approach to the Mull Campus Project is possible. Past, present and especially future requirements for children of SW Mull
(continued)	to board away from home in a mainland hostel to gain the benefits of secondary education are heavily resented by the individuals, families and communities so impacted. This fact has not adequately informed the scheme of points and weightings which ought to have considered a split site option because it is most favoured by most Mull residents, but moreover because to do otherwise would seem to be unlawful, whether or not the CRWIA was underway but incomplete in December 2024, at the time when Councillors were unknowingly invited to vote against the rights of children to live at home during term time if their homes are located in SW Mull. The
(continued)	CRWIA's aim to inform decision making could have counted for more if at least an initial draft had been available prior to the open call for possible sites being launched in summer 2024. Extensive research involving conversations with islanders keen to share experience and express perspectives beyond what would fit on a post it note during a drop-in session would have made for compelling reading for anyone presuming to make informed decisions about the Mull Campus Project. viii) "CRWIA was one of a number of other IIA reports spanning Equalities, Transport, Island and Community Impacts and the Fairer Scotland Duty..." [Email dated 16/3/26] The
(continued)	provision of this information does not seem directly pertinent to my original question unless it implies some form of excuse for the failure of the Council to have taken due account of the overarching importance of the rights of children of SW Mull to live at home because of the limited capacity of key officers to simultaneously attend to all their other duties and responsibilities, including commissioning, overseeing, reviewing and reporting such an overwhelming lot of other campus project related work. Without undertaking a fresh review or troubling to resort to a detailed critique of all these other project outputs, it is assumed that the
(continued)	ICIA and Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty assessments would all tend to be supportive in principle of the inclusion of SW Mull in the scope of the Mull Campus Project, had this matter been addressed as such. It would be more appropriate for the Council to simply concede that it had failed to negotiate sufficient funding to accommodate Children's Rights into their calculations than to try to justify its blunt denial of their relative importance despite the implications for generations to come. So many sets of numbers, estimates and projections are detailed in the Transport report, that it seems to have been commissioned principally to

(continued)	confirm that it would be impossibly costly and risky to extend equality of access to high-quality schooling choices to include all of Mull's communities. The brief might reasonably have requested detailed information on practicalities of minimising campus travel costs through electric vehicles powered by locally generated renewable energy or coordination of services with other potential stakeholders. Instead, its overtly biased perspective seems to imply that Tobermory should retain its island monopoly on secondary education facilities in order to minimise potentially negative impacts of any costly modification to Tobermory's current school
(continued)	transport arrangements. Cited considerations favouring the status quo range from avoidable greenhouse gas emissions to the healthy wellbeing of young passengers vulnerable to travel sickness, bullying, lack of exercise or reduced lifetime earnings as a direct consequence of longer daily journeys to school. This is such nonsense in terms of optimising outcomes of investing £47 Million pounds to enhance Mull's resilience and sustainability. To propose spending the whole sum replicating existing facilities on a less suitable site starting with a dodgy land acquisition deal is a preposterous prospect. Earlier investment in the CRWIA and ICIA
(continued)	with less emphasis on the hypothetical transport report findings would have served the best interests of all of Mull's children, families and communities much better than reports which were unavailable to critical decision makers at the right time. In this context, the legal rights of all children to live with their families while also enjoying the benefits of secondary education seems to present inconvenient challenges for Argyll and Bute Council and for its Campus Team in particular. Rather than embracing an exciting transformative opportunity to uphold and promote the progressive realisation of children's rights and wellbeing through their
(continued)	professional project activities, Relevant Authorities seem negligent and insensitive to their inescapable responsibilities as duty bearers necessarily concerned above all with supporting the best interests of every child implicated by their decision making. A&BC seems to be in complete denial that campus developments should ideally be fully compliant with all UNCRC provisions and somewhat complacent in its admission that developments have been merely 'in line' with UNCRC requirements. ix) "... children's rights, family life and educational provision... were assessed through the Integrated Impact Assessment process, including the Children's
(continued)	Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment..." This extract from the opening sentence of the CRWIA (see page 50 of *Integrated Impact Assessment Report) sets out its intention to not just identify potential impacts of proposals on children and young people, but to ..."assess what further action is required to ensure compliance with the UNCRC." It is important for HMIE to understand that the CRWIA has not fulfilled this stated purpose, in that it merely catalogues Rights and Wellbeing issues rather than accurately assessing each in turn as per government guidance. [See - Child rights and wellbeing impact assessment external guidance and templates -
(continued)	gov.scot] There is no evidence available to indicate that these templates were ever applied to Mull Campus CRWI assessments or to decision making regarding the peremptory recommendation to reject the 2 site Campus model on grounds of cost, thereby implying indefinite requirements for the exile of children from their SW Mull homes during term time for generations to come. Moreover, since the preferred site selection process had already been completed on 23/01/25 before the IIA process was finalised on 05/02/26, the only opportunity for inconclusive outcomes of the CRWIA process to inform decision making lay in the hands of Councillors who

(continued)	had just 3 weeks to consider its findings, amongst the hundreds of pages of other material sent to inform them ahead of the March Meeting, when the preferred site already identified and agreed by 'experts' was to be formally approved. Efforts of a few Councillors to intercede in proceedings failed because they fell short of formulating a competent amendment to the administration's motion to accept officers' recommendations, albeit that perhaps very few Councillors had been properly informed by the CRWIA. Why would Officers recommend a course of action so readily challengeable in terms of its lawfulness relative to UNCRC requirements? That's
(continued)	why I asked my original question. x) The issues which I raise ... "have been considered as part of the overall assessment of the project, including factors such as deliverability, accessibility, affordability and the needs of the wider community across Mull" My genuine concern is that the UNCRC issues which I have raised have been deemed unworthy of serious consideration by the Council's Campus Team or its 'technical experts' who decided which of 4 sites was best suited to accommodating a newbuild 2-18 campus according to a range of criteria which specifically excluded consideration of children's rights and welfare, other than in terms of
(continued)	'Travel times for ELC and primary school pupils' and 'Impacts on family life'. It is the Council who is insensitive to the needs of the wider community across Mull xi) 'The decision of the Council—taken on the basis of the information before Members—remains the Council's position'. I wonder whether the potential for successful litigation based on UNCRC requirements has been risk appraised for the benefit of Members awareness, lest some might otherwise blame Officers for withholding information highly relevant to their properly informed decision making. As a layman, I understand that a legal case based on non-compliance with UNCRC provisions
(continued)	might be brought at any time from now until the proposed new Tobermory campus is in the same sorry state of disrepair which currently characterises the existing school complex. Critical considerations of discrimination against communities of SW Mull and the rights of children in that area to live in their family home, throughout the years of their education are at stake, but not being addressed by A&BC through this proje
N/a	I am writing to you with my concerns over the location of the new high school campus on the Isle of Mull. I attended Tobermory High School for my education and enjoyed my time there, however I feel that with a new campus due in the future it's essential it now moves to a central location so that every child on the island can enjoy being educated here and returning home to their own bed at night. There has been a sight offered for this at Craignure and it looks much more suitable than the one in Tobermory, with potential for expansion in the future if required and plenty room for safe drop offs and pickups from school. Craignure also has much
(continued)	better facilities than Tobermory that could potentially be used along side the high school or even for after school clubs that everyone could enjoy together, such as the swimming pool, the rugby club and pitches,the new sports hall that is planned,the golf course,the meeting rooms at An Roth, the Craignure hall, all venues that could host a variety interests whether you are musical, artistic, sporty,academic or practical. Having it in a central location benefits every community on the island. Investing in a split campus, with a primary and pre school staying in Tobermory would help the whole of Mull thrive, I believe that the numbers would

(continued)	increase as families would be less likely to leave the island due to the high school situation just now. Ideally I'd like to see investment into a proper nursery on the remaining site in Tobermory, this would be of huge benefit to the island, it would help people get back to work as a lot of people need an extra income and would also help with the lack of staff for businesses and create employment,and if it was able to offer apprenticeships in childcare for people, and why not develop education in Tobermory in a different way or develop some of the old site for housing. Also I feel if the high school was in the Craignure area it would be a
(continued)	huge benefit with transport links, especially from the likes of Dervaig and Ulva Ferry, if visitors and residents could also use the buses for travelling to the ferry that would really open up these areas and help visitors access these areas easily by public transport and residents can travel to the mainland on public transport if they wish, this is not possible at the moment. It may also take the pressure off Tobermory slightly regarding houses,parking,etc. Tobermory is a beautiful wee town, with a main street to be proud of and it will hold its own any day of the week but Tobermory doesn't actually need a high school whereas the whole of
(continued)	the rest of island does. Please at least consider how positive this could be, with new ferries on the horizon and if there was a central high school I think Mull would really do very well in the future, all together. Please can this be passed on to the appropriate person.
N/a	RESPONSE TO A&B COUNCIL and HMIE ON THE TOBERMORY CAMPUS CONSULTATION I presented the following submission on 22 September and I am now responding to the 'Notional costings' that were prepared for the Public meeting hosted by the Tobermory Campus team. In the 50 years of living on Mull I have seen the language and culture of the Ross of Mull hollowed out by depopulation as young families move away to be with their children attending secondary school. My own family life was disrupted when our eldest left home at the age of 11 but before that time our children interacted with Mull and Iona primary school children, providing a sense of community
(continued)	with events such as the 'Meti Connection' and the Mull and Iona Pipe band Ceilidh on Iona. The pipe band has now disbanded following the departure of the Pipe Major and his four children, who moved to Oban for secondary school education. Following my earlier submission I note that there is no provision for Gaelic medium education in the 'notional costings' prepared by the Tobermory Campus team. The provision of Gaelic Medium Education at secondary level aligns with the priorities emerging through the Curriculum Improvement Cycle, including the strengthening of local cultural identity, dialects and languages. The 2026 Education Scotland
(continued)	Literacy and Gàidhlig Curriculum Background and Evidence Paper commits to ensuring that children in Gaelic-speaking communities receive an education that supports their linguistic and cultural identity, consistent with the UNCRC Incorporation Act. The Ross of Mull has lost all of the Gaelic speakers but there is hope for the cultural heritage with burgeoning Gaelic medium education at Bunessan primary. If we want Gaelic to thrive here, secondary provision must be strengthened so that these children can grow up speaking the language at home. The Scottish Languages Act recognises that Mull and Iona are an Area of Linguistic Significance. Our

(continued)	Gaelic cultural identity should help to formulate decisions affecting place, community wellbeing, continuity of cultural life and the future sustainability of our islands. I have also written to the Cabinet Secretary to request that Scottish Government consider the net zero opportunities for the learning estate, following the recent review by Scottish Government of public energy procurement policy. I request that you acknowledge these representations and pass on my submission to HMIE in full. That you for your consideration 22/09/2026 Tobermory Campus Consultation I submit the following representation for the Statutory Consultation
(continued)	undertaken by The Tobermory Campus Team and I request that a full copy be send to HMIE. Copies have been sent to Mairi MacAllan, the Education Secretary and Pippa Milne, CEO of Argyll & Bute Council and Councillors. I firmly believe that the decision making process should take on board consideration for the Gaelic language and the long term cost benefits of incorporating Net Zero measures. The decision to locate the new Secondary School for Mull at Tobermory. • Pippa Milne has stated that the purpose of Public Consultation is for people to be heard so it is "unfortunate" that Bunessan and Iona primary schools were excluded from this
(continued)	consultation having been part of earlier consultations.. • Councillor MacKenzie has condemned the narrow focus of the consultation;- Bunessan and Iona sit outside the Tobermory catchment so the impact on the welfare of those children and their families will not be assessed as part of this consultation. • The Mull Campus working group are working tirelessly to bring about a split site solution that will provide secondary education for all island pupils. They have been involved in social media, postal voting, raising money to fund their attempts to enable the voices of the South West to be heard. See the attached letter on population retention
(continued)	from Ariane Burgess. • The Plans for the Tobermory Campus offer a parochial solution with no room to expand. The plans do not appear to have sufficient classrooms, there is no full size playing field and no room for buses to disembark. • The alternative site offered to the Council in Craignure has space to accommodate all these activities. There are now deep divisions in our Community arising from the Council refusal to hear the concerns of those families disrupted by separation. • Discussion about the Mull Campus should not narrowly focus on the impact on Tobermory from losing its High School. • The discussion should be on what our Island
(continued)	Community will gain when experiences such as the Feis and singing on the beach in the Tobermory Mod is carried forward from primary schools right through teenage years to adulthood. 'The ferry boat children' podcast captures the lived experience of breaking up family life which is hollowing out our community. It is presented from a compassionate viewpoint and others who have lived through the separation of children at the age of 11 will be moved by it. Gaelic Medium Education There is a need for Gaelic Medium Education at secondary level for children who are progressing through Gaelic Medium at primary schools on Mull. • The notional cost

(continued)	calculations make no provision for Gaelic • The Gaelic culture of Mull is entwined with the Ross of Mull and Iona. • Bunessan hosts 'Feis Mhuile' in which all of Mull's primary school children can participate. • Bunessan also lends its' name to the tune composed by Mary MacDonald of Shiaba (South of Bunessan), which is printed in many languages around the world. One of the 14 verses of the original Gaelic hymn is sung every year by children at the Tobermory Mod. Net Zero considerations. Island communities are adapting to the consequences of climate change. The Mull Campus Project is is an opportunity to align energy-sector planning with the
(continued)	Learning Estate to ensure that future educational infrastructure serves the long term needs of our communities. The Craignure site was identified by Hub North in the site selection matrix as a viable location for developing a business case for a heat network. It is currently not possible to develop this business case and achieve zero emissions because The Council are constrained by the Scottish Government energy procurement policy. This policy prevents the learning estate from buying Local energy or developing revenue models that will benefit from the evolving energy marketplace. • GB Energy have published their £1billion Local Power Plan to
(continued)	delivery local energy projects with another £30million funding package from Westminster this month. • The Electricity Network operator SSEN has made the transition to becomes 'Distribution Service Operator' to facilitate the delivery of local energy resources • Flexibility service contracts are on offer from SSEN which could provide additional income to the learning Estate • The heat network that was evaluated by Hub North favoured the Craignure site because it is adjacent to the Community hospital, Community swimming pool, hotel and proposed housing complex. • Carbon emissions for the Campus have focused on bus transport, which could be
(continued)	electrified and energized from local hydro, wind and solar resources. When asked about Net Zero obligations the Tobermory Campus team provided a comprehensive review, acknowledging that 'Deliverables for the new school campus include meeting these (LEIP) targets' and they have stated 'there is no evidence to suggest that achieving these requirements would be materially more onerous on the selected site (Tobermory South) when compared with the alternative site options'. This response takes does not reflect the advice from Hub North for creating a heat network in Craignure. How can the Tobermory Campus achive the Net Zero aspirations to which
(continued)	the UK Government are committed to by 2050? If the school Campus is located at Craignure this could benefit from Community Energy under License Exempt Energy Supply, supporting the circular economy and reducing energy costs for the learning estate. The Notional annual energy consumption for the Campus is 250MWh. at a cost of £70,000 p.a (current costs) for the Tobermory South site. By way of comparison the Community owned Generator at Garmony produces 500Mwh per annum. The following extract from GB Energy explains how local energy supply can be achieved: With the completion of the P442 modification in 2025 and further expansion of provisions
(continued)	to allow License Exempt Supply from smaller generation sources, it is now possible to create added value to smaller local generators (and potential savings to associated users) alongside traditional license supply arrangements. The impact of this is developing and, as it is necessarily linked to existing licensed suppliers, it is increasingly being taken up by the market albeit from a small base. Ofgem have published their 'minded to decision' to develop Long Duration Energy Storage to which a Campus thermal store could contribute. The Tobermory Campus team have not included these opportunities in their 'notional business

(continued)	case'. https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r06/___https://www.gbe.gov.uk/gbe-local/calls-for-proposals___.ZXV3Mjphcmd5bGxhbmRidXRlY291bmNpbDE6YzpvOjNkYzJlZDEzZWRlMmZlZGU1ZTBiZWQ3MzgzM2ZmZDJjOjc6ODFjNzowMjY4Yzc1NzBlY2FhZTc3ZDdlN2QyYjQxYTVhNjc4MmZhMzUxNTAzMjFhMjhlMDdjMTEzYzMwNTUzMzhhYzEyOnQ6VDpG In view of these decisions I request that the Cabinet Secretary calls on GB Energy to re-visit the site selection scoring advice provided by Hub North. I will also urge that The Scottish Government review their energy procurement policy to allow the learning estate to trade local clean energy. le dùrachd