

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Lifelong Learning Committee – 23 March 2011

RESERVED PLACES IN SCHOOLS 2011/2012

Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)

ABSTRACT

This report proposes the number of reserved places for session 2011/2012, within primary and secondary schools, in accordance with Section 28A of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, as amended. This allows places to be protected for local children in their catchment school.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1.1 approves the number of reserved places, within schools which have classrooms with a limited number of spaces at specific stages, for session 2011/2012 as shown in Appendix 1;
- 1.2 instructs the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to revise these numbers each year to reflect historical or anticipated patterns of migration, information about known movements of families into (or out of) an area, and any current residential development; and
- 1.3 delegates responsibility to the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to review the reserved places for all schools in light of any building work in schools and in light of residential development.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Reserved places refer to the number of places, in the opinion of the education authority, which are reasonably required to accommodate pupils likely to become resident within the catchment area of a school during the period of considering placing requests and during that school year.
- 2.2 This allows the education authority to calculate and retain a certain number of places for children from families likely to move into the catchment area of schools which have classrooms with a limited number of spaces in some or all stages. The legislation permits the education authority the right to refuse some or all placing requests made for a particular school on the grounds that children from within the catchment area may become resident during the year.

Places are reserved to try to accommodate these children, where possible, in their catchment school, allowing the education authority to take positive steps to protect places in schools for catchment pupils.

- 2.3 The introduction of reserved places initially applied only to situations where no equivalent school was available within walking distance in terms of the amendments made to the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 by the Education

(Scotland) Act 1996. Section 44 of the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000 amended the legislation further, and an education authority now has discretion to determine reserved places whether or not there is an equivalent school nearby. The strategy for the implementation of reserved places within Perth and Kinross Council was approved by Committee in March 1997 for session 1997/98 (Report No 97/145 refers). Further reports have been approved for each subsequent session.

- 2.4 The criteria used for the number of reserved places within schools for the current session is now:
- a) schools which have classrooms with a limited number of spaces at specific stages;
 - b) interpretation of the guidance contained in the Scottish Office Circular 8/96 which gives examples of the types of situation which can be taken into account including historical or anticipated patterns of migration, information about known movements of families into (or out of) an area and any current residential development in the area;
 - c) the possible pattern of movement indicated by the current session's trends and roll projections for 2011/2012; and
 - d) that the scheme is justifiable and operated fairly, particularly as parents can appeal to the relevant Education Appeal Committee and thereafter to the Sheriff Court.

3 OPERATION OF CRITERIA 2011/2012

- 3.1 The introduction of the scheme caused some difficulties at the outset as schools adjusted to having places reserved for incomers, as well as deciding which stage within school the places should be reserved. The current proposals have been informed by the resolution of these difficulties.
- 3.2 The historical pattern of migration should continue to be monitored to ensure as accurate information as possible when considering the use of reserved places.
- 3.3 For session 2011/2012 there are some fluctuations in the reserved places. There are a number of schools whose reserved places have been altered in light of past experience in administering placements throughout session 2010/2011. In schools where additional building work has been undertaken, this has led to the reduction in the requirement for reserved places. Reserved places have been increased where residential build has taken place or is planned within school catchment areas. Reserved places have also been altered where school rolls have increased or decreased.

In addition to the above factors, it was necessary to increase or introduce reserved places in certain schools to manage the introduction of the then Scottish Executive's Reducing Class Sizes Initiative. This reduced Primary 1 classes from 30 pupils to 25 pupils per teacher, and has been in operation since August 2007.

4 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is proposed that the reserved places required for session 2011/2012 are accepted as outlined in Appendix 1. The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) will publish the Reserved Places in Schools 2011/2012 and implement this in full for session 2011/2012.
- 4.2 In order to address feedback from parents and Education Appeal Committees during session 2010/2011, it has been agreed that Education and Children's Services will publish the reserved places required in a more comprehensive format. Therefore, the published reserved places now show the reserved places at each individual stage for each school. Previously, only the total number for each school was published which led to confusion for some parents where their placing request application for their child was refused on these grounds. The revised published format will allow parents/carers to clearly understand how many reserved places are being held at each/any stage in the school each session.

5 CONSULTATION

The Head of Democratic Services, Head of Legal Services and Headteachers have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no resource implications contained within this paper.

7 COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN OBJECTIVES 2009-2012

- 7.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2009-2012 lays out five objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. They are as follows:-

- (i) A Safe, Secure and Welcoming Environment
- (ii) Healthy, Caring Communities
- (iii) A Prosperous, Sustainable and Inclusive Economy
- (iv) Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens
- (v) Confident, Active and Inclusive Communities

This report relates to the Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens objective.

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

- Change and Improvement

8 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EqIA)

An equality impact assessment needs to be carried out for functions, policies, procedures or strategies in relation to race, gender and disability and other

relevant protected characteristics. This supports the Council's legal requirement to comply with the duty to assess and consult on relevant new and existing policies.

The reserved places procedure presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (Eq1A) with the following outcome:

- i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of Eq1A

9 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a legal requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that applies to all qualifying plans, programmes and strategies, including policies (PPS).

The matters presented in this report were considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

10 CONCLUSION

The reserved places procedure complies with the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, as amended, to allow children moving into a catchment area of a school a greater likelihood of attending that school.

More reliable historical and anticipated patterns are being established as accurate information is collected over the years.

The annual revision of the reserved places procedure ensures that Education and Children's Services stringently manage pupil intakes for each school ensuring, where possible, that local children can attend their catchment school.

JOHN FYFFE
Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)

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

Contact Officer: Karen Robertson, Operations Manager, Ext. No. 76216,
E-mail KarenRobertson@pkc.gov.uk

Address of Service: Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, PERTH, PH1 5GD

Date: 24 February 2011

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion only, a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting *The Communications Manager*
E-mail: ecsgeneralenquiries@pkc.gov.uk



Council Text Phone Number 01738 442573

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Reserved Places 2011/2012

Primary Schools	Reserved Places 2010/2011	Total Reserved Places Required 2011/2012	Reserved Places Breakdown 2011/2012																		
			P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P1/2	P2/3	P3/4	P4/5	P5/6	P6/7	P1 - P7	P1 - P7	P1 - P4	P5 - P7	P3 - P5	
Letham Primary School	17	15	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2											
Longforgan Primary School	12	12	2							2	2	2	2	2							
Luncarty Primary School	14	6	1	1	1			1	1												
Madderty Primary School	7	3													1					1	
Meigle Primary School	7	6													2						2
Methven Primary School	6	5													2	2					
Milnathort Primary School	21	8	2	2			1	1	1	1	1										
Moncreiffe Primary School	11	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2											
Murthly Primary School	7	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1											
Muthill Primary School	6	6													2	1		1			2
Newhill Primary School	16	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1											
North Muirton Primary School	14	10	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2											
Oakbank Primary School	16	14	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2											
Our Lady's RC Primary School	4	6	2	1	1	1	1	1													
Pitcairn Primary School	2	0																			
Pitlochry Primary School	19	14	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2											
Portnoak Primary School	3	5													1		1	1			
Rattray Primary School	7	14	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2											
Robert Douglas Memorial School	11	10	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1											
Royal School of Dunkeld	12	11	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2											
Ruthvenfield Primary School	8	3													2				1		
St John's Academy (Primary)	3	8	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1											
St Maddoes Primary School	21	14													3	2	2	3			
St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School	7	0																			
Stanley Primary School	13	7													2	2	2	2			
Tulloch Primary School	18	14	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2											
Viewlands Primary School	16	14	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2											
Total	665	492																			

Secondary Schools	Reserved Places 2010/2011	Total Reserved Places Required 2011/2012	Reserved Places Breakdown 2011/2012						
			S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	
Community School of Auchterarder	2	0							
Kinross High School	12	12	3	3	3	3			
Perth Academy	12	0							
Perth Grammar School	8	6	3	3					
Perth High School	4	0							
Total	38	18							

	2010/2011	2011/2012
Primary School	665	492
Secondary School	38	18
Total	703	510

