

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Lifelong Learning Committee

27 May 2015

**Statutory Consultation –
Establishment of a New Secondary School in Perth****Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report informs the Committee of the outcome and findings of the statutory consultation exercise undertaken in respect of a proposed new Secondary School in Perth, as detailed in the published Consultation Report (attached as Appendix A). This report also seeks approval from the Lifelong Learning Committee to publish the Consultation Report in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended.

1. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 Education Authorities have a statutory duty in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to make adequate and efficient provision of school education across their area. This duty applies in respect of both the current school population and anticipated pattern of demand. In addition, Councils have a statutory duty to secure best value in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

Most importantly, the Education Authority would wish to optimise the educational experience for every pupil by providing:

- a range of social and emotional experiences
- an enriched and broad learning experience
- the best possible education which meets the needs of all learners

- 1.2 The Council's School Estate Management Plan, approved by the Lifelong Learning Committee of Perth and Kinross Council in March 2014, (Report No [14/96](#) refers) provides information on the whole of the school estate and provides information about overall objectives and future priorities within Perth and Kinross Council.

- 1.3 In July 2012, the Council bid successfully for £15.333m of funding towards the construction of a proposed new secondary school from the Scottish Government. Additional funding of £7.667m was approved by the Council in December 2012 (Report No [12/586](#) refers). A condition of the funding was that the new school will be complete and operational by March 2018.
- 1.4 A meeting of the Lifelong Learning Executive Sub-Committee in February 2013 noted Bertha Park, Perth as the preferred location of the new secondary school subject to statutory consultation (Report No [13/67](#) refers).
- 1.5 The Council approved the options appraisal for the establishment of a new secondary school for Perth City (Report No [14/193](#) refers) and agreed that statutory consultation was to be undertaken in respect of the preferred option 1f.
- 1.6 On 25 June 2014, a Special Lifelong Learning Committee approved the report Statutory Consultation – Establishment of a New Secondary School in Perth (Report No [14/298](#) refers). The Executive Director (Education and Children’s Services) was instructed to formally consult the appropriate bodies and persons in relation to the proposal to establish a new secondary school on a preferred site at Bertha Park, Perth, as well as varying the admission and transfer arrangements for identified schools to establish a catchment area and accommodate the phased population of the new school. It also sought approval of the Proposal Paper.
- 1.7 The Executive Director (Education and Children’s Services) was instructed to report back to the Committee on the outcome of these consultations no earlier than May 2015.
- 1.8 The purpose of this report is to inform Committee of the responses and comments which have been received from stakeholders during the public consultation exercise on the establishment of a new secondary school in Perth, and to recommend an appropriate course of action having had regard to relevant written and oral representations, Education Scotland’s report, and relevant responses received.

2. STATUTORY CONSULTATION EXERCISE

- 2.1 An electronic link to the [Proposal Paper](#) was issued by letter on Thursday 11 September 2014 to those individuals and bodies listed under Distribution within the document, and was also published on the Council’s website: www.pkc.gov.uk. The Proposal Paper made clear to consultees that the consultation period would run until Wednesday 19 November 2014 - a period of 40 school days in total.
- 2.2 The number of letters issued with details of the Proposal Paper was 8929.

2.3 Eight public meetings were held as follows:

Date	Venue	No. of Members of the Public in Attendance
Monday 22 September 2014	Bankfoot Church Centre, Bankfoot	29
Tuesday 23 September 2014	Pitcairngreen Hall, Pitcairn	3
Wednesday 24 September 2014	Methven Church Hall, Retinue Row, Methven	12
Thursday 25 September 2014	AK Bell Library, Perth	4
Monday 29 September 2014	Bridge of Earn Institute, Station Road, Bridge of Earn	21
Tuesday 30 September 2014	Perth Grammar School, Gowans Terrace, Perth	4
Wednesday 1 October 2014	Perth High School, Oakbank Road, Perth	4
Thursday 2 October 2014	Perth Academy, Murray Place, Perth	4

- 2.4 In all, 23 written responses were received regarding the proposal during the statutory consultation period. Of those responses, 9 respondees out of the 8929 consultees stated that they did not agree with the proposal.
- 2.5 As part of the Council's commitment to further engagement on the proposal, a meeting was also held on Wednesday 11 March 2015 for parents/carers of the first proposed cohort of pupils to attend the new school. The purpose of this meeting was to provide further information to parents on concerns raised during the consultation.
- 2.6 In response to consultation feedback, it is proposed to set a revised opening date of August 2018 for the new school, subject to approval of Lifelong Learning Committee. The Scottish Futures Trust has been approached regarding the funding offer in place for the new secondary school. The original funding agreement required the new secondary school to be operational no later than 31 March 2018.
- 2.7 As the Consultation Report (attached as Appendix A) contains a proposed amendment to the original proposal approved by Lifelong Learning Committee in June 2014, Committee approval is being sought prior to the publication of the Consultation Report.
- 2.8 Having considered the oral and written representations, and Education Scotland's Report, the Consultation Report has been prepared (attached as Appendix A) for Committee's approval. It is proposed to publish this electronically for public scrutiny from **3 June until 15 July 2015**. It will be available on the Council's website: www.pkc.gov.uk. This will allow for more than the required full three week review of the document prior to a final Committee decision on 26 August 2015, and complies with Section 9 (3) and Section 11 of the 2010 Act.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 A comprehensive Proposal Paper containing an Educational Benefits Statement was produced. This allowed for informed consideration to be given to the proposal to establish a new Secondary School in Perth through formal consultation with key stakeholders. The outcome and findings of the statutory consultation exercise are now published in the Consultation Report (attached as Appendix A).
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Committee:
- (i) Approves the Consultation Report (attached as Appendix A);
 - (ii) Instructs the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to publish the Consultation Report in accordance with section 9 (3) and section 11 of the 2010 Act; and
 - (iii) Instructs the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to report back to the Committee with the Final Proposal Decision Report in August 2015.

Author(s)

Name	Designation	Contact Details
Karen Robertson	Service Manager – Business Services	Tel: 01738 476216 Email: KarenRobertson@pkc.gov.uk

Approved

Name	Designation	Date
John Fyffe	Executive Director	16 April 2015

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	No
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	No
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	No
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	No
Strategic Environmental Assessment	No
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	No
Legal and Governance	Yes
Risk	No
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

1.1 The Perth and Kinross Community Plan 2013-2023 and Perth and Kinross Council Corporate Plan 2013/2018 set out five strategic objectives:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to Objective No (ii).

1.2 The report also links to the Education & Children's Services Policy Framework in respect of the following key policy area: Change and Improvement

2. Resource Implications

Financial

2.1 There are no financial implications relating to the statutory consultation exercise as this mainly related to staff time. Funding for a new secondary school was approved by the Council in December 2012 (Report No [12/586](#) refers). The revenue implications are part of the medium term financial plan and will be included as part of the budget process.

Workforce

2.2 N/A

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

2.3 N/A

3. Assessments

3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

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

(i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA

Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

The matters presented in this report were considered under the Act, however no further action is required as they do not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

3.3 N/A

Legal and Governance

3.4 This consultation exercise has been undertaken in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and with the full involvement of Legal Services throughout the process.

Risk

3.5 N/A

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Democratic Services and Head of Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report. Consultation on this proposal was also undertaken with key stakeholders as part of the statutory consultation exercise.

External

- 4.2 This report contains full details of the Statutory Consultation exercise undertaken in respect of this proposal and this is fully detailed in Appendix A.

5. Communication

- 5.1 This report contains the details of the communication and engagement undertaken in respect of this proposal.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 2.1 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.

3. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Consultation Report



PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

CONSULTATION REPORT

**REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION RELATING TO
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL ON A
PREFERRED SITE AT
BERTHA PARK, PERTH**

27 MAY 2015

This Consultation Report has been issued by Perth and Kinross Council in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

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PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

This report has been prepared following consultation on the proposal that that the Council:

- establish a new secondary school on a preferred site at Bertha Park, Perth with effect from March 2018;
- vary the existing admission arrangements to alter the catchment areas serving Perth Grammar School, Perth High School and Perth Academy to establish a catchment area for the proposed new secondary school, and establish temporary admission arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new secondary school; and
- vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school by altering the designated secondary school for the directly affected primary schools, and establish temporary transfer arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new secondary school.

Having had regard (in particular) to:

- a) Relevant written representations received by the Council (from any person) during the consultation period;
- b) Oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meetings held on 22-25 September and 29 September-2 October 2014; and
- c) Education Scotland's report on the proposal.

1. INTRODUCTION

This is a consultation report prepared in compliance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 on the above proposal.

1.1 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 the written responses;
- Provide a summary of oral representations made at the public meetings held on 22-25 September and 29 September-2 October 2014;
- Provide a statement of the Council's response to those written and oral representations;
- Provide the full text of Education Scotland's Inspectorate report and a statement of the Council's response to this report;

- State how the Council reviewed the above proposal following the representations received during the Statutory Consultation period and the report from Education Scotland;
- Provide details of any omission from, or inaccuracy in, the [Proposal Paper](#) and state how the Council acted upon it; and
- State how the Council has complied with Section 12 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 when reviewing the above proposals.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Education Authorities have a statutory duty in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to make adequate and efficient provision of school education across their area. This duty applies in respect of both the current school population and anticipated pattern of demand. In addition, Councils have a statutory duty to secure best value in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. Most importantly, the Education Authority would wish to optimise the educational experience for every pupil by providing:
- a range of social and emotional experiences;
 - an enriched and broad learning experience; and
 - the best possible education which meets the needs of all learners.
- 2.2 The Council's School Estate Management Plan, approved by the Lifelong Learning Committee of Perth and Kinross Council in March 2014, (Report No 14/96 refers) provides information on the whole of the school estate and provides information about overall objectives and future priorities within Perth and Kinross Council.
- 2.3 In July 2012, the Council bid successfully for £15.333m of funding towards the construction of a proposed new secondary school from the Scottish Government. Additional funding of £7.667m was approved by the Council in December 2012 (Report No 12/586 refers). A condition of the funding is that the new school will be complete and operational by March 2018. Additional funding of £1m was approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 11 June 2014 (Report No 14/408 refers).
- 2.4 A meeting of the Lifelong Learning Executive Sub-Committee in February 2013 noted Bertha Park, Perth as the preferred location of the new secondary school subject to statutory consultation (Report No 13/67 refers).
- 2.5 The Council approved the options appraisal for the establishment of a new secondary school for Perth City (Report No 14/193 refers) and agreed that statutory consultation was to be undertaken in respect of Option 1f as detailed in section 5.3 of the Proposal Paper.
- 2.6 Lifelong Learning Committee reports and Proposal Paper referred to above are available on the Council's website www.pkc.gov.uk.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The main considerations relating to the proposal that a new secondary school at a proposed site at Berth Park, Perth are fully explained in the Proposal Paper, and the main points are highlighted as follows:
- 3.2 Perth & Kinross is one of the fastest growing areas of Scotland based on latest population projections¹ indicating a 24% growth over a 25 year period. There are a number of major strategic housing sites as well as existing planning applications included in the current Local Development Plan (LDP), which runs until 2024. These sites include: Bertha Park, Almond Valley and Perth West to the North and West of Perth (5,050 houses); Scone North (700 houses); and Oudenarde near Bridge of Earn (1,600 houses).
- 3.3 A major review of the school estate was carried out in 2012 to determine the likely impact of population growth on primary and secondary education within the area. A new secondary school for Perth City was identified as one of the key priorities.
- 3.4 Perth City currently has three non-denominational secondary schools: Perth Academy; Perth Grammar School; and Perth High School. Together they have capacity for 3,946 pupils.
- 3.5 Projections based on existing pupil numbers, ie those already within our primary and secondary schools, suggest that our Perth City secondary schools will be near to capacity in 2021. In particular, Perth High School is projected to be at capacity in 2017/2018.
- 3.6 In addition to projected pupil numbers, the impact of house building detailed in Section 3.1 on the secondary school population must be considered. If 50% of the planned housing, from sites identified in the Local Development Plan (LDP) and if those that have been received as a planning application were to be built, the Perth City secondary schools would be over capacity by 758 pupils by 2020/2021.
- 3.7 As a result, a new secondary school is required to meet the anticipated demand for secondary school places in Perth. If Perth & Kinross Council does nothing, the schools listed above will breach capacity.
- 3.8 In July 2012, the Council bid successfully for £15.333m of funding towards the proposed new secondary school from the Scottish Government. Additional funding of £7.667m was approved by Council on 19 December 2012 (Report No [12/586](#) refers). A condition of the funding is that the new school will be complete and operational no later than 31 March 2018. Additional funding of £1m was approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 11 June 2014 (Report No 14/408 refers).

¹ 2012 based, published May 2014, National Records of Scotland

- 3.9 The building will make a clear civic statement about the value the Council places on investing in education and lifelong learning, and will be a focal point for the local community. It will benefit from modern design and materials and consider good practice learned through collaborative working with other Councils and through experience and good practice developed within Perth & Kinross. The building will be sustainable and energy efficient.
- 3.10 It is important that the school is flexible and allows the creative and multiple use of spaces by the staff and pupils, and also by the community. The design of the school is still to take place. However, the accommodation will include a sports hall, dining areas and learning resource centre. There will be a number of grass sports pitches and an All Weather Pitch. Car parking, bus bays and drop off areas will also form part of the design. The school will provide facilities for pupils with Additional Support Needs (ASN).

4. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 4.1 A Proposal Paper was considered and approved by Perth and Kinross Council's Lifelong Learning Committee at a special meeting held on 25 June 2014 ([Report No 14/298](#) refers). An electronic link to the Proposal Paper was issued by letter on 10 September 2014 to those individuals and bodies listed under Distribution within the document. The Proposal Paper was also published on the Council's website: www.pkc.gov.uk

The Proposal Paper made clear to consultees that the consultation period would run from **Thursday 11 September 2014** until **Wednesday 19 November 2014** – a period of 40 school days in total, which exceeds the required period of at least 30 school days.

- 4.2 The proposal on which consultation took place was to:
- establish a new secondary school on a preferred site at Bertha Park, Perth with effect from March 2018;
 - vary the existing admission arrangements to alter the catchment areas serving Perth Grammar School, Perth High School and Perth Academy to establish a catchment area for the proposed new secondary school, and establish temporary admission arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new secondary school; and
 - vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school by altering the designated secondary school for the directly affected primary schools, and establish temporary transfer arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new secondary school.
- 4.3 The requirements for consulting on a relevant proposal relating to schools are set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

- A Proposal Paper was published on Thursday 11 September 2014. A copy of this document was available free of charge to the consultees listed within the document.
- The Proposal Paper was published on the Perth and Kinross Council website www.pkc.gov.uk and was available in paper copy upon request.
- An advertisement ran in the Courier and Advertiser on 11 September 2014, and the Perthshire Advertiser on 12 September 2014.
- Eight public meetings were held to discuss the proposal as follows:

Date	Venue
Monday 22 September 2014	Bankfoot Church Centre, Bankfoot
Tuesday 23 September 2014	Pitcairngreen Hall, Paircairn
Wednesday 24 September 2014	Methven Church Hall, Retinue Row, Methven
Thursday 25 September 2014	AK Bell Library, York Place, Perth
Monday 29 September 2014	Bridge of Earn Institute, Station Road, Bridge of Earn
Tuesday 30 September 2014	Perth Grammar School, Gowans Terrace, Perth
Wednesday 1 October 2014	Perth High School, Oakbank Road, Perth
Tuesday 2 October 2014	Perth Academy, Murray Place, Perth

- The Consultation period ended on Wednesday 19 November 2014.
- Education Scotland's involvement consisted of: the proposal document being sent to them, attendance at the public meetings on 24 September 2014 and 29 September 2014 and visits to the sites of Auchtergaven Primary School, Dunbarney Primary School, Forgandenny Primary School, Forteviot Primary School, Logiealmond Primary School, Methven Primary School, Inch view Primary School, Perth Academy, Perth Grammar School, Perth High School, Pitcairn Primary School and Ruthvenfield Primary School meeting with a sample of pupils, staff and parents/carers. They also received a copy of all written representations. They then prepared a report on the educational aspects of the proposal. This is attached as Appendix 10.

4.4 The following schools are **directly affected** by the proposal:

- **Auchtergaven Primary School**
- **Dunbarney Primary School**
- **Forgandenny Primary School**
- **Forteviot Primary School**
- **Logiealmond Primary School**
- **Methven Primary School**
- **Oudenarde Pupils attending Inch View Primary School**
- **Perth Academy**
- **Perth Grammar School**
- **Perth High School**
- **Pitcairn Primary School**
- **Ruthvenfield Primary School**

4.5 The following schools are **indirectly affected** by the proposal:

- **Abernethy Primary School**
- **Abernyte Primary School**
- **Balbeggie Primary School**
- **Balhouses Primary School**
- **Burrelton Primary School**
- **Collace Primary School**
- **Craigie Primary School**
- **Errol Primary School**
- **Goodlyburn Primary School**
- **Glendelvine Primary School**
- **Guildtown Primary School**
- **Inch View Primary School**
- **Inchture Primary School**
- **Invergowrie Primary School**
- **Kinnoull Primary School**
- **Letham Primary School**
- **Longforgan Primary School**
- **Luncarty Primary School**
- **Moncreiffe Primary School**
- **Murthly Primary School**
- **North Muirton Primary School**
- **Oakbank Primary School**
- **Robert Douglas Memorial Primary School**
- **Royal School of Dunkeld Primary School**
- **St Madoes Primary School**
- **St Ninian's Primary School**
- **Stanley Primary School**
- **Tulloch Primary School**
- **Viewlands Primary School**

4.6 In accordance with statutory requirements, the following persons were consulted:

- The Parent Councils of directly and indirectly affected schools.
- The parents/carers of the pupils and children who may attend the directly and indirectly affected schools.
- Parents/carers of children expected to attend an affected school within two years of the date of publication of this proposal document.
- The teaching and ancillary staff at the directly and indirectly affected schools.
- All Trade Unions.
- Community Councils in areas directly and indirectly affected.
- Relevant users of the directly and indirectly affected schools.
- Elected Members of Perth and Kinross Council.
- Non-Elected Members of the Council's Lifelong Learning Committee.
- The Constituency MSP and List MSPs covering the Constituencies.

- The Constituency MPs.
- The Executive Director, The Environment Service, Perth and Kinross Council.
- The Executive Director, Housing & Community Care, Perth and Kinross Council.
- Tayside Contracts (providers of catering and cleaning services to schools).
- Live Active Leisure.
- Education Scotland.

- 4.7 The number of letters issued with details of the Proposal Paper was 8929.
- 4.8 During the consultation period, representations were sought from interested parties, either in oral or written form or electronically. A generic email account was set up by the Council to receive enquiries on the proposal or representations.
- 4.9 This Consultation Report is the Council's response to the issues raised during the consultation period on the Proposal Paper.
- 4.10 This Consultation Report will be published for a period of six weeks before a final decision is taken by Perth and Kinross Council at the Lifelong Learning Committee on 26 August 2015.

5. THE PUBLIC MEETINGS

- 5.1 A public meeting was held in Bankfoot Church Centre, Bankfoot on Monday 22 September 2014. Twenty-nine members of the public attended. A full note of the meeting is attached as Appendix 1 which details the questions and issues raised at the meeting.
- 5.2 A public meeting was held in Pitcairngreen Hall, Pitcairn on Tuesday 23 September 2014. Three members of the public attended. A full note of the meeting is attached as Appendix 2 which details the questions and issues raised at the meeting.
- 5.3 A public meeting was held in Methven Church Hall, Retinue Row, Methven on Wednesday 24 September 2014. Thirteen members of the public attended. A full note of the meeting is attached as Appendix 3 which details the questions and issues raised at the meeting.
- 5.4 A public meeting was held in AK Bell Library, York Place, Perth on Thursday 25 September 2014. Five members of the public attended. A full note of the meeting is attached as Appendix 4 which details the questions and issues raised at the meeting.
- 5.5 A public meeting was held in Bridge of Earn Institute, Station Road, Bridge of Earn on Monday 29 September 2014. Twenty-one members of the public attended. A full note of the meeting is attached as Appendix 5 which details the questions and issues raised at the meeting.

- 5.6 A public meeting was held in Perth Grammar School, Gowans Terrace, Perth on Tuesday 30 September 2014. Four members of the public attended. A full note of the meeting is attached as Appendix 6 which details the questions and issues raised at the meeting.
- 5.7 A public meeting was held in Perth High School, Oakbank Road, Perth on Wednesday 1 October 2014. Four members of the public attended. A full note of the meeting is attached as Appendix 7 which details the questions and issues raised at the meeting.
- 5.8 A public meeting was held in Perth Academy, Murray Place, Perth Thursday 2 October 2014. Four members of the public attended. A full note of the meeting is attached as Appendix 8 which details the questions and issues raised at the meeting.
- 5.9 The attendees at the public meetings and the questions and issues raised, indicate that there was generally broad support for the proposal but that, understandably, a small number of parents/carers whose children are in the identified first cohort of pupils had a number of specific queries and concerns.

6. RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE

In all, twenty-three written responses were received during the consultation period. Fourteen representations support the proposal and nine representations were made opposing the proposal. The breakdown of the respondent groups is contained within the Summary of Consultation Responses, attached as Appendix 9.

In summary, the written and oral responses can be grouped broadly as follows:

- Staffing levels in the new secondary school and impact on existing staffing levels in other Perth secondary schools.
- Curriculum offered in new secondary school if pupil roll is low.
- Concern regarding the occupation date of March 2018 and pupils moving during S1 year to a new school.
- Future investment for other Perth Secondary schools.
- Balance of rural and city pupils in the new secondary school.
- Issues for siblings attending the same school or separate schools.
- Concern about the school being delayed, the impact on agreed funding and the conditionality of the new road being in place.

- Transition arrangements for pupils attending Perth Grammar School as a host school.
- Transport and safe walking routes.
- Availability and access to extra-curricular activities dependant on access to public transport.
- Concern about lack of senior pupils in the new secondary school.

7. EDUCATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO WRITTEN AND ORAL REPRESENTATIONS

7.1 Concerns regarding staffing levels in the new secondary school and impact on existing staffing levels in other Perth secondary schools.

The new school will have capacity for 1100 pupils and will be staffed in line with local and national staffing standards. All schools will continue to be managed in line with local and national staffing standards in accordance with the pupil roll.

7.2 Concerns regarding continuity of staff and senior management for the first cohort of pupils attending 2 schools in S1.

In advance, the appointment of the Headteacher and senior appointments will be taken forward. These staff will be based in Perth Grammar School during the transition year. The team will work with the first cohort of pupils while they are in stages P6/P7 to develop an extended transition programme with clear targets and agreed timescales. The transition programme is aimed at creating and developing a positive school ethos and ensuring that the learning, pastoral and social needs of children are fully supported during the transition process. This will include working with pupils to look at the new school's identity and uniforms etc. The Council will also start the recruitment process for teaching staff across all curriculum areas for the new school. Trade Unions and professional associations will be fully involved in consultations/discussions as appropriate throughout this process.

7.3 Concerns regarding curriculum offered in new secondary school if pupil roll is low.

Perth & Kinross Council is obliged to deliver the full curriculum to all pupils. The Council cannot provide specific detail yet regarding staffing but children will receive their full curriculum entitlement. Teaching allocation is based on pupil roll so there will not be a full complement of teachers based on the 1100 school capacity when the school first opens but the Council plans on putting in place additional staff to support the planning and transition into the new school. There is a rolling programme of recruitment in accordance with the current staffing standard and Perth and Kinross Council policies. There are locally and nationally agreed staffing standards which will be met as the school roll increases.

7.4 Concerns regarding the occupation date of March 2018 and pupils moving during S1 year to a new school.

This was the timeline given to the Council to complete the building. As part of the funding offer from the Scottish Government the requirement was that the school has to be completed and operational by March 2018. The Council also wanted to bring the children together as a cohort for a few months before they moved into the new school. Otherwise, they would be spread out over a number of schools.

7.5 Concerns regarding future investment for other Perth Secondary schools.

The Modernising Secondary Schools Programme has resulted in significant expenditure in recent times in Perth Grammar School, Perth High School, Perth Academy and Blairgowrie High School. Further bids for funding will continue to be made. This is to ensure the buildings are suitable for modern learning and teaching. Perth Grammar School, Perth High School and Perth Academy all have Headteachers who are very keen to develop their own schools. The new secondary school will not prevent existing schools from flourishing.

7.6 Concerns regarding the balance of rural and city pupils in the new secondary school.

The proposed catchment consists mainly of areas outwith Perth city centre, the exception being the new development at Bertha Park in Perth. As Luncarty and Stanley are developed, it is anticipated that an increase in the number of pupils coming from those areas will compensate for the loss of the other feeder schools of Perth Grammar School.

7.7 Issues for siblings attending the same school or separate schools.

Parents/carers whose children have been designated to different catchment secondary schools following the opening of the new school will have the choice to send younger children to the same catchment school as older siblings or to send them to the new school.

7.8 Concerns about the school being delayed, the impact on agreed funding and the conditionality of the new road being in place.

The link road is due to be in place summer 2017. There is another plan in place to ensure that there are no delays in progressing with the school build. If there were to be any delays, pupils could stay at Perth Grammar School longer. The Council will know in advance if any aspects of the plans fall behind schedule. In 6 months to 1 year it will be known if the school will be completed on time.

7.9 Transition arrangements for pupils attending Perth Grammar School as a host school.

The Council is fully committed to ensuring continuity of provision for young people who will be directly affected by the proposals. In advance, the appointment of the Headteacher and senior appointments will be taken forward. These staff will be based in Perth Grammar School during the transition year.

The team will work with the first cohort of pupils while they are in stages P6/P7 to develop an extended transition programme with clear targets and agreed timescales.

The transition programme is aimed at creating and developing a positive school ethos and ensuring that the learning, pastoral and social needs of children are fully supported during the transition process. This will include working with pupils to look at the new school's identity and uniforms etc. The Council will also start the recruitment process for teaching staff across all curriculum areas for the new school. Trade Unions and professional associations will be fully involved in consultations/discussions as appropriate throughout this process.

7.10 Transport and safe walking routes to new secondary school.

Normal transport rules will apply, ie children living more than three miles from their catchment secondary school by the shortest walking route will be entitled to free home to school transport. It is anticipated the Planning Application for the new secondary school will consider safe walking paths and cycle routes.

7.11 Availability and access to extra-curricular activities dependant on access to public transport.

Public/parental transport has to be relied on for children currently taking part in extra-curricular activities at their existing secondary school. It is however anticipated that the wider development of the new properties at the Bertha Park site will result in a review of public transport links from Perth City to the Bertha Park area.

7.12 Concerns about lack of senior pupils in the new secondary school.

The population of the new secondary school will require careful management. The Council acknowledges it will be a different experience for pupils. It is proposed that some of the curriculum will be delivered through Perth City Campus, therefore, there will on occasion be some senior pupils in Bertha Park, but not a whole senior year group. Perth City Campus is a way of enabling small numbers of senior pupils from different schools to come together to study a subject which may not be offered in one school. This should give younger pupils some opportunity to interact with senior pupils acting as mentors. The Perth City Campus model is an evolving model and it will be developed further every year. The Perth City Campus model was the preferred option to allow children in the new school the opportunity to mix with more senior pupils and the senior pupils will be role models and mentors for the younger pupils.

8. EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT

8.1 In accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, a report was produced by Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal.

8.2 Education Scotland visited:

- Auchtergaven Primary School;
- Dunbarney Primary School;
- Forgandenny Primary School;
- Forteviot Primary School;
- Logiealmond Primary School;
- Methven Primary School;
- Inch View Primary School;
- Perth Academy;
- Perth Grammar School;
- Perth High School;
- Pitcairn Primary School; and
- Ruthvenfield Primary School

to speak to pupils, parents/carers and staff. Education Scotland attended the public meetings on 24 September 2014 and 29 September 2014 and had the opportunity to review in detail the Proposal Paper and a summary of the 23 written responses and oral responses.

8.3 The Education Scotland report is reproduced in full (Appendix 10).

8.4 The report broadly supports the proposal and is summarised below:

- Education Scotland indicate that there is a clear rationale for the establishment of a new secondary school which will result in an increased secondary school capacity and a better balance in numbers of pupils attending secondary schools across Perth (Education Scotland para 3.1).
- Education Scotland noted that if the proposal is implemented, young people will benefit from a new purpose-built school which will provide a flexible learning environment resulting in potentially increased aspirations, achievement and attainment (Education Scotland para 3.2).
- Education Scotland point out that staff, children and young people and parents/carers were broadly in favour of the proposal and children were enthusiastic about the opportunity to learn in a purpose-built new secondary school with high-quality facilities (Education Scotland para 3.3).
- Education Scotland indicate that, if implemented, the proposal will provide clear educational benefits and the school roll forecasts demonstrate a clear need for additional capacity (Education Scotland para 4.1)
- Education Scotland noted that the Council has assured stakeholders that they will be fully involved in further detailed decisions regarding the design, travel plans and staffing arrangements (Education Scotland para 4.1).

8.5 Perth and Kinross Council's Response to Education Scotland's Report

The Council welcomes the report from Education Scotland and accepts its findings.

In response to the findings contained within the Education Scotland report, Perth and Kinross response is as follows:

- 8.5.1 It is proposed that in August 2017 the first cohort of S1 pupils will be brought together as one group in another Perth secondary school. This S1 group would then move to the new school in March 2018. This will result in the pupils concerned experiencing two transitions in less than a year. The Council commits to creating a transitional leadership team to take forward transition plans. It does not provide specific information about arrangements to ensure continuity in learning for S1 pupils moving to the new school in March 2018.**

The Council is fully committed to ensuring continuity of provision for young people who will be directly affected by the proposals. In advance, the appointment of the Headteacher and senior appointments will be taken forward. These staff will be based in Perth Grammar School during the transition year. The team will work with the first cohort of pupils while they are in stages P6/P7 to develop an extended transition programme with clear targets and agreed timescales.

The extended transition programme is aimed at creating and developing a positive school ethos and ensuring that the learning, pastoral and social needs of children are fully supported during the transition process. This will include working with pupils to look at the new school's identity and uniforms etc. The Council will also start the recruitment process for teaching staff across all curriculum areas for the new school. Trade Unions and professional associations will be fully involved in consultations/discussions as appropriate throughout this process.

- 8.5.2 Parents were unclear as to how this proposed arrangement would be in the best interests of their children. Overall, they would prefer alternative arrangements to be made such as completing the school by August 2017 or delaying entry for the first S1 cohort until August 2018. Perth and Kinross Council will need to address these concerns in its final consultation report.**

The Council recognises there are parental concerns on this part of the proposal and has reconsidered its position. In response to consultation feedback, the Council is seeking to set a revised opening date of **August 2018** for the new school, subject to approval of Lifelong Learning Committee on 27 May 2015. The Council has approached the Scottish Futures Trust regarding the funding offer in place for the new secondary school. The original funding agreement required the new secondary school to be operational no later than 31 March 2018.

As part of a further successful bid for funding of 2 new primary schools in Perth and Kinross, the Council has negotiated a re-phasing of the funding arrangement to allow the new secondary school to be operational from August 2018.

This extended timescale also provides the opportunity to populate the new school with two stages of pupils (S1 and S2) earlier than anticipated. This means that **current P5 pupils** in directly affected schools will, therefore, be part of the transition arrangements for the opening of the new school as S2 pupils, having completed their S1 year in Perth Grammar School.

In continuing the Council's commitment to meaningful consultation and stakeholder engagement, a follow-up Public Meeting was arranged for all P5 parents/carers in directly affected schools. This meeting took place on Wednesday 11 March 2015 in Perth Grammar School. The purpose of the meeting was to engage parents in further discussion regarding the concerns raised as part of the consultation process, and explore their views on the inclusion of current P5 child(ren) in the first cohort of pupils to attend the new school as S2 pupils.

The meeting helped to explain to parents/carers how the extended transition programme will support the pupils in their transition to the new school. The meeting also provided an opportunity to share a model of how the curriculum is successfully delivered/managed within a smaller secondary school, in a session led by the Headteacher and pupils of Pitlochry High School. The Headteacher and pupils also explained how the school manages areas such as lunchtime arrangements, and provides after school clubs etc for a smaller school community.

8.5.3 The Council proposal to ensure the delivery of a curriculum aligned to the principles of Curriculum for Excellence, including opportunities for personal achievement and inter-disciplinary learning in line with best practice will require further detail.

The new school's curriculum will provide the opportunity for learners to achieve across all curricular areas, and develop skills, attributes and capabilities through courses aligned with the design principles of Curriculum for Excellence: challenge and enjoyment, breadth, progression, depth, personalisation and choice, coherence and relevance.

Children and young people will be provided with a broad range of opportunities for personal achievement and inter-disciplinary learning across all curriculum areas and subjects by building on best practice in curriculum design in Perth & Kinross schools.

The follow-up public meeting on 11 March 2015 was aimed at reassuring parents/carers of the Council's commitment to deliver the full curriculum to the first cohort of pupils (S1 and S2) for the new school, and demonstrating its success in achieving this in a smaller secondary school setting (Pitlochry High School). Work will be ongoing to develop the specific curriculum for the school, with this being finalised by the new school's Headteacher following their appointment in session 2016-2017.

8.5.4 Should the Council decide to implement its proposal, it will need to ensure that the first cohorts of pupils at the new school receive their entitlements to Curriculum for Excellence during the phased implementation. It will need to provide further detail of how it intends to do this in its final consultation report.

The new school's curriculum will provide the opportunity for all learners to achieve across all curricular areas, and develop skills, attributes and capabilities through courses aligned with the design principles of Curriculum for Excellence: challenge and enjoyment, breadth, progression, depth, personalisation and choice, coherence and relevance as is the case in all schools.

All children and young people attending the new secondary school will be provided with a broad range of opportunities for personal achievement and inter-disciplinary learning across all curriculum areas and subjects by building on best practice in curriculum design in Perth & Kinross schools. The Council will ensure that each new cohort of pupils receives their entitlements to Curriculum for Excellence building on an existing model of how the curriculum is successfully delivered and managed within a smaller secondary school context which will support children and young people as the school roll continues to increase.

8.5.5 The Council will need to include consideration of issues raised on public transport in its travel plan.

School Travel Plans are an essential part of Perth & Kinross Council's strategy to tackle issues related to school travel and transport. The School Travel Plan is a strategy developed by each school to encourage and promote more active journeys to school for both pupils and staff. The new school's Travel Plan will therefore be developed in line with normal Council practice and in consultation with pupils, parents/carers and staff. As part of this process, those involved in developing the Plan will consider the feedback from the Statutory Consultation process to look at how any issues raised can be addressed through the Plan.

8.5.6 Parents were also concerned about the time required to establish a full school community, including arrangements for lunchtime and after school clubs and out of school learning opportunities. Perth and Kinross Council will need to consider these concerns in taking forward its proposal.

The Council has already engaged parents/carers in further discussion regarding the concerns raised as part of the consultation process. The follow-up meeting provided an opportunity to share how a smaller secondary school manages areas such as lunchtime arrangements, and provides after school clubs etc for a smaller school community.

The Council will work with the Headteacher to build on an existing model of how lunchtime and after school clubs and out of school learning opportunities is successfully delivered and managed within a smaller secondary school context which will support children and young people as the school roll builds.

8.5.7 The Council will need to continue to engage with parents and provide assurance that Oudenarde children will not be disadvantaged in arrangements to support their transition from primary to secondary education.

The Council recognises that the continued absence of a local primary school within Oudenarde, and the increasing pressures on Perth High School's school roll, means that Oudenarde parents/carers may have concerns regarding their child(ren's) transition to the new school. Indeed, the pressures on Perth High School are one of the main drivers for the new secondary school. The Council will continue to engage with parents/carers on the longer term plan for primary school provision to serve Oudenarde and will continue to engage with parents to support children from Oudenarde in their transition from primary to the new secondary school.

8.5.8 The proposal to locate the first cohort of new pupils to another Perth secondary school from August 2017 until March 2018 has the potential to cause disruption and anxiety for pupils and parents. Whilst this aspect of the proposal will result in the Council complying with project funding deadlines, it is not clear how this arrangement is in the best educational interests of the pupils affected. Perth and Kinross Council will need to address this in its final consultation report.

The Council recognises there are parental concerns on this part of the proposal and has reconsidered its position. In response to consultation feedback, the Council is seeking to set a revised opening date of **August 2018** for the new school, subject to approval of Lifelong Learning Committee on 27 May 2015.

This extended timescale also provides the opportunity to populate the new school with two stages of pupils (S1 and S2) earlier than anticipated. This means that current P5 pupils in directly affected schools will, therefore, be part of the transition arrangements for the opening of the new school as S2 pupils, having completed their S1 year in Perth Grammar School.

A communications plan has been developed to ensure that parents/carers, pupils and staff are kept informed at each key stage throughout the proposal. The Council will work with the headteachers of all the directly affected schools to ensure parents/carers are kept aware of how these concerns are being addressed. In addition to the usual communication channels, there will also be an opportunity for parents/carers to attend further drop-in sessions which will allow the Council to share information directly with parents/carers.

9. NEW TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND SECONDARY SCHOOL

- 9.1 Parents/carers of children who are to transfer to secondary school in August of any one year will receive a letter from Perth & Kinross Council during the month of January offering a place to their child at the secondary school in whose catchment area he/she lives.
- 9.2 The offer of a secondary school place is determined by the child's home address at the time of allocating secondary school places.
- 9.3 It is proposed to populate the new school with pupils from the following existing primary school catchment areas; Methven, Logiealmond, Pitcairn, Ruthvenfield, Auchtergaven, Dunbarney, Forteviot, Forgandenny and pupils residing in Oudenarde.
- 9.4 In addition, pupils from the new developments/strategic sites at Bertha Park, Almond Valley and Perth West will form part of the school catchment.
- 9.5 The current policies on School Admission and Placing Requests would continue to apply to the new school.
- 9.6 From August 2017 the S1 pupils from the proposed new catchment area will be allocated a place at the new secondary school. Until the new school building is operational in August 2018, this year group will be located at the designated host secondary school in Perth.
- 9.7 The designated host secondary school will be located within an existing Perth secondary school and this has been provisionally identified as Perth Grammar School.
- 9.8 Parents will continue to have the right to make a Placing Request for another secondary school of their choice if they do not wish their child to transfer temporarily to the designated host school or to the new secondary school when completed. Parents who make successful placing requests for their child(ren) to attend a school of their choice are required to accept full responsibility for all arrangements and costs relating to transporting them to school.

10. TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN 2017/2018 AND 2022/2023

- 10.1 The Council is fully committed to working with parents to support choices for their child's place of education during the transition period of populating the new school. The Council recognises that in populating the new secondary school on a phased basis, this may have implications for parents who have children already in attendance at secondary school who have younger siblings yet to commence secondary school.
- 10.2 Pupils living in the affected area who have already commenced their secondary education at the time of the new secondary school opening can remain in their chosen secondary school. No existing secondary school pupils will be required to move school after the new secondary school opens unless that is by parental choice and that year group is operational in the new school.
- 10.3 Pupils living in the proposed new catchment area who have an older sibling(s) in attendance at their previously designated secondary school will be permitted to attend the previously designated secondary school if parents wish siblings to attend the same school until the new school is fully operational in 2022/2023.
- 10.4 Older siblings of pupils attending the new secondary school will be unable to transfer to the new secondary school unless their year group is operational in the new secondary school.
- 10.5 Families moving into the proposed new catchment area with secondary school age children in a year group not yet operating in the new secondary school will be allocated a place in the existing designated secondary school.
- 10.6 Placing requests for older pupils living outwith the proposed new catchment area to attend the new secondary school will not be possible until such time as their year group is operational in the new secondary school.
- 10.7 Families moving into the area during the school session with children in more than one year group who cannot all be accommodated in the new secondary school will have the option to send all their children to the existing designated secondary school serving the older pupils, where possible.
- 10.8 As it is proposed that the new secondary school will be populated on a phased basis with S1 and S2 pupils from August 2018, the designated secondary school for older secondary pupils living in, or moving into the proposed catchment area for the new secondary school is shown in Appendix 11.

11. TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

- 11.1 The Council is fully committed to ensuring continuity of provision for young people who will be affected by the proposals. The need for improved transition is recognised both nationally and locally and is central to continuity of education and progression through the curriculum.

- 11.2 A transition programme for pupils will be established with the aim of creating and developing a positive school ethos. The establishment of a new school offers a unique and rich context for learning. The programme will include a range of activities such as joint learning themes, excursions, social and sporting events.
- 11.3 In addition, a high level of engagement activities will be planned with parents, pupils and staff from the earliest stages of the development of the new school to enhance stakeholder engagement which are known to contribute to smooth transitions for young people as they move from one school to another. Pupil Support staff will liaise to ensure that the learning, pastoral and social needs of children are fully supported during the transition process. In full consultation with all the associated schools, and supported by Education Services, a transition programme will be produced specifying clear targets and agreed timescales.

In order to populate the new secondary school there will be a phased approach to the transition of pupils from existing schools to the new school.

Year 1 Session 2017/2018

- In August 2017 S1 pupils from the proposed new catchment schools will be brought together as one group. It is proposed that these pupils will be temporarily located in one of the existing Perth City secondary schools and timetabled together.
- In August 2018 the new school will be open and that pupil group will transfer to the new school as S2 pupils.
- A buddying/mentoring programme will be led by senior pupils from the Perth City Campus to support transition.
- Staffing levels and timetabling arrangements will be adjusted within the host school to ensure that this model is successfully implemented with the increased number of pupils.
- A Transitional Leadership Team of the host school will assume responsibility for the initial S1 group and prepare them and support them through the transition to the new school.
- This group of pupils will be actively involved in consultations about their new school.
- Opportunities for parental involvement and engagement will be established, including the setting up of a new Parent Council.

Year 2 Session 2018/2019

- In August 2018 the new S1 pupils from the proposed new catchment area attend the new school along with the S2 pupils.
- A buddying/mentoring programme led by senior pupils from Perth City Campus and S2 pupils will continue to support transition (see Section 7.6).
- In August 2018 Perth City Campus senior phase subjects will have been identified which will be delivered in the new school. This will develop ethos and citizenship and provide the same peer support opportunities for younger pupils. Senior pupils undertaking those subjects will attend the new school when appropriate at times throughout the week.

- The new secondary school Leadership Team will have been established and operational for the start of the new school session in August 2018.
- The new school will have appropriate levels of teaching and support staff in place which will be adjusted as the school roll grows. Staffing levels will continue to link to the Perth & Kinross Council Staffing Standard.

Year 3 Session 2019/2020

- In August 2019 the school will be populated by years S1-S3 (Curriculum for Excellence Broad General Education for Secondary) and the Perth City Campus senior pupils attending for their particular curriculum choices.

Year 4-6 Session 2020/2022

- By August 2022 the school will be fully populated ie S1-S6 as pupils advance through the school and Perth City Campus senior pupils.

12. ALLEGED OMISSIONS OR INACCURACIES

- 12.1 Section (10) (3) of the 2010 Act also places a requirement on the Council to provide details of any inaccuracy or omission within the Proposal Paper which has either been identified by the Council or raised by consultees. This section of the 2010 Act 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.
- 12.2 In the course of the consultation exercise, there were no areas identified by respondents as being inaccurate or omitted from the Proposal Paper during the consultation period.

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

- 13.1 Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 states that:

After the Education Authority has received Education Scotland's report, the Authority is to review the relevant proposal having regard (in particular) to:

- (i) written representations received by the Authority (from any person) during the consultation period,*
- (ii) oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting,*
- (iii) Education Scotland's report.*

- 13.2 Following receipt of twenty-three written representations and consideration of oral representations made at a public meeting held during the consultation period, officers reviewed the proposals.

- 13.3 The feedback from the consultation was considered by a range of officers. This ensured that the Council met the requirements of sections 9(1), 12 and 13(3) (b) of the 2010 Act.
- 13.4 Officers of the Education Authority have listened carefully to the points made at the public meetings and have considered equally carefully the written representations, including the Education Scotland report. Having reviewed the feedback from consultees, officers conclude that the basis of the original proposal remained the best solution to provide appropriate and effective education provision to Perth and Kinross pupils but that an amendment requires to be made to the occupation date and transitional arrangements for Bertha Park.

14. LEGAL ISSUES

- 14.1 The Council has complied in full with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 throughout this statutory consultation.
- 14.2 The Council is mindful of its duties in respect of equality and the Equality Impact Assessment did not identify that any parent, child or young person would be treated less favourably as a result of this proposal.
- 14.3 Under the terms of the Schools (Scotland) (Consultation) Act 2010, it is a legal requirement that the Council should not reach any formal decision without:
- having reviewed the relevant proposal having regard, in particular, to:
 - a) relevant written representations received from any person during the consultation period;
 - b) oral representation made to it by any person at the public meetings held on 22-25 September 2014 and 29 September - 2 October 2014;
 - c) the Education Scotland report ;
 - preparing a Consultation Report; and
 - waiting until a period of three weeks starting on the day on which this Consultation Report is published in electronic and printed form has expired.
- 14.4 As it is the intention that this Consultation Report should be published, both electronically and in written form, if required, on 3 June 2015 until 15 July 2015, this exceeds the statutory requirement to publish this report more than three weeks before consideration of the proposal by Lifelong Learning Committee.

15. PERSONNEL ISSUES

There would be no compulsory redundancies of Education and Children's Services staff as a consequence of these proposals. Staffing arrangements will be consistent with Perth and Kinross Council's Staffing Standard and other local agreements. Detailed consultation will be undertaken with individual members of staff, Trade Unions and Professional Associations on an implementation plan for staffing the new secondary school.

16. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

A detailed assessment of the environmental impact and sustainability of the proposal would be undertaken if approval is granted. It is unlikely there will be any increase in carbon level as a result of increased use of school transport as pupils are currently travelling to other Perth secondary schools which would be phased out over a period of 6 years as pupils from the directly affected areas travel to the new Secondary School at Bertha Park, Perth.

17. CONCLUSION

17.1 The Council now has 4 broad options to consider, namely:

- a) adopt the proposal;
- b) withdraw the proposal and make no additional provision for secondary school education;
- c) amend the proposal in some way which allows the proposal to proceed; or
- d) amend the proposal significantly and undertake a further consultation exercise on a new proposal.

17.2 In withdrawing the proposal, the Council would be failing to recognise or respond to the support from parents/carers, staff and pupils for the proposal to establish a new secondary school. Education Scotland has identified that the proposal would lead to clear educational benefits for young people. This includes providing a high quality learning environment offering greater flexibility for all school activities which is designed to deliver a 21st century education in line with the principles of Curriculum for Excellence.

17.3 There is an option to amend the proposal which will provide the same educational benefits as the arrangements outlined in the original Proposal Paper. This is to amend the occupation date to August 2018, allowing S1 and S2 pupils to commence at Bertha Park at the same time. This would address the concerns of some parents/carers and the issue identified by Education Scotland.

17.4 An options appraisal on a number of suitable sites was carried out at an earlier stage in the planning process for this school and the land identified for the new secondary school has been approved within the Local Development Plan.

17.5 If the Council adopts the proposal, it would be on the basis that the educational benefits set out in the Proposal Paper would materialise. There would also be a requirement that close joint planning with parents/carers, staff and pupils is well managed in ways which are supportive to the pupils concerned, and in their long term interests.

17.6 The key issues that have been highlighted during the consultation period are as follows:

- The Council's proposals have been generally supported by parents/carers, staff and the wider community.
- Only 9 respondents do not support the Council's proposal.
- The report from Education Scotland acknowledges that the proposal would lead to clear educational benefits for young people attending the new secondary school at Bertha Park.

18. RECOMMENDATIONS

18.1 On the basis of the feedback received and taking account of the educational and social benefits of the proposal, it is concluded that the following proposal is the most suitable option and it is recommended that the Council:

- establish a new secondary school on a preferred site at Bertha Park, Perth with effect from August 2018 subject to the necessary infrastructure being completed;
- vary the existing admission arrangements to alter the catchment areas serving Perth Grammar School, Perth High School and Perth Academy to establish a catchment area for the proposed new secondary school, and establish temporary admission arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new secondary school; and
- vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school by altering the designated secondary school for the directly affected primary schools, and establish temporary transfer arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new secondary school.

John Fyffe
Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)

20 April 2014



**Perth & Kinross Council
Education and Children's Services
Statutory Consultation Public Meeting**

Minute of meeting held on Monday 22 September 2014

At 7 pm in Bankfoot Church Centre

Present

Councillor Bob Band	Convener, Lifelong Learning Committee
Audrey May	Strategic Lead – Change & Improvement
Karen Robertson	Service Manager - Business and Operations
Carol Taylor	Service Manager - Resources

In Attendance

Councillor Barbara Vaughan	Perth and Kinross Council
Anne Gauld – Minute	Perth and Kinross Council

29 members of the public

1. Welcome and Introductions

Councillor Band opened the meeting and welcomed the members of public in attendance to the Statutory Consultation Public Meeting. Councillor Band introduced himself and the panel to the members of the public and thanked them for attending.

2. Format of meeting

Councillor Band explained the format the meeting would follow.

3. The proposal

Councillor Band explained the consultation proposal to the attendees:

The Council proposes to:

- establish a new secondary school at Berth Park with effect from March 2018;
- vary the existing admission arrangements to alter the catchment areas for Perth Grammar School, Perth High School and Perth Academy to establish a catchment area for the proposed new secondary school, and establish temporary admission arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new school; and
- vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school by altering the designated secondary school for the directly affected primary schools and establish temporary transfer arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new

secondary school.

4. **Presentations**

Audrey May and Karen Robertson gave presentations explaining the proposal in further detail.

Audrey May gave a presentation on the background to the proposal and the reasons a new secondary school is required. The presentation outlined the proposed site for the new secondary school and the proposed catchment area. Information was provided on the proposed first cohort of pupils expected to attend the new secondary school along with the transition arrangements, the educational benefits of the proposal and leadership and staffing arrangements for the new secondary school. Audrey also explained the project timeline to 2018.

Karen Robertson gave a presentation on the statutory consultation process including the legal framework, consideration by Lifelong Learning Committee, the content of the proposal including the Educational Benefits statement, statutory consultation period and representation from interested parties as the first part of the consultation process. Karen Robertson then went on to explain the next stages of the process which includes the involvement of Education Scotland, the preparation and publication of the consultation report and the decision made by the Lifelong Learning Committee.

Councillor Band then opened up the meeting to any questions or observations from the floor.

5. **Questions**

Q. What will be done about the volume of traffic on the industrial estate, bridges and in rural areas?

A. There will be transport links on the A9 over the River Tay; future plans will have a junction at McDiarmid Park. The road to the school will not go through the industrial estate. Road systems have not been finalised.

Q. With all the buses going to schools, traffic will be a problem on the Prieston Road, Bankfoot - what will be done about this?

A. Normal home to school transport arrangements will apply. Existing transport arrangements can be altered, a direct link to schools will be worked on. There will be significant work on the preparation on how the Council changes its business. This will be addressed once we are clear about the catchment area.

Q. Will S2 and S5 siblings be going on different buses?

A. The Council will address significant issues for parents/carers. Transitional arrangement will be looked at; no proposals have yet been agreed. The Council will look at the family needs and siblings being together if that is the parents/carers' wishes.

Q. It feels like parents are being forced to make a decision for their children to stay with siblings or not, how can we make that decision?

A. Transition arrangements will be in place for the school opening with the transfer of S1 pupils to begin with. Children couldn't be moved during exam years. Parents/carers know their children best and it is important that the parents/carers make the right decision for their child.

Q. My son is in P6 at present would 2nd year class be an option?

A. The Council has looked at this and under the current proposal, the answer is no as the new school will be populated on a phased basis and will not operate all year groups to begin with. Parents/carers need to raise their concerns and views as this could be re-visited if there is a demand for this.

Q. Will there be enough pupils for full time members of staff?

A. There will be a complement of staff. This will be based on the school roll and the curriculum to be provided. There will be additionality built in to support the transition. A full curriculum will be offered and the Council will ensure delivery on this in accordance with national and local staffing standards.

Q. Will children be consulted on the design of the school and grounds?

A. For all Council projects, a User Reference Group is set up. Schools will assist to develop the plans with pupils and young people will help to develop the brief. In 2016/2017 staff will be appointed to work with the pupils who will be moving to the new school. The Council will work closely with Headteachers and staff at primary schools to take the children to see the construction. Relationships with new staff will also be developed.

Q. Will the building follow the same format as the Campuses?

A. This project is more a school set up with access available for the community. It is not a community campus but an education facility with space available for the community to let.

Q. Will there be an upgrade of the A9 road as there will be an increase in traffic?

A. The pupils will be travelling down the road as they would at present. Pupils will also be coming in to the new school from other directions/areas. There will be a new road across the river.

Q. Will staff from the Grammar School move in with the new teachers?

A. Details of the staffing are not known at this stage. This is a unique situation and a cohort of staff will be created and brought together.

Q. Why is the target 2018?

A. This is the timeline given to the Council to complete the building. As part of the funding offer from the Scottish Government the requirement is that the school has to be completed and operational by March 2018.

- Q. Has there been a study completed on new school builds elsewhere?**
A. All other local authorities have been contacted. The only new build of an additional secondary school was in Aberdeenshire which took place 20 years ago. This had S1 year group to begin with then adding year groups every year.
- Q. Will existing staff from the Grammar transfer?**
A. Posts will be advertised. There will be additional posts and promoted posts and there will be opportunities for people to apply. Professional Associations and Trade Unions will be consulted.
- Q. Flexible spaces were mentioned in the presentation – what is this?**
A. Flexible spaces in nursery and primary are open plan learning. This is done through play and sharing and can continue to secondary schools with opportunities for group work, individual study, tutorial rooms and additional equipment. Open spaces can provide more opportunities. The design of the school is crucial and lessons have been learned from the building and use of the campuses.
- Q. Are plans for the school now fixed?**
A. This is still a proposal and a work in progress. Schools and parents/carers are being consulted and much will depend on the outcome of all the consultations. The Council is establishing and consulting on a new school at Bertha Park. We are consulting on the catchment areas and transition arrangements for the school to be operational in March 2018.
- Q. Will there be a performing arts facility?**
A. This is not yet known.
- Q. What type of housing development will there be?**
A. There will be a mixture of housing. A pre planning application will be submitted for retail as well as housing.
- Q. Will there be a swimming pool in the school?**
A. No.
- Q. The presentation mentioned ASN facilities; will this be severe learning needs?**
A. Fairview School is the facility for severe and complex difficulties. There will be an Additional Support Needs facility at the new school to support pupils able to attend a mainstream school with support.
- Q. Will the catchment area change if people complain?**
A. If all parents/carers say no then the Council will need to reconsider. Education and Children's Services has completed an options appraisal looking at the balance of numbers in all secondary schools and the children who are already travelling to school. It is important that the Council understands the views and concerns of parents/carers. These concerns need to be raised and we are giving the opportunity, and encouraging parents/carers, to give their views through the consultation process.

- Q. If transport is temporary at Perth Grammar, will children be on the Grammar bus when they attend there as the host school?**
A. This is still to be looked at. Roads need to be ready and planning in place for that date. Legislation and statutory requirements will still apply but the specific detail will need to be fleshed out when the Council knows what the final proposal is to be.
- Q. What will the school be called?**
A. This is not known at this stage.
- Q. Will S1 be full?**
A. Not at the outset until all the house building is completed. Bertha Park development has not been included in the numbers at this stage until the phasing of the house building is known. There will be options for placing requests to be made and the normal legislation and policies will apply. Placing requests will be dependent on space and staffing. There is a need for the Council to ensure that pupil numbers are managed as new school builds can attract a number of pupils from other catchment areas.
- Q. What is the capacity of the school?**
A. 1,100 pupils when full. This is a similar capacity to Perth Grammar and other city secondary schools.
- Q. What are the Bertha Park and Almond Valley housing numbers?**
A. Bertha Park, Almond Valley and Perth West have been allocated housing land supply for 5,050 houses.
- Q. Will there be shops at the development?**
A. There may be employment land, houses, retail and perhaps a Doctor's Surgery.

Councillor Band thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.



**Perth & Kinross Council
Education and Children's Services
Statutory Consultation Public Meeting**

Minute of meeting held on Tuesday 23 September 2014

at 7.00pm in Pitcairngreen Village Hall

Present

Councillor Bob Band	Convener, Lifelong Learning Committee
Audrey May	Strategic Lead – Change & Improvement
Karen Robertson	Service Manager - Business Services
Carol Taylor	Service Manager - Resources

In Attendance

Councillor Barbara Vaughan	Perth and Kinross Council
Pamela Bicocchi – Minute	Perth and Kinross Council

3 members of the public

1. Welcome and Introductions

Councillor Band opened the meeting and welcomed the members of public in attendance to the Statutory Consultation Public Meeting. Councillor Band introduced himself and the panel to the members of the public and thanked them for attending.

2. Format of meeting

Councillor Band explained the format the meeting would follow.

3. The proposal

Councillor Band explained the consultation proposal to the attendees:

The Council proposes to:

- establish a new secondary school at Berth Park with effect from March 2018;
- vary the existing admission arrangements to alter the catchment areas for Perth Grammar school, Perth High School and Perth Academy to establish a catchment area for the proposed new secondary school, and establish temporary admission arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new school; and
- vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school by altering the designated secondary school for the directly affected primary schools and establish temporary transfer arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new secondary school.

4. **Presentations**

Audrey May and Karen Robertson gave presentations explaining the proposal in further detail.

Audrey May gave a presentation on the background to the proposal and the reasons a new secondary school is required. The presentation outlined the proposed site for the new secondary school and the proposed catchment area. Information was provided on the proposed first cohort of pupils expected to attend the new secondary school along with the transition arrangements, the educational benefits of the proposal and leadership and staffing arrangements for the new secondary school. Audrey also explained the project timeline to 2018.

Karen Robertson gave a presentation on the statutory consultation process including the legal framework, consideration by Lifelong Learning Committee, the content of the proposal including the Educational Benefits statement, statutory consultation period and representation from interested parties as the first part of the consultation process. Karen Robertson then went on to explain the next stages of the process which includes the involvement of Education Scotland, the preparation and publication of the consultation report and the decision made by the Lifelong Learning Committee.

Councillor Band then opened up the meeting to any questions or observations from the floor.

5. **Questions**

Q. Will children who will be of age to access Perth City Campus educational opportunities by March 2018 be able to use the new school?

A. Yes. It is anticipated that the new school will form part of Perth City Campus. When Perth City Campus began, it was expected around 40 pupils would access this opportunity. There are now approximately 190 pupils accessing Perth City Campus. It is carefully managed.

Q. Will siblings be separated?

A. Parents/carers whose children have been designated to different catchment secondary schools following the opening of the new school will have the choice to send younger children to the same catchment school as older siblings or to send them to the new school.

Q. Will transport be provided?

A. Normal transport rules will apply, ie children living more than three miles from their catchment secondary school by the shortest walking route will be entitled to free home to school transport. It is anticipated the Planning Application for the new secondary school will consider safe walking paths and cycle routes.

Q. Will staff numbers decrease in existing schools if staff are moved to the new school?

A. The new school will have capacity for 1100 pupils and will be staffed in line with local and national staffing standards. If staff leave an existing school to take up a position in the new school, they will be replaced as it is expected rolls will increase in existing schools as new housing developments are built in their catchment areas.

Q. We have heard about the benefits of the new school. What about the children who will be left in existing schools? Will there be investment in these schools?

A. The Modernising Secondary Schools Programme has resulted in significant expenditure in recent times, for example £3.5 million has been invested in Perth Grammar School. Further funding has been bid for. This is to ensure the buildings are suitable for modern learning and teaching.

Perth Grammar School, Perth High School and Perth Academy all have fairly new Headteachers who are very keen to develop their own schools. The new secondary school will not prevent existing schools from flourishing.

Q. There is a good balance of rural and city pupils in Perth Grammar School. How will this be affected if Pitcairn, Methven, Ruthvenfield, Logiealmond and Auchtergaven pupils no longer attend?

A. As Luncarty and Stanley are developed, it is anticipated that an increase in the number of pupils coming from those areas will compensate for the loss of the above schools.

Councillor Band thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.20pm.



**Perth & Kinross Council
Education and Children's Services
Statutory Consultation Public Meeting**

Minute of meeting held on Wednesday 24 September 2014

at 7.00pm in Methven Church Hall

Present

Councillor Bob Band	Convener, Lifelong Learning Committee
Audrey May	Strategic Lead – Change & Improvement
Karen Robertson	Service Manager - Business Services
Carol Taylor	Service Manager - Resources

In Attendance

Councillor Barbara Vaughan	Perth and Kinross Council
Ken McAra	Education Scotland
Susan Davidson – Minute	Perth and Kinross Council

13 members of the public

1. Welcome and Introductions

Councillor Band opened the meeting and welcomed the members of public in attendance to the Statutory Consultation Public Meeting. Councillor Band introduced himself and the panel to the members of the public and thanked them for attending.

2. Format of meeting

Councillor Band explained the format the meeting would follow.

3. The proposal

Councillor Band explained the consultation proposal to the attendees:

The Council proposes to:

- establish a new secondary school at Berth Park with effect from March 2018;
- vary the existing admission arrangements to alter the catchment areas for Perth Grammar school, Perth High School and Perth Academy to establish a catchment area for the proposed new secondary school, and establish temporary admission arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new school; and
- vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school by altering the designated secondary school for the directly affected primary schools and establish temporary transfer arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new secondary school.

4. **Presentations**

Audrey May and Karen Robertson gave presentations explaining the proposal in further detail.

Audrey May gave a presentation on the background to the proposal and the reasons a new secondary school is required. The presentation outlined the proposed site for the new secondary school and the proposed catchment area. Information was provided on the proposed first cohort of pupils expected to attend the new secondary school along with the transition arrangements, the educational benefits of the proposal and leadership and staffing arrangements for the new secondary school. Audrey also explained the project timeline to 2018.

Karen Robertson gave a presentation on the statutory consultation process including the legal framework, consideration by Lifelong Learning Committee, the content of the proposal including the Educational Benefits statement, statutory consultation period and representation from interested parties as the first part of the consultation process. Karen Robertson then went on to explain the next stages of the process which includes the involvement of Education Scotland, the preparation and publication of the consultation report and the decision made by the Lifelong Learning Committee.

Councillor Band then opened up the meeting to any questions or observations from the floor.

5. **Questions**

Q. Was the last new school to be opened in Scotland populated in the same way as proposed at Bertha Park?

A. Yes. There was not a City Campus model like PKC but it was built up year by year. Perth Grammar School was populated in the same manner when it first opened many years ago. The new school has to be opened by March 2018 rather than August 2018 as it has to be completed within the Scottish Government's financial year 2017/2018.

Q. How many children will be attending the school?

A. The intake will be based on around 100 pupils per year from existing primary schools plus any additional pupils from the new housing developments.

Q. Is the funding 100% guaranteed if timescales are met?

A. Yes. Other factors have to be taken into consideration and if any problems arise we can ask the Scottish Government for an extension

Q. What is the cut-off date for the Lifelong Learning Committee?

A. May 2015. We are consulting early as there is a risk of not meeting the timescale if left any later. Our consultation is about the establishment of a new school, the catchment area and the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary school not the location of the new school. The planning consultation has already taken place.

- Q. Is there any conditionality on the link road being in place?**
A. Yes, although the link road is due to be in place mid 2017. A compulsory purchase order may be required for an area, however, there is another plan in place to ensure that there are no delays in progressing with the school build.
- Q. Is the funding for both the new school and link road in place?**
A. Yes, funding is all in place.
- Q. If there is a delay would the current P5 still move in August 2017?**
A. This consultation is for the proposal of the new school opening in March 2018, with children now in P5 starting S1 in Perth Grammar School in August 2017 and then moving to the new school in March 2018. If there are delays they could stay at Perth Grammar School longer however, if there are any fundamental changes or delays to the new school then further consultations may have to take place. We will know in advance if any aspects of the plans fall behind schedule.
- Q. Will the children attending Perth Grammar School until March 2018 be separated from the children staying on at the school?**
A. Perth Grammar School was chosen because of the available accommodation and it was important to bring the children together as a unit for moving forward into the new school. They will have separate timetables for some classes from the other S1 pupils who are staying although they will of course share spaces.
- Q. Will the same arrangements be in place for transition?**
A. Yes, we want the children to move together as a group.
- Q. Will all the same lessons be in place over the first few years if the teachers aren't full time?**
A. *Perth & Kinross Council is obliged to deliver the full curriculum. We can't provide specific detail yet regarding staffing but children will receive their full entitlement. Teaching allocation is based on pupil roll so there won't be a full complement of teachers based on the 1100 school capacity when it first opens but we do plan on putting in place additional staff to support the planning and transition into the new school.*
- Q. Will the children have a different teacher for the same subjects every other day?**
A. No. There will be a continuity of staff. Children will not have different subject teachers all the time.
- Q. Is the first phase of new houses in the area being planned in tandem with the new school opening?**
A. We don't know how the developers are phasing the house building yet. We are basing the plans on the current homes within the defined catchment area and are making no assumptions about the new housing development at this stage.
- Q. Is there scope for any primary schools in Bertha Park?**
A. Yes. There will possibly be 2 new primary schools in the area by 2040.

Q. Why is the school positioned in an industrial estate, next to an abattoir, is this because it is the worst place to build houses?

A. The new school will not be on the industrial estate. The proposed area for the new school is across the river. This is still in discussion with the planners and planning meetings will be held where any input would be gratefully received.

Comments – Well done to Perth & Kinross Council. This is a very exciting proposal.

Councillor Band thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.



**Perth & Kinross Council
Education and Children's Services
Statutory Consultation Public Meeting**

Minute of meeting held on Thursday 25 September 2014

At 7 pm in AK Bell Library, Perth

Present

Councillor Bob Band	Convener, Lifelong Learning Committee
Audrey May	Strategic Lead – Change & Improvement
Karen Robertson	Service Manager - Business Services
Carol Taylor	Service Manager – Resources

In Attendance

Councillor Barbara Vaughan	Perth and Kinross Council
Carolyn Noble – Minutes	Perth and Kinross Council

5 members of the public.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
Councillor Band opened the meeting and welcomed the members of public in attendance to the Statutory Consultation Public Meeting. Councillor Band introduced himself and the panel to the members of the public and thanked them for attending.
2. **Format of meeting**
Councillor Band explained the format the meeting would follow.
3. **The proposal**
Councillor Band explained the consultation proposal to the attendees:

The Council proposes to:
 - establish a new secondary school at Berth Park with effect from March 2018;
 - vary the existing admission arrangements to alter the catchment areas for Perth Grammar school, Perth High School and Perth Academy to establish a catchment area for the proposed new secondary school, and establish temporary admission arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new school; and
 - vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school by altering the designated secondary school for the directly affected primary schools and establish temporary transfer arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new secondary school.

4. **Presentations**

Audrey May and Karen Robertson gave presentations explaining the proposal in further detail.

Audrey May gave a presentation on the background to the proposal and the reasons a new secondary school is required. The presentation outlined the proposed site for the new secondary school and the proposed catchment area. Information was provided on the proposed first cohort of pupils expected to attend the new secondary school along with the transition arrangements, the educational benefits of the proposal and leadership and staffing arrangements for the new secondary school. Audrey also explained the project timeline to 2018.

Karen Robertson gave a presentation on the statutory consultation process including the legal framework, consideration by Lifelong Learning Committee, the content of the proposal including the Educational Benefits statement, statutory consultation period and representation from interested parties as the first part of the consultation process. Karen Robertson then went on to explain the next stages of the process which includes the involvement of Education Scotland, the preparation and publication of the consultation report and the decision made by the Lifelong Learning Committee.

Councillor Band then opened up the meeting to any questions or observations from the floor.

5. **Questions**

Q. How will children get to school safely?

A. There will be a new junction at McDiarmid Park which will ensure that there will be no other bridges for the children to cross. A school travel plan will be developed as part of the planning process. Children's safety is a high priority at all times.

Q. Will you move present S4 and S5 pupils from their current school into the new school?

A. No they will remain at their current school. This would disrupt pupils during the course of their exam periods.

Q. Are you confident "borrowed" teachers won't affect the current schools?

A. Teachers will not be removed from current schools as the new school will be staffed appropriately in accordance with local and national staffing standards in accordance with the pupil roll.

Q. Will you be "double hatting" teachers?

A. Definitely not.

- Q. As only S1 pupils will access the school is this not a bit of a waste?**
A. No. S1 pupils will attend the new school from March 2018 - June 2018, taking into account of Easter Holidays, this will only be for an approximately 6 weeks. From August 2018, there will be S1 and S2 pupils as well as senior students who will be part of the Perth City Campus initiative.
- Q. If someone attends Perth High School and dislike this school, can they attend the new school?**
A. Existing procedures are in place to allow parents/carers to submit a placing request for the school of their choice. However, placing requests will not be able to be made for any year groups which are not operational in the new secondary school.
- Q. Who received the letters informing of the consultation?**
A. All parents/carers of pupils in all directly affected schools and parents/carers of all pupils in all indirectly affected schools were sent a letter. Most issues will affect the current P5 pupils in the directly affected primary schools. A total of 9,000 letters have been sent out advising of the consultation.

Councillor Band thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.



**Perth & Kinross Council
Education and Children's Services
Statutory Consultation Public Meeting**

Minute of meeting held on Monday 29 September 2014

at 7.00pm in Bridge of Earn Institute

Present

Councillor Bob Band	Convener, Lifelong Learning Committee
Audrey May	Strategic Lead – Change & Improvement
Karen Robertson	Service Manager - Business Services
Carol Taylor	Service Manager - Resources

In Attendance

Councillor Barbara Vaughan	Perth and Kinross Council
Councillor Henry Anderson	Perth and Kinross Council
Ken McAra	Education Scotland
Gillian Holden – Minute	Perth and Kinross Council

21 members of the public

1. Welcome and Introductions

Councillor Bob Band opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the public in attendance. Councillor Band introduced Audrey May and Karen Robertson.

2. Format of meeting

Councillor Band explained the format the meeting would follow.

3. The proposal

Councillor Band explained the consultation proposal to the attendees:

The Council proposes to:

- establish a new secondary school at Berth Park with effect from March 2018;
- vary the existing admission arrangements to alter the catchment areas for Perth Grammar school, Perth High School and Perth Academy to establish a catchment area for the proposed new secondary school, and establish temporary admission arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new school; and
- vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school by altering the designated secondary school for the directly affected primary schools and establish temporary transfer arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new secondary school.

4. **Presentations**

Audrey May and Karen Robertson gave presentations explaining the proposal in further detail.

Audrey May gave a presentation on the background to the proposal and the reasons a new secondary school is required. The presentation outlined the proposed site for the new secondary school and the proposed catchment area. Information was provided on the proposed first cohort of pupils expected to attend the new secondary school along with the transition arrangements, the educational benefits of the proposal and leadership and staffing arrangements for the new secondary school. Audrey also explained the project timeline to 2018.

Karen Robertson gave a presentation on the statutory consultation process including the legal framework, consideration by Lifelong Learning Committee, the content of the proposal including the Educational Benefits statement, statutory consultation period and representation from interested parties as the first part of the consultation process. Karen Robertson then went on to explain the next stages of the process which includes the involvement of Education Scotland, the preparation and publication of the consultation report and the decision made by the Lifelong Learning Committee.

Councillor Band then opened up the meeting to any questions or observations from the floor.

5. **Questions**

Q. Will there be a possibility of more senior school pupils moving over to Bertha Park when opened?

A. No. However it is proposed that some of the curriculum will be delivered through Perth City Campus, therefore, there will on occasion be some senior pupils in Bertha Park, but not a whole senior year group. This should give younger pupils some opportunity to interact with senior pupils acting as mentors.

Q. The current Perth City Campus model is based on a buddy system – what opportunity will there be for S1 pupils to mix with more senior pupils if the S1s will be in class when the senior pupils are there?

A. The Perth City Campus model is an evolving model and it will be developed further every year.

Q. I am concerned about the experience my child will have of secondary school when they will always be the oldest in that school with no senior peers to look up to.

A. The Perth City Campus model was the preferred option to allow children in the new school the opportunity to mix with more senior pupils. The alternative was to alter the catchment area for children who have already commenced their secondary education and this is not in line with Council policy.

Q. I am concerned that this will not be a 'normal' secondary school experience for my child and, although I can see the benefits of the proposal, I am concerned that my child will potentially be attending 3 different schools in a 12 month period. I am also concerned that they will be the only children within the new school initially.

A. This is a concern that the Council has considered and this is why we have made a commitment to introduce senior pupils from other schools using the Perth City Campus model. We welcome any suggested alternatives.

Q. During the 9 month period at Perth Grammar School, what identity will my child have?

- **Will they be Bertha Park pupils within Perth Grammar School?**
- **Will they be housed in the main school building or will they be in a cabin?**
- **Will they have mixed classes with Perth Grammar School pupils?**
- **Will they wear a separate uniform?**

A. Bertha Park pupils will be a separate year group from Perth Grammar School pupils. They will have their own uniform and classrooms, but it is not the intention for them to be segregated from the Perth Grammar pupils as there will continue to be community connections. The proposal will mean that there are 50 less S1 pupils who will be attending Perth Grammar School from 2018 so there should be no capacity issues requiring external cabins when the Bertha Park S1 joins the school.

Pupils will be consulted regarding uniforms and school name and there will be appropriate support in place to help pupils throughout the transition period.

Q. Why was Abernethy not included in the proposal?

A. During the planning process for the proposal the Project Team worked on a map, moving from the proposed site of the new school outwards. When the Abernethy area was reached the numbers in the new school were getting high. There needs to be capacity for new pupils from the new housing development at Bertha Park in the coming years to avoid a similar exercise in the near future. Splitting Abernethy from the same cluster as Dunbarney was recognised as a weakness in the options appraisal and this is reflected in the final report.

Q. Will Abernethy's cluster group change?

A. They will still be part of the Perth High School cluster (LMG) but yes there will be changes to some of the schools within this.

Q. Bridge of Earn is expanding due to developments such as Oudenarde, can you give me an estimate of how many secondary pupils are expected to live in Bridge of Earn in 2018 and to go to the new school at Bertha Park?

A. Exact figures not available on evening of meeting.

- Q. Concerns raised that pupils in Oudenarde are currently split between primary schools and do not integrate with each other/Dunbarney pupils.**
- A. The proposal would mean that pupils from Oudenarde and Dunbarney would have the same catchment secondary school.
- Q. I am concerned about the availability of public transport allowing my child to take part in extra-curricular activities.**
- A. It was pointed out that public/parental transport has to be relied on for children currently taking part in extra-curricular activities at their existing secondary school. It is however anticipated that the wider development of the new properties at the Bertha Park site will result in a review of public transport links from Perth City to the Bertha Park area.
- Q. Will this be a PPI school or serviced by Mite?**
- A. Neither. It will be a new finance model, major repairs will be serviced by a contractor. The new school will not be built like a community campus but will have sports/meeting facilities available for hire outwith school times.
- Q. Will there be further development of the existing secondary schools?**
- A. There will be space created in each of the existing secondary schools following the opening of the new school. This will allow for implementation of upgrade plans. Perth High School, for example, is about to get a £4m upgrade to their sports hall. It is not the intention for there to be a two tier estate created by the introduction of the new school.
- Q. You mentioned that the funding from the Scottish Government will be withdrawn if the March 2018 completion date is not met. Is this non-negotiable?**
- A. Yes. Therefore the completion date could not be moved nearer to August 2018 in line with a new school session. The school cannot be completed any quicker than scheduled either (eg August 2017). There are external contributing factors which must be considered, such as the road not being finished until December 2017.
- Q. I am concerned that delays in building work may mean that my child ends up spending more time than scheduled in Perth Grammar School. Will there be penalties for the building contractor if deadlines are not met?**
- A. No builder has been contracted to date, therefore no guarantees can be made in this respect. Consideration must also be given to external factors out with Education and Children's Services control, for example the Tay link bridge or new roads not being completed in time.
- Q. Can your child still choose to attend Perth High School if they do not want to go to the new school at Bertha Park?**
- A. You may submit a placing request for your child to attend a school other than their catchment. As is existing policy, there will be no entitlement to free school transport and it is the parent's responsibility to get their child to and from school. It was also pointed out, as detailed in the proposal, that Perth High School may be nearing capacity in 2018 and there may not be room for your child to attend as a result of a placing request.

There will be separate transition arrangements for those with older siblings already at Perth High School. During P7-S1 transition these pupils will be given a choice between Perth High School and the new school at Bertha Park and, in these circumstances, free transport will be provided to either school. This is expected to be phased out after approximately 6 years.

Q. What will be the transition arrangements for children with additional support needs?

A. Key staff will be in post for the new school opening. The Inclusion Team will also be aware of the needs of pupils with ASN and their requirements for transition. Perth Grammar School has existing provisions for pupils with ASN.

Q. I am concerned that children in the Bertha Park cohort will feel like a minority with Perth Grammar School. Will senior staff from Bertha Park (e.g. Headteacher) be onsite at Perth Grammar School or spend much of their time elsewhere? Will the children feel like 'squatters' in someone else's school?

A. Key staff will be in post, however at this time it is not possible to say exactly who will be there and when. There will be a community of professionals working together to ensure the best for the children. We are committed to succeed and provide the best opportunities possible for children within Perth and Kinross.

Q. Will children at the other secondary schools in Perth & Kinross be canvassed to see if they would wish to transfer to the new school at Bertha Park in order to assist with populating other stages in the school (S2-S6)?

A. No. Perth & Kinross Council would never ask children to move from their current school. It is necessary to consider the impact, particularly for children who have already commenced their secondary education and may be in the process of exams. This would also be extremely difficult logistically and transport would be an issue if the school was opened up to all pupils within Perth and Kinross.

Q. Decanting primary school children from one school to another has worked successfully in recent years. Would it be feasible to populate the whole of Bertha Park in this way from August 2018?

A. This could be considered as a short term fix until the S1 pupils are moved up the school.

Q. In my experience, buildings rarely complete on time. Is there the potential for Bertha Park pupils to still be at Perth Grammar School in S2 or further years?

A. In recent years Perth & Kinross Council has seen Breadalbane Academy, North Inch Community Campus, Inch View, Loch Leven, Blairgowrie and Strathearn Community Campus complete either on schedule or ahead of schedule.

Q. If external factors can lead to delays – when will timescales be available?

A. In 6 months to 1 year we should know if the school will be completed on time. We are currently planning and working based on the proposed schedule. There would be many implications following a delay in completion and parents/carers would need to be consulted again if this were to happen.

Q. Was Bertha Park the only identified area for the new school?

A. Yes. This was the only site agreed within the Local Development Plan.

Q. Will there be more pupils from outlying areas than Perth city pupils attending the new school at Bertha Park?

A. Yes. The proposed catchment consists mainly of areas outwith Perth city centre, the exception being the new development at Bertha Park.

Q. What is the capacity for additional children at Bertha Park?

A. Approximately 450 pupil places. House building in the new development will take place over a number of years (20 - 25 years); during this time pupil numbers will fluctuate, with people moving in and out of the catchment area.

Councillor Band thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.



**Perth & Kinross Council
Education and Children's Services
Statutory Consultation Public Meeting**

Minute of meeting held on Tuesday 30 September 2014

at 7.00pm in Perth Grammar School

Present

Councillor Bob Band	Convener, Lifelong Learning Committee
Audrey May	Strategic Lead – Change and Improvement
Karen Robertson	Service Manager - Business Services
Carol Taylor	Service Manager - Resources

In Attendance

Councillor Barbara Vaughan	Perth and Kinross Council
John Devine	Quality Improvement Officer, Perth and Kinross Council
Barry Millar	Headteacher, Perth Grammar School
Pamela Biccocchi – Minute	Perth and Kinross Council

4 members of the public

1. Welcome and Introductions

Councillor Band opened the meeting and welcomed the members of public in attendance to the Statutory Consultation Public Meeting. Councillor Band introduced himself and the panel to the members of the public and thanked them for attending.

2. Format of meeting

Councillor Band explained the format the meeting would follow.

3. The proposal

Councillor Band explained the consultation proposal to the attendees:

The Council proposes to:

- establish a new secondary school at Berth Park with effect from March 2018;
- vary the existing admission arrangements to alter the catchment areas for Perth Grammar school, Perth High School and Perth Academy to establish a catchment area for the proposed new secondary school, and establish temporary admission arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new school; and
- vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school by altering the designated secondary school for the directly affected primary schools and establish temporary transfer arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new secondary school.

4. Presentations

Audrey May and Karen Robertson gave presentations explaining the proposal in further detail.

Audrey May gave a presentation on the background to the proposal and the reasons a new secondary school is required. The presentation outlined the proposed site for the new secondary school and the proposed catchment area. Information was provided on the proposed first cohort of pupils expected to attend the new secondary school along with the transition arrangements, the educational benefits of the proposal and leadership and staffing arrangements for the new secondary school. Audrey also explained the project timeline to 2018.

Karen Robertson gave a presentation on the statutory consultation process including the legal framework, consideration by Lifelong Learning Committee, the content of the proposal including the Educational Benefits statement, statutory consultation period and representation from interested parties as the first part of the consultation process. Karen Robertson then went on to explain the next stages of the process which includes the involvement of Education Scotland, the preparation and publication of the consultation report and the decision made by the Lifelong Learning Committee.

Councillor Band then opened up the meeting to any questions or observations from the floor.

5. Questions

Q How realistic is the build timescale?

A The timescale is challenging. It is anticipated that the school plans will be submitted for planning permission by this time next year. The new housing development plans will be submitted for planning permission by January. The road may be an issue but access can be gained to build the school. We will know by February if the timescale is achievable.

Q Has the school been designed yet?

A No. There has been some work done on a basic model school so there is a position to start from.

Q What does it mean for parents if Perth and Kinross Council do not meet the date?

A We will know long before the Bertha Park S1 cohort are brought together if timescales will be an issue. If timescales cannot be met, the Council must re-consult with parents/carers at the earliest opportunity if there is a fundamental change to the proposal.

Q Children start to think about transition around P5. If the timescales are not met and the current P5 will no longer be the cohort commencing S1 in August 2017, this is very concerning.

A It is important that the Council understands parents/carers have an issue with this. We understand parents/carers are concerned about the hosting of children in Perth Grammar School for 9 months and whether there may be an extension to this. The school must be operational by March 2018 to secure funding from the Scottish Government.

Q Will there be teachers for all subjects from the start?

A Yes. The young people will be able to access a full curriculum from the start. There is a rolling programme of recruitment and selection but permanent staff will be employed – the school will not be staffed with supply teachers. There are locally and nationally agreed staffing standards which will be met as the school roll increases.

Q Younger pupils look to senior pupils as role models in secondary schools, for example they may aspire to be prefects. What can children in the new school aspire to?

A The population of the new secondary school will require careful management. We acknowledge it will be a different experience for pupils. Moving older pupils in to the new school was discounted early on as there were concerns about disrupting pupils, particularly in exam years. Consideration will be given to doing things with other schools. There will be further involvement at a later stage with user groups.

Perth City Campus is a way of enabling small numbers of senior pupils from different schools to come together to study a subject which may not be offered in one school. It was initially anticipated that around 40 senior pupils would access Perth City Campus; there are currently 190 pupils accessing Perth City Campus. The new secondary school will teach Perth City Campus pupils from the start. The senior pupils will be role models and mentors for the younger pupils.

Q The new school will eventually be surrounded by houses. What about pupils moving in to the new houses who are older than S1?

A The proposal is the school will be populated on a phased basis, ie one year group at a time. If older children move in to the area but their year group is not yet operational, they will be allocated to the current, existing secondary school catchment area.

If pupils allocated to the new secondary school have older siblings attending a current, existing catchment secondary school, the younger siblings will be offered the choice of which school they wish to attend. Transport will be provided for both options (based on current entitlement policy). The Council is committed to supporting families until the school is fully operational. We acknowledge this is an issue for parents/carers and we will support them to decide what is best for their children.

Q Why have children to the west of the A9 being chosen for the new school but not those to the east of the A9?

A Consideration has been given to balancing numbers across the secondary schools in Perth City. Perth High School is reaching capacity and therefore the inclusion of Dunbarney, Oudenarde, Forgandenny and Forteviot in the new school will alleviate capacity problems in Perth High School. If Luncarty, Stanley and Murthly were included, this would mean Perth Grammar School would have very low numbers as well as an imbalance in rural and city pupils. The proposal will provide a good balance of pupils as well as a balance of rural and city pupils in all schools.

Q What facilities will the new school have?

A The new school will have all the facilities required in a secondary school (classrooms, assembly hall, PE facilities, etc) but will not be a Community Campus, eg there will not be a community library or swimming pool.

Q Will the new school design be future proofed?

A Yes. However, there will not be a two tier school system. Existing schools are being and will continue to be invested in. The school estate is under constant review. The new house building between now and 2035/2040 also includes long term plans for the building of new primary schools.

Councillor Band thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.



**Perth & Kinross Council
Education and Children's Services
Statutory Consultation Public Meeting**

Minute of meeting held on Wednesday 1 October 2014

at 7.00pm in Perth High School

Present

Councillor Bob Band	Convener, Lifelong Learning Committee
Audrey May	Strategic Lead – Change and Improvement
Karen Robertson	Service Manager – Business Services
Carol Taylor	Service Manager – Resources

In Attendance

Councillor Barbara Vaughan	Perth and Kinross Council
Susan Davidson – Minute	Perth and Kinross Council

4 members of the public

1. Welcome and Introductions

Councillor Band opened the meeting and welcomed the members of public in attendance to the Statutory Consultation Public Meeting. Councillor Band introduced himself and the panel to the members of the public and thanked them for attending.

2. Format of meeting

Councillor Band explained the format the meeting would follow.

3. The proposal

Councillor Band explained the consultation proposal to the attendees:

The Council proposes to:

- establish a new secondary school at Berth Park with effect from March 2018;
- vary the existing admission arrangements to alter the catchment areas for Perth Grammar school, Perth High School and Perth Academy to establish a catchment area for the proposed new secondary school, and establish temporary admission arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new school; and
- vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school by altering the designated secondary school for the directly affected primary schools and establish temporary transfer arrangements to accommodate the phased population of the new secondary school.

4. **Presentations**

Audrey May and Karen Robertson gave presentations explaining the proposal in further detail.

Audrey May gave a presentation on the background to the proposal and the reasons a new secondary school is required. The presentation outlined the proposed site for the new secondary school and the proposed catchment area. Information was provided on the proposed first cohort of pupils expected to attend the new secondary school along with the transition arrangements, the educational benefits of the proposal and leadership and staffing arrangements for the new secondary school. Audrey also explained the project timeline to 2018.

Karen Robertson gave a presentation on the statutory consultation process including the legal framework, consideration by Lifelong Learning Committee, the content of the proposal including the Educational Benefits statement, statutory consultation period and representation from interested parties as the first part of the consultation process. Karen Robertson then went on to explain the next stages of the process which includes the involvement of Education Scotland, the preparation and publication of the consultation report and the decision made by the Lifelong Learning Committee.

Councillor Band then opened up the meeting to any questions or observations from the floor.

5. **Questions**

Q. Will the catchment areas stay the same for the other areas not included in the new school?

A. Yes, they will stay the same. We are legally required to also write to parents/carers of children not directly involved in the new catchment areas although it will not affect the majority of families other than reducing the catchment area and school rolls at the current secondary schools.

Q. Are there any other reasons apart from being within the financial year for moving in March 2018 and not in August?

A. We also wanted to bring the children together as a cohort for a few months before they moved into the new school. Otherwise, they would be spread out over a number of schools. The new school has to be opened in March 2018 within financial year 2017-18. It is unlikely but if there is any chance of moving pupils any earlier then we will consider that.

Q. If you are not within the proposed new catchment area can you put in a placing request for the new school?

A. Yes, for the current P5 stage and younger. Parents/carers cannot make placing requests for older children as there will not be senior stages in the school when it first opens. We consider a phased entry best for the children rather than moving older children when they are already attending a secondary school.

We recognise this may cause some difficulties for families with older children but we will support these families as best we can by offering choices for parents/carers to keep siblings together, or to have the younger child attend the new school with their friends and peers.

Councillor Band thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.



**Perth & Kinross Council
Education and Children's Services
Statutory Consultation Public Meeting**

Minute of meeting held on Thursday 2 October 2014

At 7 pm in Perth Academy, Perth

Present

Councillor Bob Band	Convener, Lifelong Learning Committee
Audrey May	Strategic Lead – Change & Improvement
Karen Robertson	Service Manager - Business Services
Carol Taylor	Service Manager – Resources

In Attendance

Councillor Barbara Vaughan	Perth and Kinross Council
Johnny Lothian	Headteacher, Perth Academy
Carolyn Noble – Minutes	Perth and Kinross Council

4 members of the public.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
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2. **Format of meeting**
Councillor Band explained the format the meeting would follow.
3. **The proposal**
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secondary school.

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Councillor Band then opened up the meeting to any questions or observations from the floor.

5. **Questions**

Q. Will the teaching staff at Bertha Park, teach the children from S1-S6?

A. This has yet to be confirmed. The Transitional Leadership Team will look at the staffing required one year at a time. A larger amount of teachers will be required as each new year group attends the new school.

Q. A concern was raised regarding the Bertha Park S1 pupils attending Perth Grammar School for a short period of time then moving these pupils to the new secondary school. At this point the pupils will have made close relationships with their teachers and other pupils. Will there be additional support in place?

A. Yes. The Transitional Leadership Team will keep the Bertha Park cohort together for S1 in August 2017 to enable the pupils to become friends and then they will move together into the new school in March 2018.

Q. Will the Bertha Park S1 pupils be taught the same subjects as other fellow S1 pupils?

A. Yes. All areas of the curriculum will be provided ensuring consistency is in place. The Transitional Leadership Team will be in place to provide pastoral support.

Q. A concern was raised regarding the S1 Bertha Park pupils standing out at Perth Grammar School ie different uniform etc. How will this be managed?

A. The management team at Perth Grammar School are currently looking at ways to ensure, at all times, the pupils will be made to feel part of Perth Grammar School and not seen as outsiders. The school's main focus is to ensure all pupils attending the school have a happy and valuable learning experience.

KR explained the process which will be in place to support families who may choose to keep their children together at the same secondary school if their older child already attends a secondary school.

Q. For pupils who live in Ruthvenfield, will there be free transport provided considering it is 3 miles away from the potential new build?

A. As the specific site for the location of the new school has not yet been confirmed, it cannot be specified if school transport will be provided. The normal rules for transport entitlement will apply where any secondary pupils living more than 3 miles from their catchment school will receive free home to school transport on distance grounds. However, it is a high priority to provide safe walking routes to school wherever possible. A school travel plan will be developed to ensure this.

Q. At Ruthvenfield Primary School there are a lot of placing requests that come from the Western Edge part of Perth. What arrangements are in place for this?

A. All arrangements for placing requests will remain the same. Parents/carers living outwith the new catchment area for the new secondary school with children in S1 and S2 will have the right to make a placing request for their child to attend the new school if they so wish. This, however, will not be possible for senior pupils until the school has S1-S6 stages operational.

Q. Will the new S1 and S2 pupils have the same experience of prefects and school captains?

A. Perth City Campus pupils will be based in the school for part of the week for particular subjects and will deliver the usual experience of having senior pupils within the school. They will play a key role in ensuring S1 and S2 pupils have a happy start to secondary school.

Councillor Band thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.



Perth & Kinross Council
Education and Children's Services
New Secondary School Bertha Park
Summary of Consultation Responses

The statutory consultation on the proposal regarding the establishment of a new secondary school at Bertha Park commenced on 11 September 2014 and closed on 19 November 2014.

A letter advising of the publication of the proposal document was issued to the list of consultees contained within the Proposal Paper. 8929 letters were issued. The Proposal Paper was published on the Council website and was available in paper copy upon request.

A specific email address was set up for representations and enquiries. This was in addition to the usual methods of submitting representations. An online response form was set up on the consultation webpage.

23 written submissions were received during the consultation period.

RESPONDENT GROUP	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Parents/carers	20
Pupils	1
Staff	-
Elected Members	-
Parent Councils	-
Community Councils	1
Trade Unions	1
Total	23

Public Meetings

As part of the statutory consultation process, a series of 8 public meetings were held between 22 September 2014 and 2 October 2014. The same presentation was given at each meeting. Each meeting was attended by Councillor Band, Audrey May, Karen Robertson, Carol Taylor and a minute taker from Business Services.

Monday 22 September 2014 – Bankfoot Church Centre

Attended by 25 parents/carers, 4 members of the public, Councillor Vaughan and Councillor Kellas. One of the members of the public was a reporter from The Courier. Parents/carers were all from Bankfoot.

Questions were around volume of traffic on the industrial estate, traffic congestion in Bankfoot with increased buses, parents/carers being forced to make the decision if siblings stay together or are separated, concerns around staffing levels due to low pupil numbers to start, will pupils be consulted on the design of school and grounds, will the school be like the campuses, will there be an upgrade to the A9 due to increased traffic, will staff move from PGS when the pupils move to new school, will the staff at the new school all be new teachers, what are flexible teaching spaces,

will there be a performing arts facility, will there be a swimming pool. What type of housing will be built at Bertha Park, will the ASN facilities be for severe learning needs, will the proposed catchment change if people complain, what will the school be called, will S1 be full and what are the housing and retail plans for Bertha Park.

Tuesday 23 September 2014 – Pitcairngreen Village Hall

Attended by 3 parents/carers and Councillor Vaughan. Parents/carers were from Pitcairn (2) and Luncarty (1).

Questions were mainly around pupils accessing Perth City Campus in the new school, siblings being separated, concerns about staff numbers decreasing in existing schools, staff being moved, transport, future investment for PGS to benefit the pupils not in the catchment for the new school and balance of rural and city pupils.

Wednesday 24 September 2014 – Methven Church Hall

Attended by 12 parents/carers, 1 pupil, Councillor Vaughan and Ken McAra. Parents/carers were from Ruthvenfield, Methven and PGS.

Questions were around how previous new schools have been populated, the possibility of the school being delayed, concerns around conditionality on the link road being in place, is funding guaranteed, if it is delayed would P5 pupils still go to the new school, transition arrangements, will full course choice be available as the school is being phased, safe walking routes, staffing levels as the school roll builds up and continuity of staff, is there scope for any primary schools being built in Bertha Park and the location of the school in proximity to the abattoir (noise and smell).

Thursday 25 September 2014 – AK Bell Library

Attended by 4 parents/carers, 1 pupil and Councillor Vaughan. Parents/carers were from Perth HS, PGS and St Ninian's.

Questions were about road safety, senior pupils staying in their existing schools, placing requests, staffing of the new school, will staff be borrowed from other schools, concerns if school roll is low and this is not being a good use of new building and impact on pupil numbers on existing secondary schools.

Monday 29 September 2014 – Bridge of Earn institute

Attended by 21 parents/carers, Councillor Vaughan, Councillor Anderson and Ken McAra. Parents/carers were from Abernethy, Oudenarde and Dunbarney.

Abernethy just wanted to understand why they were not included and what impact there would be on their cluster etc. They don't seem to be indicating they want to be included.

Oudenarde issues were around transport, transport for extra-curricular activities, distance from Perth and issues for parents/carers picking up children if they didn't drive, queries about the projections, timings and build out rates given the situation at Oudenarde.

Dunbarney parents/carers' concerns were all around the transition year group. Concerns with the March 2018 date, concerns with delays, concerns with no senior pupils permanently in new school, concerns about being in a host school, concerns about the pupils getting a different secondary experience to all other pupils. Seemed to be a preference for S1 and S2 to go in together in August 2018 with S1 being in the host school for 1 full session.

Tuesday 30 September 2014 – Perth Grammar School

Attended by 4 parents/carers, Councillor Vaughan, Barry Millar and John Devine. The parents/carers were from Auchtergaven, Burrelton and Ruthvenfield.

Questions were around is this a realistic build timescale, staffing for the new school, will all subjects be offered at Bertha Park as the roll builds, preparing the P5 cohort for transition, concerns around lack of senior pupils in the school as role models, why have pupils west of A9 been included but not east of A9, what would the new school look like, what kind of school would it compare to and issues around uncertainty of timescale and which pupils it would impact on, queries about pupils moving into the new houses whose year group is not operating in the new school, what facilities will the school have and will the design be future proofed.

Wednesday 1 October 2014 – Perth High School

Attended by 4 parents/carers and Councillor Vaughan. The parents/carers were from Craigie and Perth HS.

The parents/carers who attended were not directly affected by the changes and will be remaining in Perth HS catchment and there were only a few questions around them still being in the catchment for Perth HS.

Thursday 2 October 2014 – Perth Academy

Attended by 4 parents/carers, Councillor Vaughan and Johnny Lothian. The parents/carers were from Ruthvenfield, Dunbarney and Perth Academy. Two of the parents/carers were PKC staff and one of these was also the Parent Council Chair at Ruthvenfield.

The questions were around the staffing arrangements for the new school, continuity of staff for the new S1 cohort when moving from PGS to new school, concerns about moving pupils during S1, concerns about the S1 pupils being identified as different in PGS during host time, arrangements for senior pupils to be in the new school to buddy the new pupils, range of subjects to be taught in Bertha Park, safe walking routes and sustainable transport solutions, and placing requests.

Ruthvenfield Parent Council chair was really positive and indicated Ruthvenfield parents/carers are happy and excited about the new school but they have a lot of placing requests there so concerned about peer groups being able make placing request to new school.

Summary of Public Meetings

All the meetings were generally quite positive with no clear objections to the proposal being made during the meetings. The main concerns raised came from the parents/carers of the first S1 cohort. All the meetings generated good discussions and parents/carers raised valid and considered questions and issues.

Written Representations

During the consultation period between 11 September 2014 and 19 November 2014, representations were invited from statutory consultees and interested parties. 23 written responses were received in total:

Parents/carers – 20
Pupils – 1
Community Council – 1
Trade Union – 1

The parents/carers who responded were from the following schools – Dunbarney (5), Abernethy (6), Oudenarde (1), Auchtergaven (2), Methven (1), Invergowrie (1), St Madoes (1), Forteviot (1), Pitcairn (1) and unknown (1).

9 parents/carers stated they did not agree with the proposals. A number of the written responses were from parents/carers who had also attended one of the public meetings and many of the issues/queries submitted were also raised at the public meetings.

The main concerns were around the same issues raised at the public meetings - the transition year and impact on the first cohort of pupils receiving a different S1 experience. Concerns around the March 2018 date and requests for pupils not to be moved during the S1 session and wait until August 2018 or have the school ready by August 2017 to remove this issue. Other concerns were around staffing in PGS and the new school and the continuity of staff and senior management for the first cohort. Concerns about there being no senior pupils in the new school and how Perth City Campus would not provide for this. Concerns around transport and lack of public transport to Bertha Park and access to out of school activities and clubs. The geography of proposed catchment being rural and dispersed and not conducive to supporting friendships outside school. Concern about funding being lost if timescales cannot be met.

Parents/carers can't afford 2 uniforms. Abernethy should be included in the catchment for the new school as they are part of same cluster. The new school should be built at Broxden or Oudenarde.

Concern that Bertha Park will not progress as with Oudenarde and will be another failure in the Local Development Plan. Concern about proximity and impact on Double Dykes. Do not cut down the trees on the western boundary.

There was also very positive feedback about the opportunity and recognition that a new school was needed and acknowledgement by some that the proposals were well thought through and explained well. Parents/carers were positive about the Council's commitment to consult and engage with parents/carers and pupils and wished this to continue as the proposal progressed.

Pupil Consultation

5 directly affected primary schools responded with the results of their pupil consultation:

- Forgandenny PS
- Methven PS
- Ruthvenfield PS
- Auchtergaven PS
- Dunbarney PS

Examples of the feedback

'I'd like to know what the uniform will be like, if we are going to be the first pupils, maybe we could help design it'

'I have been to see where it is going to be built'

'I hope that there is a running track and football pitch'

'I think it'll be really good and I can't wait to go there because I've never been in a new school before'

'I'm really looking forward to going there because everything will be brand new – everything in our school has already been used'

'I don't really see the point of S1s going there because there's nobody above us, then we'll have nobody to ask if we get lost'

In Primary 5 all children were aware, and many had been involved in discussion with their parents/carers about it.

Many children said that they had mixed feelings about it. They were excited to be part of something new but also worried about the change. Some children were more excited than worried and felt lucky that they would be the first to be able to go to the new school.

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Perth and Kinross Council to establish a new secondary school on a preferred site at Bertha Park, Perth, to alter existing school catchment areas and the transfer arrangements for primary pupils.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments contained in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of Perth and Kinross Council's proposal to establish a new secondary school on a preferred site at Bertha Park, Perth, to alter existing school catchment areas and the transfer arrangements for primary pupils. 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' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the Council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The Council's final consultation report should include a copy of 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 final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision. Where a Council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all legislative obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the primary and secondary schools affected and 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 meetings held on 24 and 29 September 2014 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; and
- visits to the sites of Auchtergaven Primary School, Dunbarney Primary School, Forgandenny Primary School, Forteviot Primary School, Logiealmond Primary School, Methven Primary School, Inch View Primary School, Perth Academy, Perth Grammar School, Perth High School, Pitcairn Primary School and Ruthvenfield Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation Process

2.1 Perth and Kinross Council undertook the consultation on its proposal with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*.

2.2 The Council previously considered a number of options for the location of a new secondary school and decided to consult on its preferred option of a new school located in Bertha Park, Perth.

2.3 Perth and Kinross Council undertook consultation on its proposal from 11 September to 19 November 2014. Eight public meetings were held and advertisements were placed in local newspapers. Letters containing an electronic link to the consultation document were sent directly to representative bodies, parents and the schools affected. The Council issued 8,929 letters. Copies of the consultation document were made available at Council headquarters, in the schools affected, at AK Bell Library Perth and in local area offices in the vicinity of the schools affected. Children and young people in the schools affected were consulted and offered the opportunity to discuss the proposal in their schools. The Council received 23 written responses. Of those who responded over half agreed with the proposal.

3. Educational Aspects of Proposal

3.1 Perth and Kinross Council's proposal sets out a clear rationale for the establishment of a new secondary school. A forecast of school rolls and existing school capacity demonstrates the need for additional provision. The proposal, if implemented, will result in an increased secondary school capacity and a better balance in numbers of pupils attending secondary schools across Perth.

3.2 Should the proposal be implemented, young people will benefit from a new purpose-built school which will provide a flexible learning environment resulting in potentially increased aspirations, achievement and attainment. Perth and Kinross Council intends the new school will provide high-quality technology to support learning and teaching and excellent facilities for out-of-school hours learning and community. The new school will include facilities for young people with additional support needs, including specialist provision to meet the needs of young people with more severe and complex needs. This has the potential to be of educational benefit to young people with additional support needs. The proposed new school will ensure accessibility for

learners with physical disabilities. Specific details of the design of the new building are not yet available. However, the Council has given commitments to continue to consult with staff, parents and young people on the development and design of the new school, should it decide to implement its proposal. It is proposed that a user reference group will be established to represent the views of stakeholders. Consultees welcomed the Council's commitment to engage with them further on detailed plans, should the proposal be agreed.

3.3 Staff, children and young people and parents from all schools, who spoke with HM Inspectors, were broadly in favour of the proposals. They recognised the need for a new school. Children were enthusiastic about the opportunity to learn in a purpose-built new secondary school with high-quality facilities.

3.4 The Council intends to populate the new secondary school with pupils and staff on a phased basis between 2017 and 2022. The proposal states that as part of the funding offer through the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) a new secondary school requires to be complete and operational by March 2018. It is proposed that in August 2017 the first cohort of S1 pupils will be brought together as one group in another Perth secondary school. This S1 group would then move to the new school in March 2018. This will result in the pupils concerned experiencing two transitions in less than a year. The Council commits to creating a transitional leadership team to take forward transition plans. It does not provide specific information about arrangements to ensure continuity in learning for S1 pupils moving to the new school in March 2018. Parents, staff and children and young people, who spoke with HM Inspectors, raised a number of issues linked to the phased implementation of the proposed new secondary school. A high proportion of questions in written responses and at public meetings raised similar issues. Many parents and children were not in favour of the proposal to have children located temporarily in another Perth secondary school from August 2017 until March 2018. They raised a number of issues, including questions on uniform, children's sense of identity and the disruption to their education. Parents were unclear as to how this proposed arrangement would be in the best interests of their children. Overall, they would prefer alternative arrangements to be made such as completing the school by August 2017 or delaying entry for the first S1 cohort until August 2018. Perth and Kinross Council will need to address these concerns in its final consultation report.

3.5 The Council proposal to ensure the delivery of a curriculum aligned to the principles of Curriculum for Excellence, including opportunities for personal achievement and interdisciplinary learning in line with best practice will require further detail. Under the current plan, the school will not be fully operational as an S1 to S6 establishment until August 2022. The new school will form part of the Perth City Campus. This involves partnership with Perth College, some common timetabling and pooling of resources amongst existing Perth secondary schools. The Perth City Campus enhances subject choice at senior phase, including in Advanced Higher and vocational educational subjects. Young people attending other secondary schools in Perth will benefit from access to modern, well-equipped facilities for vocational subjects in the new school. These arrangements have the potential to support pupils during the phased transition process prior to the school becoming fully operational as an S1 to S6 establishment. Should the Council decide to implement its proposal, it will need to ensure that the first cohorts of pupils at the new school receive

their entitlements to Curriculum for Excellence during the phased implementation. It will need to provide further detail of how it intends to do this in its final consultation report.

3.6 Parents who attended public meetings, who responded in writing and those who met with HM Inspectors raised a number of questions and concerns regarding transport and road safety, including the absence of direct public transport from zoned neighbourhoods to the school. The Council has undertaken to produce a School Travel Plan in consultation with parents, pupils and staff. The Council will need to include consideration of issues raised on public transport in its travel plan.

3.7 Parents were also concerned about the time required to establish a full school community, including arrangements for lunchtime and after school clubs and out-of-school learning opportunities. Perth and Kinross Council will need to consider these concerns in taking forward its proposal.

3.8 A few parents of children from the Oudenarde area by Bridge of Earn had concerns about the proposal. As a result of school capacity issues at Dunbarney Primary School, children from the Oudenarde neighbourhood are currently zoned to attend Inchview Primary School. Under the proposal, Inchview Primary School will remain part of the Perth High School catchment. However, children from Oudenarde and Dunbarney Primary School will be zoned to attend the new school. Parents of children attending Inchview Primary School were concerned that this aspect of the proposal could impact negatively on their children's primary to secondary school transition arrangements. The Council will need to continue to engage with parents and provide assurance that Oudenarde children will not be disadvantaged in arrangements to support their transition from primary to secondary education.

3.9 Staff in the three existing non-denominational secondary schools were keen to see details of proposals to staff the new school, including temporary arrangements during the phased implementation and arrangements for bringing the new school into the Perth City Campus model. Perth and Kinross Council proposes to establish a transitional leadership team at an early stage to develop staff and management plans. The Council has provided assurance that staff will be fully consulted and engaged in these arrangements.

4. Summary

4.1 Perth and Kinross Council has provided a clear rationale for its proposal to establish a new secondary school. If implemented the proposal will provide clear educational benefits. School roll forecasts demonstrate a clear need for additional capacity. Young people will benefit from a new school designed to deliver a 21st century education in line with the principles of Curriculum for Excellence. The Council has assured stakeholders that they will be fully involved in further detailed decisions regarding the design, travel plans and staffing arrangements.

4.2 The proposal to locate the first cohort of new pupils to another Perth secondary school from August 2017 until March 2018 has the potential to cause disruption and anxiety for pupils and parents. Whilst this aspect of the proposal will result in the Council complying with project funding deadlines, it is not clear how this arrangement is in the best educational interests of the pupils affected. Perth and Kinross Council will need to address this in its final consultation report.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
January 2015**

Appendix 11

Designated Secondary Schools

Pupils from Pitcairn, Ruthvenfield, Methven, Logiealmond and Auchtergaven catchment areas plus strategic development sites of Bertha Park, Almond Valley and Perth West

School Session	S1 pupils	S2 Pupils	S3 Pupils	S4 Pupils	S5 Pupils	S6 Pupils
2017/2018	Host Secondary School (Aug-Jun)	Perth Grammar School				
2018/2019	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Grammar School	Perth Grammar School	Perth Grammar School	Perth Grammar School
2019/2020	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Grammar School	Perth Grammar School	Perth Grammar School
2020/2021	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Grammar School	Perth Grammar School
2021/2022	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Grammar School
2022/2023	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School

Pupils from Dunbarney, Forgandenny and Forteviot catchment areas

School Session	S1 pupils	S2 Pupils	S3 Pupils	S4 Pupils	S5 Pupils	S6 Pupils
2017/2018	Host Secondary School (Aug-Jun)	Perth High School				
2018/2019	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth High School	Perth High School	Perth High School	Perth High School
2019/2020	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth High School	Perth High School	Perth High School
2020/2021	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth High School	Perth High School
2021/2022	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth High School
2022/2023	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School

Pupils from Oudenarde catchment area

School Session	S1 pupils	S2 Pupils	S3 Pupils	S4 Pupils	S5 Pupils	S6 Pupils
2017/2018	Host Secondary School (Aug-Jun)	Perth Academy				
2018/2019	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Academy	Perth Academy	Perth Academy	Perth Academy
2019/2020	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Academy	Perth Academy	Perth Academy
2020/2021	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Academy	Perth Academy
2021/2022	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Academy
2022/2023	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School

Designated Secondary Schools

Pupils from Auchtergaven, Logiealmond, Methven, Pitcairn and Ruthvenfield catchment areas plus strategic development sites of Bertha Park, Almond Valley and Perth West

Pupils from Dunbarney, Forgandenny and Forteviot catchment areas

Pupils from Oudenarde catchment area

School Session	S1 pupils	S2 Pupils	S3 Pupils	S4 Pupils	S5 Pupils	S6 Pupils
2017/2018	Host Secondary School (Aug-Jun)	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy				
2018/2019	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy			
2019/2020	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy
2020/2021	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy
2021/2022	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	Perth Grammar Perth High Perth Academy
2022/2023	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School	New Secondary School