

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**Executive Sub-Committee of the Lifelong Learning Committee****7 October 2015****Statutory Consultation –
Arrangements for Transfer to Secondary School for Abernyte, Inchtute
and Longforgan****Report by Senior Depute Chief Executive (Equality, Community Planning and
Public Service Reform)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

As a consequence of a decision taken by Dundee City Council to close Menzieshill High School, this places a legal requirement on Perth and Kinross Council to consult on the resulting changes to the existing arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school or otherwise alter the catchment area for secondary school provision affecting Perth and Kinross pupils.

This Report seeks approval from the Executive Sub-Committee of Lifelong Learning Committee for the Senior Depute Chief Executive (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform) to commence formal consultations on the proposal to vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school or otherwise alter the catchment area for secondary school provision by designating Perth High School as the secondary school provision for pupils from Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan Primary Schools from August 2016.

Perth and Kinross pupils already attending Menzieshill High School as entitled pupils at the time of closure will be supported to travel to and from Harris Academy in Dundee to complete their education with effect from August 2016. It also seeks approval of the Proposal Paper (Appendix A) which is attached. The outcome of the consultation will be reported back to a meeting of Lifelong Learning Committee no earlier than March 2016.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 Councils have a statutory duty in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to make adequate and efficient provision of school education across their entire area for the current school population and future pattern of demand.
- 1.2 Councils also have a statutory responsibility in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 to achieve best value. The organisation of the school estate is therefore kept under regular review, including the need for school provision and other factors, such as altering catchment areas and the provision of school transport.

- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 Following Local Government boundary changes in 1996, both Perth and Kinross Council and Dundee City Council agreed a set of arrangements which permitted pupils from Longforgan, Inchtute and Abernyte to have the choice of attending a secondary school in Perth or Dundee. Pupils from these areas are awarded Priority 1 status by Perth and Kinross Council to attend Perth High School and by Dundee City Council to attend Menzieshill High School, as had been the case under Tayside Regional Council.
- 1.5 Perth and Kinross Council provides secondary school education in Perth High School for those pupils living in the catchment areas of Longforgan, Inchtute and Abernyte and this has been the case since 1996. Free home to school transport is provided by Perth and Kinross Council for those pupils attending Perth High School in accordance with Perth and Kinross Council's Home to School Transport Policy.
- 1.6 As part of the arrangement agreed with Dundee City Council, Perth and Kinross Council also provides free home to school transport for pupils living in Longforgan, Inchtute and Abernyte to travel to and from Menzieshill High School in Dundee where parents have chosen to exercise their right to send their child there instead of Perth High School. This is also in accordance with Perth and Kinross Council's Home to School Transport Policy where secondary pupils attending their designated secondary school, and who live more than 3 miles from that school, are entitled to receive free home to school transport.
- 1.7 Pupils attending other schools in Dundee as a result of successful placing requests are required to make their own transport arrangements to and from school.
- 1.8 Following a review of its school estate in Dundee, Dundee City Council published a proposal paper in December 2014 in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended. This proposed the closure of Menzieshill High School. It also proposed that Baldragon Academy become the associated Dundee secondary school of Longforgan, Inchtute and Abernyte from August 2016.
- 1.9 Perth and Kinross Council fully considered these proposals and Perth and Kinross Council's response to Dundee City Council's proposals was approved by the Lifelong Learning Executive Sub Committee on 25 February 2015 (Report No **15/104** refers) and was submitted and included as part of the consultation process.

- 1.10 Dundee City Council's Education Committee approved a number of proposals affecting their schools at their meeting on 22 June 2015. This included the closure of Menzieshill High School and a proposal to make Baldragon Academy the associated Dundee secondary school of Longforgan, Inchtute and Abernyte with effect from August 2016. Pupils in attendance at Menzieshill High School when it closes will transfer to Harris Academy to complete their education.
- 1.11 On 12 August 2015, it was announced that Scottish Ministers had approved the decision to close Menzieshill High School at the end of the summer term in June 2016.
- 1.12 This decision has a number of implications for pupils and parents in Perth and Kinross and for the Council. This decision now means that the current arrangements of Perth and Kinross are no longer operable as the previously agreed choice of secondary school in Dundee will not exist after June 2016. Any proposal to vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school or otherwise alter the catchment area for secondary school provision requires statutory consultation in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 1.13 Where the Council is proposing to vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school or otherwise alter the catchment area for secondary school provision, there is a legal requirement to formally consult the appropriate bodies and persons on those proposals. The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 sets out a comprehensive framework for this consultation process.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 Dundee City Council's decision to close Menzieshill High School in June 2016 provides an opportunity for Perth and Kinross Council to review the arrangements for secondary school provision for pupils living in Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan which have been in place since Local Government reorganisation in 1996.
- 2.2 It is not usual practice that pupils are given the option to attend a school in another local authority area other than by way of making a placing request.
- 2.3 Perth and Kinross Council has carefully considered Dundee City Council's decision to designate Baldragon Academy as the associated Dundee secondary school of Longforgan, Inchtute and Abernyte with effect from August 2016.

Taking into account the fact that the Baldragon Academy is a further distance than Menzieshill High School, there would also be additional resource implications in terms of transport costs for Perth and Kinross Council in agreeing to Baldragon Academy being a designated secondary school for pupils living in Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan and there is no legal requirement for the Council to agree to Perth and Kinross pupils being

permitted to be educated in another Local Authority area, the Council does not consider that Baldrigon Academy should be offered as a designated secondary school for these pupils.

- 2.4 It is therefore proposed to formally embark upon statutory consultation with regard to the proposal to vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school, or otherwise alter the catchment area for secondary school provision, by designating Perth High School as the only secondary school provision for pupils from Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan Primary Schools from August 2016. Perth and Kinross pupils already attending Menzieshill High School as entitled pupils at the time of closure will be supported to travel to and from Harris Academy in Dundee to complete their education with effect from August 2016.
- 2.5 A formal Proposal Paper containing an Educational Benefits Statement has therefore been prepared for distribution. This is attached as Appendix A.
- 2.6 The statutory consultation period is proposed to start on 26 October 2015 and will run until 5pm on Tuesday 8 December 2015.
- 2.7 The public meetings will be undertaken by the Convener of the Lifelong Learning Committee and supported by appropriate officers from the Council.
- 2.8 Following this exercise, a report will be submitted to a future Lifelong Learning Committee detailing the outcome of the statutory consultation.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 A Proposal Paper containing an Educational Benefits Statement has been produced which will allow for informed consideration to be given to the proposal.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Committee:
 - (i) Approves the Proposal Paper attached as Appendix A;
 - (ii) Agrees to adopt, for the purposes of consultation, the proposal to: vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school or otherwise alter the catchment area for secondary school provision by designating Perth High School as the only secondary school provision for pupils from Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan Primary Schools from August 2016. Perth and Kinross pupils already attending Menzieshill High School as entitled pupils at the time of closure will be supported travel to and from Harris Academy in Dundee to complete their education with effect from August 2016;
 - (iii) Instructs the Senior Depute Chief Executive (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform) to formally consult the appropriate bodies and persons in relation to the proposal in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010;

- (iv) Delegates authority to the Senior Depute Chief Executive (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform) to investigate and manage any alleged omissions or inaccuracies during the consultation process and to take appropriate action in accordance with The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010; and
- (iv) Instructs the Senior Depute Chief Executive (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform) to prepare a report on the results of the consultation and report back to the Committee on the outcome of these consultations at a meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee no earlier than March 2016.

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
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	No

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) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens.

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 Any resource implications arising from the statutory consultation are likely to relate primarily to staff time and will therefore be contained within the Education and Children's Services revenue budget.

- 2.2 It is not anticipated that there will be any savings for Perth and Kinross Council associated with this proposal in the short term.
- 2.3 The proposal is expected to have cost implications in relation to continuing to provide free home to school transport for pupils to complete their education at Harris Academy in Dundee when Menzieshill High School closes. The current cost of transporting Perth and Kinross pupils to Menzieshill High School is £56,909 per year. The cost of transporting these pupils will be removed after 5 years when all the entitled pupils will have left school.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 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 (Eq1A) 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 Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Legal and Governance

- 3.3 Where the Council is proposing to vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school or otherwise alter the catchment area for secondary school provision, there is a legal requirement to consult on those proposals. The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 sets out a comprehensive framework for this consultation process. This consultation exercise will be undertaken in accordance with the 2010 Act. Legal Services has been fully consulted in relation to this report and the proposed consultation exercise.

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 will also be undertaken with key stakeholders as part of the statutory consultation exercise.

External

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

5. Communication

- 5.1 This is fully detailed in the Proposal Paper attached as Appendix A.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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: Proposal Paper

THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT



PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

PROPOSAL PAPER

The following schools are affected by this proposal document:

- **Abernyte Primary School**
- **Inchture Primary School**
- **Longforgan Primary School**

This document has been issued by Perth and Kinross Council for proposal in terms of The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

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DISTRIBUTION

A copy of this document is available on the Perth and Kinross Council website: www.pkc.gov.uk

A link to an electronic version of this document will be provided by letter to:

- The Parent Council (if any) of the affected schools
- The parents of the pupils and children who may attend the affected schools
- Parents of children expected to attend the affected schools within 2 years of the date of publication of this proposal document
- The teaching and ancillary staff at the affected schools
- The trade union and professional association representatives of the above staff
- The Community Councils
- Relevant users of the affected schools
- Elected Members of Perth & Kinross Council
- Lay Members of Lifelong Learning Committee
- The Constituency MSPs and List MSPs covering the Constituency
- The Constituency MPs
- The Executive Director, The Environment Service, Perth & Kinross Council
- The Executive Director, Housing & Community Care, Perth & Kinross Council
- Tayside Contracts
- Education Scotland

A copy of this document is also available from:

- Education and Children's Services, Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth, PH1 5GD
- Abernyte Primary School, Abernyte, Inchtute, PH14 9ST
- Inchtute Primary School, Inchtute, Perthshire, PH14 9RN
- Longforgan Primary School, 66 Main Street, Longforgan, DD2 5EU

This document is available in alternative formats or in translated form for readers whose first language is not English. Please apply to Education and Children's Services, Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth, PH1 5GD by telephone on 01738 476200; or by e-mail: ECSTGeneralEnquiries@pkc.gov.uk

SUMMARY OF PROCESS FOR THIS PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

1. Consideration by the Lifelong Learning Committee

This proposal document has been issued as a result of a decision by the Education Committee of Dundee City Council on 22 June 2015 to close Menzieshill High School, in Dundee (Report **175-2015** refers). The Executive Sub-Committee of Lifelong Learning Committee considered the implications of this on 7 October 2015 (Report No 15/435 refers) and agreed to seek views on the proposal in this paper.

2. Proposal document issued to consultees and published on Council website

A copy of this document will be issued free of charge to the consultees listed on the preceding page, and it will also be published on the Council's website: www.pkc.gov.uk

3. Publication of advertisement in local newspapers

An advertisement will be placed in the relevant local newspapers. In addition, there may be announcements related to the Proposal process on the local radio station, Radio Tay.

4. Length of consultation period

An advertisement will be placed in local newspapers on Monday 26 October 2015. The consultation will thereafter run until close of business on Tuesday 8 December 2015, which includes a period of 30 school days.

5. Public meeting

Two public meetings will be held, the details of which are given on page 5 of this document.

6. Involvement of Education Scotland

When the proposal document is published, a copy will also be sent to Education Scotland by the Education Authority. Education Scotland will also receive a copy of any relevant written representations received by the Authority from any person during the consultation period or, if Education Scotland agree, a summary of them. Education Scotland will further receive a summary of any oral representations made to the Authority at the public meeting which will be held and, as available (and so far as otherwise practicable), a copy of any other relevant documentation.

Education Scotland will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal not later than 3 weeks after the Authority has sent them all representations and documents mentioned above. For the avoidance of doubt, the 3 week period will not start until after the consultation period has ended.

In preparing their report, Education Scotland may enter the affected school and make such reasonable enquiries of such people there as they consider appropriate, and may make such reasonable enquiries of such other people as they consider appropriate.

7. Preparation of consultation report

The Education Authority will review the proposal having regard to the Education Scotland Report, written representations that it has received and oral representations made to it, by any person at the public meetings.

It will then prepare a consultation report. This report will be published in electronic and printed formats and will be advertised in local newspapers. It will be available on the Council website and from Education & Children's Services at Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth & Kinross Council Headquarters at 2 High Street as well as the affected schools, free of charge. Anyone who made written representations to the Authority during the consultation period will also be informed about the report.

The report will include:

- a record of the total number of written representations made to the Authority during the consultation period;
- a summary of the written representations;
- a summary of the oral representations made at the public meeting;
- the Authority's response to the Education Scotland Report as well as any written or oral representations it has received, together with a copy of the Education Scotland Report and any other relevant information, including details of any alleged inaccuracies and how these have been handled; and
- a statement explaining how the Authority complied with the requirement to review the proposal in light of the Education Scotland Report and representations (both written and oral) that it received.

The consultation report will be published and available for further consideration for a period of 3 weeks.

8. Decision

This report together with any other relevant documentation will be considered by the Lifelong Learning Committee of Perth and Kinross Council, who will come to a decision about whether to implement the proposal.

9. Note on Corrections

If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this proposal document, either by the Council or any person, the Council must investigate and decide what, if any, action is required. If relevant information has been omitted or there has been an inaccuracy, the Council will then take appropriate action which may include the issue of a correction notice, the publishing of a corrected proposal paper or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period if appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and Education Scotland will be advised.

The Authority must inform the person who made the allegation and what action it has taken.

10. Note

This consultation is being conducted having regard to the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Two Public meetings will be held to discuss these proposals. Anyone wishing to attend the public meeting is invited to do so. The meetings, which will be convened by the Education Authority, will be addressed by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services), or other senior officers of the Council.

The meeting will be an opportunity for interested parties to:

- Hear more about the proposal
- Ask questions about the proposal
- Have their views recorded so that they can be taken into account as part of the consultation process.

The meetings will be held at:

Venue – Longforgan Primary School

Date – TBC

Time – 7.00 pm

Venue – Inchtute Primary School

Date – TBC

Time – 7.00 pm

A note will be taken at the meetings of questions and views. This note will be published on the Council website, and a printed copy will be made available upon request.

**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

THIS IS A PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

Education and Children's Services is required under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 to publish details of and consult on any proposal to vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school or otherwise alter the catchment area for secondary school provision.

Therefore, public consultation is required to alter the arrangements for Perth High School to be the designated secondary school for pupils from Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan Primary Schools from August 2016, and for Perth and Kinross pupils already attending Menzieshill High School as entitled pupils at the time of closure will be supported travel to and from Harris Academy in Dundee to complete their education with effect from August 2016.

Proposal:

That subject to the outcome of this proposal exercise, the Council proposes:

- to vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school or otherwise alter the catchment area for secondary school provision to agree Perth High School to be the only designated secondary school for pupils from Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan Primary Schools from August 2016; and
- Perth and Kinross pupils already attending Menzieshill High School as entitled pupils at the time of closure will be supported to travel to and from Harris Academy in Dundee to complete their education with effect from August 2016.

1. STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1.1 Councils have a statutory duty in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to make adequate and efficient provision of school education across their entire area for the current school population and future pattern of demand.
- 1.2 Councils also have a statutory responsibility in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 to achieve best value. The organisation of the school estate is therefore kept under regular review, including the need for school provision and other factors, such as altering catchment areas and the provision of school transport.

- 1.3 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.

2. VISION

- 2.1 Perth & Kinross Council works to enhance quality of life, make best use of public resources and ensure continuously improving services. Perth & Kinross Council's Corporate Plan "Securing the Future" aims to ensure that individuals, families and communities experience the best possible outcomes from a range of services.

Perth & Kinross Council has a strong identity and clear priorities which everyone works together to achieve, creating areas which are vibrant and successful; safe, secure, healthy and sustainable environments; educated, responsible and informed citizens; confident and active communities; and places where people are nurtured and supported, giving every child the best start in life.

- 2.2 This approach is reflected in the Scottish Government National Performance Framework - National Outcome 15 states that "Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs", and the Local Outcome states that "Our services will be responsive, of high quality and continually improving". This report also links with Perth & Kinross Council's School Estate Management Plan, Education and Children's Services Policy Framework Maximising Resources and with the Education and Children's Services objective to develop the range and quality learning experiences for all.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Following Local Government boundary changes in 1996, both Perth and Kinross Council and Dundee City Council and agreed a set of arrangements which permitted pupils from Longforgan, Inchtute and Abernyste to have the choice of attending a secondary school in Perth or Dundee, if they wished. Pupils from these areas are awarded Priority 1 status by Perth and Kinross Council to attend Perth High School and by Dundee City Council to attend Menzieshill High School, as had been the case under Tayside Regional Council.
- 3.2 Perth and Kinross Council provides secondary school education in Perth High School for those pupils living in the catchment areas of Longforgan, Inchtute and Abernyste and this has been the case since 1996. Free home to school transport is provided by Perth and Kinross Council for those pupils attending Perth High School in accordance with Perth and Kinross Council's Home to School Transport Policy.

- 3.3 As part of this arrangement, Perth and Kinross Council also provides free home to school transport for pupils living in Longforgan, Inchtute and Abernyte to travel to and from Menzieshill High School in Dundee where parents have chosen to exercise their right to send their child there instead of Perth High School. This is also in accordance with Perth and Kinross Council's Home to School Transport Policy where secondary pupils attending their designated secondary school, and who live more than 3 miles from that school, are entitled to receive free home to school transport.
- 3.4 Following a review of its school estate in Dundee, Dundee City Council published a proposal paper in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended. This proposed the closure of Menzieshill High School. This also proposed Baldrigon Academy becomes the associated Dundee secondary school of Longforgan, Inchtute and Abernyte from August 2016.
- 3.5 Perth and Kinross Council fully considered these proposals and Perth and Kinross Council's response to Dundee City Council's proposals was approved by the Lifelong Learning Executive Sub Committee on 25 February 2015 (Report No **15/104** refers) and was submitted and included as part of the consultation process.
- 3.6 Dundee City Council's Education Committee approved a number of proposals affecting their schools at their meeting on 22 June 2015. This included the closure of Menzieshill High School and a proposal to make Baldrigon Academy the associated Dundee secondary school of Longforgan, Inchtute and Abernyte with effect from August 2016. Pupils in attendance at Menzieshill High School when it closes will transfer to Harris Academy to complete their education.
- 3.7 On 12 August 2015, it was announced that Scottish Ministers had approved the decision to close Menzieshill High School at the end of the summer term in June 2016.
- 3.8 This decision has a number of implications for pupils and parents in Perth and Kinross and for the Council. Any amendment to the existing policy for Admissions and Transfer to Secondary School in Perth and Kinross will require to undergo statutory consultation in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010
- 3.9 Where the Council is proposing to vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school, or otherwise alter the catchment area for secondary school provision, there is a legal requirement to formally consult the appropriate bodies and persons on those proposals. The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 sets out a comprehensive framework for this consultation process.
- 3.10 Dundee City Council's decision to close Menzieshill High School in June 2016 provides an opportunity for Perth and Kinross Council to review the arrangements for secondary school provision for pupils living in Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan which have been in place since Local Government reorganisation in 1996.

- 3.11 It is not usual practice that pupils are given the option to attend a school in another local authority area other than by way of making a placing request.
- 3.12 Perth and Kinross Council has carefully considered Dundee City Council's decision to designate Baldragon Academy as the associated Dundee secondary school of Longforgan, Inchtute and Abernyte with effect from August 2016.

Taking into account the fact that the Baldragon Academy is a further distance than Menzieshill High School, there would also be additional resource implications in terms of transport costs for Perth and Kinross Council in agreeing to Baldragon Academy being a designated secondary school for pupils living in Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan and there is no legal requirement for the Council to agree to Perth and Kinross pupils being permitted to be educated in another Local Authority area, the Council does not consider that Baldragon Academy should be offered as a designated secondary school for these pupils.

4. PERTH HIGH SCHOOL

- 4.1 Perth High School is a 6 year secondary school and provides non-denominational secondary education to pupils from the primary school catchment areas of Abernethy, Craigie, Dunbarney, Forgandenny, Forteviot, Errol, St Madoes, Inchtute, Abernyte, Longforgan, Invergowrie, Kinnoull, Moncreiffe, Inch View and Oakbank Primary Schools.
- 4.2 Currently, 1446 pupils attend Perth High School.
- 4.3 There are currently 10 pupils from Abernyte catchment area attending Perth High School.
- 4.4 There are currently 40 pupils from Inchtute catchment area attending Perth High School.
- 4.5 There are currently 16 pupils from Longforgan catchment area attending Perth High School.
- 4.6 Approximately 12 pupils in total each year attend Menzieshill High School in Dundee from Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan Primary Schools.

5. ABERNYTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 5.1 Abernyte Primary School is a single teacher primary school and provides non-denominational primary education to pupils from the Abernyte area.
- 5.2 Currently, 8 pupils attend Abernyte Primary School.
- 5.3 There are currently 10 pupils from the Abernyte catchment area attending Perth High School and 0 pupils attending Menzieshill High School.

- 5.4 All pupils attending Perth High School from Abernyte catchment area are entitled to free home to school transport.

6. INCHTURE PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 6.1 Inchtire Primary School is an 8 class primary school and provides non-denominational primary education to pupils from the Inchtire area.
- 6.2 Currently, 181 pupils attend Inchtire Primary School.
- 6.3 There are currently 40 pupils from the Inchtire catchment area attending Perth High School and 24 pupils attending Menzieshill High School.
- 6.4 All pupils attending Perth High School from Inchtire catchment area are entitled to free home to school transport.

7. LONGFORGAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 7.1 Longforgan Primary School is a 6 class primary school and provides non-denominational primary education to pupils from the Longforgan area.
- 7.2 Currently, 112 pupils attend Longforgan Primary School.
- 7.3 There are currently 16 pupils from the Longforgan catchment area attending Perth High School and 32 pupils attending Menzieshill High School.
- 7.4 All pupils attending Perth High School from Longforgan catchment area are entitled to free home to school transport.

8. PRESENT CATCHMENT AREA ARRANGEMENTS

- 8.1 The children living within the Abernyte Primary School catchment area are travelling approximately 19 miles to attend school in Perth and approximately 8.8 miles to attend Menzieshill High School in Dundee.
- 8.2 The children living within the Inchtire Primary School catchment area are travelling approximately 17 miles to attend school in Perth and approximately 7.6 miles to attend Menzieshill High School in Dundee.
- 8.3 The children living within the Longforgan Primary School catchment area are travelling approximately 19 miles to attend school in Perth and approximately 5.3 miles to attend Menzieshill High School in Dundee.

9. PROPOSAL

9.1 It is therefore proposed:

Proposal:

- to vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school or otherwise alter the catchment area for secondary school provision to agree Perth High School to be the only designated secondary school for pupils from Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan Primary Schools from August 2016; and
- Perth and Kinross pupils already attending Menzieshill High School as entitled pupils at the time of closure will be supported travel to and from Harris Academy in Dundee to complete their education with effect from August 2016.

10. TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 10.1 Changes to school catchment areas can raise particular issues for some families. Changes could mean that a younger child is deemed to have a different catchment school from their elder sibling attending school under a previous arrangement. There are special transitional arrangements proposed to support any families who may be in this situation.
- 10.2 The transitional arrangements are proposed to give flexibility and choice for families directly affected by the proposed change to the catchment area. These arrangements would last for a limited period of time.
- 10.3 For children of families who currently live in the area affected by the proposed change of catchment school, it is proposed that the following arrangements would apply during the transitional period:
- If the offer of a place at Menzieshill High School has already been made by the time of the Council decision, this will be honoured by the Council if the pupils choose to transfer to Harris Academy at the point of Menzieshill High School closing in June 2016.
 - Children would continue to attend Harris Academy in Dundee until they finish their education there unless parents/carers choose to transfer them to Perth High School.
 - If these children are currently entitled to, and receive, free home to school transport to Menzieshill High School, that arrangement would continue to transport them to Harris Academy.
 - Younger brothers or sisters of a child currently attending their existing catchment school of Menzieshill High School who will transfer to Harris Academy would require to make a placing request to Dundee City Council to attend the same school.

- 10.4 It is not proposed that assistance with school transport would specifically be made available for siblings to attend Harris Academy from the affected areas and there is no legal requirement to do so. Perth and Kinross Council's Home to School Transport Policy will apply in considering all transport requests.

11. SCHOOL TRANSPORT

- 11.1 Perth and Kinross Council currently provides free transport for eligible pupils who attend their catchment primary and secondary schools. Eligible pupils from the schools affected by this proposal are currently transported to Perth High School and Menzieshill High School.
- 11.2 There are currently transport contracts serving both Perth High School and Menzieshill High School conveying entitled pupils.
- 11.3 Transport arrangements for the proposal would be made in line with the current Perth and Kinross Council policy for Home to School Transport. Under this policy, pupils will be eligible for free home to school transport to attend their designated catchment school where the distance between their home address and their catchment school is more than 2 miles for primary pupils and more than 3 miles for secondary pupils.
- 11.4 There would be no impact on transport provision to attend Abernyte, Inchtute or Longforgan Primary Schools for any affected pupils.
- 11.5 Free home to school transport is not provided for pupils who attend a school of their parents' choice as the result of a successful placing request.
- 11.6 Pupils who attend Harris Academy as a result of a successful placing request and did not attend Menzieshill High School will not be eligible for transport to attend Harris Academy when Menzieshill High School closes in June 2016.
- 11.7 Parents who wish their child to attend Baldrigon Academy in Dundee will not be provided with transport by Perth and Kinross Council as a consequence of this proposal. Perth and Kinross Council will not consider Baldrigon Academy to be a catchment school for Perth and Kinross pupils notwithstanding the fact that Dundee City Council has determined that Baldrigon Academy will be an associated school for Perth and Kinross pupils in the areas of Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan.

12. EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

- 12.1 The proposal would give all the families in the Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan Primary Schools catchment area the opportunity to have their children attend the same secondary school enhancing social and community cohesion.

- 12.2 The proposed secondary school lies within the boundary area of Perth and Kinross.
- 12.3 The proposal would have the additional benefits:
- Long term placement certainty for families
 - Support for effective school/community links
- 12.4 In addition to the benefits noted above, the proposal would offer the opportunity for extended transition arrangements for pupils transferring to secondary school. Currently some pupils at Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan Primary Schools do not access the full transition programme experienced by their peers in other primary schools associated with Perth High School. This is because the outcome of their placing application to a school in Dundee is not always determined at the time many transition activities take place. These activities include transition events and curriculum projects.
- The proposal would allow schools to work in a more formalised and planned way in aspects of learning, teaching and the curriculum ensuring improved continuity and progression for pupils in their learning.
- 12.5 A strong identity with the Perth High School community can be fostered from accessing a range of sporting and cultural activities which provides opportunities to expand friendship groups and increase confidence.
- 12.6 The proposal would also reduce the levels of anxiety experienced by pupils attending Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan Primary Schools awaiting the outcome of their placing applications for Dundee schools. This would, in turn, improve the personal, social and emotional wellbeing of pupils.

13. LIKELY EFFECT ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

- 13.1 It is believed that this proposal will not adversely impact on local, social or economic activities as pupils from Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan are already attending Perth High School.
- 13.2 Currently approximately 12 pupils per year from Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan combined attend Menzieshill High School in Dundee.
- 13.3 The likely effect of the proposal would not impact on the Parent Councils of Abernyte, Inchtute, Longforgan Primary Schools or Perth High School.

14. IMPLICATIONS FOR STAFF

- 14.1 It is not anticipated that there would be implications for any teaching or support staff currently employed at Abernyte Primary School, Inchtute Primary School, Longforgan Primary School or Perth High School as a result of this proposal.

15. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 15.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is a statutory requirement for the Council to assess the policies and practices necessary to meet the requirements of anti-discrimination and equalities legislation. An EqIA can provide more information to develop and deliver services that meet the needs, in this case, of children, parents and staff.
- 15.2 The aim of an EqIA is to examine policies and practice in a structured way to make sure that adverse effects on equality target groups are avoided. It is also a tool to enable the Council to assess what positive steps it can take to promote equality of opportunity and measure the results of the actions that have been taken.
- 15.3 Having regard to vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school or otherwise alter the catchment area for secondary school provision, it is not believed that this will have a negative impact on any of the equality target groups.
- 15.4 As part of the consultation process the Council will consult with a wide range of stakeholders, including staff, parents/carers and young people, and will address comments about equality during this consultation.

16. CONCLUSION

- 16.1 The Council has a duty to ensure that education provision is adequate, delivered and managed appropriately. In the case of Abernyte, Inchturre and Longforgan Primary Schools, this will require an amendment to the existing secondary school catchment area.
- 16.2 In summary, it is proposed that a statutory consultation exercise takes place on a proposal to vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school or otherwise alter the catchment area for secondary school provision to agree Perth High School to be the only designated secondary school for pupils from Abernyte, Inchturre and Longforgan Primary Schools from August 2016.
- 16.3 A significant number of pupils already attend Perth High School from Abernyte, Inchturre and Longforgan.
- 16.4 Future pupil projections have been considered and Perth High School can accommodate all projected and potential pupils from its catchment area. A higher occupancy level maximises use of the school estate and represents good asset management.
- 16.5 Travel distance to Perth High School is not excessive and pupils from Abernyte, Inchturre and Longforgan already make this journey. However, it is recognised that adverse weather in the winter may impact on travel arrangements.

17. OTHER ISSUES

Management of Proposals

- 17.1 It is intended that the proposal will be implemented from August 2016 in time for arrangements for the 2016/17 academic session. This will allow the Council to conduct the necessary consultation in accordance with the relevant statutory frameworks.
- 17.2 It is acknowledged that should the proposal be approved and implemented, forward planning will be required from Education and Children's Services and school senior staff, as a matter of good management practice. This planning is necessary in respect of pupil placements, school transport arrangements and associated issues.
- 17.3 It is not anticipated that there would be implications for any teaching or support staff currently employed at Abernyte Primary School, Inchtute Primary School, Longforgan Primary School or Perth High School as a result of this proposal.

18. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 18.1 It is not anticipated that there will be any savings for Perth and Kinross Council associated with this proposal in the short term.
- 18.2 There are some costs associated with the consultation process in terms of publicity and providing information.
- 18.3 The proposal is expected to have cost implications in relation to continuing to provide free home to school transport for Perth and Kinross pupils to complete their education at Harris Academy in Dundee when Menzieshill High School closes. The current cost of transporting Perth and Kinross pupils to Menzieshill High School is £56,909 per year. The cost of transporting these pupils will be removed after 5 years when all the entitled pupils will have left school.

19. RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSAL

- 19.1 Interested parties are invited to respond to the proposal by making written, electronic or online submissions on the proposal.

Online: www.pkc.gov.uk

By e-mail: ECSStatutoryConsultations@pkc.gov.uk

In writing: Arrangements for Transfer to Secondary School for Longforgan, Inchtute and Abernyte Consultation, Education and Children's Services, Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth, PH1 5GD

no later than close of business on Tuesday 8 December 2015.

- 19.2 A form is provided at Appendix 1 for the convenience of those wishing to respond.

Its use is not compulsory. However, those wishing to respond are invited to state their relationship with the school – for example, “pupil”, “parent”, “grandparent”, “former pupil”, “teacher in school”, “member of the Community” etc. Responses from the Parent Councils, staff, and Pupil Council are particularly welcome.

- 19.3 Those sending in a response, whether by letter or electronically, should know that their response will be open to public scrutiny and may have to be supplied to anyone making a reasonable request to see it.
- 19.4 If they do not wish their response to be publicly available, they should clearly write on the document: “I wish my response to be considered as confidential with access restricted to elected members and council officers of Perth and Kinross Council.” Otherwise, it will be assumed that the person making the response agrees to it being made publicly available.

20. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 20.1 The Lifelong Learning Committee of Perth and Kinross Council agrees to adopt, for the purpose of consultation, the proposal to:
- (i) vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school or otherwise alter the catchment area for secondary school provision to agree Perth High School to be the only designated secondary school for pupils from Abernethy, Inchtute and Longforgan Primary Schools from August 2016; and
 - (ii) Perth and Kinross pupils already attending Menzieshill High School as entitled pupils at the time of closure will be supported travel to and from Harris Academy in Dundee to complete their education with effect from August 2016.
 - (ii) Instructs the Senior Depute Chief Executive (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform) to formally consult the appropriate bodies and persons in relation to the proposal, in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010;
 - (iii) Delegates authority to the Senior Depute Chief Executive (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform) to investigate and manage any alleged omissions or inaccuracies during the consultation process and to take appropriate action in accordance with The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010; and

- (iv) Instructs the Senior Depute Chief Executive (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform) to prepare a report on the results of the consultation and report back to the Committee on the outcome of these consultations at a meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee no earlier than March 2016.

20.2 The Lifelong Learning Committee will not make a decision nor put any changes into effect until it has consulted all interested parties.

John Fyffe
Senior Depute Chief Executive (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform)

29 September 2015



Education and Children's Services Consultation Response Form

Consultation Proposal:

To vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school or otherwise alter the catchment area for secondary school provision to agree Perth High School to be the designated secondary school for pupils from Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan Primary Schools from August 2016; and Perth and Kinross pupils already attending Menzieshill High School as entitled pupils at the time of closure will be supported travel to and from Harris Academy in Dundee to complete their education with effect from August 2016.

Please tick the response which applies to you/your organisation

I agree with the proposals as outlined in this consultation.....

I disagree with the proposals as outlined in this consultation

I would like to make the following representation for consideration:
(if required, please continue on the other side of this sheet)

This part of the form must be completed for a valid response:

Name: _____ Address: _____

 Postcode: _____

Your Interest: (please tick)

Parent Child / Young Person Staff Other *

*Other: (please specify) _____

Elected Member / MSP / MP Member of Community Council

I wish my response to be considered as confidential with access restricted to Elected Members and Council Officers of Perth & Kinross Council