

**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL****Lifelong Learning Committee****9 March 2016****Statutory Consultation –  
Arrangements for Transfer to Secondary School for Abernyte, Inchtute and  
Longforgan****Report by Director (Education and Children's Services)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This Report informs the Lifelong Learning Committee of the outcome and findings of the statutory consultation exercise undertaken in respect of secondary school transfer arrangements for Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan as detailed in the published Consultation Report (attached as Appendix A). This report also seeks approval from the Lifelong Learning Committee to implement the proposal by designating Perth High School as the secondary school provision for pupils from Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan Primary Schools from August 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 and 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, if they wished.

As part of the current Admissions Policy, 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 As part of this arrangement, Perth and Kinross Council provides free home to school transport for pupils living in Longforgan, Inchtute and Abernyte to travel to and from Perth High School. 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 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.
- 1.6 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. This proposed the closure of Menzieshill High School. It also proposed that Baldragon Academy become the associated Dundee secondary school for Longforgan, Inchtute and Abernyte from August 2016.
- 1.7 The Lifelong Learning Executive Sub-Committee on 25 February 2015 (Report No [15/104](#) refers) approved Perth and Kinross Council's response to Dundee City Council's proposals. The response was submitted and included as part of the consultation process.
- 1.8 Dundee City Council's Education Committee on 22 June 2015 approved the proposals outlined in 1.4 above. 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 on 1 July 2016.
- 1.9 Dundee City Council's decision to close Menzieshill High School in July 2016 provided 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.
- 1.10 On 7 October 2015, the Executive Sub-Committee of the Lifelong Learning Committee approved the Report: Statutory Consultation – Arrangements for Transfer to Secondary School for Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan (Report No [15/435](#) refers). This report approved that consultation take place in relation to a proposal to vary the arrangements by designating Perth High School as the only secondary school to serve Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan.
- 1.11 The Director (Education and Children's Services) was instructed to report back to the Committee on the outcome of these consultations no earlier than March 2016.

## 2 STATUTORY CONSULTATION EXERCISE

- 2.1 An electronic link to the [Proposal Paper](#) was issued by letter on Monday 26 October 2015 to those listed under Distribution within the document, and was also published on the Council's website: [www.pkc.gov.uk](http://www.pkc.gov.uk). The Proposal Paper made clear to consultees that the consultation period would run until Tuesday 8 December 2015, which includes the statutory minimum period of 30 school days.
- 2.2 The number of letters issued with details of the Proposal Paper was 433.
- 2.3 Two public meetings were held. One was held in Inchtute Primary School on Monday 16 November 2015 and was attended by one member of the public. The second meeting was held in Longforgan Primary School on Tuesday 17 November 2015. Nine members of the public attended.
- 2.4 In all, there was one written submission received during the statutory consultation period. This opposed the proposal.
- 2.5 In summary, the written and oral responses can be grouped broadly as follows:
- A parent whose child attends school in Dundee did not receive a letter about the public meeting.
  - Clarification on which school Dundee City Council is offering to pupils from Abernyte, Longforgan and Inchtute.
  - Query why Baldragon Academy is the associated school when Harris Academy is closer.
  - Query why Invergowrie pupils are able to go to Harris Academy.
  - Query regarding transport arrangements for Invergowrie pupils to attend Harris Academy.
  - Query regarding whether Harris Academy can accommodate all the pupils from Menzieshill High School.
  - Clarification sought if a younger sibling is permitted to attend Harris Academy with their siblings from Menzieshill High School if transport will be provided for them.
  - Why is Perth and Kinross Council limiting parents choices by not providing transport to Dundee?
  - Is it a done deal there will be no transport?
  - What arrangements will be in place for pupils to get home following after school activities?
  - Does the bus to Perth have lots of stops?
  - Will pupils be able to attend St John's RC High School in Dundee?
- 2.6 Having considered the oral and written representations and Education Scotland's Report, a Consultation Report (attached as Appendix A) was prepared and published for public scrutiny on the Council's website ([www.pkc.gov.uk](http://www.pkc.gov.uk)) from 4 February 2016 until 25 February 2016.

This allowed for the required full three week review of the document prior to a final Committee decision on 9 March 2016, and complies with Section 9 (3) and Section 11 of the 2010 Act.

### 3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 Following the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise detailed in the Consultation Report (attached as Appendix A), and having due regard to relevant written and oral representations and Education Scotland's Report, it is the recommendation to implement 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. Harris Academy is the specified school named by Dundee City Council for those pupils in attendance at Menzieshill High School at its time of closure in June 2016.

### 4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 A comprehensive Proposal Paper containing an Educational Benefits Statement was produced in relation to the proposal. This allowed for informed consideration to be given to the proposal to vary the arrangements for transfer to secondary school for Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan through formal consultation with key stakeholders. The outcome and findings of the statutory consultation exercise have been widely published and it is now recommended to implement the proposal with effect from August 2016.
- 4.2 It is recommended that the Committee:
- (i) Notes the contents of the Consultation Report (attached as Appendix A); and
  - (ii) Approves the implementation of the following 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.**

**Author(s)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>
Karen Robertson	Service Manager (Business Services)	Ext 76216 <a href="mailto:KarenRobertson@pkc.gov.uk">KarenRobertson@pkc.gov.uk</a>

**Approved**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Date</b>
Sheena Devlin	Director (Education & Children's Services)	15 January 2016

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion, only a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting the Customer Service Centre on 01738 475000.

You can also send us a text message on 07824 498145.

All Council Services can offer a telephone translation facility.

## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

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

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

- Communication and Consultation

### 2. Resource Implications

#### Financial

2.1 It is not anticipated that there will be any savings for Perth and Kinross Council associated with this proposal in the short term.

- 2.2 The current cost of transporting Perth and Kinross pupils to Menzieshill High School is £69,798 per year and this budget will be used to provide transport to Harris Academy for pupils to complete their education. 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 reserved places 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, however, no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

- 3.3 Sustainability  
N/A

#### Legal and Governance

- 3.4 Legal Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report which has been prepared in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended.

#### 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.

## External

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

## **5. Communication**

- 5.1 This is fully detailed in the Consultation Report 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: Consultation Report



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

**REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION 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, INCHTURE 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**

**15 January 2016**

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

## Contents

	<b>Page</b>
1. INTRODUCTION	4
2. BACKGROUND	5
3. CONSIDERATIONS	6
4. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS	7
5. THE PUBLIC MEETINGS	8
6. RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE	9
7. EDUCATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO WRITTEN AND ORAL REPRESENTATIONS	9
8. EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT	11
9. TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS	12
10. ALLEGED OMISSIONS OR INACCURACIES	13
11. COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 9(1) OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010	13
12. LEGAL ISSUES	14
13. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS	14
14. CONCLUSION	14
15. RECOMMENDATIONS	15

## Appendices

	<b>Page</b>
Appendix 1 Note of public meetings held on 16 and 17 November 2015	17
Appendix 2 Summary of Consultation responses	23
Appendix 3 Education Scotland Report	26

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

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

- 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 the closure will be supported to travel to and from Harris Academy in Dundee to complete their education with effect from August 2016.

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 16 and 17 November 2015; 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 16 and 17 November 2015;
- 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 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.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 The Lifelong Learning Executive Sub Committee on 25 February 2015 (Report No [15/104](#) refers) approved Perth and Kinross Council's response to Dundee City Council's proposals. The response was submitted and included as part of the consultation process.
- 2.6 Dundee City Council's Education Committee on 22 June 2015 approved the proposals outlined in 1.4 above. 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.
- 2.7 Dundee City Council's decision to close Menzieshill High School in June 2016 provided 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.
- 2.8 On 7 October 2015, the Executive Sub-Committee of the Lifelong Learning Committee approved the Report: Statutory Consultation – Arrangements for Transfer to Secondary School for Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan (Report No [15/435](#) refers).

2.9 Lifelong Learning Committee reports and Proposal Paper referred to above are available on the Council's website [www.pkc.gov.uk](http://www.pkc.gov.uk).

### **3. CONSIDERATIONS**

3.1 The main considerations relating to the proposal are fully explained in the Proposal Paper, and the main points are highlighted as follows:

3.1.2 Perth and Kinross Council works to enhance quality of life, make best use of public resources and ensure continuously improving services.

Perth and 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.

3.1.3 Perth and 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.

3.1.4 The varying of transfer to secondary arrangements by designating Perth High School as the secondary school provision for Abernyte, Longforgan and Inchtute Primary Schools will:

- 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;
- offer the opportunity for extended transition arrangements for pupils transferring to secondary school;
- 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;
- foster a strong identity with the Perth High School community from accessing a range of sporting and cultural activities which provides opportunities to expand friendship groups and increase confidence;
- 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; and
- have the additional benefits of:
  - Long term placement certainty for families
  - Support for effective school/community links.

### **4. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS**

4.1 On 7 October 2015, the Executive Sub-Committee of the Lifelong Learning Committee approved the Report: Statutory Consultation – Arrangements for

Transfer to Secondary School for Abernyte, Inchturre and Longforgan (Report No [15/435](#) refers).

- 4.2 An electronic link to the Proposal Paper was issued by letter on 26 October 2015 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](http://www.pkc.gov.uk)
- 4.3 The Proposal Paper made clear to consultees that the consultation period would run from Monday 26 October 2015 until Tuesday 8 December 2015 – a period of at least 30 school days.
- 4.4 The proposal on which consultation took place was 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, Inchturre and Longforgan primary Schools from August 2016.
  - Perth and Kinross pupils already attending Menzieshill High School as entitled pupils at the time of the closure will be supported to travel to and from Harris Academy in Dundee to complete their education with effect from August 2016.
- 4.5 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 Monday 26 October 2015. 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](http://www.pkc.gov.uk) and was available in paper copy upon request.
  - An advertisement ran in the Courier and Advertiser on 26 October 2015, and the Perthshire Advertiser on 27 October 2015.
  - Two public meetings were held to discuss the proposal on Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 November 2015.
  - The Consultation period ended on Tuesday 8 December 2015.
  - Education Scotland's involvement consisted of: the proposal document being sent to them, attendance at the public meetings on 16 and 17 November 2015 and visits to Abernyte, Inchturre and Longforgan Primary Schools, 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 3.
- 4.6 The following schools are affected by the proposal:
- Abernyte Primary School
  - Inchturre Primary School
  - Longforgan Primary School

- 4.7 In accordance with statutory requirements, the following persons were consulted:
- The Parent Council (if any) of the affected school
  - The parents of the pupils and children who may attend the affected school
  - Parents of children expected to attend the affected school within 2 years of the date of publication of this proposal document
  - The teaching and ancillary staff at the affected school
  - The trade union and professional association representatives of the above staff
  - The Community Council
  - Relevant users of the affected school
  - Elected Members of Perth and 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 and Kinross Council
  - The Executive Director, Housing & Community Care, Perth and Kinross Council
  - Tayside Contracts
  - Education Scotland

4.8 The number of letters issued with details of the Proposal Paper was 433.

4.9 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.

4.10 This Consultation Report is the Council's response to the issues raised during the consultation period on the Proposal Paper.

4.11 This Consultation Report was published on the Council's website for a period of five weeks prior to final consideration by Lifelong Learning Committee on 8 March 2015.

## **5. THE PUBLIC MEETINGS**

5.1 The first public meeting was held in Inchtute Primary School on Monday 16 November 2015. One member 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 The small number of attendees at the public meetings and the questions and issues raised, indicate that there were no significant issues raised by parents regarding the proposal. However, parents had a number of questions relating to arrangements for other pupils and schools not affected by this proposal.

## **6. RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE**

In all, one written response was received during the consultation period. This response opposes the proposal. The detail of the respondent is contained within the Summary of Consultation Responses, attached as Appendix 2.

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

- Clarification on which schools Dundee City Council is offering to pupils from Abernyte, Longforgan and Inchtute.
- Query why Baldragon Academy is the associated school when Harris Academy is closer.
- Query why Invergowrie pupils are able to go to Harris Academy.
- Query regarding transport arrangements for Invergowrie pupils to attend Harris Academy.
- Query regarding whether Harris Academy can accommodate all the pupils from Menzieshill High School.
- Clarification sought if a younger sibling is permitted to attend Harris Academy with their siblings from Menzieshill High School if transport will be provided for them.
- Query why Perth and Kinross Council is limiting parents' choices by not providing transport to Dundee and whether it has been decided there will be no transport?
- Clarification on how transport operates to Perth High School and what arrangements will be in place for pupils to get home following after school activities?

## **7. EDUCATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO WRITTEN AND ORAL REPRESENTATIONS**

### **7.1 A parent whose child attends school in Dundee did not receive a letter about the public meeting.**

Perth and Kinross Council does not hold any data for pupils who do not attend a school in Perth and Kinross and therefore we cannot write to parents whose children do not attend a Perth and Kinross school. In addition to the letters which were issued, the Council placed Public Notice adverts in the local press and also published the proposal and public meeting dates on the Council website,

### **7.2 Clarification on which school Dundee City Council is offering to pupils from Abernyte, Longforgan and Inchtute.**

Dundee City Council has designated Baldragon Academy as the associated school for pupils from Abernyte, Longforgan and Inchtute.

### **7.3 Query why Baldragon Academy is the associated school when Harris Academy is closer.**

Dundee City Council has designated Baldragon Academy as the associated school.

### **7.4 Query why Invergowrie pupils are able to go to Harris Academy.**

Invergowrie was not an associated school for Menzieshill High School. Invergowrie pupils historically have gone to Harris Academy and Dundee City Council has designated Harris Academy as their associated school. Pupils from Invergowrie are also within the catchment area for Perth High School.

**7.5 Query regarding transport arrangements for Invergowrie pupils to attend Harris Academy.**

Currently pupils are receiving free transport because they are housed in the decant school at Harris Academy, Lawton Road in Dundee, which is more than three miles from Invergowrie, therefore making them entitled to transport. When they move back into the new school on Perth Road, pupils living in Invergowrie will be under three miles from the school again making the distance to school within the statutory walking distance, so no transport will be provided.

**7.6 Query regarding whether Harris Academy can accommodate all the pupils from Menzieshill High School.**

Dundee City Council has confirmed that this is the case.

**7.7 Clarification sought if a younger sibling is permitted to attend Harris Academy with their siblings who transfer from Menzieshill High School, will transport will be provided for them.**

Our proposal paper is indicating that they will not get transport if they apply for transport and there are spare seats on the bus, concessions maybe available but as our transport policy states concessions are not guaranteed and would only be available if there were spare seats.

**7.8 Why is Perth and Kinross Council limiting parents' choices by not providing transport to Dundee?**

Perth & Kinross is absolutely not taking your choice as a parent away. We are providing secondary school education at Perth High School and providing free transport, which is our statutory duty. There is no statutory obligation for parents to have the choice of school in more than one local authority and no children other than pupils living in in Abernyte, Inchtute, Longforgan and Invergowrie have had the choice of attending a school in another local authority area. However it is ultimately the parent's' choice where you decide to educate your child and you will continue to have the choice to choose a school in Dundee should you wish.

**7.9 Is it a done deal there will be no transport?**

The proposal we are consulting on is we are not offering transport, but we will listen to your views. Please encourage all parents to make their views known, this is your opportunity to have your voice heard.

**7.10 What arrangements will be in place for pupils to get home following after school activities?**

As with all secondary schools in Perth & Kinross, children access public transport and pay accordingly to travel home following after school activities. It was stated that regular bus services operate in all three villages from Perth.

**7.11 Does the bus to Perth have lots of stops?**

Perth & Kinross Public Transport Unit has worked very hard to streamline the bus service to Perth High School. The journey time currently takes, on average, 40-50 minutes in peak time travel which is a shorter time than it was previously. This is almost the same as the bus time from Longforgan to Baldragon even though the mileage is significantly lower.

**7.12 Will pupils be able to attend St John's RC High School in Dundee?**

Parents will still be able to make a placing request to Dundee City Council for pupils to attend St John's RC High School in Dundee. It will be for Dundee City Council to determine whether they are able to grant any requests. As with all placing requests, if these were to be successful, then parents are required to accept full responsibility for all arrangements and costs to transport their child to and from the school of their choice.

**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 Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan Primary Schools to speak to relevant consultees. Education Scotland attended the public meetings held on 16 and 17 November 2015 in connection with the Council's proposals.

8.3 The Education Scotland report is reproduced in full (Appendix 3).

8.4 The report supports the proposal and is summarised below:

- Education Scotland acknowledges that the proposal is of clear educational benefit and the opportunity children will have to undertake a coherent and extensive transition between primary and secondary education. (Education Scotland para 3.1)
- Education Scotland notes the proposal has the potential to build social cohesion across the three small primary schools each with relatively small numbers of children transferring to secondary. (Education Scotland para 3.2)
- Education Scotland points out that implementation of the proposal will enable the Council to make more effective and efficient use of its resources and help it secure the best value in the delivery of its services. (Education Scotland para 3.3)
- Education Scotland notes that the proposal makes provision for Perth and Kinross pupils already attending Menzieshill High School in Dundee as entitled pupils as at June 2016 would be supported to travel to and from Harris Academy in Dundee to complete their education with effect from August 2016. (Education Scotland para 3.4)
- Education Scotland indicates that pupils from all three schools had a good level of understanding of the proposal and overall accepted if the proposal

was accepted they would go to Perth High School. (Education Scotland para 3.5)

- Education Scotland indicates that parents who met with Inspectors were largely in favour of the proposal. (Education Scotland 3.6)

## 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:

**In taking forward this proposal, the Council should continue to work with stakeholders to ensure they are clear about all aspects of the proposal.**

Perth and Kinross Council will continue to work closely with the Headteachers of Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan Primary Schools to ensure clarity of advice and information for parents and pupils. The Council will also ensure that information available on the Council website and in school handbooks accurately reflects the arrangements of the proposal.

## 9. **TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS**

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 There are currently transport contracts serving both Perth High School and Menzieshill High School conveying entitled pupils.
- 9.3 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.
- 9.4 There would be no impact on transport provision to attend Abernyte, Inchtute or Longforgan Primary Schools for any affected pupils.
- 9.5 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.
- 9.6 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.
- 9.7 Parents who wish their child to attend Baldragon 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, Inchturre and Longforgan.

## **10. ALLEGED OMISSIONS OR INACCURACIES**

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 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.

## **11. COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 9(1) OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010**

- 11.1 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.

- 11.2 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.
- 11.3 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.
- 11.4 Officers of the Education Authority have listened carefully to the points made at the public meetings and have considered equally carefully the written representation, including the Education Scotland report. Having reviewed the feedback from consultees, officers concluded that the basis of the original proposal remained the best solution to ensure pupils from Abernyte, Inchturre and Longforgan Primary Schools benefit from a coherent and extensive transition between primary and secondary education by attending Perth High School for their secondary education.

## **12. LEGAL ISSUES**

- 12.1 The Council has complied in full with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 throughout this statutory consultation.
- 12.2 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.
- 12.3 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 representation received from any person during the consultation period;
    - b) oral representation made to it by any person at the public meetings held on 16 and 17 November 2015;
    - 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.
- 12.4 As it is the intention that this Consultation Report should be published, both electronically and in written form, if required, on 4 February until 25 February 2016, this meets the statutory requirement to publish this report more than three weeks before consideration of the proposal by Lifelong Learning Committee.

## **13. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no staffing implications relating to the proposal.

## **14. CONCLUSION**

- 14.1 The Council now has 4 broad options to consider, namely:
- a) adopt the proposal;
  - b) withdraw the proposal;
  - 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.
- 14.2 In withdrawing the proposal, the Council would be failing to recognise or respond to their being no significant opposition from parents, staff and pupils for the proposal to be implemented. Education Scotland has identified that the proposal is of educational benefit for young people. This includes the opportunity children will have to undertake a coherent and extensive transition between primary and secondary education and the potential to build social cohesion across three small primary schools each with relatively small numbers of children transferring to secondary and to widen friendship groups prior to transition.

14.3 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.

14.4 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.
- There has been little opposition to the Council's proposal.
- The report from Education Scotland acknowledges that the proposal would lead to clear educational benefits for pupils attending Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan Primary Schools when transferring to secondary education.

## **15. RECOMMENDATIONS**

15.1 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:

- Approves 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 the closure will be supported to travel to and from Harris Academy in Dundee to complete their education with effect from August 2016.

Sheena Devlin  
Director (Education & Children's Services)

15 January 2016





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

**Minute of meeting held on Monday 16 November 2015**

**At 7.00pm in Inchtute Primary School**

**Present**

Councillor Bob Band	Convener, Lifelong Learning Committee
Councillor Gordon Walker	Vice Convener, Lifelong Learning Committee
Peter McAvoy	Head of Service (Secondary and Inclusion)
Karen Robertson	Service Manager, Business Services

**In Attendance**

Ken McAra	Education Scotland
Jane Savage	Head Teacher, Inchtute Primary School
Christina Khazaka	Head Teacher, Abernyte Primary School
Janice Johnstone – Minutes	Perth & Kinross Council

1 member of the public

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Councillor Band opened the meeting and welcomed the member of public in attendance to the Statutory Consultation Public Meeting. Councillor Band introduced himself and the panel to the member of the public and thanked him 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 attendee:

“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.”

In line with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 a period of formal consultation will be undertaken from 26 October 2015 until 8 December 2015.

#### **4. Presentation**

Karen Robertson gave a presentation explaining the Proposal and educational benefits in further detail.

##### **Background**

Karen Robertson gave a presentation on the background to the proposal and outlined that the reasons for the Council proposing to vary the transfer to secondary school arrangements for pupils attending Inchtute, Abernyte and Longforgan Primary Schools.

##### **Transport Arrangements**

Karen Robertson outlined the current and future transport arrangements. Travel times and when free school transport was provided was discussed. Karen Robertson outlined the fact that pupils from Inchtute, Abernyte and Longforgan are already travelling Perth High School.

##### **Statutory Consultation Process**

Karen Robertson detailed 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 happens if I want my child to go school in Dundee?

**A** It was stated that Baldragon Academy had been identified as the associated secondary school by Dundee City Council for pupils from Inchtute, Abernyte and Longforgan. Parents could also make a placing request for other schools of their choice for consideration by Dundee City Council. Pupils wishing to attend a school in Perth would be given the choice of Perth High School or a denominational education at St John's RC Academy.

Parents who wished their child to attend school in Dundee would require to make their request directly to Dundee City Council and parents would be responsible for their child's transport to and from school. Free school transport would be available for pupils attending Perth High School. Distance was discussed and a survey undertaken by Perth and Kinross Council had shown that although the distance is greater to Perth High School, the actual travel time is approximately the same due to the volume of traffic at peak times going into Dundee.

Councillor Band thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.



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

**Minute of meeting held on Tuesday 17 November 2015**

**At 7.00pm in Longforgan Primary School**

**Present**

Councillor Bob Band	Convener, Lifelong Learning Committee
Councillor Gordon Walker	Vice Convener, Lifelong Learning Committee
Sheena Devlin	Director (Education and Children's Services)
Karen Robertson	Service Manager (Business Services)

**In Attendance**

Councillor Douglas Pover	Perth & Kinross Council
Barbara Daly	Education Scotland
Lauren Budd	Head Teacher, Longforgan Primary School
Janice Johnstone – Minutes	Perth & Kinross Council

9 members of the public

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

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

**2. Format of meeting**

Councillor Walker explained the format the meeting would follow.

**3. The proposal**

Karen Robertson explained the consultation proposal to the attendee:

“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 Abernethy, 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.”

In line with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 a period of formal consultation will be undertaken from 26 October 2015 until 8 December 2015.

#### **4. Presentations**

Karen Robertson gave a presentation explaining the Proposal and educational benefits in further detail.

##### **Background**

Karen Robertson gave a presentation on the background to the proposal and outlined that the reasons for the Council proposing to vary the transfer to secondary school arrangements for pupils attending Inchtute, Abernyte and Longforgan Primary Schools.

##### **Transport Arrangements**

Karen Robertson outlined the current and future transport arrangements. Travel times and when free school transport was provided was discussed. Karen Robertson outlined the fact that pupils from Inchtute, Abernyte and Longforgan are already travelling Perth High School.

##### **Statutory Consultation Process**

Karen Robertson detailed 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 Walker then opened up the meeting to any questions or observations from the floor.

#### **5. Questions**

**Q Why did I not receive a letter telling me about this meeting?**

**A** Invergowrie was not an associated school for Menzieshill High School. Invergowrie pupils historically have gone to Harris Academy and Dundee City Council has designated Harris Academy as their associated school. Pupils from Invergowrie are also within the catchment area for Perth High School.

**Q Why do the pupils from Invergowrie get free transport to Harris Academy?**

**A** Currently pupils are receiving free transport because they are housed in the decant school at Harris Academy, Lawton Road in Dundee, which is more than three miles from Invergowrie, therefore making them entitled to transport. When they move back into the new school on Perth Road, pupils living in Invergowrie will be under three miles from the school again making the distance to school within the statutory walking distance, so no transport will be provided.

**Q Can Harris Academy accommodate all the pupils from Menzieshill?**

**A** Dundee City Council has confirmed that this is the case.

- Q** If a request is made and granted for a sibling to attend Harris Academy will they get transport paid?
- A** Our proposal paper is indicating that they will not get transport if they apply for transport and there are spare seats on the bus, concessions maybe available but as our transport policy states concessions are not guaranteed and would only be available if there were spare seats.
- Q** Why is Perth & Kinross “shutting the door on us” We feel you are limiting our children’s education by not providing transport to Dundee?
- A** Perth & Kinross is absolutely not taking your choice as a parent away. We are providing secondary school education at Perth High School and providing free transport, which is our statutory duty. There is no statutory obligation for parents to have the choice of school in more than one local authority and no other children living in Perth and Kinross have had the choice of attending a school in another local authority area. However it is ultimately the parent’s’ choice where you decide to educate your child and you will continue to have the choice to choose a school in Dundee should you wish.
- Q** Is it a “done deal” there will be no transport?
- A** The proposal we are consulting on is we are not offering transport, but we will listen to your views. Please encourage all parents to make their views known, this is your opportunity to have your voice heard.
- Q** What about after school activities?
- A** As with all secondary schools in Perth & Kinross, children access public transport and pay accordingly to travel home following after school activities. It was stated that regular bus services operate in all three villages from Perth.
- Q** Does the bus to Perth have lots of stops?
- A** Perth & Kinross Public Transport Unit has worked very hard to streamline the bus service to Perth High School. It currently on average 40-50 minutes in peak time travel which is a shorter time than it was previously. This is almost the same as the bus time from Longforgan to Baldragon even though the mileage is significantly lower.

Councillor Walker thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.





**Perth and Kinross Council**

**Education and Children's Services**

**Transfer to Secondary Arrangements –  
Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan Primary Schools**

**Summary of Consultation Responses**

The statutory consultation on the proposal to vary the arrangements for the transfer to secondary school for Abernyte, Longforgan and Inchtute Primary Schools commenced on 26 October 2015 and closed on 8 December 2015.

Details of the proposal document were issued to the list of consultees contained within the Proposal Paper. 433 letters were issued with a link to the proposal paper and details of where and how to obtain a paper copy. The Proposal Paper was also published on the Council website. Public Notice adverts were placed in the local press on 26 and 27 October 2015.

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.

One written submission was received. This opposed the proposal as the respondent wishes their child to attend St John's RC High School in Dundee which is not part of the consultation.

<b>RESPONDENT GROUP</b>	<b>NUMBER OF RESPONSES</b>
Parents	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>

This 1 response represents 1 separate individual.

The Council held 2 public meetings to discuss the proposal. The meetings took place in Inchtute Primary School on Monday 16 November 2015. One member of the public attended this meeting. The second meeting took place in Longforgan Primary School on Tuesday 17 November 2015. Nine members of the public attended this meeting.

The following points summarise the verbal issues raised at the meeting and in the written response to the Proposal Paper:

- A parent whose child attends school in Dundee did not receive a letter about the public meeting.
- Clarification on which school Dundee City Council is offering to pupils from Abernyte, Longforgan and Inchtute.
- Query why Baldragon Academy is the associated school when Harris Academy is closer.
- Query why Invergowrie pupils are able to go to Harris Academy.
- Query regarding transport arrangements for Invergowrie pupils to attend Harris Academy.
- Query regarding whether Harris Academy can accommodate all the pupils from Menzieshill High School.
- Clarification sought if a younger sibling is permitted to attend Harris Academy with their siblings from Menzieshill High School if transport will be provided for them.
- Why is Perth and Kinross Council limiting parents' choices by not providing transport to Dundee?
- Is it a done deal there will be no transport?

- What arrangements will be in place for pupils to get home following after school activities?
- Does the bus to Perth have lots of stops?
- Will pupils be able to attend St John's RC High School in Dundee?

433 letters were issued inviting comments and participation in the consultation. Ten parents participated in the consultation to make their views known.



**Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Perth and Kinross Council to vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils to secondary school from Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan Primary Schools. The proposal intends that Perth High School will be the only designated secondary school for pupils from these schools from August 2016 and thus end the agreement with Dundee City Council of offering an alternative, previously Menzieshill High School which is due to close in June 2016. The proposal will allow Perth and Kinross pupils already attending Menzieshill High School as entitled pupils at the time of closure to be supported to travel to and from Harris Academy in Dundee to complete their education with effect from August 2016.**

## **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 that Perth High School will be the only designated secondary school for pupils from Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan Primary Schools from August 2016 following the closure of Menzieshill High School in June 2016. The proposal also details that Perth and Kinross pupils already attending Menzieshill High School in Dundee as entitled pupils as at June 2016 will be supported to travel to and from Harris Academy in Dundee to complete their education with effect from August 2016. 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 schools; any other users and children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper;
- 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 16 and 17 November 2015 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 Abernyte, Inchtute and Longforgan Primary Schools, 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 consultation on the proposal ran from 26 October to 8 December 2015. During this period the council held two public meetings in two of the schools involved in the proposal. One member of the public attended the meeting at Inchtute Primary School and nine members of the public attended the meeting at Longforgan Primary School. At these meetings there were mixed responses to the proposal. The council received one written response.

## **3. Educational Aspects of Proposal**

3.1 The proposal is of educational benefit. The most significant benefit is the opportunity children will have to undertake a coherent and extensive transition between primary and secondary education. Appropriate transition arrangements for children moving to Perth High School are already well established. Reducing the number of secondary schools involved in transition will allow more coherent learning and teaching in P7, particularly in the summer term for all children. The proposal would also provide greater certainty for children and families residing within the catchment areas by eliminating the need for placing requests at the point of transition.

3.2 The proposal has the potential to build social cohesion across three small primary schools each with relatively small numbers of children transferring to secondary. There is potential to widen friendship groups prior to transition and in turn, to support children to be more confident as they move on to secondary education.

3.3 Implementation of the proposal will enable the council to make more effective and efficient use of its resources and help it secure the best value in the delivery of its services.

3.4 The proposal makes provision for Perth and Kinross pupils already attending Menzieshill High School in Dundee as entitled pupils as at June 2016 to be supported to travel to and from Harris Academy in Dundee to complete their education with effect from August 2016.

3.5 Pupils who spoke with HM Inspectors from all three schools had a good level of understanding of the proposal. They understood that they may not be able to go to secondary school in Dundee if the proposal is successful. Although this would be disappointing to them they, overall, accepted they would go to Perth High School instead.

3.6 Parents who met with HM Inspectors were largely in favour of the proposal. They recognised that the current arrangements for transfer to a secondary school in another local authority area are unusual.

#### **4. Summary**

Overall, the proposal is of educational benefit. It addresses anomalies resulting from arrangements put in place almost twenty years ago. If the proposal is implemented it has the potential to create even more effective transition arrangements for children as they move between primary and secondary education. It would also allow Perth and Kinross Council to make the most effective and efficient use of resources. The proposal also makes suitable arrangements to minimise impact on pupils who already attend secondary school in Dundee. In taking forward this proposal, the council should continue to work with stakeholders to ensure they are clear about all aspects of the proposal.

**HM Inspectors  
Education Scotland  
January 2016**

