

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Lifelong Learning Committee

24 January 2018

OPTIONS APPRAISAL – ST NINIAN’S EPISCOPAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks approval of the Options Appraisal (Appendix A) which has been undertaken in respect of St Ninian’s Episcopal Primary School. Lifelong Learning Committee is asked to agree that the Executive Director (Education and Children’s Services) progresses with plans to establish a nursery class in St Ninian’s Episcopal Primary School.

1. BACKGROUND**School Estate Transformation**

- 1.1 The school estate is a significant and valuable asset to the communities of Perth and Kinross. Between 2017 and 2023, the Council will invest £141m in the school estate, including a number of new or replacement primary schools and a substantial upgrade programme for secondary schools. In addition the Scottish Government is funding a new £32.5m secondary school at Bertha Park.
- 1.2 The School Estate Strategy ([Report No. 12/370 refers](#)) sets out the Council’s aspirations for our schools, and in particular the high value we place on learning, through our vision for well designed, maintained and managed schools.
- 1.3 It is important, in light of the significant investment and cost associated with the school estate, that it is managed in an efficient and effective manner, and that the priorities which are addressed meet the wider strategic objectives of the Council and the needs of our communities.
- 1.4 There are significant challenges for managing the school estate over the coming years. These include changing demographics including population growth and movement, house building in certain locations, ongoing deterioration in building infrastructure, pressure on planned maintenance budgets, increasing revenue costs and the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare from 600 to 1140 hours.
- 1.5 The Council’s Transformation Strategy 2015-2020 ‘Building Ambition’ and Organisational Development Framework were approved by Council on 1 July 2015 ([Report No. 15/292 refers](#)). Together they detail how Perth and Kinross Council will deliver transformation over the next five years. Accompanying the

strategy is a programme of major reviews which are considered to be key drivers and enablers of transformation across the organisation.

- 1.6 On 24 August 2016, Lifelong Learning Committee ([Report No. 16/347 refers.](#)) approved principles to be used as a basis for the transformation review, 'Securing the Future of the School Estate'. The principles approved by Lifelong Learning Committee as a basis for the transformation review were as follows:
- (i) schools should have an occupancy rate where possible greater than 60% of the capacity and ideally should be operating at over 80% capacity;
 - (ii) every school should be rated as A or B ie at least satisfactory for condition and suitability; and
 - (iii) life expired buildings¹ within the school estate should be prioritised for replacement.
- 1.7 On 2 November 2016, Lifelong Learning Committee ([Report 16/485 refers](#)) approved the development of a number of options appraisals to consider in detail schools which were identified as requiring further consideration.

Key Legislation

- 1.8 Councils, as Education Authorities have a statutory duty in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to make adequate and efficient provision of school education across their entire area for the current school population and future pattern of demand.
- 1.9 Councils also have a statutory responsibility in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 to achieve best value.
- 1.10 The [Schools Consultation \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) provides a strong, accountable statutory consultation process that local authorities must apply to their handling of all proposals for school closures and other major changes to schools. These consultation processes are expected to be robust, open, transparent and fair, and seen to be so. They are also expected to be consistent across Scotland.

2. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 2.1 An Options Appraisal was undertaken to consider the future of St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School on the basis that it was under-occupied. The options appraisal is attached as Appendix A.
- 2.2 The findings contained within the Options Appraisal concluded that the only reasonable option, at this time, was that the school remains open and a nursery class is established within the school. It should be noted that nursery classes are non-denominational.

¹ Life expired buildings are defined as buildings which are uneconomic to maintain.

- 2.3 This option supports the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) within Perth and Kinross through the use of current assets. The addition of ELC will widen the opportunities for all children in terms of new, shared learning experiences. Older children would benefit from the interaction and responsibilities in working with and mentoring younger pupils, and the nursery children would benefit from the seamless transition to P1.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The requirement to carry out a statutory consultation to establish a nursery class is currently suspended due to the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare, therefore no formal consultation is required.
- 3.2 ECS Officers will consult and work closely with the school to establish the nursery class.
- 3.3 The school capacity will be reduced to accommodate the nursery accommodation. The capacity will be determined on the basis of the design of the nursery. This change will help support the future viability and sustainability of St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Following the preparation of an Options Appraisal, it is proposed that a nursery class is established in St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School.
- 4.2 It is recommended that the Committee:
- (i) Approves the Options Appraisal attached as Appendix A;
 - (ii) Instructs the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to progress with the establishment of a nursery class within St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School; and
 - (iii) Instructs the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to report back to the Committee on the revised capacity of St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School, once the nursery class has been established.

Author(s)

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Sheena Devlin	Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)	11 January 2018

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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	Yes
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	Yes
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	Yes
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	Yes
Legal and Governance	Yes
Risk	Yes
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 The proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement in terms of the following priorities:

- (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 all of these objectives.

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 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 all of these Objectives.

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

- Maximising Resources

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 There are no other direct financial implications arising from this report other than those reported within the body of the main report.

Workforce

- 2.2 As a result of this report there will be workforce/resource implications for several teams including ECS Asset Management, ECS Project Support, Early Learning and Childcare and Property Services in establishing the nursery.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 There are no direct asset management implications arising from this report other than those reported within the options appraisal which is attached as Appendix A.

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.

- 3.1.1 The information contained within this report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome and has been 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.
- 3.2.1 However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report. This is because these matters relate to the School Estate Strategy which is being considered under the Act as part of The Council's Asset Management Plan.

Sustainability

- 3.3 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.

The information contained within this report has been considered under the Act. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report.

Legal and Governance

- 3.4 The Head of Legal and Governance Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Risk

- 3.5 A risk log is being maintained for the School Estate Transformation Programme.

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Democratic Services, Head of Finance, Head of Legal and Governance Services and Head of Property Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

External

- 4.2 The Options Appraisal details the consultation which has been carried out in the development of this report.

5. Communication

- 5.1 A communication plan has been prepared which will support effective communication and engagement with stakeholders, and to promote the anticipated efficiencies and benefits of this Transformation Project as well as the links to the wider Transformation Programme. A range of methods will be used to consult with internal and external stakeholders as identified in the draft communication plan, such as meetings, briefings, community consultation and focus groups.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

3. APPENDICES

- 3.1 Appendix A – St Ninian's Primary School - Options Appraisal Report