Abernyte Primary School – Catchment Review

On 4 November 2020 Lifelong Learning Committee agreed the scope and principles which would underpin the review of the catchment area of Abernyte Primary School. The principles that were agreed have been explored and outcomes are detailed below.

Principles

1. Any option to be considered would relate to a catchment area geographically adjacent to Abernyte Primary School catchment area.

Catchment areas that are geographically adjacent to Abernyte Primary School are Balbeggie Primary School, Burrelton Primary School, Collace Primary School, Inchture Primary School, Kettins Primary School and Longforgan Primary School.

Only these schools will be included in the catchment review.

2. Any option to be considered will not cause a detrimental impact to the school roll or sustainability of another small rural school of 70 pupils or fewer.

The only schools geographically adjacent to Abernyte Primary School that currently have a roll of 70 or less are Collace Primary School, Kettins Primary School and Balbeggie Primary School.

Kettins Primary School has a capacity of 46 pupils with a roll of 31 pupils giving an occupancy of 67%. The school roll is projected to rise in future years if placing requests continue to attend the school. If the school catchment area was to change and catchment children attend Abernyte Primary School rather than Kettins Primary School and the number of placing requests reduced this could have a detrimental effect on the school roll at Kettins Primary School.

The school roll at Balbeggie Primary School is currently 54 pupils with a capacity of 73 pupils. The occupancy of the school is currently 74%. The number of pupils attending is projected to remain the same (55 by 2024/25) over the next 4 years. There are approximately 10 pupils known to live in the area of the catchment to the east of the school that currently attend Balbeggie Primary School. This includes children under the age of 5 not yet attending school.

If an area of Balbeggie Primary School catchment was to be subsumed into Abernyte Primary School catchment it is likely it would be this area as it is the closest area geographically.

Losing the catchment pupils currently attending the school from this part of the Balbeggie Primary School catchment area would have a detrimental impact on the school roll. The occupancy of the school would reduce to 66% and may reduce further if the children known to live in this area of the catchment not yet attending school attended Abernyte Primary School.

The roll at Collace Primary School is currently 20 with an occupancy of 41%. The school roll and occupancy are projected to decrease further in the next few years (18 with a capacity of 37%). Losing any area of the catchment to Abernyte Primary School would have a detrimental impact on the school roll which is already low.

Balbeggie Primary School, Collace Primary School and Kettins Primary School are excluded from the catchment review after this principle has been considered due to the reasons explored above.

Only Burrelton Primary School, Inchture Primary School and Longforgan Primary School are explored under the remaining principles.

3. Any option to be considered would contribute to a sustainable roll at Abernyte Primary School.

Burrelton Primary School

If part of the Burrelton Primary School catchment area was to be subsumed into the Abernyte Primary School catchment area. It is likely to be the area to the east and south of Burrelton Primary School. This is because it is geographically closest to the Abernyte Primary School catchment.

The majority of catchment pupils attending the school live near to the school around Burrelton. If the area to the east and the south of the catchment was to be subsumed into the Abernyte Primary School catchment it is likely that it would not contribute to a sustainable roll at Abernyte Primary School.

This is because;

- there are no known primary school age pupils currently living in this area of the catchment attending the school;
- there are less than 5 children under the age of 5 due to attend school in the next 4 years known to live in this area. If these children attended Abernyte Primary School the school roll would increase slightly but it would not contribute significantly to a higher or more sustainable school roll.

Inchture Primary School and Longforgan Primary School

There are currently approximately 5 catchment pupils known to live to the north of the A90 within the Inchture Primary School catchment area that attend the school. There are also approximately 11 children under the age of 5 due to attend school in the next 4 years known to live in this area.

There are approximately 216 catchment pupils living to the south of the A90 within the Inchture Primary School catchment area that currently attend the school.

There are currently approximately 15 catchment pupils known to live to the north of the A90 within the Longforgan Primary School catchment area that attend the school. There are also approximately 14 children under the age of 5 due to attend school in the next 4 years known to live in this area.

There are approximately 88 catchment pupils living to the south of the A90 within the Longforgan Primary School catchment area that attend the school.

There are enough pupils known to the Council living to the north of the A90 in both these catchment areas to create a sustainable roll at Abernyte Primary School if there is support from parents/carers for a catchment change.

If the areas to the south of the A90 in both these catchments were included in the catchment review it is likely that the school roll at Abernyte Primary School would be breached.

In addition, the travel distance and time for pupils living to the south of the A90 in these catchment areas would likely increase if their catchment area changed to Abernyte Primary School. There are no pupils living to the south of the A90 in these catchment areas, currently attending these schools, that would benefit from a reduced travel time or distance if the catchment area changed to Abernyte Primary School.

Considering catchment areas of Inchture Primary School and Longforgan Primary School to the south of the A90 would therefore likely be excluded under principles 5 and 6 detailed below.

Burrelton Primary School and the areas to the south of the A90 within the Inchture Primary School and Longforgan Primary School catchment areas are excluded from the catchment review after this principle has been considered due to the reasons explored above.

Only the areas to the north of the A90 within the Inchture Primary School and Longforgan Primary School catchment areas are explored under the remaining principles.

4. Any option must have the support from those parents/carers and pupils living in the affected catchment areas.

It is proposed to establish whether there is support for a catchment change from those parents/carers and pupils living within the areas to the north of the A90 within the Inchture Primary School and Longforgan Primary School catchment areas only.

Until it has been established that there is support from parents/carers and pupils living in these catchment areas, the impact of further principles will not be considered.

5. Any option would not result in a significant increase in the travel time or distance for a pupil to reach their catchment school.

This exercise will include establishing where pupils live in affected catchment areas, the number of pupils affected, the number of school transport vehicles required and the routes on which school transport would need to take to transport pupils to school.

This will be carried out once it has been established whether there is support for a catchment review from parents/carers and pupils living within the areas north of A90 within the Inchture Primary School and Longforgan Primary School catchment areas.

6. Any option would not result in a pupil travelling through another primary school catchment area to reach their catchment school.

This exercise will be carried out once it has been established whether there is support for a catchment review from parents/carers and pupils living within the areas north of A90 within the Inchture Primary School and Longforgan Primary School catchment areas.

The outcome of this principle is interrelated with principle 5 so it is likely they will be considered at the same time.

7. There should be no adverse pupil impact in terms of educational benefit in accordance with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

This principle will be explored within the options appraisal for any catchment area identified suitable as part of the catchment review and not excluded under principles 1 to 6.

Principle	Schools Considered	Schools Excluded	Reason for Exclusion
1	Balbeggie Primary School Burrelton Primary School Collace Primary School Inchture Primary School Kettins Primary School Longforgan Primary School	None	Catchment areas are all geographically adjacent to Abernyte Primary School
2	Balbeggie Primary School Burrelton Primary School Collace Primary School Inchture Primary School Kettins Primary School Longforgan Primary School	Balbeggie Primary School Collace Primary School Kettins Primary School	Losing all or part of catchment area could lead to detrimental impact on school roll or sustainability of school.
3	Burrelton Primary School Inchture Primary School Longforgan Primary School	Burrelton Primary School Inchture Primary School (catchment south of A90) Longforgan Primary School (catchment south of A90)	 There are not enough pupils within the Burrelton Primary School catchment area that would be considered as part of the catchment review to make Abernyte Primary School roll more sustainable. Areas to the south of A90 in Inchture and Longforgan Primary School catchments would result in a breach of the Abernyte Primary School. It is likely pupils living in these areas would also experience greater travel time/distance if they were to attend Abernyte Primary School.
4	Inchture Primary School (catchment north of A90) Longforgan Primary School (catchment north of A90)	None	