



PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
EDUCATION AND LEARNING
CONSULTATION REPORT

**REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION RELATING TO
THE PROPOSAL TO:**

**Permanently establish a new Intensive Support Provision in Viewlands
Primary School for pupils with Additional Support Needs with effect from
January 2026.**

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

Contents

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| 1. INTRODUCTION | 4 |
| 2. BACKGROUND | 4 |
| 3. CONSIDERATIONS | 5 |
| 4. REASON FOR FORMULATING THE PROPOSAL | 6 |
| 5. SCHOOL INFORMATION | 7 |
| 6. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS | 7 |
| 7. THE PUBLIC MEETINGS | 8 |
| 8. RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE | 8 |
| 9. EDUCATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO WRITTEN AND ORAL REPRESENTATIONS | 9 |
| 10. EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT | 12 |
| 11. ALLEGED OMISSIONS OR INACCURACIES | 14 |
| 12. COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 9(1) OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 | 15 |
| 13. LEGAL ISSUES | 16 |
| 14. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS | 17 |
| 15. CONCLUSION | 17 |
| 16. RECOMMENDATIONS | 18 |

Appendices

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| Appendix 1 Minute of Public Meeting of | 19 |
| Appendix 2 Summary of Consultation Responses | 23 |
| Appendix 3 Education Scotland Report | 27 |

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND LEARNING

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

Permanently establish a new Intensive Support Provision in Viewlands Primary School for pupils with Additional Support Needs with effect from January 2026.

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 12 May 2025
- (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 12 May 2025
- Provide a statement of the Council's response to those written and oral representations;
- Provide the full text of Education Scotland's 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; and
- Provide details of any omission from, or inaccuracy in, the [Proposal Paper](#) and state how the Council acted upon it.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Learning and Families Committee on 29 January 2025 approved a report ([Report No. 25/19 refers](#)) on an Options Appraisal for the expansion of Intensive Support Provisions (ISPs) in Perth and Kinross Council primary and secondary schools. The Committee agreed to commence with an expansion of ISPs through three phases over a three-year period. Phase 1 included undertaking a statutory consultation in respect of the proposal to open an ISP in Viewlands Primary School.

- 2.2 In the report considered by the Learning and Families Committee on 29 January 2025, it was agreed that the Strategic Lead: Education and Learning (Chief Education Officer) commenced a statutory consultation in respect of the permanent establishment of a new Intensive Support Provision in Viewlands Primary School for pupils with Additional Support Needs with effect from January 2026
- 2.3 The duties in undertaking a statutory consultation on a relevant school proposal are outlined in the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010 and the accompanying Statutory Guidance](#).
- 2.4 Learning and Families Committee reports and the Proposal Paper referred to above are available on the Council's website www.pkc.gov.uk.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The main considerations relating to the proposal are fully explained in the [Proposal Paper](#) , and the main points are highlighted as follows:
- 3.2 Perth and Kinross Council is dedicated to fostering a community where everyone can thrive, free from poverty and inequality. Their vision focuses on making the best use of public resources and ensuring continuous improvement of services. The Council's Corporate Plan emphasises collaboration to achieve key priorities, including tackling poverty, addressing climate change, and supporting sustainable places. Perth and Kinross Council aims to create a resilient, stronger, and greener local economy; enable children and young people to reach their full potential; protect and care for the most vulnerable; and support physical and mental wellbeing. By working in partnership with communities, they strive to create vibrant and successful areas, safe and sustainable environments, and educated and responsible citizens, ensuring every child has the best start in life.
- 3.3 Perth and Kinross Council's Corporate Plan aims to tackle poverty, address climate change, and support sustainable places. This vision is further supported by the Council's Learning Estate Management Plan and the Education and Children's Services Policy Framework Maximising Resources, which aim to enhance the range and quality of learning experiences for all.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 Councils also have a statutory responsibility in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 to achieve best value. To achieve best value and optimum efficiency, 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.
- 3.6 The [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) provides a strong, accountable statutory consultation process that local authorities must apply to their handling of all proposals of 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.

- 3.7 [The Education \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#) amends the Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000 by adding in new duties to address inequality of outcome. These duties apply in different ways to both Scottish Ministers and Education Authorities. Where the Education Authority is making or implementing strategic decisions about school education, it is required to have due regard to the need to carry out its functions in a way which is designed to reduce inequalities of outcome. This is particularly directed in the Act towards pupils who experience those inequalities through socio-economic disadvantage, but there is also a power to extend the range of pupils who are covered by this duty.

4. REASON FOR FORMULATING THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The proposal to permanently establish an Intensive Support Provision (ISP) at Viewlands Primary School is a strategic response to a demonstrable and escalating need for specialist educational support for Primary-aged children within the Perth Academy catchment area, where a significant number of children present with complex and multiple Additional Support Needs (ASN).
- 4.2 Currently, Viewlands Primary School does not host an ISP, despite being part of a local management group that includes Perth Academy, which includes an ISP, and Fairview School. This absence creates a gap in local provision, requiring Primary-aged children with intensive support needs to travel to other areas. These journeys not only place logistical and financial strain on families and the Council, but also disrupt children's access to their local community, compromise continuity of care, and risk undermining their emotional wellbeing and social development.
- 4.3 Perth and Kinross Council is legally bound by the *Education (Scotland) Act 1980* and the *Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004* to provide adequate and efficient education for all pupils, including those with ASN. The establishment of an ISP at Viewlands Primary School directly supports the Council's statutory obligations and its broader commitment to inclusive education, equity, and community-based learning.
- 4.4 With 39% of children and young people in Perth and Kinross schools identified as having ASN as of September 2024, and a growing number requiring intensive, specialist support, the current ISP network is under significant strain. The establishment of a new ISP at Viewlands Primary School is essential to meet both current demand and future projections.
- 4.5 This proposal also supports the Council's duty under the Education (Scotland) Act 2016 to reduce inequalities of outcome, particularly for children affected by socio-economic disadvantage or disability. By creating a local ISP, the Council ensures equitable access to high-quality education and support, enabling children to thrive academically and socially within their own community.
- 4.6 It is intended that the new ISP will utilise existing spaces within the school building, which will be redesigned into specialist classrooms and areas tailored to meet the needs of children with ASN. This includes two ASN classrooms, a sensory room, a personal care room, and a dedicated outdoor area.

5. SCHOOL INFORMATION

- 5.1 Viewlands Primary School is located at Oakbank Crescent, Perth, PH1 1BU. It is a non-denominational primary school providing education for boys and girls from Primary 1 to Primary 7. As of the latest enrolment, the school has 312 primary pupils and offers nursery education for 24 children in their ante-pre-school and pre-school years. The school has capacity for 395 children. The school shares its site with Perth Academy and Fairview School.

6. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 6.1 A link to the [Proposal Paper](#) was issued by letter 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
- 6.2 The Proposal Paper informed consultees that the consultation period would run from Thursday 24 April 2025 until Friday 6 June 2025, a total of 31 school days.
- 6.3 The proposal on which consultation took place was to:
- Permanently establish a new Intensive Support Provision in Viewlands Primary School for pupils with Additional Support Needs with effect from January 2026.
- 6.4 The requirements for consulting on a relevant proposal relating to schools are set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. In accordance with these requirements:
- A Proposal Paper was published on 24 April 2025. All statutory consultees were written to, providing a link to the proposal paper and details of where and how to obtain a paper copy. A copy of the 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 and was available in paper copy upon request.
 - A public meeting was held to discuss the proposal on Monday 12 May 2025 at Viewlands Primary School.
 - The consultation period ended on Friday 6 June 2025.
 - Education Scotland's involvement consisted of receiving the options appraisal and proposal paper documents, attending the public meeting, visiting the school and engaging with relevant consultees. They also received a copy of all online and written representations and the minutes of the public meeting. Education Scotland then prepared a report on the educational aspects of the proposal, which is attached as Appendix 5.
- 6.5 The following schools are affected by the proposal:
- Viewlands Primary School
- 6.6 In accordance with statutory requirements and good practice, the following persons were consulted:
- The parents of the pupils and children at the affected schools

- The parents of children expected to attend the affected schools within 2 years of the date of publication of this proposal document
- The Parent Council of the affected schools
- Directly affected pupils at the affected schools
- The teaching and support staff at the affected schools
- The trade union and professional association representatives of the above staff
- The Community Council
- Relevant users of the affected schools
- Elected Members of Perth and Kinross Council
- Education Scotland

- 6.7 The number of letters issued with details of the Proposal Paper was 435.
- 6.8 During the consultation period, representations were sought from interested parties, either in oral or written form or electronically. An online response form and generic email account was set up by the Council to receive representations and enquiries on the proposal.
- 6.9 This Consultation Report is the Council's response to the issues raised during the consultation period on the Proposal Paper.
- 6.10 This Consultation Report is to be published on the Council's website for a period of no less than three weeks prior to final consideration by Learning & Families Committee on 12 November 2025.

7 THE PUBLIC MEETING

- 7.1 A public meeting was held in Viewlands Primary School on Monday 12 May 2025. Fourteen members of the public attended. A full note of the meeting is attached as Appendix 1 which details the questions and issues raised at the meeting.

8 RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE

- 8.1 A total of 8 online response forms were received during the statutory consultation period. Of these, 4 responses agreed with the Council's proposal to establish an ISP at Viewlands Primary School, and 4 responses disagreed. However, 4 responses were invalid due to missing required information such as name, address, or email, and were therefore excluded from the validated total. The validated responses were evenly split, with two respondents agreeing and two disagreeing with the proposal to establish an ISP at Viewlands Primary School.

In addition to the online responses, 8 written representations were received. One of these written responses represented the views of 61 parents who objected to the proposal. The details of the responses are contained within the Summary of Consultation Responses, attached as Appendix 2.

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

Positives Identified

- Support for local access to specialist education for pupils with complex ASN.
- Recognition that children should not have to travel long distances to access appropriate support.
- Emphasis on the importance of inclusion and the right of disabled children to be educated within their community.
- Appreciation for the leadership and inclusive ethos at Viewlands Primary School.
- Belief that the ISP will enhance transitions to secondary school and reduce stress for families.
- Endorsement of the ISP having a dedicated outdoor space not shared with mainstream pupils.

Questions Asked

- Facilities & Infrastructure: Concerns about the age and suitability of the building, adequacy of toilet facilities, and loss of existing learning spaces such as the music room, STEM lab, and breakout areas.
- Education & Staffing: Questions about staffing levels, recruitment, and the impact on existing staff and resources.
- Operations & Management: Enquiries about the timeline for implementation, and how transitions will be supported.
- Governance & Communication: Requests for clarity on placement criteria, consultation integrity, and whether pupils already offered places undermined the process.

Overview of Concerns

- The ISP was not part of the original school design and is being rushed.
- Loss of specialist rooms and shared spaces used for music, STEM, and pupil support.
- Inadequate disabled toilet provision and concerns about accessibility.
- Impact on playground space and lack of alternative outdoor areas for mainstream pupils.
- Increased congestion at drop-off and pick-up times, especially with existing traffic challenges.
- Concerns about the consultation process.

9 EDUCATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO WRITTEN AND ORAL REPRESENTATIONS

9.1 Will the ISP take away classroom space currently used by mainstream pupils?

The ISP will not occupy any rooms currently used as mainstream classrooms. The ISP will incorporate one of two unoccupied classrooms and a general-purpose room, currently used for storage and staff space. The school has capacity for 395 children and in June 2025 had a school roll of 315 children; projected school rolls for the future six years are not expected to rise above this number. In 2026 a large Primary 7 classroom (83m²) will have a partition wall built in it, which will resize the room to match the standard size of other classrooms in the school (55m²) and create space for a personal care room and a sensory room for the ISP.

While one of the unoccupied classrooms was previously used flexibly for music this room was not formally designated for subject-specific delivery. Music will continue to be delivered over two days each week in the classroom currently used three days per week for STEM, and for the remaining half-day of allocated music provision, music sessions will take place within children's mainstream classrooms.

9.2 Will pupils lose access to specialist Music and STEM teaching?

Music and STEM will continue to be delivered. The remaining unoccupied classroom in the school will serve as a shared space for STEM (three days) and Music (two days). Early years music will be delivered in-class. Although the Council maintains that this arrangement preserves access and quality, concerns have been raised by staff and parents regarding scheduling, layout, and the potential loss of dedicated specialist environments. Delivery of music in children's classrooms by visiting specialist teachers is common practice in many schools. Taking account of this feedback, we maintain that accessible and quality STEM and Music provision can continue to be delivered under the revised arrangements.

9.3 Will the ISP reduce outdoor play space, especially the football area used by older pupils?

The school has a large outdoor area to both the front and rear of the building. An area of the playground to the rear has been sectioned off to create the ISP garden, whilst leaving ample adjacent areas which can continue to incorporate the nursery playground and a football area.

9.4 Are there enough disabled toilet and personal care facilities for ISP pupils?

Concerns were raised about the adequacy of toilet provision, and in particular the personal care area in the school. As part of Phase 1 developments, an additional accessible toilet has been installed adjacent to one of the ISP classrooms. A second personal care room will be completed by August 2026. These enhancements ensure that there will be no reduction in access to existing toilets for mainstream pupils and will increase the availability of accessible toilet areas and personal care areas in the school. This will benefit pupils in the ISP and pupils in mainstream, who would benefit from the use of an accessible toilet.

9.5 Will the ISP block fire exits or affect emergency evacuation routes?

The school will continue to have a robust plan for evacuation in emergencies. All fobbed doors will deactivate during fire alarms to ensure safe evacuation. A fobbed door will be added as part of Phase Two of the ISP development. Property Services are overseeing compliance with fire safety regulations.

9.6 Is the August 2025 start date realistic given the consultation timeline and building work?

The Interim ISP launched with one class of five Primary 1 children in August 2025. Transition planning was completed and the building work involved in Phase 1 was completed during the holiday period. School staff have been supported with additional storage cupboards for the relocation of resources to enable the rooms to be repurposed.

9.7 Has the consultation process been undermined by early placements?

The Council confirmed that temporary arrangements were required to meet an urgent need for ISP placements to support children starting P1 in August 2025.

The final decision on establishing a permanent ISP remains subject to statutory consultation outcomes and consideration by the Learning and Families Committee.

9.8 Will the ISP affect the quality of education for mainstream pupils?

The Council aims to ensure that all pupils continue to benefit from the ISP. Taking account of feedback, we want to be clear: education will continue to be delivered in a way that ensures quality, equity, and inclusion for all pupils. Shared spaces and inclusive planning are designed to maintain educational standards, and additional investment in facilities is being considered to support this goal. This includes the introduction of a sensory room to provide a calming and regulated environment for pupils who benefit from sensory support, and an upgraded life skills kitchen to promote practical learning and independence across the school. The addition of a second accessible toilet and another personal care room will improve dignity, accessibility, and reduce waiting times for pupils requiring personal care—benefiting both ISP and mainstream pupils.

9.9 What is the timeline for implementation, and how will transitions be supported?

The ISP opened on a temporary basis in August 2025 with a small cohort of five primary one pupil, allowing for a phased and supported transition. Adaptations to space and facilities were completed over the summer break following consideration of the consultation feedback. An experienced Principal Teacher from an existing ISP has been supporting transition planning with children and families and will continue into Term 1. The newly appointed Principal Teacher for Viewlands ISP will take up post during Term 1. Two Pupil Support Assistants have also been recruited and started in August 2025.

9.10 What is being done about traffic and congestion during drop-off and pick-up?

The Council acknowledges concerns about traffic congestion in the area surrounding Viewlands Primary, Fairview School, and Perth Academy, where the proximity of three schools contributes to a high volume of traffic at peak times. Parents have noted that the existing exclusion zone is widely ignored and that congestion remains a serious issue. It is noted the Council is reviewing taxi arrangements, and a wider home-to-school transport review is underway.

However, we recognise that these measures alone may not fully address the concerns raised. A number of Council services are working together to develop a plan to improve compliance with the exclusion zone, and the Council will work closely with Viewlands Primary to agree an appropriate travel plan, including arrangements for pupil pick-up and drop-off. This will aim to reduce congestion, improve safety, and support better traffic flow.

It is also important to note that the proposed locality model for the ISP is expected to reduce the overall level of transport required. Of the five children currently attending the ISP, none would be eligible for transport under standard criteria, although one currently receives a concessionary space. This shift is anticipated to ease pressure on transport services and contribute to a more sustainable travel environment around the school.

9.11 How will pupils be selected for the ISP, and what are the eligibility criteria?

Placement will be determined by the Council's Transition Panel in line with Council policy and based on assessed needs of the child.

- 9.12 **Will pupils from other ISPs be able to transfer to Viewlands Primary School ISP?**
Transitions between ISPs of children requiring this level of education may be considered by the Transition Panel where appropriate, based on individual needs.
- 9.13 **How will the ISP support inclusion and integration with mainstream pupils?**
ISP pupils will be included in whole-school activities such as assemblies and shared learning experiences, with opportunities for social interaction and community engagement and access to playground facilities where appropriate.

10. EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT

The report supports the proposal and is summarised below:

- 10.1 In accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, a report was produced by Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal to establish a new Intensive Support Provision (ISP) at Viewlands Primary School. The Education Scotland report is reproduced in full (Appendix 5).
- 10.2 The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of Perth and Kinross Council's proposal to permanently establish an ISP at Viewlands Primary School for pupils with complex Additional Support Needs, effective from January 2026.
- 10.3 An Education Scotland HMIE Inspector visited Viewlands Primary School and Inch View Primary School ISP, attended the public meeting held on 12May 2025, and engaged with pupils, parents, staff and stakeholders.

Summary of Education Scotland Findings:

- **Educational Benefits:** HMIE Inspectors agree that the proposal offers clear educational benefits. The ISP has the potential to provide a high-quality, bespoke learning environment tailored to the needs of children with complex ASN. It could support access to a broad curriculum and promote inclusion within the mainstream school.
- **Community and Transition:** The ISP is likely to reduce travel time for pupils, strengthen community ties, and has the potential to support smoother transitions to secondary education, particularly to the ISP at Perth Academy.
- **Stakeholder Support:** Most stakeholders support the principle of inclusion and the expansion of ASN provision. Parents of children likely to attend the ISP were very positive. Staff expressed enthusiasm and a willingness to engage in further training.

Concerns Raised:

- Loss of existing spaces such as the music room and reduction in P7 classroom space.
- Pressure on toilet facilities and reduction in playground space.
- Need for improved communication with parents and staff about how all pupils' needs will continue to be met.
- Traffic and transport arrangements.

HMIE Inspectors concluded that the proposal has the potential to deliver significant educational benefits for children with ASN across the local authority.

If well planned and carefully implemented, the ISP can enhance provision without detracting from the experience of mainstream pupils. The Council is encouraged to continue working closely with stakeholders to ensure inclusive planning and transparent communication.

10.4 **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, the Perth and Kinross response is as follows:

10.5 **Resources and Shared Spaces**

HMIE Inspectors noted stakeholder concerns about the potential impact on existing resources and the use of shared spaces. The Council confirms that alternative learning areas have been identified in the school to support continued delivery of music for mainstream pupils which was previously delivered in one of the rooms now allocated to the ISP, and that the school has capacity for the ISP as neither of the two rooms to be used as ISP classrooms were occupied by mainstream classes. In addition, the school's current and projected roll does not exceed 315 children and reduces to as low as 298 in 2030, whilst having capacity for 395 children. Both ISP and mainstream pupils will have access to shared facilities including the sensory room, life skills kitchen, an additional accessible toilet and personal care room. These spaces will be managed to ensure equitable access and minimal disruption to existing provision.

10.6 **Flexibility of Indoor and Outdoor Spaces**

HMIE Inspectors highlighted the importance of ensuring that learning environments are flexible and responsive to pupil needs. The Council will ensure that the design and layout of the ISP supports a range of learning experiences and is adaptable over time. This includes access to secure outdoor areas and specialist environments that promote wellbeing and inclusion.

10.7 **Internal Location and Stakeholder Engagement**

HMIE Inspectors recommended continued engagement with staff and partners regarding the internal location of the ISP. The Council will continue to work with stakeholders to ensure the ISP is appropriately situated and that pupils have access to high-quality learning spaces. Feedback will inform any necessary adjustments to the environment.

10.8 **Transition Planning and School Environment**

Concerns were raised about the readiness of the school environment and the need for well-planned transitions. The Council has developed a phased implementation plan, beginning with a small cohort of Primary 1 pupils in August 2025. An experienced Principal Teacher from an existing ISP has supported transition planning and will remain in place during Term 1 to ensure continuity and stability. The newly appointed Principal Teacher for Viewlands ISP will take up post during Term 1. In addition, two Pupil Support Assistants have been recruited and began working in August 2025. Transition plans will be tailored to individual needs and supported by trained staff to ensure a smooth and inclusive start for all pupils.

Taking account of feedback, we also want to reassure families that a contingency plan is in place should the decision be made not to establish the provision.

This ensures that pupils' educational needs will continue to be met without disruption, and that staffing and support arrangements will remain robust and responsive to individual circumstances.

10.9 **Toilet Facilities and Accessibility**

HMIE Inspectors identified the need to improve toilet facilities, particularly for pupils requiring mobility aids or intimate care. The Council confirms that an additional accessible toilet has already been installed. A temporary personal care room has been established and a permanent second personal care room will be completed by August 2026, if the proposal to permanently open the ISP at Viewlands Primary School has been agreed by the Learning and Families Committee. These enhancements ensure that there will be no reduction in access to existing toilets for mainstream pupils or staff.

10.10 **Outdoor Space and Play Provision**

Concerns were raised about the reduction of playground space. The Council has identified a practical solution to expand the ISP's dedicated outdoor area by incorporating unused surrounding space. This ensures that the majority of the flat play area used by nursery and P6/P7 pupils is retained, allowing football and bike/trike activities to continue.

10.11 **Transport and Travel Safety**

HMIE Inspectors noted stakeholder queries regarding safe travel routes and transport arrangements. The Council acknowledges these concerns and confirms that a review of Fairview taxi arrangements is planned, alongside a wider home-to-school transport review.

10.12 **Staff Training and Professional Learning**

HMIE Inspectors noted that staff are keen to access additional training to support pupils with complex ASN. In response, the Council will provide professional learning opportunities to build staff capacity and expertise. This will include training in autism, trauma-informed practice, inclusive pedagogy, and other relevant areas. Alongside this, additional staff with specialist knowledge are being recruited to strengthen the provision. This includes a Principal Teacher, teaching staff, and Pupil Support Assistants, ensuring that pupils benefit from both skilled existing staff and new team members with relevant expertise.

10.13 **Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement**

HMIE Inspectors recommended continued engagement with stakeholders. The Council will continue to work in partnership with parents, staff, and community members throughout the implementation phase.

11. **ALLEGED OMISSIONS OR INACCURACIES**

- 11.1 Section 10(3) of the **Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010** 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. The 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.

- 11.2 During the consultation period, consultees identified an alleged inaccuracy in the Proposal Paper regarding the statement that there would be “no impact on classroom space for mainstream pupils.” HMIE Inspectors noted that the proposal involves repurposing existing rooms, including a reduction in the size of the P7 classroom and the conversion of the room used for music into a dedicated ISP classroom. These changes were perceived by some stakeholders as having a direct impact on current pupils.
- 11.3 The Council would like to clarify that while a proportion of the P7 classroom is being repurposed as part of the Phase 2 development of the ISP, the resulting classroom space will remain in line with the size of the other P7 classroom, which is appropriately sized for the current pupil roll. This ensures that all mainstream pupils continue to have access to adequate learning environments that meet both educational standards and the space requirements for primary schools.
- 11.4 The decision to repurpose these spaces was made following careful consideration of pupil numbers, educational needs, delivery models for learning and teaching and the overall capacity of the school. We remain committed to maintaining high-quality learning environments for all pupils and will continue to monitor the impact of these changes to ensure that they support both mainstream and ISP learners effectively. Therefore, the Council does not consider that this statement was inaccurate.
- 11.5 Concerns were also raised about the adequacy of toilet facilities. HMIE Inspectors recommended that the Council take further steps to address limitations in accessible toilet provision before temporary arrangements are put in place. The Council confirms that an additional accessible toilet has been installed and that the temporary personal care area will be replaced with a second permanent personal care room which will be completed by August 2026, if consent to proceed is granted by the Learning and Families Committee. These enhancements ensure that there will be no reduction in access to existing toilets for mainstream pupils or staff.

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

- 12.1 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 meetings; and
 - (iii) Education Scotland’s report.
- 12.2 Following receipt of the Education Scotland report, eight online representations and eight written representations made at the one public meeting held during the consultation period, officers reviewed the proposals.
- 12.3 The feedback from the consultation was considered by officers where all the questions and comments raised were considered in detail. This ensured that the Council met the requirements to review the proposal under section 9(1) and 13(5) of the 2010 Act.

- 12.4 Officers of the Education Authority have listened carefully to the points made at the public meeting and have considered equally carefully the Education Scotland report and the online representations. The proposal was reviewed to consider whether any of the representations led the Council to reconsider other options as being reasonable alternatives to the proposal.
- 12.5 None of the representations led officers to conclude that there were any other reasonable alternatives to the proposal, nor that the proposal should be reconsidered.
- 12.6 The educational benefits were reviewed in respect of the Education Scotland report and representations made.
- 12.7 There were no factors included in the Education Scotland report or representations made requiring any aspect of the educational benefits to be reconsidered.
- 12.8 Having reviewed the Education Scotland report and feedback from consultees, officers concluded that the basis of the original proposal continues to be appropriate. The proposal ensures that primary-aged pupils with complex additional support needs in the Perth Academy catchment area can access specialist education locally, while maintaining connections with their peers and community. The Council remains committed to implementing the ISP in a way that enhances existing provision, supports inclusive practice, and delivers the educational benefits outlined in the proposal paper.

13. LEGAL ISSUES

- 13.1 The Council has complied in full with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 throughout this statutory consultation.
- 13.2 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. The proposed ISP at Viewlands Primary School will comply with the Council's Accessibility Strategy and will positively promote equal opportunities for children and young people with disabilities.

In terms of Socio-Economic Impact, the assessment identified that establishing an ISP within Viewlands Primary School will improve access to specialist education for pupils living in the local area, including those who may be economically disadvantaged. By reducing the need for long-distance travel to access appropriate support, the proposal enhances equity and inclusion for families across the community.
- 13.3 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 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.
- 13.4 As it is the intention that this Consultation Report should be published, both electronically and in written form, if required, on 3 September 2025, this meets the statutory requirement to publish this report for more than three weeks before consideration of the proposal by Learning & Families Committee on 12 November 2025.

14. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 Staffing arrangements for the new Intensive Support Provision (ISP) at Viewlands Primary School will be consistent with Perth & Kinross Council's Staffing Standard and other relevant local agreements.

Consultation will be undertaken with school staff, Trade Unions, and professional associations where appropriate, to support the implementation plan for staffing the ISP. This will ensure that the provision is appropriately resourced and that staff are supported in delivering high-quality education for pupils with complex additional support needs.

15. CONCLUSION

- 15.1 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.

- 15.2 Education Scotland has identified that the proposal to establish a new ISP at Viewlands Primary School has clear educational benefits. The ISP has the potential to provide a high-quality learning environment for young people with complex additional support needs. The proposed design and location within the school will offer flexible learning and social spaces tailored to individual needs. Stakeholders recognise the value of the ISP to the local community, particularly in enabling pupils to be educated closer to home, maintain peer relationships, and access specialist support within a mainstream setting. HMIE Inspectors agree that the ISP will enhance inclusive practice and support improved outcomes for young people.

- 15.3 If the Council adopts the proposal, it is understood that the educational benefits set out in the Proposal Paper would likely materialise.

- 15.4 The key points that have been highlighted during the consultation period are as follows:

- Education Scotland's report confirms that the proposal to establish an ISP at Viewlands Primary School presents positive educational benefits. These include the creation of a high-quality learning environment tailored to the needs of young people with complex additional support needs, with opportunities for inclusion in mainstream activities and reduced travel time for pupils. The provision is expected to strengthen peer relationships and community connections by enabling pupils to be educated locally.
- During the statutory consultation period on the proposal to establish an ISP at Viewlands Primary School, some consultees identified a perceived inaccuracy in the Proposal Paper, specifically the statement that there would be "no impact on classroom space for mainstream pupils."

HMIE Inspectors also noted that the proposal involves repurposing existing rooms, including a reduction in the size of one of the P7 classrooms and the conversion of the room used for music into a dedicated ISP classroom. These changes were perceived by some stakeholders as having a direct impact on current pupils.

- Viewlands Primary School has capacity for 395 children and had only 315 children on the role in June 2025, with projections for the school role to not rise above this number in the next 6 years. As a result, it has two unoccupied rooms and therefore has adequate space. The changes have been carefully planned to ensure that the educational offer for mainstream pupils is maintained. The school leadership team is committed to preserving successful elements of the current provision.
- Outdoor space will be reconfigured to ensure safe and inclusive access for all pupils. The football area will be retained, and shared use will be managed to maintain opportunities for play and physical activity. The school will continue to work with pupils and parents on plans to develop the playground areas.
- The Council remains committed to ensuring that all pupils, mainstream and those supported through the ISP, benefit from high-quality learning environments. We will continue to work closely with the school leadership, staff, and families to monitor the impact of these changes and ensure that the needs of all learners are met.

16. RECOMMENDATIONS

16.1 On the basis of the overall feedback received and taking account of the educational and social benefits of the proposal, it is recommended that the Council approves:

- To permanently establish a new Intensive Support Provision in Viewlands Primary School for pupils with Additional Support Needs with effect from January 2026.

David Macluskey
Strategic Lead: Education & Learning (Chief Education Officer)
16 September 2025



Education & Learning
Improving Lives Together
Ambition | Compassion | Integrity



Statutory Consultation Public Meeting

**Minute of meeting held on Monday 12 May 2025
at 7:00p.m. in Viewlands Primary School**

Present:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| David Macluskey | Education & Learning (Chief Education Officer) |
| Strategic Lead | |
| Fiona MacKay | Service Manager – Inclusion & Additional Support Needs |
| Sarah Stephen | Quality Improvement Officer - Inclusion |
| Barry Donald-Hewitt | Head Teacher, Viewlands Primary School |
| Karen Robertson | Service Manager – Business Services |

Present:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Jaclyn Meikle – Minutes | ASN Transformation Programme Manager |
| Councillor John Rebbeck | Convenor, Learning & Families Committee |

13 members of the public
3 Local Councillors

Welcome and Introductions

David Macluskey opened the meeting and welcomed the members of public in attendance to the Statutory Consultation Public Meeting.

David introduced himself and the panel to the members of the public and thanked them for attending.

Barry Donald-Hewitt introduced himself and briefly outlined the positive impact he anticipated that an ISP would have for his school community.

Format of meeting

Fiona MacKay then explained the format the meeting would follow.

The proposal

Fiona MacKay explained the consultation proposal to the attendees. The Council proposes to:

- Permanently establish a new Intensive Support Provision at Viewlands Primary School for pupils with Additional Support Needs with effect from January 2026.

Presentation

A presentation was provided that explored the proposal in further detail and explained the background to the proposal and the reasons a new ISP is required.

Fiona MacKay outlined:

- The PKC Vision
- Statutory duties of a local authority

- PKC & National ASN Data
- Explained the 4 levels of Staged Intervention (4-Intensive)
- The existing geographic spread of ISPs within PKC
- The requirement for an ISP at VPS

Sarah Stephen outlined:

- What is an ISP
- The placement of the ISP within the school and what it will include
- The benefits of an ISP

Karen Robertson outlined:

The statutory consultation process including the legal framework, consideration by Learning & Families Committee, the statutory consultation period and the different ways in which representations from interested parties could be made as the first part of the consultation process. Karen Robertson then explained the next stages of the process which includes the involvement of Education Scotland, the preparation and publication of the consultation report and the final decision made by the Learning & Families Committee, currently anticipated to be November 2025.

Fiona Mackay opened up the meeting to any questions, comments or observations from the floor:

Q: What will the changes look like at Viewlands?

A: At the end of the meeting, there will be an opportunity to view the proposed layout and plans.

Q: Will STEM and Music be reduced?

A: No. STEM and Music will continue three times a week. The same amount of time and space will be maintained throughout the school.

Q: Does that include visiting music teachers?

A: Yes. Specialist music teachers will continue, and they will be timetabled accordingly.

Q: What about the congested playground and reduced space?

A: The nursery garden and football area will be split with a gate. One half will be for bikes and scooters and used as a shared space. Children in the ISP will not be in the main playground. The mainstream area will be fenced off.

Q: What will replace the football area?

A: Football access will be maintained through shared spaces and use of the academy. P6/7 pupils will still have two sessions per week. We want to explain clearly to pupils what is changing and why. This proposal reflects our educational ambition.

Q: Therefore, will football continue?

A: Yes, we will work through these concerns and aim to maintain football access.

Q: Will the larger school roll affect quality of offer at Viewlands Primary School?

A: Efforts will be made to maintain what works well. Barry is committed to preserving successful elements. Viewlands is considered “space rich” and therefore changes inside and outside should be able to be accommodated throughout the school, with careful planning.

Q: Can you clarify (again) the changes to the playground?

A: The main playground will remain unchanged. The back section, which includes the nursery and football area, will be halved with a fence and gate. The entire area is tarmac and will be developed into a more sensory space, which will benefit all pupils. Use of the space by other children will be managed through timetabling and staffing support. Children in the ISP will be fully included in school life, including assemblies and wider activities. There are nine other primary provisions across the authority that successfully share spaces, and this model has been shown to work well.

Q: What will drop-off and pick-up look like, especially with the exclusion zone and Fairview taxis?

A: This is a recognised concern. Some children already have siblings at the school, so there won't be a significant increase in cars. A review of Fairview taxi arrangements is planned as a separate piece of work to make the situation more manageable. Some families live close enough to walk. A wider home-to-school transport review is also underway.

Q: Is there an update on the exclusion zone?

A: There is no update at present. David will share any developments with Barry and the Parent Council.

Statement:

"It's a big hill to walk up, and there's nowhere to park nearby with the exclusion zone in place. It's particularly difficult for families with buggies and young children. Mornings can be very stressful."

This concern has been acknowledged and will be discussed further at the Parent Council meeting next Tuesday.

Q: Will children currently at Viewlands get a place in the ISP?

A: If a child has progressed through the stages of education and mainstream provision no longer meets their needs, they may be considered through the panel process.

Q: What if a child is at a (staged) level 1 or 2 in mainstream or a 3 or 4 in upper school, will they get a place?

A: No child will be forced to move. Placement is through a panel process. We meet the needs of 97% of children through stages 1–3. This is an additional stage. Children can be assessed at any point in their educational journey. Some may also progress back into more mainstream settings. The presumption of mainstream is a key legislative principle.

Q: Will every school have an ISP?

A: The aim is for every secondary catchment area to have one. Larger schools may require more than one provision, depending on population size.

Q: Is there a long-term plan for a purpose-built ISP?

A: Growth is being monitored. New schools, such as Bertha Park Primary, are being designed with built-in provision. Fairview remains the only standalone special school. The learning estate is reviewed regularly.

Q: What about toilet facilities?

A: General toilet concerns have been raised with Property. A personal care room with toilet facilities is planned for August 2026. In the meantime, overstaffing will support access. Mainstream toilet concerns have also been raised.

Q: Is asbestos a concern during works?

A: Property is aware and will follow all asbestos procedures. A specific officer oversees this, and the school maintains an asbestos register. Affected areas are isolated.

Q: Will there be a secure door? What happens during a fire alarm?

A: Yes, a fobbed door will be in place from August. In the event of a fire alarm, all fobbed doors deactivate to allow safe evacuation.

Q: Is there enough time for staff to move resources?

A: Staff concerns are acknowledged. Discussions are ongoing, and a second meeting is planned. Built-in storage is being provided, and central budgets will support this.

Q: Is there a team to help reorganise spaces?

A: Yes, the council has a "space team" to help optimise use. David Macluskey will liaise with them.

Q: How will it impact wraparound care?

A: No impact is expected. Most children access SHIP across the road at Fairview.

Q: How will the idea be introduced to children?

A: Children will be consulted. Feedback so far has been positive. Pupil voice is part of the process.

Q: Not all children from Viewlands go to Perth Academy. How will placements be managed?

A: Placements will be based on home address, though some children may attend Viewlands to meet specific needs. We aim to keep siblings together and maintain consistent groupings where possible.

Currently, ISP provision isn't available in every area, but this will improve within two years. Viewlands is at 68% capacity—lower than many schools—and 45% of pupils attend via placing requests. Not all P7s will move on to Perth Academy.

Q: Is an August 2025 start realistic?

A: Yes. Initial changes will occur over summer 2025. Full room split in summer 2026. A small group (6–7 children) will start, allowing gradual build-up.

Q: Will outdoor space be ready?

A: Yes, work will begin over summer and evolve as the provision grows.

Q: Will there be enhanced transition support?

A: Yes. A Principal Teacher is being recruited this term to lead and support transitions.

Q: Is it 2025 or 2026 August (as that crosses the statutory consultation process). Why not wait until 2026?

A: Due to the urgent need for specialist provision, we have received permission from Education Scotland to proceed on a temporary basis from August 2025.

We have a legal duty to provide appropriate support, and this proposal offers the best way to meet that need with minimal disruption. If the case isn't strong enough, it won't proceed—but we're confident in the educational and practical rationale behind it.

Q: Can elected members block the proposal?

A: Yes. If not approved, a new proposal would need to be submitted. However, we do not anticipate any major complications that we can't work through.

Q: Is this guaranteed to go ahead?

A: No, but a strong educational case is being made. The goal is to ensure equality and minimal disruption.

Fiona Mackay opened up the meeting to any further comments or observations from the floor.

Statements:

- *“Viewlands is all about nurture and kindness – a great place for an ISP.”*
- *(Head Teacher) “If it's going to be an ISP, I want it to be the best. It should be part of the community. We'll revisit the school's vision and values to reflect this ambition.”*

Closing:

David Macluskey thanked everyone and reminded them that feedback can still be submitted. Barry Donald-Hewitt then led a tour of the school.



Perth & Kinross Council

Intensive Support Provision at Viewlands Primary School

Summary of Consultation Responses

The statutory consultation on the proposal to establish a new Intensive Support Provision at Viewlands Primary School commenced on Thursday 24 April 2025 and closed on Friday 6 June 2025.

Details of the proposal document were issued to the list of consultees contained within the Proposal Paper. 435 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.

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.

Online Response Forms

8 online response forms were received. 4 responses agreed with the Council's proposal and 4 disagreed with the Council's proposal. However, 4 responses were invalid as they failed to provide a required name, address or email address to validate the response.

| RESPONDENT GROUP | NUMBER OF RESPONSES | AGREE | DISAGREE |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------|----------|
| | | | |
| Parents | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Pupils | - | - | - |
| Staff | - | - | - |
| Elected Members | - | - | - |
| Parent Councils | - | - | - |
| Community Members | - | - | - |
| Grandparents | - | - | - |
| Trade Unions | - | - | - |
| Other | 1 | 1 | - |
| Not disclosed (Invalid) | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Total | 8 | 4 | 4 |
| Validated Total | 4 | 2 | 2 |

Representations made were around:

Support for ISP in Principle

General Support for Inclusion: support for expanding provision for children with additional support needs.

Concerns About Implementation: Support is conditional, with concerns about the suitability of the current site and facilities.

Space and Facilities Concerns

Playground Space: concern about limited playground space being further reduced, negatively impacting all pupils.

Toilet and Classroom Facilities: Concern regarding existing toilet facilities not being fit for purpose and questions regarding which spaces will be repurposed for the ISP.

Loss of Breakout and Learning Spaces: Concern that current pupils, including those with child's plans, will lose access to essential breakout rooms and learning areas.

Impact on Existing Pupils

Resource Reallocation: Concern that limited resources and space will be redirected away from current students.

Equity and Fairness: Perception that the proposal unfairly disadvantages existing pupils by reducing their access to facilities.

Building Suitability

Old Infrastructure: Concerns that the school's older building is less adaptable compared to newer, purpose-built ISP facilities elsewhere.

Need for Prioritisation: Suggestions that nursery room improvements should be addressed before adding new responsibilities.

Outdoor Space Use and Access

Dedicated Garden Space: Emphasis that the garden area should be reserved for ISP use only, not shared with mainstream pupils.

Loss of Natural Play Areas: Mention of previous reductions in natural play space, from when Fairview was built.

Neighbour and Community Impact

Noise Concerns: A nearby resident raises concerns about increased playground noise and requests future consultation if outdoor facility plans change. Frustration that they only learned about the consultation shortly before it closed.

Written Representations

During the consultation period between 24 April 2025 and 6 June 2025, written representations were invited from statutory consultees and interested parties. 8 written responses were received. One of these responses was representing 61 parents objecting to the proposal.

Public Meeting

As part of the statutory consultation process, 1 public meeting was held on 12 May 2025 at Viewlands Primary School.

Attended by 13 members of the public.

The questions and comments were around:

Educational Impact

Curriculum: Questions about whether STEM and music offerings, including visiting music teachers, will be reduced.

Quality of Education: Questions about whether a larger school roll will affect the overall quality of education at Viewlands

.

Facilities and Space

Playground and Outdoor Space: Questions about changes to the playground, including congestion, loss of football space, and readiness of outdoor areas.

Toilet Facilities: Questions about adequacy and suitability of toilet facilities.

Secure Access and Safety: Questions about secure doors, fire alarm procedures, and asbestos risks during works.

Accessibility and Logistics

Drop-off and Pick-up: Concerns about the exclusion zone and Fairview taxis.

Parking and Access: Comments on the difficulty of accessing the school, particularly for families with young children or buggies.

ISP Access and Placement

Eligibility for ISP: Questions about whether current Viewlands pupils or those at various staged intervention levels will be eligible for ISP placement.

Future ISP Plans: Inquiries about whether every school will eventually have an ISP and if there are plans for a purpose-built ISP.

Transition and Implementation

Timeline and Readiness: Questions about whether an August 2025 start is realistic, and whether waiting until 2026 would be more appropriate.

Transition Support: Requests for enhanced support during the transition period.

Resource Management: Concerns about whether staff will have enough time and support to move and reorganize resources.

Communication and Decision-Making

Requests for clarification on playground changes and the status of the exclusion zone.

Questions about whether elected members can block the proposal and if the plan is guaranteed to proceed.

Pupil Consultation

Consultation was undertaken with Viewlands Primary School pupils. The consultation took place on 27 May 2025. 3 focus groups were arranged to consult pupils in P2-P3, P4-P5 and P6-P7. 8 pupils attended each focus group.

Examples of feedback:

How do you feel about having a new ISP class for children who need extra help at your school?

Good because they need an education that suits them, and every school should have one and be able to get there easily.

Really good for people with disabilities so they don't have to travel.

Children can be excited and not worried if first year at school

They really need it, so if there is a good place they can feel how nice it is with nature around them (outdoor space)

What do you think will be good about having an ISP in your school?

Children can make friends with people who have similar disabilities and do stuff together and won't feel like "I can't do that"

Not fair that people have to travel to get education. That is huge, that would change my life forever and would be a really big factor.

Children won't feel left out and might see other children that use sensory toys.

It can be troubling on someone's mental health if they are being exiled or excluded, so having this will be a really great way to feel included.,

Children will see other children with the same struggles which can really help change your point of view on how you are as a person.



Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Perth and Kinross Council to permanently establish a new Intensive Support Provision in Viewlands Primary School for pupils with Additional Support Needs with effect from January 2026.

June 2025

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of a proposal by Perth and Kinross Council to permanently establish a new Intensive Support Provision in Viewlands Primary School for pupils with additional support needs with effect from January 2026. 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' view. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it alongside any relevant considerations the council received and then prepare its consultation report. The council's consultation report should include 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 consultation report at least three weeks before it takes its final decision. With all proposals the council needs to follow all statutory obligations set out in the 2010 Act.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children of the school; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 12 May 2025 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;
- consideration of further representations made directly to Education Scotland on relevant educational aspects of the proposal;
- consideration of further information on all schools; and
- visits to the site of Viewlands Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

2.1 Perth and Kinross Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#).

2.2 The consultation ran from 24 April until 6 June 2025. The council made the consultation paper available via its website and sent an electronic version of the paper to relevant consultees. Paper copies were also available at Viewlands Primary School and the council headquarters. A specific email address was also set up for representations and enquiries. An online response form was set up on the consultation webpage. A public meeting was held on 12 May 2025, which 13 members of the public attended. At the meeting council representatives outlined the consultation process and the proposals, and answered questions raised by member of the public. The council engaged with a sample of pupils from Viewlands Primary School and parents of children that are likely to attend the proposed Intensive Support Provision (ISP). They also engaged with a group of teachers from Viewlands Primary School.

2.3 The council received eight online response forms. Four agreed and four disagreed with the council's proposal. The council also received eight written responses. One of these responses was a letter which 61 parents had signed digitally, objecting to the proposal. Almost all respondents were in favour of the principles of inclusion and expanding provision for children with additional support needs. All respondents who were parents of children who would be likely to attend the provision were very positive about the proposal. Most respondents who were parents of children who currently attend Viewlands Primary School expressed concerns about how the service would impact on the existing provision there.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 HM Inspectors agree that establishing a new ISP in Viewlands Primary School for pupils with additional support needs with effect from January 2026 has potential educational benefits.

3.2 Perth and Kinross Council aim to improve education provision for children with complex and multiple additional support needs. They intend to establish suitable provision for all children within the catchment area of their local secondary school. Viewlands Primary School is a nondenominational school situated on a shared site with Perth Academy and Fairview Special School. Establishing a new ISP at Viewlands Primary School would increase the number of placements for children with complex and multiple additional support needs within the local management group of Perth Academy and the catchment primary schools. The proposed ISP at Viewlands Primary School will accommodate up to 16 pupils. Pupils considered eligible to attend the ISP would be assessed and placed by a transition panel in accordance with the council's admission policy.

3.3 In establishing the ISP, the council intends to utilise and redesign existing spaces in the school building. This has the potential to provide a high quality, bespoke learning environments for children requiring additional support. The council aims to create learning spaces that incorporate sensory zones, allowing children the space and privacy to regulate their emotions without leaving the learning area. The council envisage a safe, nurturing environment, also benefiting from an outdoor play space. HM Inspectors agree that having well-designed learning and sensory spaces have potential to meet better the needs of children with additional support needs.

3.4 HM Inspectors spoke with stakeholders, including children, parents and teachers at Viewlands Primary School. Most of the stakeholders were concerned that the proposed establishment of an ISP will result in lost resources for children currently attending Viewlands Primary School. The proposal would mean a reduction in the size of the P7 classroom and the current music room would become a dedicated classroom space for the ISP. Concern was also expressed about toilet facilities and about reduction in playground space. If the council proceeds with the proposal, it should work with stakeholders to ensure that they fully understand how all children's needs will continue to be met alongside meeting the needs of children attending the ISP. In particular, the council should seek more effective communication with parents to clarify how investment in school premises benefits all children attending the school. This should include those for whom the school is not currently accessible.

3.5 If progressed, the proposal would increase the overall number of specialist placements available for children with additional support needs. It should also support the local authority to ensure that ISP placements are more evenly distributed across its specialist provisions. There is potential to reduce the time that children spend in transport as schools will be situated nearer children's homes. The proposal makes it possible for the local authority to reduce the need for lengthy taxi journeys and resulting transport costs. Children attending the proposed ISP will potentially have an improved transition into the neighbouring secondary school, Perth Academy.

3.6 Stakeholders also raised concerns around possible increased traffic around the school. The council recognise this as a valid concern and are planning a review of taxi arrangements on the campus and a wider home-to-school transport review is also underway. HM Inspectors agree that the LA should continue to work with transport teams to ensure the safety of children and young people when coming to and leaving school.

3.7 If the council agrees to proceed with the proposal to establish an ISP, children may begin to access this from August 2025 on a temporary basis and to avoid unnecessary transitions. It is the view of HM Inspectors that the current Viewlands Primary School environment requires adaptations to meet the additional support needs of children likely to attend the ISP. The council should ensure that the educational benefits, as outlined in the consultation, reflect the educational experiences for any child attending Viewlands Primary School from August 2025. For example, there is a need to improve toilet facilities for all children, and particularly for those using mobility aids or for children who require intimate care across the whole school. There is also a need to improve outdoor spaces to ensure that there is high quality outdoor play provision for all children attending Viewlands Primary School. The council should ensure it has robust contingency plans in place for continuity of children's education if it does not agree to proceed with the proposal.

3.8 During the consultation period, consultees identified alleged inaccuracies in the proposal. They suggested that it was inaccurate of the council to say that there would be no impact on children currently attending Viewlands Primary School. It is the view of HM Inspectors that the school would repurpose rooms to increase inclusivity for all children. However, the council should take further steps to ensure that they address the limitations of the existing toilet facilities before any temporary arrangements are put in place. There will be increased demand on accessible toilets, which has potential to affect children currently attending the school. The council will need to ensure that it takes the necessary steps to examine and respond to any alleged inaccuracies. In its final consultation report, the council will need to set out the actions it has taken to address any alleged inaccuracies.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has potential educational benefits for children with additional support needs across the local authority. The proposal would increase the number of placements available locally and would mean children spend more time in their communities and less time travelling in taxis to school. If suitable adaptations and upgrades are made, the new ISP should bring with it improvements to the current school building. It could also offer potentially easier transition arrangements to the neighbouring Perth Academy.

Stakeholders expressed concerns that the establishment of the ISP would mean fewer resources for children currently attending Viewlands Primary School. However, the council's proposal has the potential to minimise impact on children at the school if it is well planned and carefully implemented. The council should work closely with stakeholders to ensure that they improve communication around the purpose and benefits of the establishment of the ISP. They should also ensure that they have contingency plans in place should the council not agree to take the proposal forward.

In its consultation report, the council will need to set out the actions it has taken to address any alleged inaccuracies notified to it. In particular, it should state how it plans to address improving current toilet facilities.

HM Inspectors

June 2025