

**SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 – KILCHRENAN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides details of the outcome and findings of the statutory consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the formal Proposal to close Kilchrenan Primary School as detailed in the published Consultation Report (**Appendix A**); and in accordance with the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*, as amended.
- 1.2 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:
- (a) Notes the contents of the Consultation Report (**Appendix A**); and
  - (b) Approves the implementation of the following Proposal as consulted on:
    - i. that education provision at Kilchrenan Primary School shall be permanently discontinued with effect from 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024; and
    - ii. that the delineated catchment area of Taynuilt Primary School shall be extended to subsume the whole delineated catchment area of Kilchrenan Primary School from 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 When considering the future of a rural school, the Education Authority must firstly meet the preliminary requirements of Section 12A the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*, as amended.
- 2.2 Thereafter, the Council is required to prepare and publish a Proposal Paper which clearly sets out the proposal on which the Council is consulting. The Proposal Paper must include details of the proposed date for implementation, an Educational Benefits Statement, a summary of the consultation process and details of the supporting evidence or information used to formulate the Proposal.
- 2.3 The 2010 Act also requires that at the close of the consultation process, Education Scotland must consider the educational aspects of the Council's Proposal and prepare and submit a report to the Council for consideration by the Council when preparing its final Consultation report.
- 2.4 The Council is then required to prepare and publish its final Consultation Report, taking into consideration the report from Education Scotland and all other responses received within the consultation period.
- 2.5 The Consultation Report must explain how the Council has reviewed the Proposal, a summary of the points raised during the consultation period and the Council's response to them, details of any alleged inaccuracies or omissions, and, for rural schools, an assessment of rural school factors.
- 2.6 The Council will then make a decision on whether or not to implement the Proposal.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1.1 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

(a) Notes the contents of the Consultation Report (**Appendix A**); and

(b) Approves the implementation of the following Proposal as consulted on:

- i. that education provision at Kilchrenan Primary School shall be permanently discontinued with effect from 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024; and
- ii. that the delineated catchment area of Taynult Primary School shall be extended to subsume the whole delineated catchment area of Kilchrenan Primary School from 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

#### **4.0 DETAIL**

4.1 This report provides details of the outcome and findings of the statutory consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the formal proposal to close Kilchrenan Primary School as detailed in the published Consultation Report (**Appendix A**); and in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*, as amended.

4.2 In accordance with the 2010 Act's requirements, a report was produced by Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the Proposal (see Appendix 4 of **Appendix A**). The Education Scotland Report supports the Proposal in that it has clear educational benefits for current and future pupils of Kilchrenan Primary School; a larger and more modern learning environment offering access to a broader range of experiences and opportunities to learn, develop and socialise with a wider group of peers.

4.3 Having considered the report from Education Scotland and all other responses received within the consultation period, officers carried out a further review of the Proposal and a Consultation Report was thereafter prepared and published for public scrutiny on the Council's website from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024. This provided a full three week period prior to a final Committee decision on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024, in compliance with Sections 9(3) and 11 of the 2010 Act.

#### **5.0 CONCLUSION**

5.1 The Consultation Report for Kilchrenan Primary School has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the 2010 Act.

5.2 Following the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise detailed in the Consultation Report (**Appendix A**), having due regard to relevant representations as well as Education Scotland's Report, and following a further review of the proposal and reasonable alternatives having regard to the rural school factors, it is recommended that the decision is made to implement the Proposal as consulted on – namely, that education provision at Kilchrenan Primary School shall be permanently discontinued with effect from 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024; and that the delineated catchment area of Taynult Primary

School shall be extended to subsume the whole delineated catchment area of Kilchrenan Primary School with effect from 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Policy - An authority that is formulating a rural school Consultation Report must satisfy the requirements of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*, as amended.
- 6.2 Financial – The financial implications of the Proposal and reasonable alternatives to the Proposal are set out within the reports pack at **Appendix A**.
- 6.3 Legal - The Consultation Report for Kilchrenan Primary School has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*, as amended.
- 6.4 HR – none
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:
  - 6.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics – none at present
  - 6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty – an EqSEIA was carried out in connection with the consultation and is attached as Appendix 2 of **Appendix A**.
  - 6.5.3 Islands – none
- 6.6 Climate Change - Environmental impacts of any different travelling arrangements that may be required are addressed within the Consultation Report (**Appendix A**).
- 6.7 Risk – none
- 6.8 Customer Service – none
- 6.9 The Rights of the Child (UNCRC) - The views of primary school aged pupils residing in the Kilchrenan Primary School catchment area were sought as part of the consultation process. The Consultation Report (**Appendix A**) sets out how school pupils engaged with the consultation and what their feedback was

**DOUGLAS HENDRY**

Executive Director with responsibility for Education

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18<sup>th</sup> July 2024

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix A – Consultation Report – Kilchrenan Primary School