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**IAN BROWN**

**RAON NAN EUN,  
EDINBANE,  
BY PORTREE,  
ISLE OF SKYE,  
IV51 9PW.**

Friday, 19 December 2014

Attn.  
Ian Jackson,  
Education Officer,  
Care and Learning Office,  
Camaghael Hostel,  
Fort William,  
PH33 7NE  
ian.jackson@highland.gov.uk

Dear Sir

Public Consultation on the Closure of Edinbane, Dunvegan, Struan and Knockbreck Primary Schools and Replacement with New School in Dunvegan.

I complained about the omission from the report presented to the public of almost all facts apart from those relating to education as I felt the closure of a school affects the whole community badly.

We can now see information presented on most of those topics in the massively extended final report and appendices.

I am pleased to see that the Capital information contrasts keeping and improving the existing schools with building a new school.

I am not so pleased to see that there is absolutely no detail to help assess the capital costs presented. [See table from your report].

**SSER Skye and Lochalsh- Dunvegan statutory consultation- Table 2- Capital costs**

Option 1- bring existing schools up to A/A standard	
Capital costs	£
Construction costs	7,001,035
Capital Life Cycle cost	5,128,076
Third party contributions to capital costs	0
	<b>10,129,111</b>

Option 2- consolidated new school at Dunvegan	
Capital costs	£
Construction costs	10,415,984
Capital Life Cycle cost	4,044,591
Third party contributions to capital costs	0
	<b>14,460,575</b>

While the proposed option of investment in the existing schools is welcome the level could be set to favour your argument for the single school.

You are clear that you are budgeting for 100 pupils over time.

I'm having difficulty in finding a Scottish budget cost per square metre for new schools but have made some initial assumptions to flesh out your figures.

Construction, New School: Say £2500 per square metre so the new school will be at least 4150 square metres, at least 41.5 square metres per child with 100 pupils!

Renovation and extension, Existing Schools: Allowing £1500 per square metre the budget allows for 4650 square metres of schools to be renovated and extended. That is 465 linear metres of buildings if they were 10 metres wide. 46.5 square metres per child. Much, much more than the area of the existing buildings involved.

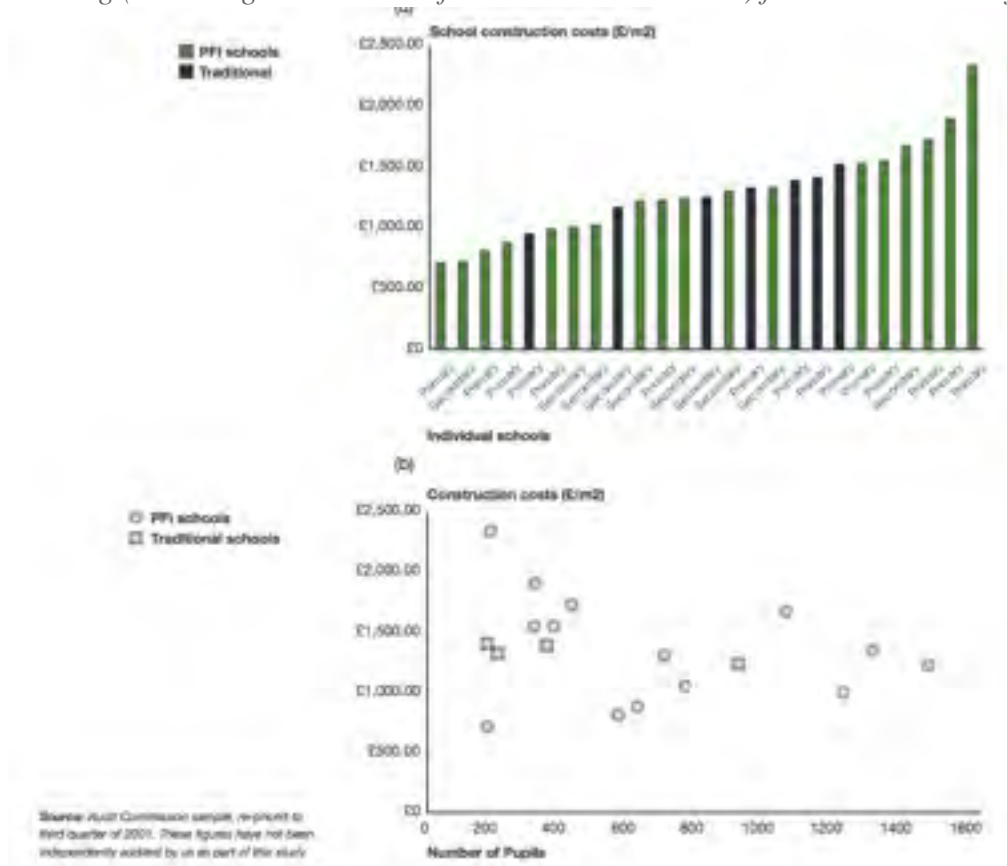
I think it looks like the argument is stacked in favour of the conclusion you wish to reach.

However, as public sentiment appears to favour retention of the existing schools a reduced budget for this may well find favour with the parents in these areas and also in Dunvegan. This would allow a scheme which is cheaper all round and does not have the adverse effect on the community which Glendale residents reported at the public meeting on the school closure plan.

I have copied this widely as I feel councillors need to be primed to consider the costings and options, not just the one option which you are promoting. Some made their choice in favour of the original report which had no Capital cost information at all!

Information on Building Costs.

The following related to England as of October 2012 'Contractors will be expected to build schools designed to a maximum cost/square metre price of £1,113/sq m for the school building (excluding costs such as fees and external works) for an all-in total of £1,465/ sq m'



The attachment shows more historic school building prices.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "I.M. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Ian Brown

cc. Chair, Education Committee, Mr A Christie, [Alasdair.Christie.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Alasdair.Christie.cllr@highland.gov.uk)  
Frances MacLean, Chair Edinbane Parent Teacher Association, [francesmaclean@hotmail.com](mailto:francesmaclean@hotmail.com)  
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