

Agenda Item	11.
Report No	EDU/20/21

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Education

Date: 2 September 2021

Report Title: Review of Statutory Consultation Exercise – Closure of Uig Primary School

Report By: Executive Chief Officer – Education and Learning

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 Following conclusion of the statutory consultation process, this report seeks Members' agreement to a recommendation to discontinue the provision of education at Uig Primary School, which has been "mothballed" since the summer of 2010.
- 1.2 A statutory consultation to close Uig Primary School was first undertaken in 2010, the outcome of which was a decision to "mothball" the school and undertake a further review at a future date. Following the conclusion of a second statutory consultation process, this report seeks Members' agreement to a recommendation to discontinue the provision of education at Uig Primary School.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to recommend that the Highland Council discontinues education at Uig Primary School, transferring its catchment to that of Kilmuir Primary School. Uig Primary has not been operational since 2010, and a closure decision would formalise the current operational situation.

3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource – These are set out in the Table at **Appendix D** of the attached documentation.
- 3.2 Legal - The statutory consultation has been taken forward as per the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – The Equalities and Rural impacts were assessed at Sections 16 and 17 of **Appendix A**. The Proposal is not anticipated as having any effect on poverty issues. The Proposal Paper at Appendix A also assesses the community implications – See Section 14.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever – The attached report details the implications in relation to school buildings and school transport. It is estimated that in terms of the Council's carbon emissions, the proposal will see a net reduction.

3.5 Risk – The main risks associated with the recommendation relate to the potential for call-in by Scottish Ministers. Officials have sought to mitigate the risk through review and evaluation to ensure that procedurally the requirements of the Act and statutory consultation process have been met.

3.6 Gaelic – The proposal will have the effect of strengthening the provision of Gaelic Medium education at Kilmuir Primary School.

4. Overview

4.1 **Appendix 1** is the proposal for decision. The original proposal for consultation, and relevant documents for consideration by the Committee, are all also circulated as appendices to this Paper. They provide details of all consultation comments received, the note of the public meeting, the report from Education Scotland, and the Council's response to comments arising from the consultation.

4.2 The public consultation took place during 2019, and the Final Report would normally have been submitted to the Committee before now. The conclusion to the exercise was delayed because alternatives to closure were suggested by some respondents, and the further discussion of these was delayed by the COVID pandemic and the suspension of normal business during 2020.

4.3 The public meeting was well-attended given the small local population, (see **Appendix 2**). A total of 68 questions and answers are recorded in the note. Those issues not fully answered on the evening itself are addressed in Responses 21 and 22 of **Appendix 1**.

4.4 In their report, Education Scotland recognised that the Highland Council's proposal has the potential to deliver overall educational benefit. Children in both EME and GME are able to learn in groups with other children of similar ages and stages in a more suitable learning environment. They welcome the opportunities for team and group activities during and after school. The provision for both GME and EME is well-established at Kilmuir Primary School since Uig Primary School was mothballed in 2010. Current transition arrangements from early years to primary are working well.

5. Next Steps

5.1 The legislation requires that any proposal for decision must be published at least 3 weeks in advance of the meeting at which any decision may be made, to allow time for further representations. The proposal was published on 4 August 2021. Any further representations that are received will be tabled at the meeting for the attention of Members.

5.2 Following consideration by the Committee, if the recommendation is agreed, the following timeline will be followed as required by the legislation.

- The recommendation of the Committee will be considered by the full Highland Council.
- If ratified by full Council, the Council must, within 6 working days of the Committee decision, advise Scottish Ministers of the decision it has reached, provide them with the proposal paper and consultation report, and publish a notice stating that Ministers have been advised and the process through which representations may be made to Ministers regarding call-in of the proposal.

- From the date of the Council decision, there is a period of 3 weeks in which representations to Scottish Ministers regarding call-in of the proposal can be made by any interested party.
- Scottish Ministers then have a further up to 5 weeks in which to decide whether they will issue a call-in notice.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer – Education

Date: 4 August 2021

Author: Ian Jackson, Education Officer



HIGHLAND COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND LEARNING SERVICE

REVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE PROVISION OF EDUCATION AT UIG PRIMARY SCHOOL, RE-ASSIGNING ITS CATCHMENT AREA TO THAT OF KILMUIR PRIMARY SCHOOL

This report has been prepared following a review of the proposal:

- To discontinue education provision at Uig Primary School, re-assigning its catchment area to that of Kilmuir Primary School.

Having had regard (in particular) to:

- Relevant written representations received by the Council (from any person) during the consultation period.
- Oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting held at Uig Village Hall on 19 June 2019.
- The report from Education Scotland.

This document has been issued by the Highland Council under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

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1.0 Background

- 1.1 Highland Council's Care, Learning and Housing (CLH) Committee, at its meeting on 29 May 2019, agreed that a statutory consultation be undertaken on the proposal to discontinue the provision of education at Uig Primary School, re-assigning its catchment to that of Kilmuir Primary School.
- 1.2 **Appendix A** is the original consultative paper and provides full details of the above proposal. **Appendices B - D** are the appendices to the original proposal.
- 1.3 A statutory consultation into the proposed closure of Uig Primary School was undertaken during 2010, after the school roll fell to two pupils, one of whom was in P7. Following a review of the oral and written representations made, Highland

Council decided to close Uig Primary School on a temporary basis, pending a longer-term review.

- 1.4 Having once again reviewed the status of Uig Primary, it is the Council's view that re-opening the school would have a negative educational impact, both on the pupils from Uig itself, and the pupils who remain at Kilmuir Primary. Further details on this are provided in Sections 6 and 10 below.
- 1.5 Uig Primary School is designated as a rural school under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. In that context, the Council has had special regard to:
- any viable alternative to the closure proposal; alternatives were considered at Sections 6-10 of the Proposal Paper (**Appendix A**) and have been reconsidered again in the light of responses received to consultation – see Sections 5-10 below.
 - the likely effect on the local community in consequence of the proposal (if implemented), with reference in particular to (a) the sustainability of the community, (b) the availability of the school's premises and its other facilities for use by the community. The effect on the local community was considered at Section 14 of the Proposal Paper (**Appendix A**) and is further considered at Sections 8 and 10 below, taking into account representations received during consultation.
 - the likely effect caused by any different travelling arrangements that may be required in consequence of the proposal (if implemented) with reference in particular to;
 - the effect caused by such travelling arrangements including (in particular), (i) that on the school's pupils and staff and any other users of the school's facilities, (ii) any environmental impact. The effects on school transport were considered at Section 12 of the Proposal Paper, (**Appendix A**) and reconsidered again in the light of responses received to consultation – see Sections 6 and 10 below.

2.0 Consultation process

- 2.1 The formal consultation period ran from Tuesday 4 June 2019 to Friday 30 August 2019. Written representations on the proposal were sought from interested parties as defined within the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended.
- 2.2 In accordance with statutory requirements, the following were consulted:
- (i) Parents of pupils attending Kilmuir Primary School; including parents of pre-school pupils;
 - (ii) The Parent Councils of Kilmuir Primary School.
 - (iii) The Parent Council of Kilmuir Primary School
 - (iv) Members of Parliament and Members of Scottish Parliament for the area affected by the proposal;
 - (v) Staff of Kilmuir Primary School;
 - (vi) The Head Teacher of Macdiarmid Primary School
 - (vii) The Parent Council of Macdiarmid Primary School

- (viii) Trade Union representatives;
- (ix) Uig Community Council
- (x) Kilmuir Community Council
- (xi) Bòrd na Gàidhlig
- (xii) Highland Youth Convenor
- (xiii) Uig Mission Church

2.3 The proposal document was also advertised on the Highland Council website.

2.4 A public meeting was held in Uig on 19 June 2019. The meeting was advertised in advance on the Highland Council website and Facebook page, and in the *West Highland Free Press*. The minute of the meeting is at **Appendix 2**.

2.5 During the public consultation exercise, an alternative to closure was suggested, which would involve re-opening Uig Primary School as a school offering English Medium education for the whole of the current Uig and Kilmuir catchments, with Kilmuir Primary becoming a Gaelic Medium school for the same area.

2.6 Council officials arranged to meet informally with local parents on 16 March 2020 to discuss this suggested alternative to closure, but the meeting was postponed due to the COVID outbreak and the associated suspension of normal business within the Council. A discussion eventually took place on 9 December 2020. A detailed assessment of this option is included in Section 10 below.

3.0 Review of proposals following the consultation period

3.1 Following receipt of written representations received by Highland Council and consideration of oral representations made at the public meeting, officials reviewed the proposals.

3.2 The feedback from the consultation was considered by a range of Council officials. This ensured that the Council met the requirements of the 2010 Act.

3.3 The outcome of this review process is reflected in the response, conclusion and recommendations outlined below.

4.0 Responses received

4.1 A list of those who responded in writing during the public consultation is at Appendix 3. There were 7 written responses (not including the pupil questionnaires). Copies of these responses can also be found at Appendices 3i-3viii.

4.2 The views of pupils at Kilmuir Primary School (which included the pupils living within the Uig catchment area) were sought by means of an age adapted questionnaire. The views of the pupils are summarised at Section 5 below.

5.0 Overview of Issues raised during the consultation period

- 5.1 Of the 23 pupils who returned questionnaires, 14 thought we should re-open Uig Primary, whilst nine thought we should continue to mothball the school. There were no returns supporting the closure of Uig School.
- 5.2 Education Scotland Inspectors who visited the school reported that children who met with HM Inspectors all wanted the current arrangements to stand. The discussion between the pupils and Education Scotland therefore had a different outcome to that between the pupils and the school/council staff. It may be that this arose from different approaches taken.
- 5.3 The arguments advanced by the pupils in favour of continued mothballing, and those in favour of re-opening the school, are set out at Issues 1-8 below. The responses encountered by Education Scotland are set out at paragraph 7.3 below.
- 5.4 Of the 7 written responses received from parents and other stakeholders, one did not express an opinion on the future of the school, raising another matter instead. Two responses expressed support for closure, one from an individual and the other from Bòrd na Gàidhlig. The latter organisation expressed support on the grounds of educational benefit to those children attending Gàidhlig Medium education.
- 5.5 Two of the written responses suggested that Highland Council should merge Uig and Kilmuir schools by providing a new school for the whole area, that would provide improved accommodation and offer all local children a choice of English or Gàidhlig Medium education. The new school could also provide both EM and GM nursery, the former currently not being offered in either the Kilmuir or Uig catchments.
- 5.6 The remaining two responses opposed the closure of Uig Primary and argued the school should re-open.
- 5.7 The public meeting was well-attended given the small local population, (see **Appendix 2**). A total of 68 questions and answers are recorded in the note. Those issues not fully answered on the evening itself are addressed in Responses 21 and 22 below.
- 5.8 One speaker at the public meeting challenged the wording of paragraph 3.1 of the Proposal Paper, which said that “*no pupils have attended Uig Primary School since the end of session 2009-10.*” It was pointed out that parents have not had the option to send their children to Uig Primary since that time.
- 5.9 The wording of the Proposal Paper was intended to show that the closure of Uig Primary would, in practical terms, mean no change for parents and children. The Council is happy to acknowledge the comment that parents have not the option to send their children to Uig Primary since 2010. Paragraph 3.1 of the Proposal Paper was not meant to imply otherwise.

- 5.10 The main arguments put forward are summarised below, together with the responses from the Council. Where different responses raise similar issues, these have been “grouped” for the purposes of the response.

6.0 Responses to the Issues raised in Public Consultation

- 6.1 Arguments advanced by the children in favour of continued mothballing are set out at Issues 1-3 below, and addressed at Responses 1-3.

Issue 1

There are good and bad points to all the options.

If Uig Primary re-opened, then Kilmuir would lose a lot of pupils and could be closed down itself.

On the other hand, re-opening Uig would mean shorter travel times for children from Uig.

Response 1

The Council agrees that re-opening Uig PS would mean shorter travel distances for the Uig pupils. We also agree that if Uig PS re-opened, Kilmuir would lose a lot of pupils and that this would be an educational disadvantage compared to the current situation. We don't however think that Kilmuir PS would end up closing down if Uig re-opened.

Issue 2

If Uig re-opened, we wouldn't get to see our friends from Kilmuir and I would miss them so much.

It would take a few years to repair Uig and deal with the mould, the peeling paint, the leaks and the lack of heating. Also, the Council would need to buy new equipment and toys.

The children would get fewer opportunities like the Mod.

Response 2

It wouldn't take years to get Uig Primary ready for re-opening, but it would take time and money. The Council agrees with the rest of the comments.

Issue 3

If Uig re-opened we might lose the pop up café and church.

Response 3

The Church has now moved on anyway.

- 6.2 Arguments advanced by the children in favour of re-opening Uig PS are set out at Issues 4-8 below, and addressed at Responses 4-8.

Issue 4

The Council should re-open Uig Primary as the travel times from Uig to Kilmuir are too long.

If Uig Primary re-opened, children could get home for longer.

It would be better to re-open Uig because when there lots of tourists on the road it can take a long time to get to Kilmuir.

Response 4

Whilst the Council acknowledges that children from Uig have longer to travel than they did when Uig PS was open, the distances involved are well within the normal travel times for children in Highland.

Issue 5

If Uig PS re-opened then children could walk, run or cycle to school.

If Uig PS re-opened the Council would save on transport as most of the Uig kids could walk or cycle to school. The one big bus that goes from Uig to Kilmuir could replace the two small ones that operate for Kilmuir Primary, and that would mean saving fuel and helping the environment.

Response 5

The Council's Proposal Paper recognised that the larger merged school implies an increase in the number of pupils entitled to school transport compared to the number who could walk/cycle to school were Uig Primary to be re-opened, and inconvenience for parents who wish to take their child to/from school during the school day, should they require to do so.

The Proposal Paper set out Council's estimates for the additional CO₂ equivalent emissions that arise from transporting children daily from Uig to Kilmuir, compared to a scenario in which Uig PS was re-opened. Based on 190 school days per session, the figure was 0.874 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent emissions per school year. This can only ever be an estimate as emissions are affected by the speed at which vehicles are driven and the type of road travelled. However, it is reasonable to state that the effect is negligible.

Issue 6

Uig school should re-open as most of the children at Kilmuir are from Uig.

Response 6

For the current school year there are 23 pupils at Kilmuir in P1-7. Seventeen are from Kilmuir and six are from Uig.

Issue 7

Keeping Uig mothballed is a waste of ground and space.

Response 7

For much of the period Uig Primary has been mothballed, a Licence to Occupy was provided to Uig Mission Church, who made use of the building. The Church have now vacated the building and if the school were closed the building would be transferred or sold and so would be used in another way.

Issue 8

Kilmuir PS should be made a Gaelic only school and Uig PS re-opened as an English Medium School

Response 8

This issue is considered in detail in Section 10 below “Further Review of Alternatives to Closure.”

- 6.3 The arguments advanced in written responses are set out at Issues 9-20 below, and addressed at Responses 9-20.

Issue 9

Having small local schools makes the community on Skye what it is, special, well rounded children. Given our landscape and weather it’s unreasonable to expect children to travel 5 miles to school.

Response 9

Section 12 of the Proposal Paper examined the transport arrangements that have operated between Uig and Kilmuir since August 2010. The distances involved are well within the normal range of travel for children in Highland. It is acknowledged that the road from Uig to Kilmuir is narrow and steep, but the area is coastal and only rarely affected by snow and ice. Since 2017 (which is as far back as the Council has checked, there have been no occasions when the school transport from Uig failed to operate on a day when the school itself was open.

Issue 10

Uig school was mothballed in a period when the numbers were low and after a period where Highland Council employees had been unofficially persuading prospective parents that the school was about to be closed. I know this as I was going to place my own 3 children there but was persuaded not to by the teacher in Uig at the time. The reality is Highland Council's own figures at the time of mothballing had Uig School's roll increase to be the highest of the three rural North End schools (Uig, Kilmuir and Staffin) by 2017. It should not have been mothballed and should absolutely not be closed.

It is important to acknowledge that pupil numbers from the legacy Uig catchment area remain strong. (Based on your information, 41 pupils over the last 6 years) So the proposed school closure is being driven not by low numbers but by other factors. Viewed in a wider context, this number of pupils would place it as one of the larger rural primary schools on Skye.

Response 10

At the time Uig was mothballed, the issue was less a lack of numbers than the number of placements in other schools. As previously mentioned the roll of the school had fallen to two at the time of mothballing, and one of those pupils was in P7. The situation arose from parental choice.

The Council is surprised at the suggestion that teaching staff in the school were discouraging parents from enrolling. Clearly the incidents took place 10 years ago or more. Head Teachers are required to enrol children into their school where those children reside within catchment, and this has long been Highland Council policy.

Issue 11

Uig is the main centre of economic activity in the area. It needs a school. Removal of the school will undoubtedly affect future viability of the village. The amount of children that currently are bussed to Kilmuir school on a daily basis shows the potential roll of the reopened school. The closure of the school will represent a drastic failure of planning in the area. Uig will become the only major village on the Island without a school. This cannot be allowed to happen. There are major plans for the pier area and an increased ferry capacity will see the economic activity in the area increase significantly. There are also plans for more housing as well as food and retail units at the pier.

Response 11

It is acknowledged that Transport Scotland and the Council are involved in a project to upgrade the pier at Uig and build a new terminal building as part of a wider project to upgrade and increase the capacity of the ferry routes to the Western Isles. The Council has also adopted a development brief for the Uig

jetty environs which includes potential housing and commercial developments.

The mothballing of Uig Primary in 2010 did not arise because of a shortage of pupils in the school catchment, but because of a pattern of pupils from Uig opting to access Gàidhlig Medium education in Kilmuir, or making placing requests to attend school in Portree. The Council has not seen evidence to suggest this pattern will change in future, and has no reason to suppose that parents who have made placing requests for the schools in Portree will withdraw their children in favour of a re-opened Uig Primary School.

The Highland Council's school roll projections include a calculation of additional pupils expected to derive from newly constructed housing.

Issue 12

The village is in the difficult position that many of the young people are quite used to getting bussed 6 miles to attend another school, so the parents are unwilling to commit to them attending the reopened school. This should NOT be used as an excuse for not reopening the school. It is incumbent on Highland Council to make the transition from their current school to Uig school as easy as possible. To fail to do this would be negligent on the part of HC.

Response 12

In the event that Uig Primary School were to re-open, Highland Council agrees that work would need to be undertaken to make the transitions back to Uig as smooth as possible. We would however, also need to take parental choice into account, and could not require existing pupils at Kilmuir to transfer to the re-opened Uig Primary School. These children were enrolled at Kilmuir Primary when it was the nearest available school and it would be unfair to disrupt the education of children with a compulsory transfer to Uig Primary. In the Council's view, this would be a breach of natural justice. Younger siblings of such pupils would also be granted a place in Kilmuir Primary, provided their older sibling(s) were still attending that school.

Parents could in any case make placing requests for their children to continue to attend Kilmuir. The right to do this is enshrined in legislation, and such requests must be granted unless certain specified circumstances apply. Normally we would not arrange or fund transport for pupils on placing requests, but would do for those pupils who had attended Kilmuir prior to Uig re-opening.

The Council would of course make transition as easy as possible for those children who sought to transfer back to a re-opened Uig Primary.

Issue 13

I see no reason why we should keep Uig Primary school mothballed and I would vote with Highland Council education to formally close the school.

Response 13

This response is noted.

Issue 14

Even though some of the children are too young, P4 and upwards should be consulted and all the school children should have an opportunity to see Uig School and attend it for a hour or so but also the ones in Portree to see the two primary schools there to give them an idea of facilities available there and then ask then the same question. North end should have a new school to replace the two elderly buildings. This is what both communities should be striving for.

Given what the EM numbers reflect in terms of school choice, the second-class status of EM at Kilmuir school and the practical difficulties of Uig pupils attending Kilmuir, it now seems logical to re-evaluate the Uig EM catchment area. The data shows that 60% of parents/pupils are already choosing to go elsewhere. This must be done on the basis that if agreed, dedicated door to door transport for primary pupils will be provided from the legacy Uig catchment area direct to Portree primary school.

From an educational point of view this would ensure the pupils are in class groups of the appropriate age and ability, be accommodated in appropriate facilities, take advantage of the additional opportunities available at Portree Primary and be in the right location for after school activities.

However, it is not the right choice for the community. If rural communities are to thrive, families must find them attractive places to live, which includes the appropriate provision of school facilities. In terms of the combined Uig Kilmuir catchment area, this means one new school catering equally for EM and GM located in Uig, the only location which would minimise placing requests outwith the catchment area. This was Highland Council's proposal many years ago and will continue to be the best long-term option for the West Trotternish area.

Response 14

The suggestion of transferring the Uig PS catchment to that of Portree PS is considered at paragraphs 10.11-10.13 below.

Under Highland Council policy, school transport is provided only to the designated school for a particular address. If the Uig PS catchment is transferred to that of Kilmuir, transport will be provided only to Kilmuir.

The issue of a merged school is considered at paragraph 10.10 below.

Issue 15

Support for Gaelic Medium education by Uig parents/pupils is robust. 21 of the 41 pupils who have started school from the Uig catchment area over the last 6 years have attended GM. More than 21 would have started their education in GM as some have transferred from GM to EM as they progress through school. Yet Uig Primary School was never assigned a GM teacher and GM is excluded from the only proposed option on reopening. As GM is now a core part of the education system, it is hard to see how a school can reopen successfully without it.

Response 15

The Highland Council has 171 primary schools, 20 of which offer Gaelic Medium Education. The Portree ASG is comparatively well-provisioned with GME, as it is offered in 6 of the 15 primary schools within the ASG. Only 14 of our remaining 155 primary schools offer GME. A significant number of children in Highland have no access to GME within reasonable travelling distance.

Highland Council does have a legal duty to assess any requests from parents for the provision of Gaelic Medium Education in schools, and would have done so had any such request been received from parents in Uig. Any such assessment would of course have taken into account the effect of such provision on the existing GM classes at Kilmuir Primary.

Highland Council does not have the resources to provide GME in every Primary School in Highland, nor are there staff available for such an aim. In terms of expanding the provision of GME, Highland Council's current priority is to consolidate our existing provision and increase the numbers attending the GM schools and Departments we have already set up.

Issue 16

There is no nursery or sgoil araich provision included in the proposal. This is critical in maintaining a healthy school roll.

The only preschool provision at Kilmuir is at Sgoil Araich. EM nursery was only available for the 2013/14 and 2014/15 sessions. My daughter attended the 2013/14 session where 4 were in Sgoil Araich and 4 in Nursery. I was discouraged from putting her in the nursery class despite my request. If I had, there would have been 5 in nursery and 3 in Sgoil Araich. This would have created an unwelcome statistic no doubt but the main point is that there was clear demand for English Nursery when it was available. I understand that any other requests by parents for English nursery provision in other years have been met with the response that it is not available. This must be considered particularly in light of the expansion of nursery hours. There is no

capacity to house extended hours for EM nursery at Kilmuir without creating additional space. Another demountable at an additional cost of £340,000? From a cost and commonsense perspective, there is no alternative than to use Uig Primary School for this. Urgent clarification on how the council proposes to deal with this is required.

Response 16

Highland Council would consider requests from parents for an English Medium nursery at Kilmuir Primary School, to complement the existing sgoil-araich. The number of children to be enrolled at the nursery would need to be sufficient for the operation of a viable nursery class.

At present 4 children are expected to enrol in Kilmuir Nursery for session 2021-22. There is anecdotal evidence that local parents have a preference for the nurseries in Portree, with parental employment patterns and the availability of after-school care being factors in the exercise of parental choice.

Issue 17

Your numbers confirm that over 6 years from the legacy Uig catchment area, there were a total of 20 pupils enrolled in English Medium. 8 went to Kilmuir but 12 attended other schools. (11 at Portree Primary) That is 60% of English Medium pupils going out with their catchment area school. This is a particularly high percentage, far higher than other schools in Highland Region I expect. The question must be asked, why?

Response 17

The Council cannot provide details of the reasons for every placing request, as this would breach parent/pupil confidentiality. We can say though that the most common reason cited was the availability of after-school childcare in Portree.

Prior to Uig Primary being mothballed there were a high number of placing requests out of the school, this being a significant factor in why the school was originally mothballed.

Issue 18

Direction of travel is wrong. Kilmuir school is located in a more rural community where unlike Uig there are no retail and service options. Essentially, any mileage Uig parents accumulate is wasted and unnecessary and cannot be incorporated into other routine trips. Furthermore, it is really inconvenient to include an Uig – Kilmuir trip when heading to Portree. This happens frequently as all after school activities are Portree based. It also means travelling off a trunk road onto a single track road which over the Easter to October period is impacted by tourist traffic. School transport cannot be relied on as the Uig children are always last on the list, arriving

home no sooner than 45 minutes after the end of the school day. Parents must go to school to collect them in order to be in time for activities. From my experience, I needed to collect from school at the end of the day 3 days a week. This was in addition to 2 trips earlier in the day for sgoil araich drop off and collection. Previously it has been acknowledged the difficulty in attracting teachers for rural school. Arguably, it would be easier to recruit someone to work in Uig than Kilmuir. All existing teaching staff commute daily through Uig to Kilmuir School. It is hard to see this changing any time in the future.

Response 18

The Council accepts that travel from Uig to Kilmuir is inconvenient for those who wish to travel to Portree after school hours. This has to be balanced against other factors, such as the negative effect on Kilmuir Primary School (a rural school) were the Uig catchment to be reallocated to Portree PS or Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort-Rìgh.

Although this proposal relates to a school closure, part of the intention behind it involves ensuring the viability and sustainability of Kilmuir Primary School.

Issue 19

There are poor facilities at Kilmuir Primary. For years the English medium class was not accommodated in a proper classroom. It was housed in a small room located off an existing classroom. Note, the two GM classes were accommodated in the schools 2 classrooms. At one stage the English class due to its size had to be taught in the school dining room. Class time was interrupted on a daily basis in order to set up for lunch. The class would have lost the equivalent of 6 full school days in the year as a result of this disruption. No attempt was made to share this burden amongst classes by rotating them round all the available space.

There has since been a 2-classroom demountable provided for English Medium but as a parent of a child starting school, it is heart breaking to think your child will spend 7 years of their primary education in accommodation like this. This on top of 18/24 months in Sgoil Araich which itself is provided outwith the main school building in a semi-permanent structure. Where else in Highland Region will children spend their entire pre-school and primary years in temporary accommodation? Other schools use demountables but the time spent in them is limited. This is particularly frustrating as Uig school remains mothballed and sits in a much more convenient location. Contrast this further with the recent investment in BSGP and the ongoing upgrade to Portree Primary.

Car parking at Kilmuir is a problem. The demountable has taken up car parking space. Staff parking takes up the majority of the spaces which leaves sgoil araich parents parking on the road. There is a similar problem at the end of the day as many parents collect their children from school. This is far from ideal.

There are no proper playground facilities/equipment at Kilmuir school. Children play on grass which often turns to mud. The location is very exposed and often dangerous as doors (buildings and vehicles) have to be opened and closed with caution. Smaller children are held on to as they are moved from building to building or vehicle.

Response 19

Paragraphs 4.7 and 4.8 of the original Proposal Paper set out that Uig Primary School is currently rated “C” (poor) for Building Suitability and “B” (satisfactory) for Building Condition. The Condition Survey did however identify a number of issues for rectification, of varying seriousness. The total cost of these was estimated at around £125,000, a figure that would not address any of the Suitability issues.

The Council will continue to invest in its school estate within the budget available, and according to its assessed priorities. We propose to continue engaging with the Kilmuir Primary School Parent Council about the building issues at the school.

It is self-evident that continuing to maintain and invest in 2 schools in the locality would be more expensive than doing so in one.

Issue 20

Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcomes the recommendation that Highland Council recommends that Uig Primary School, currently "mothballed," is closed and the catchment area re-assigned to that of Kilmuir Primary School. This will ensure that with the projected school roll of Kilmuir Primary that the GME provision will consist of 2 classes and therefore adheres to the recommendations in the Statutory Guidance regarding total immersion from P1 – P3.

Response 20

The Council notes and agrees with this response.

- 6.4 The note of the public meeting is at **Appendix 2**. Sixty-eight questions and comments are recorded. The majority of these questions were answered during the discussion and can be found in the note. Others were also raised in the written responses and are covered above. Further responses to two of the issues are provided below. These should be read alongside the answers provided in the note of the meeting at Appendix X (at questions 45, 47, and 67).

Issue 21

Is the Uig PS building listed?

Response 21

Subsequent to the meeting officials confirmed that the building was not listed and advised the community accordingly.

Issue 22

How much has it cost to put the demountables into Kilmuir, including leasing costs, groundworks etc?

Response 22

Subsequent to the meeting officials advised that the total cost of the demountable units installed at Kilmuir Primary was approximately £340,000.

6.5 It was suggested at the public meeting (see Qs 28-30 of the meeting note at Appendix 2) that the community of Uig is not fully included within Kilmuir School.

6.6 Kilmuir Primary School have previously held events in Uig as well as Kilmuir. Examples of these events include:

December 8th 2018 - Uig Xmas Gala at Uig Hall – Kilmuir School had Parent Council Stall at the event

December 14th 2018 – Group of Kilmuir Pupils Sang at the Uig Pop Up Café

January 28th 2019 - Kilmuir School Family Quiz Event in Uig Hall

Monday 25th March 2019 – Kilmuir Eco Council planted trees in Uig

Summer 2019 onward ...Kilmuir School Cookery Book on sale in Uig Filling Station and Rankins shop

November 2019 – Curry Take –Away event - Deliveries being arranged to Uig Hall. Order forms in the filling station and Rankins in Uig

6.7 Clearly the restrictions that arose to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the school holding community events of any sort from March 2020 onwards. A new Head Teacher was appointed to Kilmuir Primary in October 2020.

7.0 Summary of the issues raised by Education Scotland

7.1 In line with legislative requirements, Education Scotland was invited to submit comments on the Council's proposals. A copy of the report from Education Scotland is appended – **Appendix 4**. A Gàidhlig version is at **Appendix 5**.

7.2 In their report, Education Scotland recognised that the Highland Council's proposal has the potential to deliver overall educational benefit. Children in both EME and GME are able to learn in groups with other children of similar ages and stages in a more suitable learning environment. They welcome the opportunities for team and group activities during and after school. The provision for both GME and EME is well-established at Kilmuir Primary School

since Uig Primary School was mothballed in 2010. Current transition arrangements from early years to primary are working well.

- 7.3 Education Scotland noted that children who met with HM Inspectors all wanted the current arrangements to stand. They valued learning and socialising in larger peer groups. They considered the current arrangements better in terms of the opportunities and experiences they gain in Kilmuir Primary School. They would not want friendships to be split if Uig Primary School was open again. They think re-opening the school would not be a good use of the council's money. They would prefer money to be spent improving the facilities for play in Kilmuir Primary School. As noted at paragraph 5.2, these views were contrary to those expressed in the pupil questionnaires.
- 7.4 Education Scotland further noted that parents who spoke with HM Inspectors were mixed in their views. All were sensitive to the importance of schools within their communities. Half of the parents would like to see Uig Primary School re-open. They believe that the ability to attend a school close to home brings advantages in terms of being able to walk or cycle to school with their children. Half took an alternative view and thought the current arrangement should continue with children attending Kilmuir Primary School and Uig Primary School continuing to be mothballed. They felt that their children benefit from the larger pupil numbers in terms of educational opportunities and socialising.
- 7.5 Lastly, Education Scotland noted that as a statutory consultee, Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcomes the proposal that The Highland Council recommends that Uig Primary School, currently mothballed, is closed and the catchment area re-assigned to that of Kilmuir Primary School. Their response is set out in more detail at Issue 20 and can be read in full at Appendix 3viii.
- 7.6 Two issues were identified for further consideration, and are set out below.

Issue 23

Should the proposal go ahead, the Council should work with the community to explore how to make best use of the former Uig Primary School building.

Response 23

Any constituted community development body can ask for a community asset transfer, and Highland Council would welcome an application in relation to Uig, within the terms of community empowerment legislation. The constituted body will need to have at least 20 members and have charitable status. The community body will need to explain what the building is to be used for and to demonstrate community benefit as least equal to the value of the asset.

Once constituted, the community body has the right to seek whatever terms and conditions they want for the transfer.

It is for the community to take these issues forward in the first instance, although the council would be more than willing to assist.

Issue 24

The Council should explore with stakeholders how to maintain and improve play facilities in Kilmuir Primary School.

Response 24

The Council was in discussion with the Kilmuir Parent Council during the latter part of 2019, over the play facilities at the school. The engagement with parents was halted by the Coronavirus pandemic, but the Council will be revisiting this issue with the Parent Council.

8.0 Effects on the Community

- 8.1 Paragraphs 14.1 to 14.3 of the Proposal Paper set out the Council's assessment of the effects of closure on the local community, and advised that Highland Council would be keen to work with the local community to see whether the current school building could be turned over to community use.
- 8.2 Further discussion on the potential community use of the school building took place at the public meeting on 19 June 2019 (see Appendix 2). The issue was also covered in the Report by Education Scotland (Appendix 4 and 5). In the event the closure is approved, the Council would welcome a community bid for the future use of the building.
- 8.3 The Education Scotland report noted that there is a village hall in Uig (used as the location for the public meeting on 19 June 2019) and that there was the potential for greater community use of the school building.
- 8.4 The consultation exercise did not identify any other effects on the community from the proposal.

9.0 Alleged omissions or inaccuracies

- 9.1 Education Scotland notified the Council of an inaccuracy in Section 12.7 of the Proposal Paper, which referred to 2013-14 as the last full session in which Uig Primary School operated.
- 9.2 The above statement was made in the context of examining any disruption to transport from Uig to Kilmuir PS, caused by weather conditions. The statement should have read that there were no occasions in 2017 when school transport failed to operate due to adverse weather. Between January 2018 and the publication of the Proposal Paper, there were 3 occasions when Kilmuir PS itself closed due to adverse weather conditions. There were however no occasions when the school was open and the transport failed to operate.

9.3 The Council has carefully considered the impact of this inaccuracy on the Proposal but has concluded it does not represent a material consideration relevant to the Authority's decision as to implementation of the proposal. The information on disruption to school transport is the same as in the Proposal Paper, i.e. there have been no occasions during the last two school sessions in which school transport from Uig to Kilmuir failed to operate on a day when the school itself was open. The revised statement does not alter the options for consideration, i.e. it does not introduce a new option, nor fundamentally rule out an existing option.

10.0 Further Review of Alternatives to Closure

10.1 Throughout the consultation the Council has had special regard to the provision for rural schools within Section 12 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. In particular, the Council has had special regard to the following:

- any viable alternative to the closure proposal;

Paragraph 6.1 of the Proposal Paper identified the following alternatives to closure:

- i. to continue with the current "mothballing" arrangement.
- ii. to re-open Uig Primary as an English Medium School, with its current catchment area
- iii. to re-open Uig Primary as a school offering both English Medium and Gaelic Medium education, with its current catchment area
- iv. either of options ii. and iii. above with an expanded catchment area.

10.2 Kilmuir Primary School has 23 children enrolled in P1-7 for the current school session, 17 from the Kilmuir catchment and 6 from the Uig catchment. There are 16 pupils in Gaelic Medium, (10 from Kilmuir and 6 from Uig) and 7 pupils in English Medium (all from Kilmuir). These figures indicate that the scenarios outlined in paragraphs 8.4, 9.4 and 9.5 of the Proposal Paper remain valid for the current session. A re-opened Uig Primary would have smaller classes than the already small classes at Kilmuir Primary, with all the associated educational disadvantages set out in the Proposal Paper. The detailed reasons for the Council's view are set out in Section 12 of the Proposal Paper and in the Education Scotland Report at Appendix 4.

10.3 There is no evidence to support the argument that a re-opened Uig Primary would attract pupils from Uig who attend Portree Primary or Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort-Rìgh. Parents have made placing requests for these children from a variety of reasons, the most common being the availability of wraparound childcare in Portree.

10.4 Uig Primary has now been mothballed since 2010. Given the length of time that has passed, continued mothballing has little to recommend it.

- 10.5 Having reconsidered each of the alternatives identified at Section 6 of the Proposal Paper, the Highland Council has concluded that the alternatives to closure would not deliver the educational benefits of the proposal.
- 10.6 Several further alternative approaches were suggested during the consultation exercise:
- Re-open Uig Primary School as a school offering English Medium education for the whole of the current Uig and Kilmuir catchments, with Kilmuir Primary becoming a Gaelic Medium school for the same area.
 - Replace both Uig and Kilmuir Primary Schools with a new merged school covering the combined catchment areas. The merged school would be a “new build”.
 - Reallocate the Uig PS catchment to Portree PS rather than to Kilmuir Primary School
- 10.7 The first option identified at paragraph 10.6 above would require the closure of all the English Medium classes at Kilmuir Primary and would therefore be subject to statutory consultation. The proposal would result in Kilmuir Primary becoming a standalone Gàidhlig Medium school, with 18 pupils.
- 10.9 Highland Council has sought views from the parents at Kilmuir Primary on this suggestion. The meeting called was poorly attended, but those who did express a view were firmly against the closure of the English Medium class at Kilmuir Primary.
- 10.10 The second option at paragraph 10.6 would involve the closure of both Uig Primary and Kilmuir Primary, with the two schools being replaced with a single new build. Whilst in some ways an attractive option, there is no provision within the Highland Council’s capital programme for a new build in the area.
- 10.11 The third option outlined at paragraph 10.6 would also involve the closure of Uig Primary School.
- 10.12 It is close to 15 miles from Uig to Portree, compared to just over 5 miles from Uig to Kilmuir. Although the road to Portree is much better it is still a longer journey to Portree. Google Maps suggests that the travel time is 22 minutes one-way, as opposed to 14 minutes to Kilmuir.
- 10.13 As is set out above, a decision to re-zone the Uig catchment to Portree would have a significant impact on Kilmuir Primary. On the basis of current figures, Kilmuir would be reduced to a school of 18, with a single GM and a single EM class. This would have a negative effect on Kilmuir PS and the children who attend it.
- 10.14 As set out above, The Council believes that the closure of Uig Primary School would have the effect of sustaining Kilmuir Primary School, which is itself a rural primary school in the category classed as “very remote.”

- 10.15 The Council has also reconsidered the likely effect on the local community in consequence of the proposal (if implemented), with reference in particular to; (a) the sustainability of the community, (b) the availability of the school's premises and its other facilities for use by the community;

The potential community impact of the proposal was considered at Section 14 of the Proposal Paper and is further considered at Response 23 and Section 8 above.

- 10.16 The Council has further reconsidered the likely effect caused by any different travelling arrangements that may be required in consequence of the proposal (if implemented) with reference in particular to (a) the effect caused by such travelling arrangements including (in particular), (i) that on the school's pupils and staff and any other users of the school's facilities, (ii) any environmental impact, (b) the travelling arrangements are those to and from the school of (and for) the school's pupils and staff and any other users of the school's facilities.

The impact of the proposal on travel time was considered at Sections 12 and 18 of the original proposal paper and again at Responses 1,4, 5, 9, 12 and 18 above. Since Uig Primary School has been mothballed since July 2010, implementation of the proposal would not require the introduction of any different travelling arrangements for pupils or staff. Whilst it is accepted that the travel times would be shorter were Uig PS to re-open, the travel times to Kilmuir are not excessive and are well within the normal range of school journeys in Highland.

11.0 Procedure for Call-in by the Scottish Ministers

- 11.1 As set out in The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, Highland Council is required to notify the Scottish Ministers of its decision and provide them with a copy of the Proposal Paper and Consultation Report. The Scottish Ministers have an eight-week period from the date of that final decision on 9 September 2021 to decide if they will call-in the proposal. Within the first three weeks of that eight-week period, the Scottish Ministers will take account of any relevant representations made to them by any person. Therefore, anyone who wishes to make representations to the Scottish Ministers can do so up until midnight on 29 September 2021. The Scottish Ministers will have until midnight on 3 November 2021 to take a decision on the call-in of the Closure Proposal.
- 11.2 Anyone wishing to make a representation to the Scottish Ministers requesting them to call-in the decision to close Uig Primary School is asked to email schoolclosure@scotland.gov.uk or to write to **School Infrastructure Unit, Learning Directorate, The Scottish Government, Area 2A South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ** by midnight on 29 September 2021.
- 11.3 Until the outcome of the eight-week call-in process has been notified to Highland Council, it will not proceed to implement the Proposal. If the Scottish Ministers call-in the proposal, it will be referred to a School Closure Review Panel.

12.0 Legal issues

- 12.1 Throughout this statutory consultation Highland Council has complied in full with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended.
- 12.2 As provided for in section 1 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, it is the duty of the Council to ensure adequate and efficient provision of school education within Highland, such education to be directed towards the development of the personality, talents and mental and physical abilities of children or young persons to their fullest potential (Standards in Scotland's Schools Etc. Act 2000). As with all Council duties, the Council also has a duty to make arrangements to secure best value, and in securing best value the Council is required to maintain an appropriate balance between, inter alia, the quality of its performance of its functions and the cost to the authority of that performance (Local Government in Scotland Act 2002, section 1). Each of the above, and all other legislative requirements, have been taken into account in the preparation of this Report.

13.0 Financial Implications

- 13.1 Advice on the financial implications of the proposal was issued as Appendix D to the Proposal Paper.

14.0 Equality Impact Assessment

- 14.1 An Equality Impact Assessment was issued with the proposal paper and can be found at Section 16 to the Proposal Paper. The consultation exercise did not identify any additional equality issues.

15.0 Conclusion

- 15.1 The consultation process has complied fully with legislative requirements and has provided an opportunity for all parties to identify key issues of concern. These issues have been fully considered and the Council's response detailed in sections 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 above. For the reasons set out in detail in sections 5-10 above, Highland Council considers that implementation of the closure proposal is the most appropriate response to the reasons for the proposal.
- 15.2 The most significant reason for closure is that all the available evidence suggests that the number of children who would attend a re-opened Uig Primary School would be too low to make the school viable, and that there would consequently be educational disadvantages arising from such a decision. Other factors include the length of time that Uig Primary has been mothballed, and the condition of the Uig PS building. Lastly, Kilmuir Primary School is itself a very remote rural school.
- 15.3 Education Scotland staff visited Kilmuir Primary School, and the site of Uig Primary School, to speak to parents, pupils and staff. They also had the

opportunity to review in detail the proposal document and all written responses.

- 15.4 The Executive Chief Officer (Education), on reviewing all of the submissions, the note of the meeting, and the Education Scotland report; and having had special regard to alternatives to closure, to the community impact and to the impact of travelling arrangements; concludes that the proposal offers educational benefits and that implementation of the Proposal in full is the most appropriate response to the reason for formulating the Proposal. The reasons for this conclusion are set out at Section 5-10 above.

16.0 Recommendation

- 16.1 It is therefore recommended that Highland Council approves the proposal to discontinue education provision at Uig Primary School, re-assigning its catchment area to that of Kilmuir Primary School.

Nicky Grant
Executive Chief Officer (Education)
4 August 2021

MINUTE OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT UIG COMMUNITY HALL
19 JUNE 2019

**CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE THE PROVISION OF
EDUCATION AT UIG PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Panel

John Gordon, Councillor (Chair)
Norma Young, Area Care and Learning Manager (West)
Ian Jackson, Education Officer, Highland Council

17 members of the public attended the meeting.

The Chairperson began by welcoming everyone to the meeting, by introducing himself and the officials present. He advised that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposal to formally close Uig Primary School, (as set out in the recommendation to the Proposal Paper). The proposed change, if approved, will take place immediately after the conclusion of the statutory process relating to school closures. Copies of the Proposal Paper and appendices were distributed. The Proposal Paper identified various options, and the Chairperson explained that we could also discuss any other options or alternatives to closure which those present would like to raise. The Chairperson then asked Ian Jackson to describe the consultation process.

Ian Jackson advised that the meeting was part of a set statutory procedure relating to a school closure. We are in the initial phase of that consultation, which is due to end on 30 August 2019. The Proposal Paper sets out a proposal to close the school, but clearly there are other options and these are identified in the paper. People are entitled to express their views on those other options, or indeed any others that the Council should be considering. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to gather views, and we would try to answer any questions that are raised. Any questions that cannot be answered tonight, and which require further research, will be responded to in due course. There is a very clear obligation on the Council to consider each and every one of the comments received, including those made at the meeting tonight.

The formal process has a number of stages and gives ample opportunity for views to be expressed to the Council before any final decision is made. Once the public consultation ends on 30 August, Education Scotland becomes involved. They will look at the Proposal Paper, the note of the meeting tonight, and any written representations, and will form a view on the educational benefits of the proposal. Education Scotland will visit Kilmuir Primary in the autumn, and they will be keen to meet with any parents who wish to make their views known. The Council has to take account of Education Scotland's view on the educational benefits and respond to any

points raised by their report, as well as any representations received as a result of the consultation process. Following the completion of that stage, the Council will take a Final Report to the Care, Learning and Housing Committee. As part of the inclusive process, the Final Report will be published at least 3 weeks before it is submitted to Committee, and anyone who responded in writing to the initial consultation will be invited to make “further representations” during those 3 weeks. Any further representations that are made are submitted to the members of the Committee, either in advance or tabled on the day, so that members are fully informed of any issues that may have arisen. Members will also see copies of the original responses and the note of this meeting. If, hypothetically, the decision of the CLH Committee is to implement the closure, that decision has to be confirmed by the full Council. That is not however the end of the process, as the Scottish Ministers has a right of call-in for any school closures proposal, so even after the Council has made its decision there is a further 3-week period in which people can raise concerns with the Scottish Government. Any such representations might lead to Scottish Ministers calling-in the proposal. If the decision is called in, there would be a further review process. If the decision is not called-in, the Council would then implement its proposal. It is a very slow and measured process, with multiple opportunities for review.

The Chairperson then asked Norma Young to explain the educational aspects of the proposal.

Norma Young commented that anyone who wished to put in comments should be aware that they will be published. If anyone wished that their comments should remain anonymous, they would need to let us know in advance of publication.

Norma asked those present to turn to page 7 of the Proposal Paper, and the section on educational benefits. She did not propose to rehearse the wording that was in the report, but she highlighted some of the key sections – S.11.2 set out the criteria that Highland Council uses in proposing to mothball schools and S.11.7, which sets out the projected school rolls for Kilmuir and Uig, were Uig to re-open. All roll projections contain an element of crystal ball gazing, but these are based on the pupils we know. The Council also takes cognizance of potential housebuilding etc. For the purpose of this consultation, any developments like that are a long way away, and the small numbers envisaged for Uig would restrict some the opportunities for learning, that Highland Council considers best practice. Paragraphs 11.9 and 11.10 discuss issues around the numbers of children, working together in peer groups. Paragraphs 11.11 and 11.12 were included because we had an informal meeting at Kilmuir Primary School quite some time ago, and there was discussion there about whether Uig Primary could re-open either as a school offering English Medium education, which is what it was before mothballing, or re-open offering Gaelic Medium as well. The Proposal Paper assesses how such a proposal would affect both Uig and Kilmuir Schools. The numbers suggest that in such a case both schools would be offering single P1-7 classes in English Medium and Gaelic Medium. Paragraph

11.16 illustrates the positive benefits of collaborative working in larger groups and how well Kilmuir Primary has done over the last few years. The two communities have been very successful, at events in Skye and at a wider level.

The Chairperson then opened the meeting to the Q and A session.

Q1 – One of the things the paper says is about the school staff discussing the proposal with children. The parents were never consulted about that and, given the ramifications of what the children were being asked, this is not very fair. None of the children in the primary school have ever been to Uig School, because it has been mothballed for so long. It was ridiculous to ask children who have never been to Uig School whether they want to go there. Furthermore, none of the children from Uig who go to Portree Primary have been asked their opinion.

A1 (Ian Jackson) – On the first point, we are required by law to consult the pupils. The Scottish Government think it very important that the views of pupils are sought over something as important as a school closure.

Q2 (follow-up to Q1) - Do you think it's a fair question given the pupils concerned have never had the chance to attend Uig School?

A2 (Ian Jackson) – I don't know whether you've seen what we asked the pupils, but we have phrased it in as neutral as way as possible. We provided the school staff with a framework to use in asking the pupils, and we asked that the class teachers should undertake the exercise. The class teachers know the children and it is much better for the teachers to undertake the exercise rather than have someone like me turn up, whom they don't know. As it happens, and I can tell you this because it will eventually be published anyway, all of the pupils have said that Uig Primary should not be closed. Some have said it should continue to be mothballed and some have said it should re-open. I think that's a good indication that we have consulted the pupils in a very fair way. As mentioned, we have to consult them by law and I think we have done that in a neutral and fair fashion. On the second point, I understand the point being made and have replied to some email correspondence on this. We are required to consult the parents and pupils of any school that is affected by the proposal, and Kilmuir Primary School obviously falls within that category. Neither Portree Primary nor Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort-Rìgh would be affected by the Proposal. The number of Uig pupils attending those schools is very small compared to the overall rolls of the two schools, and also, given that Kilmuir Primary has in effect been the catchment school for Uig since Uig Primary was mothballed; those parents who have opted to send their children to Portree have done so as a matter of choice.

Q3 – I know of two children whose parents put them to Macdiarmid Primary because English Medium Nursery was not available at Kilmuir. Once the children had settled at Macdiarmid, the parents were unwilling to take them out of that school and put

them to Kilmuir. They were from Uig, and they only went elsewhere because they couldn't get English medium nursery at Kilmuir.

A3 (Ian Jackson) – I was just going to mention that, although we haven't sent a letter to parents of children at Portree PS, they are very welcome to send in a letter or email giving us their views. All the information relating to the consultation is available on the Highland Council website, on the Schools Consultation page. That will come up if you search "School Consultations" on the HC website. Everyone is welcome to comment and we are certainly not trying to exclude people whose children attend school in Portree or Macdiarmid.

Q4 – So can we take it then, that the projected roll of 6 pupils, set out in the paper, doesn't include children attending school in Portree?

A4 (Ian Jackson) – It's very difficult to predict rolls in this scenario, because we have a mothballed school. Children in this community have been sent to either Kilmuir or Portree – parents haven't had the choice to send them to Uig. What that means is that if Uig were to re-open, parents would have to decide whether to take their children out of their existing schools, and that makes the future rolls very difficult to predict. You are right though, that the projections are based on the pupils in Kilmuir, and don't include those who are attending other schools.

(Norma Young) – Those children who have gone to schools other than Kilmuir have done so on placing requests, which are a matter of parental choice. From memory, and I can check this, I don't think there is anyone who has said they have chosen Portree because Uig is mothballed.

Q5 – When Uig was mothballed, parents weren't given any choice in the catchment. We were told it would be Kilmuir, and anywhere else would require a placing request. My feeling is that the Paper is quite misleading. You make a prediction about future rolls but you don't include Uig pupils attending schools other than Kilmuir.

A5 (Ian Jackson) - That's right, although the projected rolls in the Paper anticipate that 100% of Uig pupils in Kilmuir will come back to Uig, which is probably not accurate either. We may have reduced the future numbers by not including pupils attending schools other than Kilmuir, but equally we may have inflated them by assuming 100% of pupils in Kilmuir will transfer to Uig. I would say though, that the idea of tonight is that, for any of these points that are raised, we have to go away and think about them, and decide whether we've got it right.

Q6 – At one time the roll in Uig was higher than Kilmuir, and I know of at least one parent who tried to enrol 3 children in Uig, long before there was talk of closure, but wasn't allowed to.

A6 (Norma Young) – That would not have been the case. If the school was open, and at the time of mothballing there were only 2 pupils attending Uig, so there was

adequate space and adequate staffing for additional pupils, no-one within the catchment would have been refused the chance to enrol their children.

Q7 (follow-up) – Well when this parent went to enrol his children he was told he couldn't.

A7 (Norma Young) – I can't answer that, because if the school was open at the time, the parent would have been at perfect liberty to enrol his children.

Q8 – Can we just go back to the methodology for the roll projections? I had a look at the page on the website that was sent to me in response to my written enquiry, and I can see that placing requests are normally factored into the roll projections. By not doing that for Uig, you are underestimating the future numbers.

A8 (Ian Jackson) – So your point is that, because the school has been mothballed and we haven't been accepting placing requests, we are underestimating the future numbers?

Q9 (follow-up) – Yes, and it could make a significant difference.

A9 (Ian Jackson) – The history of placing requests at Uig School before it was mothballed was that there were many more placing requests out than in, and that's why we ended up with only 2 children the year it was mothballed.

Q10 (follow-up) – Placing requests where, to Kilmuir?

A10 (Ian Jackson) – There were pupils from Uig attending Gaelic Medium at Kilmuir, because they wanted Gaelic Medium education (GME), and there were other pupils attending Portree Primary on placing requests. The issue with Uig when it was mothballed was not that there were too few children in the catchment, but that almost all of them had gone elsewhere.

Q11 – That's because they were encouraged to go elsewhere.

A11 (Norma Young) – They weren't encouraged to go elsewhere, they chose to do so.

Q12 – Because of what was on offer. Children from Uig would have happily gone to Uig School if Gaelic Medium had been on offer.

A12 (Ian Jackson) – There are 170 primary schools in Highland and only 20 offer GME. We don't have the means to offer GME in every primary school. I agree that some pupils from Uig went to Kilmuir because they wanted GME. Others went to schools like Portree Primary, for reasons I don't really know about, although we can speculate it may have been due to parents working patterns etc. However, it remains true to say that there were very many more placing requests "out" of Uig than "in".

Q13 – That happened because, months and months before the school was mothballed, rumours had been circulating that the school was going to close.

A13 (Ian Jackson) – I wasn't directly involved in the Uig mothballing at the time. I did work for the Council and I knew of it but I wasn't involved in the detail. I think there was actually a closure proposal similar to this one.

Q14 (follow-up) – That was why there were only 2 pupils at the school by the end, because of the rumours of the closure proposal months before it was put forward.

A14 (Ian Jackson) – I think I might turn that around and say that the reason the closure proposal was advanced was that there were so few pupils in the school. The numbers had fallen to very low levels and that's why closure was proposed. There would have been a meeting like this one, and following that meeting the decision was taken to mothball the school rather than to close it.

Q15 - Can I just ask about the state of the building? At the time of mothballing, the accommodation at Uig was rated higher than that at Kilmuir. Kilmuir has been upgraded since then, but the only thing that's happened is that two portacabins have been plonked outside. Anyone going to English Medium education has to use the Portacabins from when they start Nursery as a 3-year-old to when they leave P7. That isn't good enough, especially when there isn't a proper playground. The playground at Uig is a lot better than the one at Kilmuir.

A15 (Norma Young) – You're right that the playground at Kilmuir is not all that people would want it to be, but we have been working with the local community to take forward a project around that, which will involve ground acquisition and so on. Neither though are there good playground facilities at Uig School.

Q16 (follow-up) – There's nothing wrong with the playground at Uig.

A16 (Norma Young) – I'm not saying there's anything *wrong* with it, but neither is it of the standard you are implying. The location of it, the slope on it, and the fact that it's tarmac, for example.

Q17 (follow-up) – There's plenty of grass round about.

A17 (Norma Young) – Times have changed and we can no longer let children run around outside the school boundary, as used to happen in our own childhoods.

(Ian Jackson) – Just to add that the Paper comments at paragraphs 4.7 and 5.4 on what we term the Education Suitability of the buildings. It recognises that neither Kilmuir nor Uig are rated very highly.

Q18 (follow-up) – The biggest problem with Kilmuir is the Portacabins. In what world is having Portacabins at Kilmuir better than having a school in Uig?

A18 (Norma Young) – There are many schools in Scotland where additional accommodation is provided using demountable accommodation, and I'm sure you will agree that modern demountables are of a very high standard. I do accept however, that at Kilmuir the demountables are adjacent to the main building.

Q19 – Can we go back 20 years when there was a proposal to build a new school here in the village? That never happened. Now we're in a position, as was just said, where we're closing the school here, and we're taking children out of a proper school building, and we're putting them into a demountable.

A19 (Norma Young) – The new build that was proposed did not proceed because of a lack of agreement about where it should be built. Where communities can't agree, others will come forward. We don't have the sort of money now that we did 20 years ago. I can tell you for certain that there is no capital funding available within Highland Council to build a new school in Uig.

Q20 – Can I raise a point about the first bullet point in paragraph 2.1, where it says that one reason for the closure is that no pupils have attended Uig School since 2010. Pupils haven't gone to the school because it was mothballed, and so parents had no choice.

A20 (Ian Jackson) – I take that point. The wording wasn't meant to imply otherwise but we acknowledge what you say. We can't change the wording of the Proposal Paper, but as previously mentioned we are required to produce a report reviewing the consultation exercise, and we will need to consider whether, in the review report, we acknowledge that particular wording as being incomplete.

Q21 – Whilst I hear what you say Norma, about what happened in the past, I don't think it's reasonable to blame the community for the fact a new school wasn't built.

A21 (Norma Young) – That was the problem though. A piece of land had been offered for donation.

Q22 – There isn't an alternative in Section 6 about looking at the catchments for this whole area of Skye, that would consider the possibility of a new school for this whole part of Skye, and which looks at the longer term.

A22 (Ian Jackson) – Obviously, the Paper sets out the Council's proposal, and there will be an element of "back and forth" at this meeting about why we said X and Y, but one of the things we are here for is to listen to any suggestions that the community make. Any alternative option that comes out of this meeting tonight, or in writing, is something we have to go away and think about, and decide whether we think it's a realistic option. So your suggestion is that that we should consider building a single new school for Uig and Kilmuir, is that right?

Q23 (follow-up) – Yes and it should take in Glenhinnisdale pupils as well.

A23 (Ian Jackson) – Norma has alluded earlier to the Council’s Capital programme. Now that is something that elected members will decide on collectively, but the Highland Council has limited funds for capital projects, and at the moment they are all completely committed.

Q24 - I’m kind of aware of that process, but Highland Council does have a sizeable budget, and whilst we recognise the challenges, that doesn’t stop communities suggesting ideas.

A24 (Ian Jackson) – Of course not, but I don’t want to come here tonight and mislead you about the chances of a new school build in this area, and suggest that outcome is likely. We’re currently in the midst of a statutory consultation about the possibility of a new campus in Tain. Tain Royal Academy has poor accommodation, as do both the primary schools in the town, but there are currently issues with affordability of the campus project. Highland is a big place and there are many competing priorities.

The only other thing I would say in terms of catchments, if you are thinking of a catchment change that might affect Macdiarmid Primary, is that these are subject to a similar process as the one we are going through here. We must consult all parents and pupils of any affected school, so if a proposal affected Macdiarmid we would need to consult all the pupils and parents of that school, and they might have a different opinion from the people up here. The only difference with a consultation about a catchment change is that we don’t need to refer it to Scottish Ministers. They only get involved over school closures.

Q25 – So the catchment area could be changed?

A25 (Ian Jackson) – It could be. There would be a complex process similar to this one and there would be no guarantee of the outcome.

Q26 – I can recall a meeting to discuss GME at Kilmuir, when it was suggested that catchments could be changed.

A26 (Norma Young) – That was a suggestion that would have affected the catchment boundary between Kilmuir and Staffin. The people who were at that meeting – some of them may be different from those here tonight – were unanimous that they wanted to keep the Kilmuir catchment as it currently is.

Q27 – So for clarity, the catchment area for Uig was from Idrigill all the way to Glenhinnisdale?

A27 (Ian Jackson) – There’s a map attached to the back of the Proposal Paper you have.

(Norma Young) - If you go back far enough, and maybe I’m showing my age, but at one time Glenhinnisdale children went to Kensaleyre School. At the time of the

consultation on closing Kensaleyre Primary, parents from there were given the choice of going either to Macdiarmid or Uig.

Q28 – One of the things that gets my back up, is that, if you're going to leave things as they are, the community of Uig is not included in Kilmuir School. They go to Staffin for school sports. Since the day Uig was mothballed, I've asked them to have the school sports day on an alternative basis between Uig and Kilmuir. It's never happened, and if you're talking about grannies and seanairs and the rest of it, they're missing out.

A28 (Norma Young) - That's an operational matter, and in the interim, whilst this consultation is going on, I can pick that up with the Head Teacher. As you say, it would be good for grandparents and other relatives to be able to watch the sports day or other games events.

Q29 – It's been said before though.

A29 (Norma Young) – Well I'm sorry but I wasn't aware of it. However I'm aware of it now so can pick it up.

Q30 (follow-up) – Yes, because if you're going to leave things as they are, you need to recognise the community of Uig.

A30 (Norma Young) – I think that's a very valid point.

Q31 – This mothballing has had a devastating effect on the village here. Children have been sent right, left and centre to other communities. They don't know each other because the children around them all go to different schools. I'm lucky because both my girls went to Kilmuir Primary, but if that hadn't been the case they would have been virtual strangers within their own community.

A31 (Norma Young) – I hear what you're saying, but children who are not going to Kilmuir, are going somewhere else through parental choice. It's not the authority which is arranging that. If all the children in this community went to Kilmuir, then you wouldn't have that deficit you're talking about.

Q32 – OK, so how do the number of placing requests "out" from Uig compare to other communities. I have the impression there are many more away placing requests from this community than is average.

A32 (Norma Young) – Ian is working on that at the moment. You've put a request in for that data and you've had an email advising you that it can only be extracted manually. There was also a change to our database in 2013, when we moved to a product called SEEMIS.

(Ian Jackson) - The Council used to have a database called e1, made by a company called Pearson Education, on which we kept our pupil data. I actually thought it was quite good but it wasn't a very successful product commercially. For

those of you who are old enough, you might say that Highland Council bought the Betamax. Basically Pearson Education pulled the plug on e1 in 2013, and we lost all the data we had up to that time. We can go back on SEEMIS as far as 2013, although the SEEMIS archive only keeps limited data. There is a “live” SEEMIS with extensive data, and an “archive” SEEMIS with only limited information.

Q33 - That information will be very revealing in terms of what has been happening in the last 10 years

A33 (Norma Young) – That information will be provided as soon as its available, and you can share it as you see fit.

I was going to add that, in communities such as Uig, Staffin and Kilmuir, people will travel to work in a larger urban area such as Portree. Also there is wraparound care available in Portree, or some people might have relatives who provide after-school care.

Q34 – Surely things like after-school care could be provided locally?

A34 (Norma Young) – Yes, and we have been advertising for the last 18 months, encouraging people to become self-employed childminders in this area. We are offering support and training for people to take on that role. We have had no interest whatsoever.

Q35 - Is there a guaranteed income with that?

A35 (Norma Young) – No, that is the downside, but the opportunity is there if people felt they could make it work.

Q36 - Could the school be used to provide that service?

A36 (Norma Young) - The school could not be used on a commercial basis like that unless there was a licence to occupy.

Q37 – Would that be possible?

A37 (Norma Young) – Yes, in principle we could look into that. Anyone operating a childminding service would though have to register with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC).

Q38 – If the worst happened and Uig School closed, would the Council just sell the building on the open market?

A38 (Norma Young) – The first process would be that the Council would check with all its own services and departments as to whether they would have use for the building. If not, we would prefer that there should be local use rather than an open sale, and there could be what we call an asset transfer. We could help a local community group with the process for that.

Q39 – I take it we couldn't discuss an asset transfer prior to the decision on closure?

A39 (Norma Young) - Correct, because that would be an assumption of closure. You could however put in a formal expression of interest after any closure.

(Ian Jackson) – Ultimately it *could* be sold on the open market, because if there was no community interest then the Council would not want to keep a building for which we had no use. We have a duty to the taxpayer to make best use of our assets, but as Norma says any sale would only be after the other avenues have been exhausted.

Q40 – What you say is interesting because in the Housing Plan, which is issued by the Council, the site was marked for transfer to Housing.

A40 (Norma Young) – So they have already looked at that and seen it as a potential site.

Q41 – Conversely I was told by, at that time, Transserve Scotland, that there wouldn't be access onto the Trunk Road for a housing development.

A41 (Norma Young) – That's maybe the case as well.

Q42 – What are the arrangements for maintaining the building and the access road?

A42 (Norma Young) – In respect of maintaining the building, we've had a meeting recently with the body that has the licence to occupy, and we discussed the continuing upkeep of the building. The road wasn't mentioned, but perhaps it something we need to look into.

Q43 (follow-up) – I have a letter from the Council from 2013 that referred to a quote for repairing the access road. The road is starting to break-up badly. [A copy of the letter was passed to HC staff for further action].

Q44 – I would like to return to paragraph 6.1 in the Proposal Paper, where there is no mention of a new school in the alternatives to closure. Does that mean you have already discounted it?

A44 (Ian Jackson) – As previously mentioned we have to consider any alternative to closure that's suggested here tonight, so we will do that. The capital funding will be a major issue though.

(Norma Young) – When the Final Report is issued, that point will sit in its own box, with a response that addresses it.

(Ian Jackson) – The Scottish Government has issued Statutory Guidance on this legislation, which is available for people to read on the Scottish Government website. That Guidance tells local authorities that before we go out to consultation we have to consider alternatives, we have to take any alternatives that are suggested during

consultation, and before we do our final report we have to think about all of those. We then issue the report for 3 weeks during which people can make further representations, and even after that there's an opportunity for people to make representations to Scottish Ministers.

Q45 – Is the building listed? Because if it is that would make a difference to what happens to it if the school closes.

A45 (Norma Young) – We're not aware that it is but can double check.

Q46 – Should the possibility of community ownership of the building not be an option in the alternatives?

A46 (Ian Jackson) – At this stage we can't anticipate that the school will close. Until we decide that we can't decide on any future use.

Q47 – Can you let us know whether it is listed or not?

A47 (Norma Young) – Yes we can do that. I would mention that there have been previous examples of communities taking over a school building after a school has closed. A good example was Inverasdale in Wester Ross, where the community used the former school building to create a museum about the WWII Arctic convoys. In Glendale, in another part of our island, the community also took over the former school building. The most important thing is, whatever the idea is, it has to be financially viable. Sometimes that can be the most difficult part of developing any proposal.

Q48 – The crucial thing the community needs is to retain the catchment area. If the school is closed, we need to retain the catchment area until we can get a new school built for this part of Skye.

A48 (Norma Young) – If the school closes the new catchment area will simply be an amalgam of the current Uig and Kilmuir catchments.

(Ian Jackson) – If Uig were to re-open then the catchment would stay as it was in 2010. If it closes, then every address in Highland has to be within a school catchment, so we would have to assign the Uig catchment somewhere. We propose in this paper that it is reassigned to Kilmuir, but if people have ideas or suggestions around that, we would be happy to consider those.

Q49 – I think it's very important that the community of Uig is entitled to, and should continue to have, its own school, but I would also like to say, and I know this may be jumping the gun a bit, that if the school is closed and the Council makes a single penny from selling the building, that money should come back into this community.

A49 (Norma Young) – I understand the point you are making, but many years ago, there was an agreement across Highland, that all receipts from the sale of assets go into the Centre. The reason for that was that you may be in a community that never

has additional funds as the result of a sale, and so you would never get the benefit. I suppose when it's in your own community you would like to keep it.

Q50 (follow-up) – Maybe it's time to change that system.

A50 (Norma Young) – That would be a matter for elected members.

Q51 – We could really do with a Multi-Use Games Area. Staffin has got one, Portree has two. This community is lacking.

The Chairperson commented that this was something that could be considered further, arising out of this consultation.

Q52 – It says in the Proposal Paper that if the school were to re-open there would be no nursery facilities?

A52 (Norma Young) – Yes. There was no nursery in the school prior to it being mothballed, and our Chief Executive has indicated there would be no new nursery facilities opening across Highland.

Q53 – So what would happen if Uig was closed and someone wanted English Medium nursery, which I'm sure they would be entitled to? What about the increase in hours for pre-school?

A53 (Norma Young) – There has to be an increase in capacity for that purpose. Our Estates Strategy Manager is currently pulling that together across Highland.

Q54 – Is there a 10 or 20 year plan for education provision within Skye?

A54 (Norma Young) – We did have a company that came in, Caledonian Economic, and held a lot of meetings around Skye about the future provision of schools on the island, but we've since moved towards what we call the Sustainable Schools model. I think myself that if we were left with just Kilmuir School in this area, then there would be no way Kilmuir would close unless parents voted with their feet to go elsewhere.

Q55 – I think that you are proposing to make a fundamental decision here, and I don't see how the proposal is linked to future population growth, future job growth, and infrastructure improvements. It doesn't take long to look at the area and judge what might happen in the next 20/30 years.

The Chairperson advised that was considered by CalEc about 7 years ago. They concluded there should be amalgamations of schools, so that there would only be one school for the area served by Uig/Kilmuir/Staffin.

(Norma Young) – That would be an enormous area for people to travel in. People say you can get over the Bealach, but try doing that in summer!

Q56 – So what is the latest position of the Council?

A56 (Norma Young) – The latest position is that we have been pursuing clustering, which you already have here. The latest paper that went to the Care, Learning and Housing Committee was in February 2019. All Committee papers are on the Highland Council website.

Q57 - At paragraph 17.5 of the Paper, it says that the closure of Uig will mean less opportunity for pupils to walk and cycle to school. That should be “no opportunity”. Also it says that parents suffer “occasional inconvenience”. Let me tell you the inconveniences are not “occasional”. Last Thursday it took me 45 minutes to get up and down to Kilmuir School. I am back and forth on that road like a yo-yo.

Q57a - I endorse that last comment. I was back and fore to that school every day for nursery and as far I am concerned it was wasted miles. Also because there were so many children coming back from Kilmuir there were two bus runs, and you never knew when your child would be arriving back.

A57 (Ian Jackson) – We’ll need to take account of those comments when we review this.

Q58 – It’s costing parents more money, that’s the point we’re making as well.

A58 (Ian Jackson) – It would cost money for nursery transport, yes.

Q59 – You said previously there were two pupils in Uig when it was mothballed?

A59 (Norma Young) – That’s correct, there was one in Primary 1, and one in Primary 7.

Q60 – We’ve been told there would have to be 10 pupils before we re-opened the school?

A60 (Norma Young) – There isn’t a magic number, but it’s difficult to deliver collaborative learning with very small numbers.

Q61 – I don’t agree with that statement, because one of the schools I went to was the Isle of Eigg, where there were 5 pupils, and there was plenty of learning, plenty of play; and then I went to Ullapool Primary, and that’s when the bullying started. Then I went to Dingwall Academy, and I might as well have not been in school at all. I got bullied all the way through. I think smaller classes are way better than bigger classes. When I was Isle of Eigg School, it was like one big family.

A61 (Norma Young) – I understand what you’re saying, because of your different experiences. However the way the modern curriculum is delivered, it is through collaborative groups, and children of a similar age working together. In Eigg you had no option. It’s still the same on the Small Isles.

Q62 – You talk about numbers but there is cost as well. Have you worked out how much it would cost to re-open Uig?

A62 (Ian Jackson) – There’s a spreadsheet at the back of the Proposal Paper. It’s a little hard to read when printed out. There would be a cost to re-opening Uig. In the grand scheme of things the additional costs would not be huge. The legislation around this process specifies that we have to look at educational rather than cost issues.

Q63 – At paragraph 17.6 of the paper, it says that the maximum additional travel time for school pupils from the Uig catchment to Kilmuir is 14 minutes and that the source is Google Maps.

A63 (Ian Jackson) – Well, all I can say is we took that from Google Maps.

Q64 – Surely to goodness you would have someone out there driving it?

At this point several comments were made about morning bus pick-up times being 0820 or 0805, with the bus arriving at Kilmuir early, sometimes before any staff are present. A comment was also made that on Tuesdays pupils have to travel over to Staffin for PE, as there are no suitable facilities at Kilmuir.

A64 (Norma Young) – The children should not be arriving at Kilmuir without any staff being there. I will take this up with the Local Transport Officer. The earliest drop-off time, agreed within the Council, is 20 minutes before the bell.

Q65 – To go back to 14 minutes, it’s more like 41!

A65 (Ian Jackson) – In the past, when we’ve driven routes ourselves and recorded the time, people have said we’ve not got it right. Google Maps is an unbiased source of information.

Q66 – It’s not a good road though, with the hairpin bends on it.

A66 (Ian Jackson) – How long would you say it takes then to drive from Uig to Kilmuir? You are locals and I’m not.

[Comments from Audience] – (1) You could probably drive from the centre of Uig to Kilmuir in not much more than 14 minutes. (2) It depends how many tourists you meet. (3) As I’ve mentioned before, it can take up to 45 minutes to go both ways.

Q67 – How much has it cost to put the demountables into Kilmuir, including leasing costs, groundworks etc?

A67 (Norma Young) – I don’t know. We can find out.

Q68 (follow-up) – If you are talking about further costs as a result of the expansion of nursery hours, how much would that have been over the last 20 years compared to the cost of providing one new school with top-class facilities?

A68 (Norma Young) – The cost of providing a new school for an area like this would be £12 million - £14 million. I know that many people express incredulity at that sort

of figure, but that's what typically we would be quoted for a school of the kind this community would require.

There being no other comments, the **Chairperson** reminded those present of the closing date for responses – 30 August 2019 – and of where responses should be sent, either via letter or via email, or by using the online form. A record of this meeting would be made available at least 3 weeks before the meeting of the Care, Learning and Housing Committee that considered the results of consultation. The members of the Committee would have a chance to see the note and all other representations before the meeting. Following the decision of the Committee, the minutes would be submitted to the full Council for ratification.

MEETING CLOSED.

**List of Respondents to Statutory Consultation Exercise – Proposal to
Discontinue the Provision of Education at Uig Primary School**

1. Mrs Roz Cusack
2. Mr Alan MacRae
3. Responses from Pupils of Kilmuir Primary School
4. Mr Martin Madigan (21/06/19)
5. Mr Martin Madigan o/b Uig Community Council (16/08/19)
6. Mr Roy Haldane
7. Mrs Margaret McLaughlin
8. Bòrd na Ghàidhlig

Privacy notice:

Confirmation
Ticking this box indicates that you have read the privacy notice

Name of consultation: Uig

Your comments: Having small local schools makes the community on Skye what it is, special, well rounded children. Given our landscape and weather it's unreasonable to expect children to travel 5 miles to school

Upload documents or letters :**I am commenting as:** Local resident**I am commenting on behalf of:****Name:**

Title	First name	Last name
Mrs	Roz	Cusack

Address:

Name of consultation: Uig

Your comments: Uig school was mothballed in a peiod when the numbers well low and after a period where Highland Council employees had been unofficially persuading prospective period that the school was about to be closed. I know this as I was going to place my own 3 children there but was persuaded not to by the teacher in Uig at the time. The reality is Highland Council's own figures at the time of mothballing had Uig School roll increase to be the highest of the three rural Noth End schools (Uig, Kilmuir and Staffin) by 2017. It should not have been mothballed and should absolutely not be closed.

Uig is the main centre of economic activity in the area. It needs a school. Removal of the school will undoubtedly affect future viability of the village. The amount of children that currently are bussed to Kilmuir school on a daily basis shows the potential roll of the reopened school. The closure of the school will represent a drastic failure of planning in the area. Uig will become the only major village on the Island without a school. This cannot be allowed to happen. There are major plans for the pier area and an increased ferry capacity will see the economic activity in the area activity increase significantly. There are also plans for more housing as well as food and retail units at the pier.

The village is in the difficult position that many of the young people are quite used to getting bussed 6 miles to attend another school so the parents are unwilling to commit to them attending the reopened school. this holuld NOT be used as an excuse for not reopening the school. It is incumbent on Highland council to make the transition from their current school to Uig school as easy as possible. To fail to do this would be represent negligence on the part of HC.

Alan MacRae

Upload documents or letters :

I am commenting as: Local resident

I am commenting on behalf of: myself

Name:

Title First name Last name

Mr Alan MacRae

HELLO EVERYONE!



CAN YOU HELP HIGHLND COUNCIL WITH AN IMPORTANT DECISION?

For a while Highland Council has been trying out an idea for pupils from Uig to go to Kilmuir Primary, instead of Uig Primary.

Now we have to decide what to do for the future. We have 3 choices:

1. Close Uig Primary for good, with children from Uig going to Kilmuir Primary instead.
2. Re-open Uig Primary, so pupils from Uig would go to that school and not to Kilmuir.
3. Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer before we decide for good.

Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 - Close Uig Primary for good.	
Idea No. 2 - Re-open Uig Primary.	
Idea No.3 - Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

I think it is best if we re-open the school because

- the bus takes a long time to get us home.
- in the mornings I am meant to get picked up at 8.40 but I keep getting picked up at 8.50

So I pick 2

HELLO EVERYONE!


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2. Why did you give the answer above?

I chose No. 3 because there are good and bad things that could happen with the other options

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Idea No.3 - Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

I gave the answer above because then there wouldn't be so much transport. Pupils could walk, run or cycle because it is such a short distance from their houses.

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2. Why did you give the answer above?

I vote 2 because we would be closer to school and we get to be home for longer.

HELLO EVERYONE!

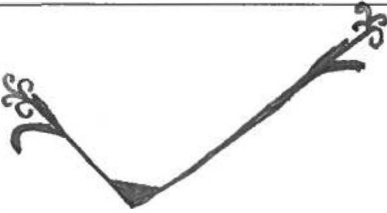

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2. Re-open Uig Primary, so pupils from Uig would go to that school and not to Kilmuir.
3. Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer before we decide for good.

Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 - Close Uig Primary for good.	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Uig Primary.	
Idea No.3 - Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	



2 Why did you give the answer above?

I gave the answer above because it is an easier drive for the kids who live in Uig.

HELLO EVERYONE!


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Idea No.3 - Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

- most of people are from uig.
- it will be kind of a waste of ground and space.

○

HELLO EVERYONE!


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2 Why did you give the answer above?

There is two runs in a big bus from Uigg and two small from kilmuir so you could use the big bus from Uigg at the moment and most Uigg people could walk or cycle and use the small bus for the rest so it saves fuel and we could buy equipment with it or extras. Also turn ~~the~~ kilmuir school into Gaelic school only and turn Uigg into a English school only like it is already.

HELLO EVERYONE!


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Idea No. 2 - Re-open Uig Primary.	
Idea No.3 - Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

I chose idea No. 3 because there are good things about opening it, but bad things.

One bad thing is that if the school reopens Kilmuir School will have not alot of pupils, and then it could close down.

But one good thing is that people from Uig won't have to travel very long.

So im not sure.

HELLO EVERYONE!

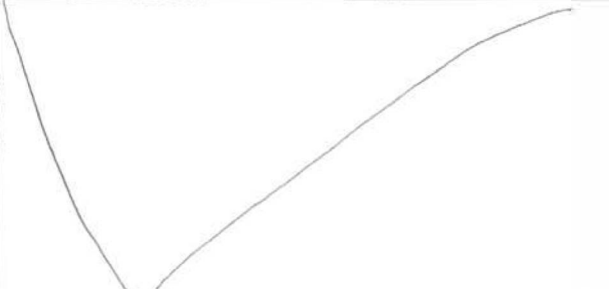
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Idea No. 2 - Re-open Uig Primary.	
Idea No.3 - Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

- It's kind of a waste of ground and space.
- But then we have a risk of losing our school because most of the pupils are from wig.
- It would be better because when there are loads of tourists in wig it would take less time to get to wig School than it would to get to Kilmuir.

HELLO EVERYONE!


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Idea No. 2 - Re-open Uig Primary.	
Idea No.3 - Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

I gave the answer above because more than half of our school is from Uig so there would only be about 13 pupils in Kilmuir School and we wouldn't get to see our friends from Kilmuir and I would miss them so much. Also a big problem is that it would take a few years to rebuild like the Mold and paint peeling and like heaters and leaks also they would have to do like make and get new toys and equipment. We would also not get much opportunity like the local Mod and Youth Speaks.

HELLO EVERYONE!

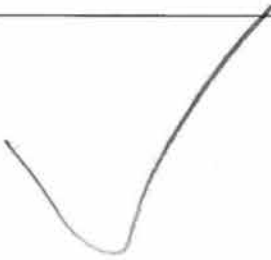
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2 Why did you give the answer above?

I think you should re-open the school because the people in vic have to travel 10 minutes. And if you re-open the school it will take 5 minutes.

HELLO EVERYONE!


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2 Why did you give the answer above?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to write their explanation for the answer given above. The box is mostly blank, with some very faint, illegible marks in the top-left corner.

HELLO EVERYONE!

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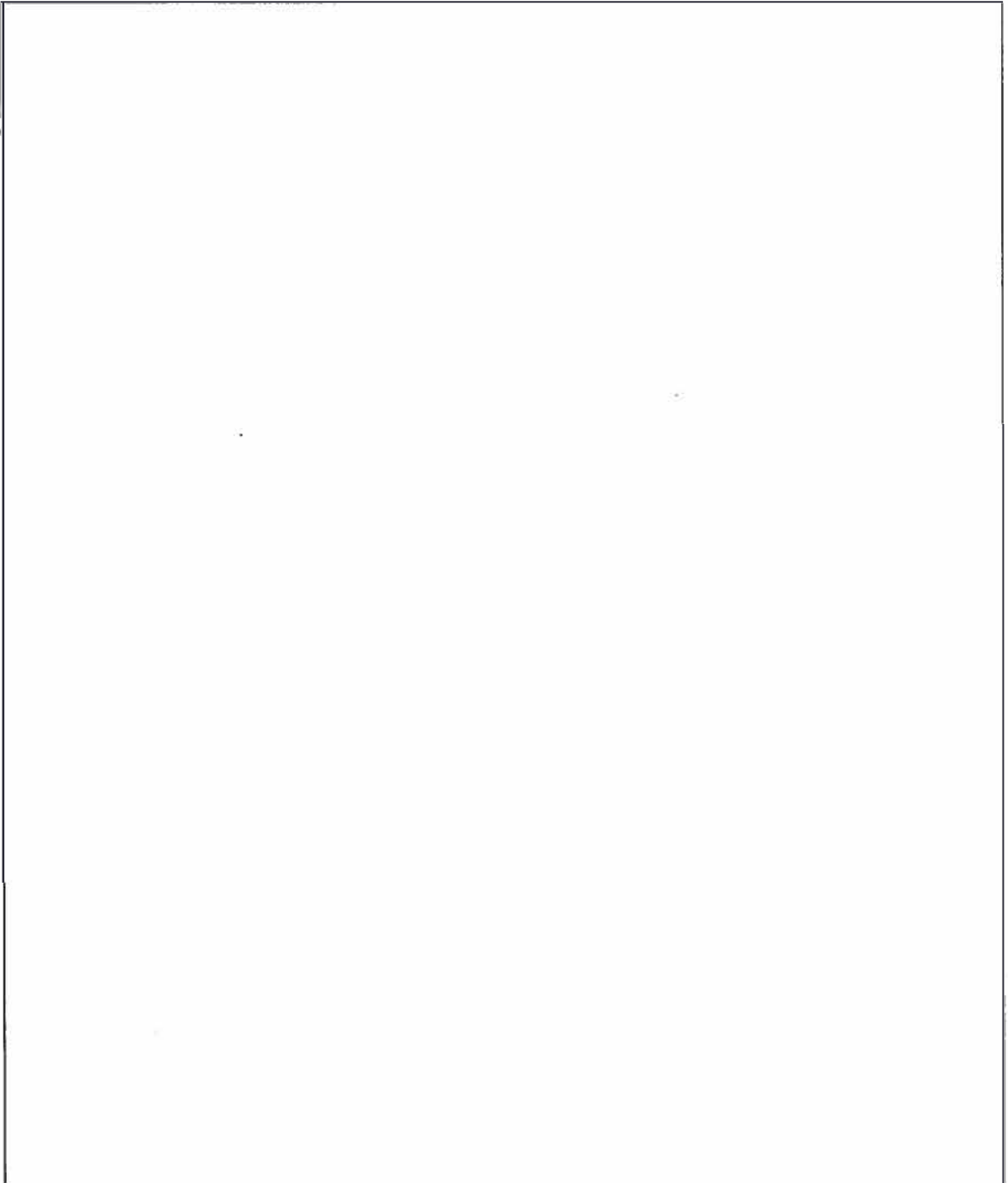
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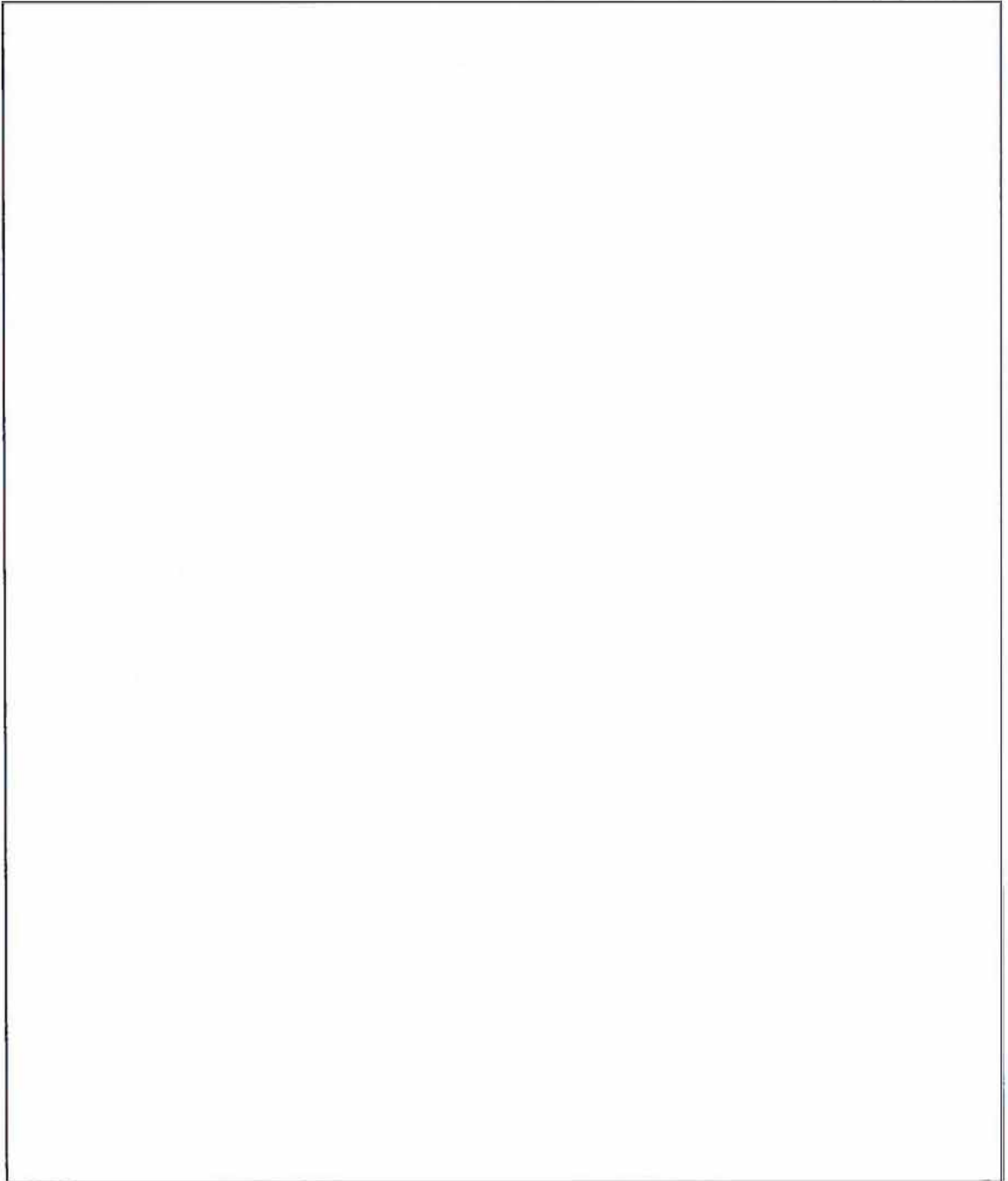
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2. Why did you give the answer above?

Because we could maybe
teach some kids Gaelic!!!

HELLO EVERYONE!

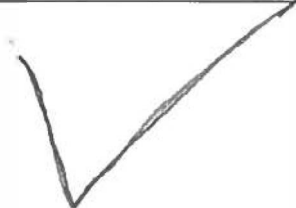
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2. Why did you give the answer above?

Will we still to the
POP up cafe

HELLO EVERYONE!


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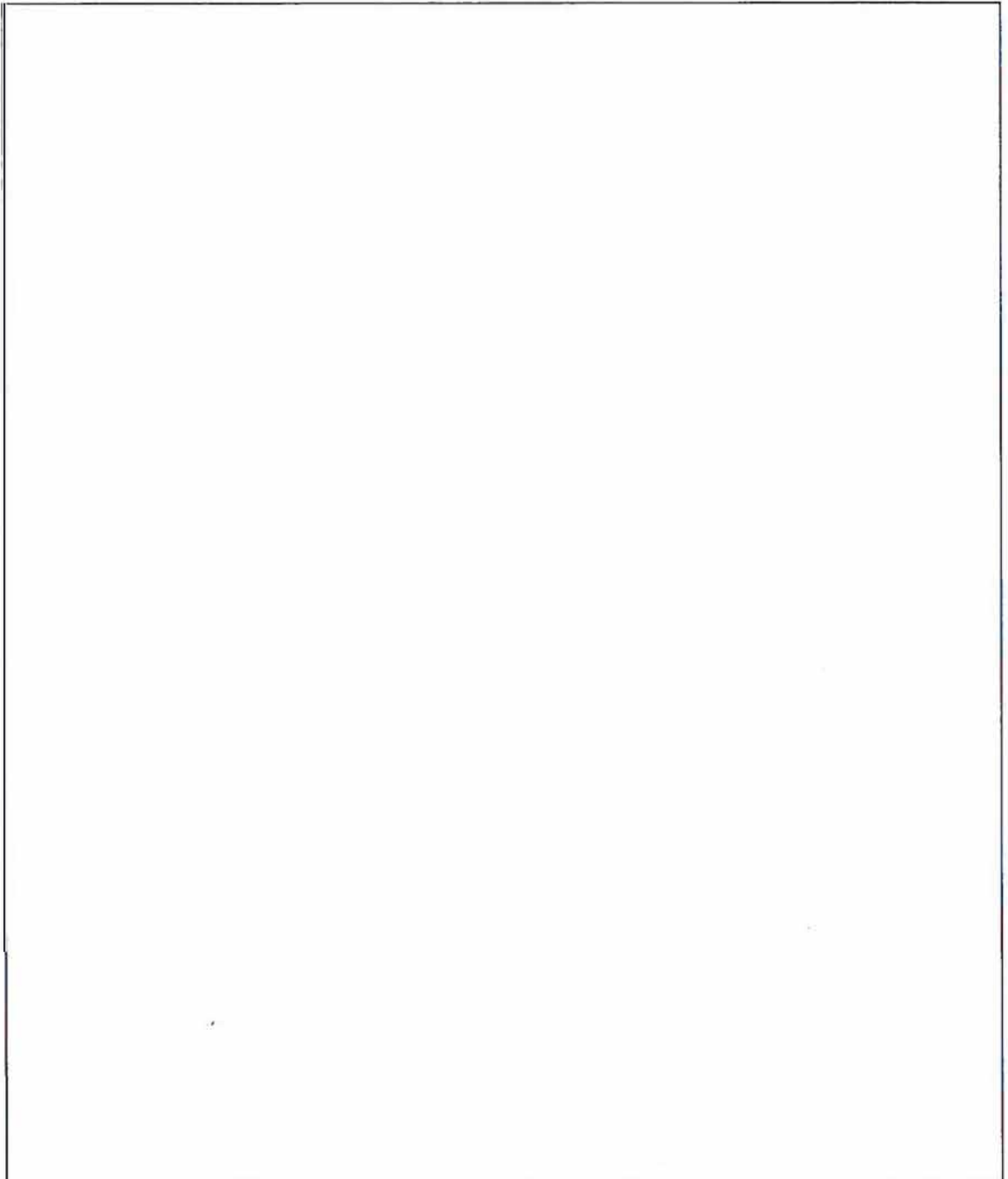
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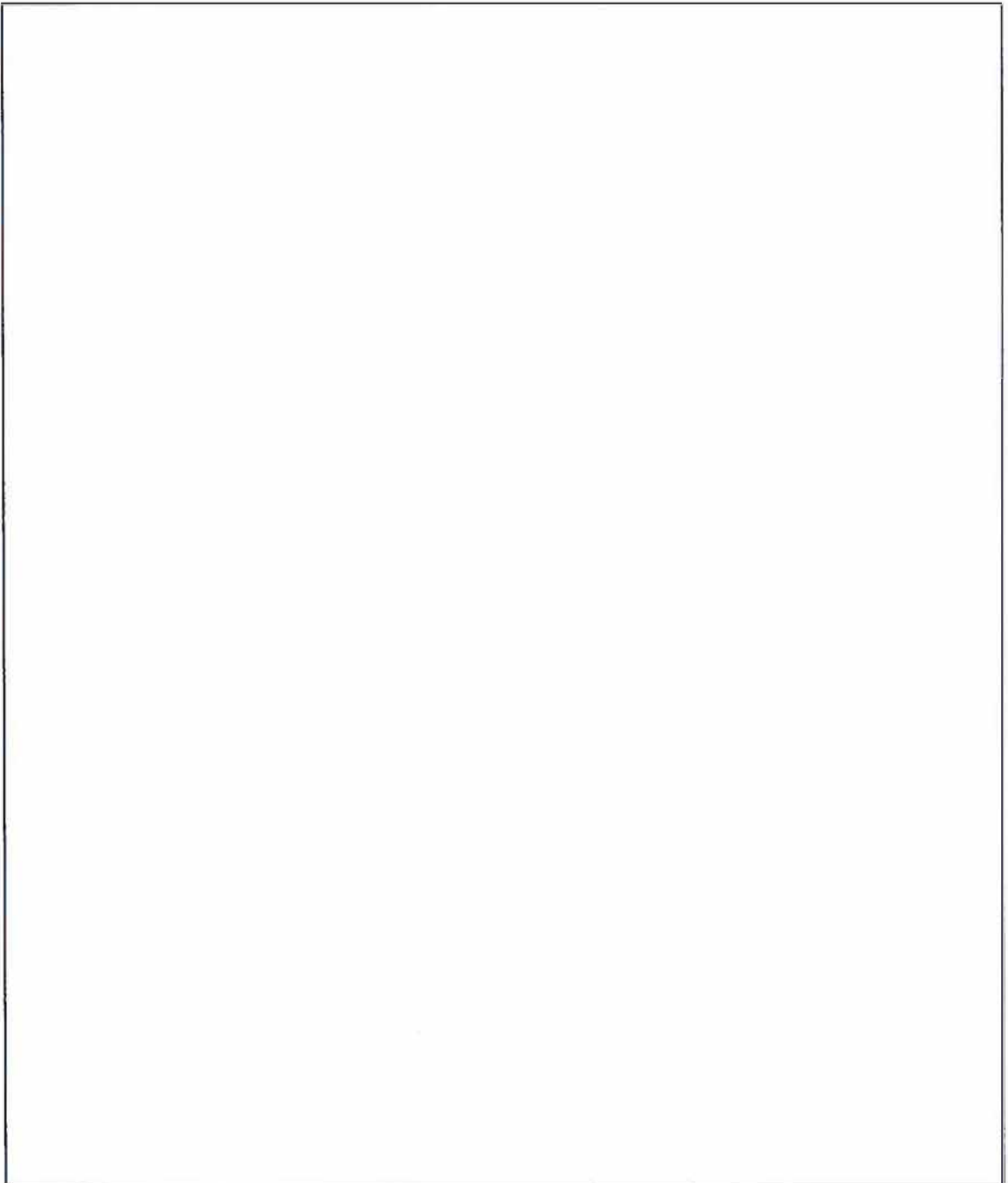
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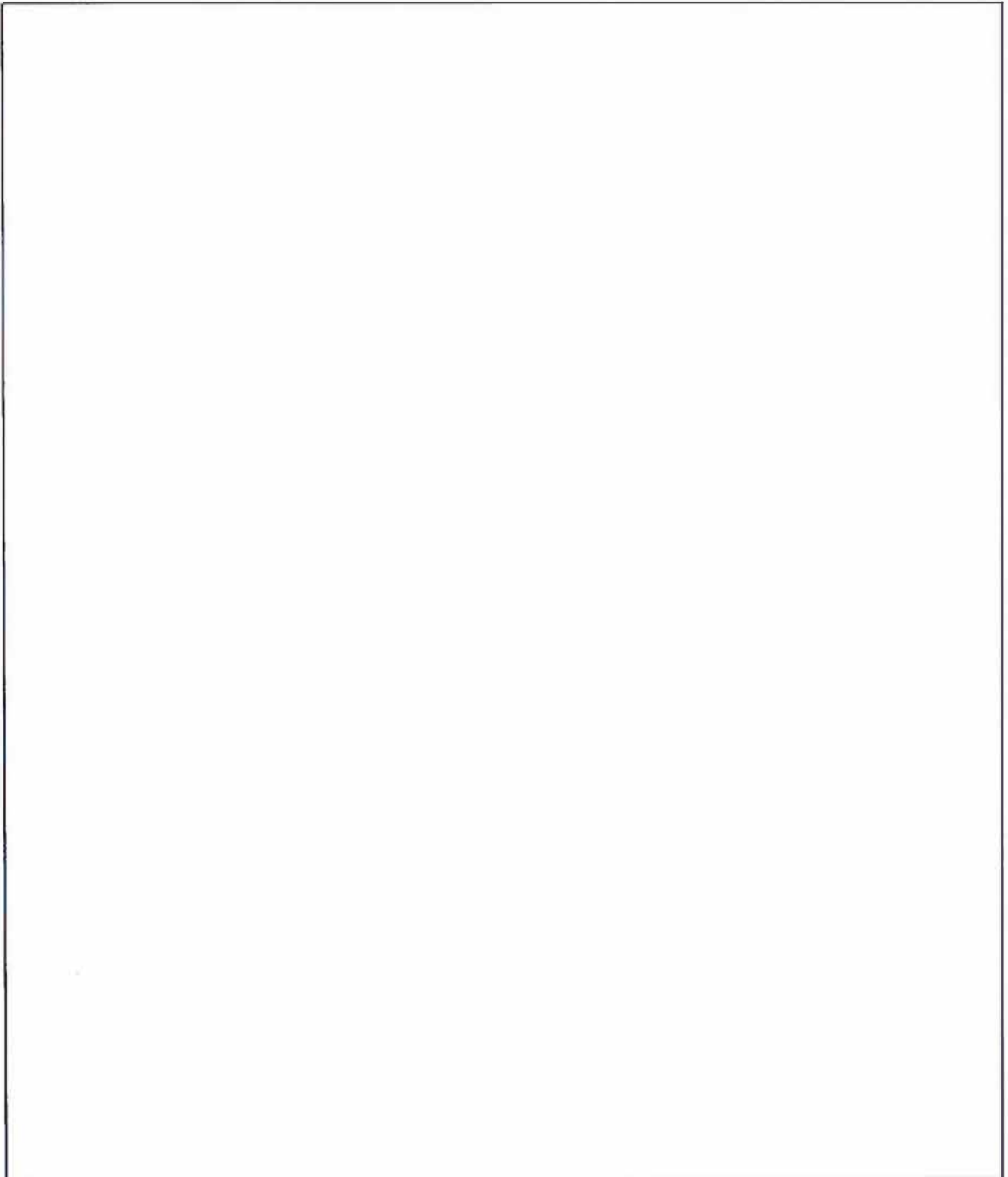
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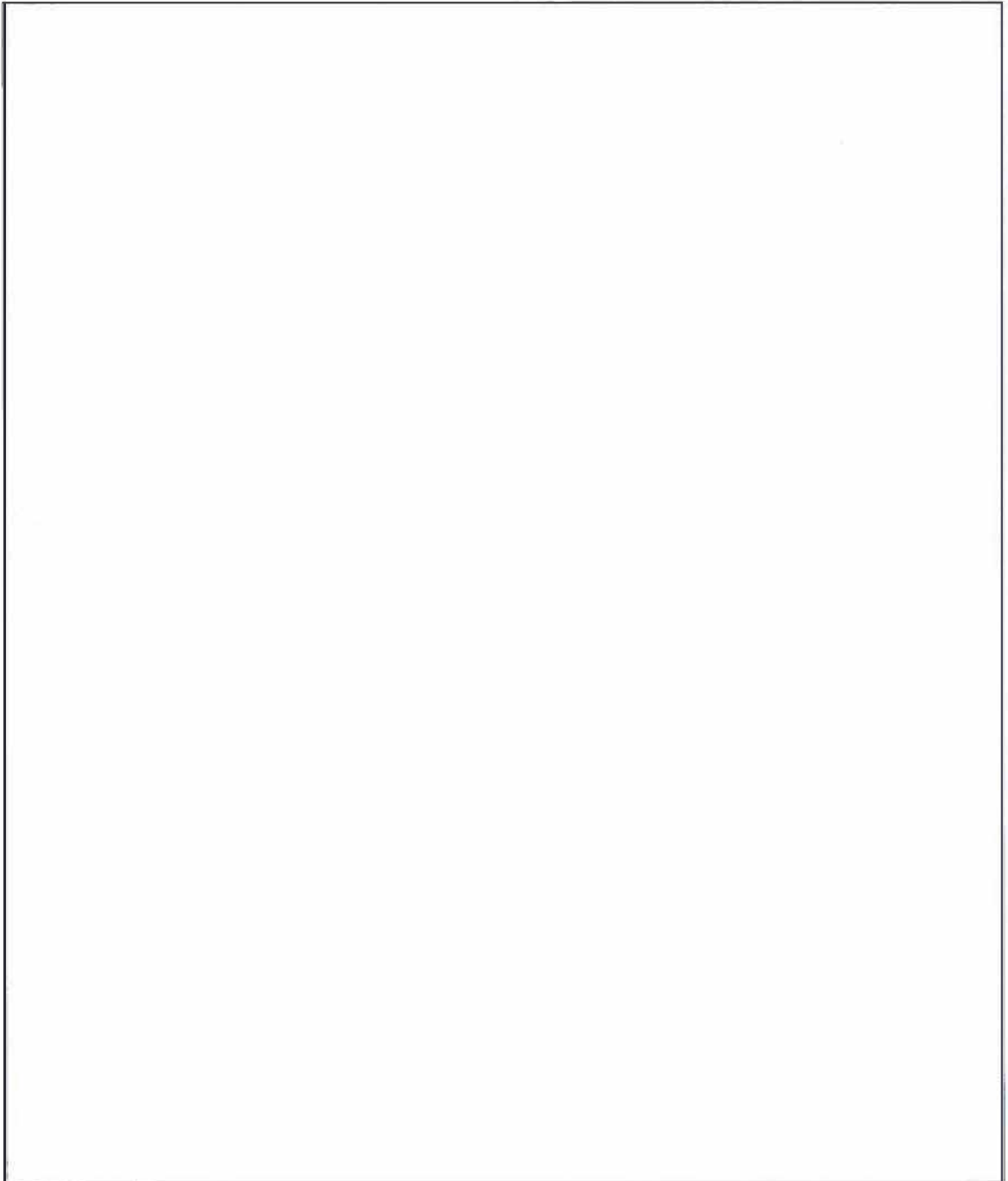
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2. Why did you give the answer above?

I think it's great that Vig School
is being used for pop-up cafes
and church.

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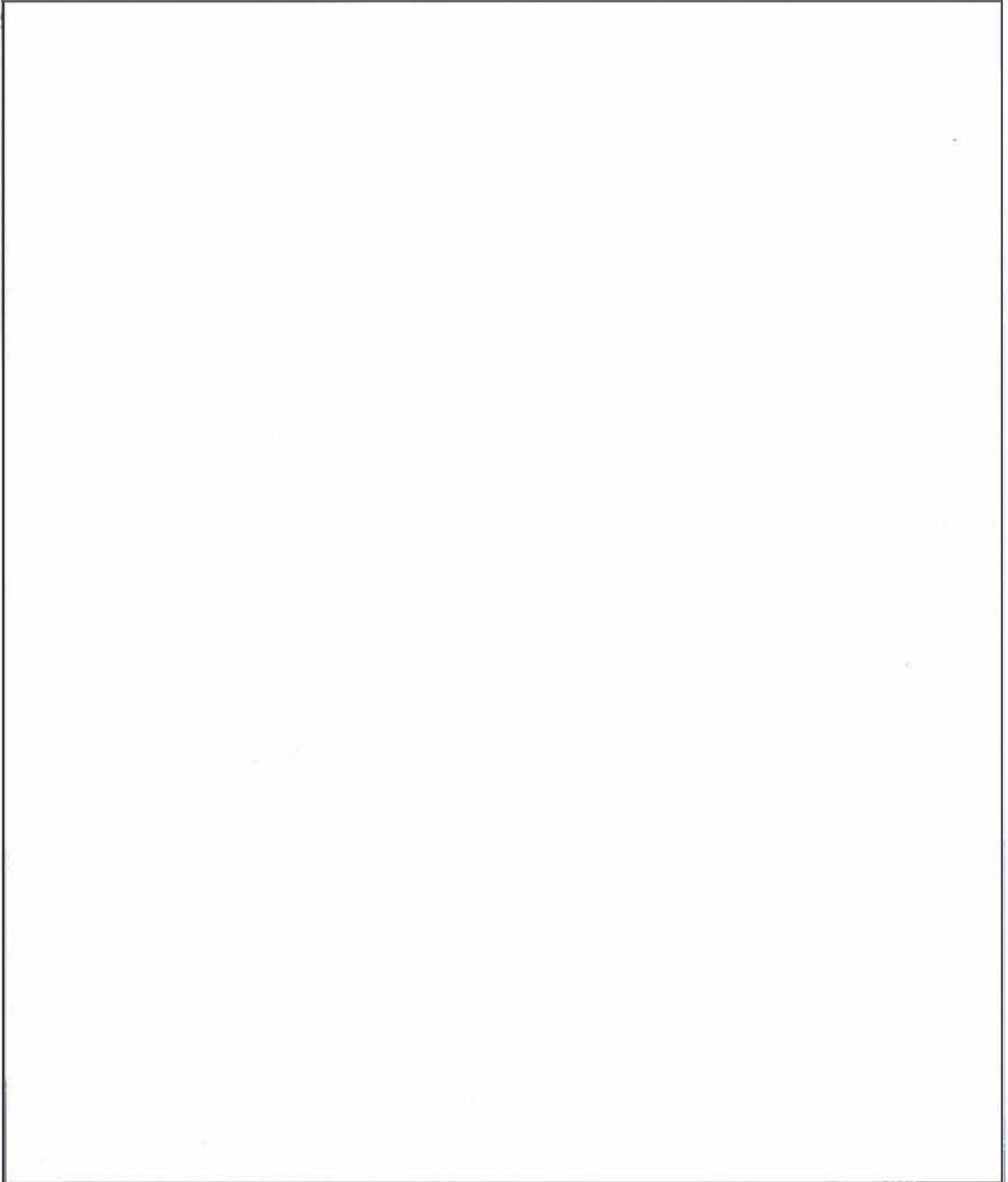
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2. Why did **you** give the answer above?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to write their response to the question above. The box is currently blank.

Morning Norma

Apologies for not attend uig school consultation on Wednesday 19th June I see no reason why we should keep Uig Primary school month ball and I would vote with highland Council education to formally close the school.

Regards

Martin Madigan

Uig Bay Campsite & B&B

Jubilee Cottage Self Catering

Isle of Skye

Name of consultation: Uig

Your comments: I read with interest the question that was put forward for Uig School (q2). Even though some of the children are too young, p4 and upwards should be consulted and all the school children should have an opportunity to see Uig School and attend it for a hour or so but also the Ones in Portree to see the two primary schools there to give them an idea of facilities available there and then ask then the same question. North end should have a new school to replace the two elderly buildings. This is what both communities should be striving for.

Upload documents or letters :

I am commenting as: Local resident

I am commenting on behalf of: Community Council

Name of Community Council: Uig Community Council

Name:

Title	First name	Last name
Mr	Martin	Madigan

Name of consultation: Uig

Your comments: Having attended the public meeting in June this year and raised the issue of the continuing deterioration of the access road to the school given the escalation of vehicles using the road ie. mission church, craft group, café etc. we are astounded at the lack of response given that this issue was first raised in January 2012 and we were subsequently advised in April 2013 that estimates for work then required were imminent. PLEASE ADVISES WHAT IS HAPPENING. As the road continues to collapse at the edges it is only a matter of time before some vehicular damage is sustained. Your urgent attention to this matter would be appreciated.

Upload documents or letters :

I am commenting as: Local resident

I am commenting on behalf of: Resident homeowner behind school premises

Name:

Title	First name	Last name
Mr	Roy	Haldane

Ian

Thank you for the data on school numbers and placing requests. This is very helpful and I appreciate the time taken to gather this.

Firstly, it is important to acknowledge that pupil numbers from the legacy Uig catchment area remain strong. (Based on your information, 41 pupils over the last 6 years) So the proposed school closure is being driven not by low numbers but by other factors. Viewed in a wider context, this number of pupils would place it as one of the larger rural primary schools on Skye.

Second, support for Gaelic Medium education by Uig parents/pupils is robust. 21 of the 41 pupils have attended GM. More than 21 would have started their education in GM as you rightly state, some have transferred from GM to EM as they progress through school. Yet Uig primary school was never assigned a GM teacher and GM is excluded from the only proposed option on reopening. As GM is now a core part of the education system, it is hard to see how a school can reopen successfully without it.

Third, there is no nursery or sgoil arach provision included in the proposal. Again, this is critical in maintaining a healthy school role.

Your numbers confirm that over 6 years from the legacy Uig catchment area, there were a total of 20 pupils enrolled in English Medium. 8 went to Kilmuir but 12 attended other schools. (11 at Portree Primary) That is 60% of English Medium pupils going out with their catchment area school. This is a particularly high percentage, far higher than other schools in Highland Region I expect. The question must be asked, why?

1) Direction of travel is wrong. Kilmuir school is located in a more rural community where unlike Uig there are no retail and service options. Essentially, any mileage Uig parents accumulate is wasted and unnecessary and cannot be incorporated into other routine trips. Furthermore, it is really inconvenient to include an Uig – Kilmuir trip when heading to Portree. This happens frequently as all after school activities are Portree based. It also means travelling off a truck road onto a single track road which over the Easter to October period is impacted by tourist traffic. School transport cannot be relied on as the Uig children are always last on the list, arriving home no sooner than 45 minutes after the end of the school day. Parents must go to school to collect them in order to be in time for activities. From my experience, I needed to collect from school at the end of the day 3 days a week. This was in addition to 2 trips earlier in the day for sgoil arach drop off and collection. Previously it has been acknowledged the difficulty in attracting teachers for rural school. Arguably, it would be easier to recruit someone to work in Uig than Kilmuir. All existing teaching staff commute daily through Uig to Kilmuir School. It is hard to see this changing any time in the future.

2) Poor facilities at Kilmuir Primary. For years the English medium class was not accommodated in a proper classroom. It was housed in a small room located off an existing classroom. Note, the two GM classes were accommodated in the schools 2 classrooms. At one stage the English class due to its size had to be taught in the school dining room. Class time was interrupted on a daily basis in order to set up for lunch. The class would have lost the equivalent of 6 full school days in the year as a result of this disruption. No attempt was made to share this burden amongst classes by rotating them round all the available space. There has since been a 2-classroom demountable provided for English Medium but as a parent of a child starting school, it is heart breaking to think your child will spend 7 years of their primary education in accommodation like this. This on top of 18/24 months in Sgoil

Araich which itself is provided out with the main school building in a semi-permanent structure. Where else in Highland Region will children spend their entire pre school and primary years in temporary accommodation? Other schools use demountables but the time spent in them is limited. This is particularly frustrating as Uig school remains mothballed and sits in a much more convenient location. Contrast this further with the recent investment in BSGP and the ongoing upgrade to Portree Primary.

Car parking at Kilmuir is a problem. The demountable has taken up car parking space. Staff parking takes up the majority of the spaces which leaves sgoil araich parents parking on the road. There is a similar problem at the end of the day as many parents collect their children from school. This is far from ideal.

There are no proper playground facilities/equipment at Kilmuir school. Children play on grass which often turns to mud. The location is very exposed and often dangerous as doors (buildings and vehicles) have to be opened and closed with caution. Smaller children are held on to as they are moved from building to building or vehicle.

The only preschool provision at Kilmuir is at Sgoil Araich. EM nursery was only available for the 2013/14 and 2014/15 sessions. My daughter attended the 2013/14 session where 4 were in Sgoil Araich and 4 in Nursery. I was discouraged from putting her in the nursery class despite my request. If I had, there would have been 5 in nursery and 3 in Sgoil Araich. This would have created an unwelcome statistic no doubt but the main point is that there was clear demand for English Nursery when it was available. I understand that any other requests by parents for English nursery provision in other years have been met with the response that it is not available. This must be considered particularly in light of the expansion of nursery hours. There is no capacity to house extended hours for EM nursery at Kilmuir without creating additional space. Another demountable at an additional cost of £340,000? From a cost and common sense perspective, there is no alternative than to use Uig Primary School for this. Urgent clarification on how the council proposes to deal with this is required.

Given what the EM numbers reflect in terms of school choice, the second class status of EM at Kilmuir school and the practical difficulties of Uig pupils attending Kilmuir, it now seems logical to re-evaluate the Uig EM catchment area. The data shows that 60% of parents/pupils are already choosing to go elsewhere. This must be done on the basis that if agreed, dedicated door to door transport for primary pupils will be provided from the legacy Uig catchment area direct to Portree primary school.

From an educational point of view this would ensure the pupils are in class groups of the appropriate age and ability, be accommodated in appropriate facilities, take advantage of the additional opportunities available at Portree Primary and be in the right location for after school activities.

However it is not the right choice for the community. If rural communities are to thrive, families must find them attractive places to live which includes the appropriate provision of school facilities. In terms of the combined Uig Kilmuir catchment area, this means one new school catering equally for EM and GM located in Uig, the only location which would minimise placing requests out with the catchment area. This was Highland Councils proposal many years ago and will continue to be the best long term option for the West Trotternish area.

Regards

Margaret Mclaughlin

On Wed, Aug 28, 2019 at 4:49 PM Ian Jackson <ian.jackson@highland.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Mrs McLaughlin

I have received some further information from Kilmuir Primary School in relation to the number of Uig pupils who have attended Kilmuir Primary School in recent years.

The school advise that in total, 26 pupils from Uig have attended Kilmuir in the last 6 years. Of these, 14 are current pupils with 12 having now left the school.

The GM/EM split is complicated by the fact that several pupils started in GM but later switched to EM. We have counted these amongst the EM figures. Of the 26 pupils in total, 18 attended Gaelic Medium education and 8 English Medium education. The 14 current pupils split between 10 in GM and 4 in EM.

I hope that's of some further use.

Ian Jackson

Education Officer

Care and Learning Service

07500 120 271

From: Ian Jackson

Sent: 22 August 2019 14:55

To:

Subject: RE: Proposed Uig Primary School Closure

Dear Mrs McLaughlin

I apologise for the delay in replying to your original request. I did spend some time over the summer working on providing the information you requested, but this proved more problematic than I anticipated. I also had a period of annual leave and subsequently had to take an additional week off due to a family matter.

I previously mentioned that I would work through our SEEMIS archive (SEEMIS being our electronic database of pupil records) to identify the numbers of pupils from Uig attending the various other schools. When combing these I noticed that for each school they contained details of many more pupils than were actually present in the school during the year in question. The archive appeared to contain details of pupils who had, by the time in question, moved onto to High School. I initially sought to eliminate these but ultimately I found I could not correctly identify them all. In short, I don't feel the SEEMIS archive has data that is accurate enough to provide a valid response to your original query.

In the circumstances, the best I can do is provide information on the numbers of placing requests from addresses in the Uig catchment, to other schools, for the years in question.

Year	Transfer	Number	Year Group
2013-2014	Kilmuir to Portree	2 EM	P1 x 2
2014-2015	Kilmuir to Portree	2 EM	P1

		1 GM	P1
		1EM	P4
2015-2016	Kilmuir to Portree	1 EM	P4
2016-2017	Kilmuir to Portree	2 GM	P1 x2
2017-2018	Kilmuir to Portree	1 EM	P1
		2 EM	P1 & P3
2018-2019	Kilmuir to Portree	2 EM	P1 & P4
	Kilmuir to MacDiarmid	1 EM	P1
2019-2020	No transfers		

As you will, see, over the last 7 years, placing requests have been lodged for a total of 15 pupils from Uig, to either Portree PS or Macdiarmid PS. Those pupils who originally went into the Gaelic Medium classes in Portree PS will have transferred to the Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort-Rìgh.

I don't think I am able to discuss the reasons given in each individual case, as that may be a breach of confidentiality. However, I can say that in the majority of cases the availability of after-school childcare in Portree was given as the reason for the request. Several cases mentioned low numbers in Kilmuir as the reason for the placement in Portree. In looking at the reasons given, I can only see one case where, debatably, the provision of a school in Uig would have made a difference to the reason given for the placing request.

Since Uig Primary was mothballed, we haven't requested placing requests for Uig pupils attending Kilmuir PS. Now that the schools are back I have contacted Jenny Kiss to see whether we can provide a split for the pupils at Kilmuir Primary, for the last seven years. I will forward that information as soon as possible.

Your point that 30 August is the deadline for responses is well made. I would highlight though, that once the public consultation period ends the Council has to review the responses and produce a review of consultation report. At that time we will contact anyone who responded in writing to the initial exercise and invite "further representations" over a three week period. If, after that, the closure proposal proceeds, there will be a further opportunity for local residents to make representations to Scottish Ministers.

I hope the above is of some assistance, and I will follow up with the further information as soon as possible. Once again, apologies that this exercise has taken longer than anticipated.

Ian Jackson

Education Officer

Care and Learning Service

07500 120 271

From: Margaret Mclaughlin
Sent: 22 August 2019 11:35
To: Ian Jackson
Subject: Re: Proposed Uig Primary School Closure

Dear Mr Jackson

Do you have an update on my request for numbers of placing requests?

I am aware this is a manual process but it has been a number of weeks since I made the request and the consultation period is due to end shortly.

Thank you.

Margaret McLaughlin

On Mon, 17 Jun 2019, 14:09 Ian Jackson, <ian.jackson@highland.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Mrs McLaughlin

Thank you for your email of 11 June concerning the Highland Council's proposal to close Uig Primary School.

The consultation process around school closures requires Highland Council to review our proposal at the end of the public consultation period, taking into account all of the representations made in consultation. Your email of 11 June will be taken into account as part of that process, but I appreciate that you raise some issues that require a more immediate reply.

The relevant legislation requires the Council to consult the parents and pupils of any school affected by the Proposal. Since the mothballing of Uig Primary, Kilmuir Primary has in practice been the designated school for children from Uig, and as such is a school directly affected by the proposed closure of Uig. The Council's Proposal Paper suggests that, if Uig Primary is closed, its English Medium catchment will transfer entirely to that of Kilmuir Primary School. Kilmuir Primary's Gaelic Medium catchment area already includes the catchment of Uig Primary.

Whilst some pupils from the Uig area do attend either Portree Primary School or Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort-Rìgh, their parents have taken these placements as a matter of choice, and neither school will be affected by the eventual decision in respect of Uig Primary.

We do however welcome comments from parents whose children attend either Portree Primary School or Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort-Rìgh, or indeed from anyone who wishes to submit views in response to the public consultation. In addition to those directly notified, the consultation exercise has been publicised on the Highland Council's website and Facebook page, and with a public notice in the *West Highland Free Press*.

The methodology around the Highland Council's school roll forecasts can be found via the link below:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/19257/school_roll_forecast_methodology_september_2017

We can provide partial information in response to your request for year-by-year data relating to pupils from Uig who attended other primary schools in Skye. This exercise will however have to be done manually and will take some time. The information will be provided to you as soon as possible but please note the following limitations:

- i. Highland Council's pupil records are kept on an electronic database known as SEEMIS. We began using SEEMIS in 2013 and do not have data prior to that year.
- ii. Whilst the live SEEMIS data contains a range of information relating to pupils, the SEEMIS archive only keeps information relating to pupil names, addresses and school attended. We are not able to provide information on which pupils attended Gaelic and English Medium education in past years.
- iii. Manually checking the rolls of every primary school in Skye for each year from 2013 would be disproportionate in relation to the information that would be obtained. We will therefore check past records relating to Kilmuir Primary School, Portree Primary School, and Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort-Rìgh (since the last-mentioned was established) as well as records for Macdiarmid Primary and Bun-sgoil Stafainn. These schools are the only ones within reasonable daily travelling distance of communities within the Uig catchment.

I hope you find the above information helpful. Further consideration will be given to your response at the end of the consultation period.

Ian Jackson

Education Officer

Care and Learning Service

07500 120 271

From: John Finlayson - Member
Sent: 11 June 2019 11:05
To: Margaret Mclaughlin; Education Consultations; Ian Jackson
Cc: Ronald MacDonald - Member
Subject: RE: Proposed Uig Primary School Closure

Hi Margaret,

I will ask about this.

Ian, can you give an update.

John

John Finlayson

Councillor

Eilean a' Cheo Ward

From: Margaret Mclaughlin
Sent: 11 June 2019 10:56
To: Education Consultations
Cc: John Finlayson - Member; Ronald MacDonald - Member
Subject: Proposed Uig Primary School Closure

Dear/Sir Madam

With regards to the proposed formal closure of Uig Primary School, could you please advise why Portree Primary School, Bun Sgoil Gaidhlig Portrigh and their parent councils have not been included in the list of consultees?

There are approximately 10 children who live in the Uig catchment area who attend both these schools and these children and families should be included in this discussion.

Furthermore, this report does not identify the total number of primary school children in the Uig catchment area and the options presented do not take those who have made placing requests into consideration . The projected school roles are of limited value as no methodology has been explained.

What would be of more benefit is a breakdown of the total number of pupils from the Uig catchment area for each year since the school was mothballed who

- 1) attended Kilmuir primary school, split by GM/EM
- 2) attended Portree primary school, split by GM/EM
- 3) attended another primary school, split by GM/EM

Kind regards

Margaret Mclaughlin



Freagairt Bhòrd na Gàidhlig airson Co-chomhairleachadh aig Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd – Bun-sgoil Ùige	Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Response on the Highland Council Consultation - Uig Primary School
<p>1. Ro-ràdh</p> <p>Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur fàilte air cothrom beachdan a thoirt seachad air a' mholadh gun sguir solar foghlaim aig Bun-sgoil Ùige.</p> <p>Tha Am Plana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig 2018-23 agus an Stiùireadh Reachdail airson Foghlam Gàidhlig mar bhunait airson na freagairt seo. San Stiùireadh Reachdail, far a bheil barrachd mìneachaidh air na ceumannan seo, 's e bunait na cùise gum bu chòir adhartas is fàs a bhith air Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig.</p>	<p>1. Introduction</p> <p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcomes the opportunity to comment on the proposed discontinuation of education provision at Uig Primary School.</p> <p>The Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education and the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23 form the basis for the Bòrd's response to this consultation. The Statutory Guidance, where there is further detail on the steps involved, has as its basis that GME should develop and grow.</p>
<p>2. Fiosrachadh sa Cho-chomhairleachadh</p> <p>Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a' moladh gun sguir iad solar foghlaim ann am Bun-sgoil Ùige agus gun toir iad an sgìre-sgoile aice do Bhun-sgoil Chille Mhoire.</p> <p>Rinneadh co-chomhairle mun mholadh gus Bun-sgoil Ùige a dhùnadh ann an 2010. Às dèidh sgrùdadh a dhèanamh air an fhianais sgrìobhte is labhairteach a fhuair, chodhùin Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd gun dùnadh iad Bun-sgoil Ùige gu sealach agus gum biodh sgrùdadh eile ann san fhad-ùine.</p> <p>Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a' cur air adhart nan adhbharan a leanas airson sguir de sholar foghlaim aig Bun-sgoil Ùige:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chan eil sgoilearan air a bhith ann am Bun-sgoil Ùige bho dheireadh seisean 2009-10. • Bheireadh ath-fhosgladh Bun-sgoil Ùige droch bhuaidh foghlaim, an dà chuid air clann à Ùige fhèin, agus air na sgoilearan a tha fhathast ann am Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire. • Tha coimhearsnachd Ùige air a bhith a' 	<p>2. Consultation Information</p> <p>The Highland Council is proposing to discontinue education provision at Uig Primary School re-assigning its catchment area to that of Kilmuir Primary School.</p> <p>A statutory consultation into the proposed closure of Uig Primary School was undertaken during 2010. Following a review of the oral and written representations made, Highland Council decided to close Uig Primary on a temporary basis, pending a longer term review.</p> <p>Highland Council list the following reasons for the proposed discontinuation of education provision at Uig Primary School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No children have attended Uig Primary School since the end of session 2009- 10. • Re-opening Uig Primary would have a negative educational impact, both on the pupils from Uig itself, and the pupils who remain at Kilmuir Primary. • The community of Uig has made use of the school building since the school was

<p>cleachdadh togalach na sgoile bho chaidh an sgoil a dhùnadh gu sealach ann an 2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tha Eaglais Mìsean Ùige air a bhith a' cleachdadh an toglaich airson seirbheisean eaglaise, agus tha iad a-nis ag amas air barrachd a dhèanamh innte. • Tha a' Chomhairle air coimhead air roghainnean eile ann a bhith a' tighinn chun a' mholaidh seo. <p>Fiosrachadh làithreach – Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire</p> <p>Tha Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig ri fhaighinn ann an Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire. Tha 38 air a' chlàr-sgoile airson 2018-19 le 23 sgoilear ann am foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig agus 15 ann am foghlam tro mheadhan na Beurla. Thathar an dùil gum bi 35 air clàr na sgoile airson 2019-20 le 22 sgoilear ann am foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig agus 13 ann am foghlam tro mheadhan na Beurla.</p> <p>'S e 75 an àireamh sgoilearan as motha a ghabhas an sgoil. Mar sin, 's e 51% de chomas-lionaidh na sgoile a th' ann an 38 sgoilearean. 'S e 47% de chomas-lionaidh na sgoile a bhiodh ann leis na 35 sgoilearan ris a bheilear an dùil ann an 2019-20.</p> <p>A' sgrùdadh roghainnean eile</p> <p>Tha an t-ùghdarras foghlaim air beachdachadh air na roghainnean reusanta eile a leanas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A' leantainn air adhart leis an t-suidheachadh a th' ann an-dràsta far a bheil an sgoil dùinte gu sealach Gus Bun-sgoil Ùige ath-fhosgladh mar Bhun-sgoil Foghlam tron Bheurla, leis an sgìre-sgoile làithreach aice Gus bun-sgoil Ùige ath-fhosgladh mar Bhun-sgoil a tha a' tabhann an dà chùid Foghlam tron Bheurla agus tron Ghàidhlig, leis an sgìre-sgoile làithreach aice. No roghainnean ii no iii gu h-àrd le sgìre-sgoile nas motha 	<p>"mothballed" in 2010. The building has been used for church services by the Uig Mission Church, which is seeking to expand provision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has explored alternatives in arriving at this proposal. <p>Current Details – Kilmuir Primary</p> <p>Gaelic Medium Education is available at Kilmuir Primary School. The 2018-19 roll is 38 with 23 pupils in Gàidhlig Medium and 15 in English Medium. The anticipated roll for 2019-20 is 35, with 22 pupils in Gàidhlig Medium and 13 in English Medium.</p> <p>The school has a registered capacity of 75. The 2018-19 roll of 38 therefore represents 51% use of capacity. The anticipated 2019-20 roll of 35 would represent 47% use of capacity.</p> <p>Examination of Alternatives</p> <p>The education authority has given consideration to the following reasonable alternatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To continue with current "mothballing" arrangement To re-open Uig Primary as an English Medium School, with its current catchment area To re-open Uig Primary as a school offering both English Medium and Gaelic Medium education, with its current catchment area Either of options ii and iii above with an expanded catchment area
<p>3. Moladh na Comhairle</p> <p>Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a' moladh gum bu chòir Bun-sgoil Ùige, a tha dùinte gu</p>	<p>3. Council Recommendation</p> <p>Highland Council recommends that Uig Primary School, currently "mothballed," is closed and</p>

<p>sealach an-dràsta a dhùnadh agus gun tèid an sgìre-sgoile a thoirt do Bhun-sgoil Chille Mhòire.</p>	<p>the catchment area re-assigned to that of Kilmuir Primary School.</p>
<p>4. Stiùireadh Reachdail airson Foghlam Gàidhlig</p> <p>Foghlam Bun-sgoile tron Ghàidhlig</p> <p>Ann am FtG cha bu chòir ach Gàidhlig a bhith air a cleachdadh airson ionnsachaidh, teagaisg agus mheasaidhean bho BS1 gu BS3. Bho BS4, bu chòir a’ Bheurla a bhith air a toirt a-steach beag air bheag, ach bidh a’ Ghàidhlig fhathast na prìomh chànan san t-seòmar-teagaisg.</p> <p>’S e prìomh amas FtG gum bi e comasach do chloinn agus daoine òga a bhith ag obair gu fileanta agus le misneachd ann an dà chànan, Gàidhlig agus Beurla, agus an dà chànan a chleachdadh ann an iomadh suidheachadh taobh a-staigh agus taobh a-muigh na sgoile. Tha diofar chomasan sa Ghàidhlig aig clann mus tòisich iad san sgoil agus tha buaidh mhòr na Beurla ann, mar sin tha feum aca air bogadh sa Ghàidhlig aig ìre thràth. Tha ceangal làidir ann eadar bogadh sa Ghàidhlig bho P1-P3 agus mar a shoirbhicheas le clann aig ìrean às dèidh sin.</p> <p>Gus dèanamh cinnteach gum bi bogadh èifeachdach ann am FBG, cha bu chòir cànan eile a chleachdadh ach a’ Ghàidhlig bho P1-P3. (Earrainn 2.10 & 2.11)</p> <p>Cha toireadh na roghainnean eile Roghainnean 1 agus 2 buaidh mhòr air solar làithreach airson FtG ach tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a’ tuigsinn gu bheil an dìth soillearachd mu sgoil a tha dùinte gu sealach, le clàr-sgoile de nas lugha de 10 sgoilearan a’ ciallachadh nach biodh seo na roghainn tharraingeach dhan ùghdarras foghlam no dhan choimhearsnachd ionadail.</p> <p>Tha fiosrachadh mu Roghainn 3 ag ràdh nan rachadh Bun-sgoil Ùige ath-fhosgladh mar sgoil leis an dà chuid Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig agus Foghlam tron Bheurla leis an sgìre-sgoile làithreach, bhiodh an toradh mar a leanas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dìreach 1 chlas FtG le 11 sgoilear ann am Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire agus • Dìreach 1 chlas FtG le 11 sgoilear ann am 	<p>4. Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education</p> <p>Gaelic Medium Primary Education</p> <p>In GMPE only Gaelic should be used for learning, teaching and assessment from P1 – P3. From P4, English should be gradually introduced, with Gaelic remaining the predominant language of the classroom.</p> <p>The aim of GME is for children and young people to be able to operate fluently and confidently in two languages, Gaelic and English, and to use both languages in a range of situations within and beyond the school. As a result of varying prior knowledge of Gaelic and the predominance of English, young people need an early stage of Gaelic Language Immersion. There is a strong correlation between Gaelic Immersion in P1 – P3 and later pupil achievements.</p> <p>For effective immersion in GMPE, the language of the classroom should be Gaelic from P1 – P3. (Sections 2.10 and 2.11)</p> <p>The alternative Options 1 and 2 would have no effect to the current GME provision available however, Bòrd na Gàidhlig can appreciate that continued lack of clarity of a mothballed school or a school with a roll under 10 may not be a desirable option for the education authority nor the local community.</p> <p>Details provided in Option 3 advise if Uig Primary School were to re-open as a school offering both Gaelic Medium and English Medium Education within its current catchment area it would result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 single GM class with 11 pupils in Kilmuir Primary School and • 1 single GME class with 11 pupils in Uig

<p>Bun-sgoil Ùige.</p> <p>Bheireadh clasaichean FtG singilte anns am biodh BS1 - BS7 droch bhuaidh air ìre an làn-bhogaidh ann am FtG.</p> <p>Le Roghainn 4 bhiodh an sgìre-sgoile aig Bun-sgoil Ùige air a leudachadh agus, mar sin, nan tuiteadh clàr na sgoile airson Bun-sgoil Chille Mhòire, dh'fhaodte nach biodh ach aon chlas FtG anns gach sgoil agus dh'fhaodadh gun toireadh seo droch bhuaidh air ìre an làn-bhogaidh.</p> <p>Mar sin, tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur fàilte air moladh Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd gum bu chòir Bun-sgoil Ùige, a tha dùinte gu sealach an-dràsta, a dhùnadh agus gun tèid an sgìre-sgoile a ghabhail os làimh le Bun-sgoil Chille Mhòire. Nì seo cinnteach, leis a' chlàr-sgoile ris a bheilear an dùil, gum bi 2 chlas FtG ann am Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire agus mar sin, bidh seo a rèir nam molaidhean anns an Stiùireadh Reachdail a thaobh làn-bhogadh bho BS1-BS3.</p>	<p>Primary School.</p> <p>Single GME classes of P1 – P7 would be detrimental to the total immersion phase of GME.</p> <p>Option 4 would involve expanding the catchment area of Uig Primary School and therefore, if school roll of Kilmuir Primary was to fall, resulting in a single GME class in each school then again this could detrimentally affect the total immersion phase.</p> <p>Therefore, Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcomes the recommendation that Highland Council recommends that Uig Primary School, currently "mothballed," is closed and the catchment area re-assigned to that of Kilmuir Primary School. This will ensure that with the projected school roll of Kilmuir Primary that the GME provision will consist of 2 classes and therefore adheres to the recommendations in the Statutory Guidance regarding total immersion from P1 – P3.</p>
<p>5. Am Plana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig 2018-23</p> <p>'S e fear de na trì prìomhachasan sa Phlana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig 2018-23 gun tèid fàs a thoirt air ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig agus tha FtG air a chomharrachadh mar chuspair airson fàs. Ann am beachd a' Bhùird, cha chuir moladh aig Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd bacadh air cothroman gus FtG fhaighinn no fàs ann am FtG. Dh'fhaodadh gu bheil cothrom ann barrachd phàrantan a thàladh agus àrdachadh a thoirt air ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig ma thèid 2 chlas FtG a' chumail aig Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire.</p>	<p>5. The National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23</p> <p>One of the three priorities within National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23 is to increase the learning of Gaelic and GME is highlighted as an area for growth. In the Bòrd's view the proposed discontinuation of education at Uig Primary will not adversely affect GME provision. The continuation of 2 GME classes at Kilmuir Primary has the potential to attract more parents and could increase the learning of Gaelic.</p>



Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by The Highland Council to discontinue education provision at Uig Primary School, re-assigning its catchment area to that of Kilmuir Primary School.

September 2019

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by Her 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 The Highland Council's proposal to discontinue education provision at Uig Primary School, re-assigning its catchment area to that of Kilmuir Primary School. 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' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final 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 final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision. Where a council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all statutory obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers and the special provisions that apply to proposals to close a rural school.

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:

- 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; and
- visits to the site of Uig Primary School and Kilmuir Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

1.4 As the proposal will lead to the closure of a rural school, HM Inspectors also took account of the council's consideration of any reasonable alternatives to closure of Uig Primary School, the likely effect on the local community and the likely effect of any different travelling arrangements of the proposed closure.

2. Consultation process

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

2.2 The consultation period ran from 4 June until 30 August 2019. The proposal paper was available online and the public informed through the local press and via the council's website. A public meeting was held on 19 June 2019 with 17 stakeholders present. Seven residents provided

written responses to the council. There was little support for the council's proposal expressed at the public meeting or from those who responded in writing.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The Highland Council has outlined a number of educational benefits which it believes will result from the implementation of the proposal to permanently close Uig Primary School. They note that if some children currently attending Kilmuir Primary School were to transfer to Uig Primary School they would be moving to a school with a learning environment which has been assessed as poor. The larger numbers of children in both the English medium and Gaelic medium classes at Kilmuir Primary School provide better opportunities for group work and collaborative learning with children of a similar age and stage. The larger school roll provides greater opportunities for team sports, games, musical and other activities. Larger numbers of children allow for a wider range of after school activities which are more sustainable. If Uig Primary School were to re-open providing both Gaelic Medium Education (GME) and English Medium Education (EME) there would be greater challenges in delivering total immersion for children in P1-P3 GME due to likely class structures. The council proposes no nursery or sgoil-àraich in Uig should Uig Primary School re-open. The current arrangements allow smooth transition for children moving into P1. HM Inspectors agree that there are potential educational benefits if the council's proposal goes ahead. These potential benefits should be balanced against the lost opportunity for children from Uig to walk or cycle to their local school and the longer travel and length of the school day for children being bused to Kilmuir Primary School.

3.2 Parents who spoke with HM Inspectors were mixed in their views. All were sensitive to the importance of schools within their communities. Half of the parents would like to see Uig Primary School re-open. They believe that the ability to attend a school close to home brings advantages in terms of being able to walk or cycle to school with their children. Half took an alternative view and thought the current arrangement should continue with children attending Kilmuir Primary School and Uig Primary School continuing to be mothballed. They felt that their children benefit from the larger pupil numbers in terms of educational opportunities and socialising.

3.3 Children who met with HM Inspectors all wanted the current arrangements to stand. They valued learning and socialising in larger peer groups. They considered the current arrangements better in terms of the opportunities and experiences they gain in Kilmuir Primary School. They would not want friendships to be split if Uig Primary School was open again. They think re-opening the school would not be a good use of the council's money. They would prefer money to be spent improving the facilities for play in Kilmuir Primary School.

3.4 As a statutory consultee, Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcomes the proposal that The Highland Council recommends that Uig Primary School, currently mothballed, is closed and the catchment area re-assigned to that of Kilmuir Primary School. In the Bòrd's view the proposed discontinuation of education at Uig Primary School will not adversely affect GME provision. It believes a larger roll at Kilmuir Primary School supports the continuation of two GME classes at Kilmuir Primary School. This adheres to the recommendations in the Statutory Guidance regarding total immersion from P1-P3 and has the potential to attract more parents and therefore could increase the learning of Gaelic.

3.5 During the consultation period the council was notified of an inaccuracy in the proposal in section 12.7. The council will need to ensure that it takes the necessary steps to investigate this inaccuracy. In its final consultation report, the council will need to set out the actions it has taken to address this inaccuracy notified to it.

3.6 As the proposal will lead to the closure of a rural school, HM Inspectors also took account of the council's consideration of the factors to which it should have special regard. The council has clearly identified its reasons for formulating the proposal and considered a number of alternatives to closure of the school before it consulted on the proposal. The alternatives considered included: continuing with mothballing Uig Primary School; re-opening Uig Primary School as an English Medium school; re-opening Uig Primary School offering EME and GME; expanding the catchment of Uig Primary School as an English Medium school or with EME and GME being offered. It has concluded that none of the alternatives will bring greater benefits.

3.7 The local community has a village hall which is used by local residents. It has been without Uig Primary School for over eight years. The school building is used on Sundays by a local church and occasionally for other events. There is potential for greater use of the building by the local community. For children living in and near Uig there is a greater travel distance in attending a school in Kilmuir. The council provides fully funded transport for the children in P1-P7 affected.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors' believe that The Highland Council's proposal has the potential to deliver overall educational benefit. Children in both EME and GME are able to learn in groups with other children of similar ages and stages in a more suitable learning environment. They welcome the opportunities for team and group activities during and after school. The provision for both GME and EME is well-established at Kilmuir Primary School since Uig Primary School was mothballed in 2010. Current transition arrangements from early years to primary are working well. Parents' views were mixed. Half made the case for Uig Primary School to re-open arguing that travel distance would be reduced and that the community would benefit from a more local school. Should the proposal go ahead, the council should work with the community to explore how to make best use of the former Uig Primary School building. It should explore with stakeholders how to maintain and improve play facilities in Kilmuir Primary School. In its final consultation report, the council will need to set out the actions it has taken to address the inaccuracy notified to it.

HM Inspectors
September 2019



Achd Sgoiltean (Co-chomhairleachadh) (Alba) 2010

Aithisg le Foghlam Alba a' dèiligeadh ri taobhan foghlaim a' mholaidh le Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd sguir a thabhann solar foghlaim aig Bun-sgoil Ùige, agus a' cur a sgìre-sgoile ri tè Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire.

Sultain 2019

1. Ro-ràdh

1.1 Chaidh an aithisg seo bho Foghlam Alba ullachadh le Luchd-sgrùdaidh na Banrigh a rèir cumhan Achd Sgoiltean (Co-chomhairleachadh) (Alba) 2010 (“Achd 2010”). Is e adhbhar na h-aithisg beachd neo-eisimeileach agus neo-phàirteach a thabhann mu mholadh Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd gun leantainn air adhart leis an t-solair foghlaim aig Bun-sgoil Ùige, a’ cur a sgìre-sgoile ris an sgìre-sgoile aig Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire. Tha Earrann 2 den aithisg a’ cur an cèill geàrr-fhiosrachadh mun phròiseas co-chomhairleachaidh. Tha Earrann 3 den aithisg a’ cur an cèill beachdachadh Luchd-sgrùdaidh na Banrigh air taobhan an fhoghlaim den mholadh, a’ gabhail a-steach beachdan cudromach a chuireadh an cèill le luchd-comhairleachaidh. Tha Earrann 4 a’ toirt geàrr-iomradh air beachd an Luchd-sgrùdaidh san fharsaingeachd mun mholadh. An uair a gheibhear an aithisg seo, tha an Achd a’ cur riathanas air a’ chomhairle beachdachadh oirre agus an uair sin an aithisg co-chomhairleachaidh dheireannaich aige ullachadh. Bu chòir don aithisg co-chomhairleachaidh dheireannaich aig a’ chomhairle an aithisg seo a ghabhail a-steach agus mìneachadh a bhith ann den dòigh, ann a bhith a’ tighinn gu co-dhùnadh mun mholadh, a tha e air lèirmheas a dhèanamh air a’ mholadh a bha ann o thùs, a’ gabhail a-steach geàrr-chunntas air na puingeann a chaidh a thogail tron phròiseas co-chomhairleachaidh agus am freagairt a thug a’ chomhairle dhaibh. Feumaidh a’ chomhairle aithisg co-chomhairleachaidh dheireannach fhoillseachadh trì seachdainean mus tig e chun a’ cho-dhùnaidh dheireannaich. Far a bheil a’ chomhairle a’ moladh sgoil a dhùnadh, feumaidh e na dleastanasan reachdail air fad a tha ann an Achd 2010 a leantainn, a’ gabhail a-steach a bhith a’ toirt fios do Mhinistearan taobh a-staigh sia làithean obrach de bhith a’ tighinn chun a’ cho-dhùnaidh dheireannaich aige agus mìneachadh don luchd-co-chomhairleachaidh an cothrom a tha aca a bhith a’ dèanamh riochdachaidhean gu na Ministearan agus na solaran sònraichte a tha an cois mholaidhean a thaobh a bhith a’ dùnadh sgoil air an tuath.

1.2 Bheachdaidh Luchd-sgrùdaidh na Banrigh air:

- a’ bhuidhe a dh’fhaodadh a bhith aig a’ mholadh air clann na sgoile; luchd-cleachdaidh sam bith eile; clann a dh’fhaodadh a bhith nan sgoilearan taobh a-staigh dà bhliadhna bho cheann-latha foillseachaidh a’ phàipeir mholaidh; agus clann eile ann an sgìre na comhairle;
- buaidhean sam bith eile a dh’fhaodadh a bhith aig a’ mholadh;
- mar a tha a’ chomhairle am beachd droch buaidhean sam bith a lùghdachadh no sheachnadh a dh’fhaodadh èirigh bhon mholadh; agus
- na buannachdan foghlaim a tha a’ chomhairle a’ creidsinn a thig mar thoradh air a bhith a’ cur a’ mholaidh an sàs, agus adhbharan na comhairle airson a bhith a’ tighinn gu na beachdan sin.

1.3 Ann a bhith ag ullachadh na h-aithisg seo, ghabh Luchd-sgrùdaidh na Banrigh os làimh na gnìomhan a leanas:

- beachdachadh air gach obair-pàipeir buntainneach air a thoirt seachad leis a’ chomhairle a thaobh a’ mholaidh, gu sònraichte an aithris mu na buannachdan foghlaim agus na sgrìobhainnean co-chomhairleachaidh co-cheangailte ri seo, tagraidhean sgrìobhte agus air an labhairt bho phàrantan agus feadhainn eile; agus
- cuairtean gu Bun-sgoil Ùige agus Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire, a’ gabhail a-steach conaltradh ri co-chomhairleachaidhean iomchaidh.

1.4 Leis gu bheil am moladh a' ciallachadh gum bi sgoil air an tuath air a dùnadh, ghabh Luchd-sgrùdaidh na Banrigh a-steach beachdachadh na comhairle mu roghainnean sam bith eile seach a bhith a' dùnadh Bun-sgoil Ùig, a' bhuaidh a dh'fhaodadh a bhith aige air a' choimhearsnachd ionadail agus a' bhuaidh a dh'fhaodadh a bhith aig ullachaidhean siubhail eadar-dhealaichte mar thoradh air an dùnadh a bha air a mholadh.

2. Am pròiseas co-chomhairleachaidh

2.1 Ghabh Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd os làimh an co-chomhairleachadh air a mholadh (na mholaidhean) a thaobh [Achd Sgoiltean \(Co-chomhairleachadh\) \(Alba\) 2010](#).

2.2 Bha am pròiseas co-chomhairleachaidh a' ruith bho 4 Ògmhios 2019 gu 30 Lùnastal 2019. Bha am pàipear molaidh ri fhaotainn air-loidhne agus chaidh fiosrachadh a thoirt dhan phoball tro phàipearan ionadail agus tro làrach-lìn na comhairle. Chaidh coinneamh phoblach a chumail air 19 Ògmhios 2019 le 17 luchd-ùidh an làthair. Thug seachdnar dhaoine bhon choimhearsnachd freagairt dhan chomhairle ann an sgrìobhadh. Is e glè bheag taic do mholadh na comhairle a chaidh fhoillseachadh aig a' choinneimh phoblach, no bhon fheadhainn a fhreagair ann an sgrìobhadh.

3. Taobhan foghlaim a' mholaidh

3.1 Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd air grunnan buannachdan foghlaim a mhìneachadh a tha iad den bheachd a thig mar thoradh air a bhith a' cur an cèill a' mholaidh Bun-sgoil Ùige a bhith dùinte gu maireannach. Tha iad mothachail nan deigheadh cuid den chloinn a tha an-dràsta a' frithealadh Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire gu Bun-sgoil Ùige gum biodh iad a' gluasad gu sgoil aig an robh àrainn ionnsachaidh a chaidh a mheasadh mar bochd. Tha an àireamh nas motha de chlann ann an clasaichean tro mheadhan na Beurla agus tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann am Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire a' tabhann chothroman nas fheàrr airson obair buidhne agus ionnsachadh co-obrachail le clann de na h-aon aoisean agus ìrean. Tha an rola nas motha san sgoil a' tabhann chothroman nas motha airson sgiobaidhean spòrs, geamannan, ceòl agus cur-seachadan eile. Tha àireamhan nas motha de chlann a' toirt cothrom airson raon nas fharsaing de chur-seachadan an dèidh na sgoile a tha nas seasamhaich. Nam biodh Bun-sgoil Ùig a' dol a dh'fhosgladh a-rithist, agus a' tabhann an dà chuid Foghlam Meadhan Gàidhlig (FMG) agus Foghlam Meadhan Beurla (EME), bhiodh dùbhlain na bu mhotha ann a thaobh a bhith a' libhrigeadh làn bhogadh do chlann ann am P1-P3 FMG. Tha seo mar thoradh air na structaran clas a dh'fhaodadh a bhith ann. Chan eil a' chomhairle am beachd sgoil-àraich FMG no EME a thabhann ann an Ùige nan deigheadh Bun-sgoil Ùige fhosgladh às ùr. Tha na h-ullachaidhean a tha ann aig an àm a tha an làthair a' leigeil le clann gluasad gu furasta gu P1. Tha Luchd-sgrùdaidh na Banrigh ag aontachadh gum faodadh gu bheil buannachdan foghlaim ann, ma thèid moladh na comhairle air adhart. Bu chòir dha na buannachdan sin a bhith air an cothromachadh an aghaidh a' chothruim a chaidh a chall do chlann à Ùige a bhith a' coiseachd, no a' dol air baidhsagal chun na sgoile ionadail aca, agus an siubhal nas fhaide agus an latha sgoile nas fhaide a tha aig clann a tha a' dol air bus gu Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire.

3.2 Bha measgachadh de bheachdan aig na pàrantan a bhruidhinn ri Luchd-sgrùdaidh na Banrigh. Bha iad uile mothachail air cho cudromach 's a bha e sgoiltean a bhith sna coimhearsnachdan aca. Bu mhath le dàrna leth nam pàrantan Bun-sgoil Ùige fhaicinn a' fosgladh a-rithist. Tha iad dhen bheachd gu bheil an comas a bhith a' frithealadh sgoil a tha faisg air an dachaigh a' toirt buannachdan a thaobh a bhith comasach air coiseachd no a dhol air baidhsagal dhan sgoil còmhla ris a' chlann aca. Bha beachd eadar-dhealaichte aig an leth eile. Bha iad a' smaoinichadh gum bu chòir dhan ullachadh làithreach cumail a' dol leis a' chloinn a' frithealadh Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire agus dorsan Bun-sgoil Ùige a bhith air an cumail dùinte. Bha iad a'

faireachdainn gun robh an clann a' faighinn buannachd bho àireamh na bu mhotha de sgoilearan a thaobh cothroman foghlaim agus suidheachadh sòisealta.

3.3 Bha a' chlann air fad a choinnich ri Luchd-sgrùdaidh na Banrigh airson 's gun leanadh na h-ullachaidhean làithreach. Bha iad a' cur luach air a bhith ag ionnsachadh agus a' measgachadh gu sòisealta ann am buidhnean na bu mhotha de chomhaoisean. Bha iad a' meas gun robh na h-ullachaidhean làithreach na b' fheàrr a thaobh nan cothroman agus nan eòlasan a tha iad a' mealtainn ann am Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire. Cha bhiodh iad airson an càirdeasan a bhith air am briseadh nan deigheadh Bun-sgoil Ùige fhosgladh às ùr. Tha iad den bheachd nach b' e deagh fheum de dh'airgead na comhairle a bhiodh ann a bhith a' fosgladh na sgoile às ùr. B' fheàrr leotha nan deigheadh an t-airgead a chosg air a bhith a' leasachadh nan goireasan cluiche aig Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire.

3.4 Mar cho-chomhairliche reachdail, tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur fàilte air a' mholadh aig Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd Bun-sgoil Ùige a bhith air a cumail dùinte agus an sgìre-sgoile aice a chur ri sgìre-sgoile Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire. Ann am beachd a' Bhùird, cha bhi am moladh a tha ann sguir a thabhann foghlam aig Bun-sgoil Ùige a' toirt droch bhuaidh air solar FMG. Tha e dhen bheachd gu bheil an rola sgoile nas motha ann am Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire a' toirt taic do bhith a' leantainn air adhart le dà chlas FMG aig Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire. Tha seo a rèir nam molaidhean san Stiùireadh Reachdail a thaobh làn bhogadh bho P1-P3. Tha an comas aige a bhith a' tàladh barrachd phàrantan, agus mar sin, dh'fhaodadh ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig a bhith air a mheudachadh.

3.5 Rè àm a' cho-chomhairleachaidh chaidh innse dhan chomhairle mu mhearachd a bha sa mholadh ann an earrann 12.7. Feumaidh a' chomhairle dèanamh cinnteach gun gabh e na ceumannan a dh'fheumas e airson a' mhearachd seo a sgrùdadh. Na aithisg co-chomhairleachaidh dheireannaich, feumaidh a' chomhairle na gnìomhan a ghabhas e a chur an cèill gus dèiligeadh ris a' mhearachd seo mun d' fhuair e fiosrachadh.

3.6 Leis gu bheil am moladh a' leantainn air adhart gu bhith a' dùnadh sgoil air an tuath, ghabh Luchd-sgrùdaidh na Banrigh cuideachd sùim de bheachdachadh na comhairle air na bun-chùisean air am bu chòir dhaibh sùil shònraichte a thoirt. Tha a' chomhairle air comharrachadh gu soilleir adhbharan airson a bhith a' riaghailteachadh a' mholaidh agus bheachdaich e air grunnan roghainnean eile seach a bhith a' dùnadh na sgoile mus deach e gu co-chomhairleachadh air a' mholadh. Bha na roghainnean air an deach beachdachadh a' gabhail a-steach: a' leantainn air adhart a' cumail Bun-sgoil Ùige dùinte; a' fosgladh Bun-sgoil Ùige às ùr mar sgoil EME; a' fosgladh Bun-sgoil Ùige às ùr mar sgoil a' tabhann EME agus FMG; a' leudachadh sgìre-sgoile Bun-sgoil Ùige às ùr mar sgoil tro EME no le EME agus FMG air a thabhann. Tha e air a thighinn chun a' cho-dhùnaidh nach tabhann gin de na roghainnean sin buannachdan nas motha.

3.7 Tha talla baile sa choimhearsnachd ionadail a bhios muinntir an àite a cleachdadh. Tha a' choimhearsnachd air a bhith às aonais Bun-sgoil Ùige airson còrr air ochd bliadhna. Tha togalach na sgoile air a chleachdadh le eaglais ionadail air an t-Sàbaid agus airson tachartasan eile an-dràsta agus a-rithist. Tha comas ann a' choimhearsnachd ionadail a bhith a' dèanamh barrachd feum den togalach. A thaobh na cloinne a tha a' fuireach ann an Ùige no faisg air, tha aca ri astar nas fhaide a shiubhal ann a bhith a' frithealadh sgoil ann an Cille Mhoire. Tha a' chomhairle a' pàigheadh airson còmh-dhail na cloinne air P1-P7 air a bheil seo a' toirt buaidh.

4. Geàrr-iomradh

Tha Luchd-sgrùdaidh na Banrigh den bheachd gu bheil an comas aig moladh Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd buannachd foghlaim a libhrigeadh san fharsaingeachd. Tha a' chlann, an dà chuid ann an FMB agus FMG, comasach a bhith ag ionnsachadh ann am buidhnean còmhla ri clann den aon aois agus ìre ann an àrainn ionnsachaidh nas fhreagarraich. Tha iad a' cur fàilte air na cothroman airson cur-seachadan do sgiobaidhean agus buidhnean rè agus an dèidh na sgoile. Tha solar FMG agus FMB air a dheagh shuidheachadh aig Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire bho chaidh Bun-sgoil Ùige a dhùnadh ann an 2010. Tha na h-ullachaidhean airson a bhith a' gluasad bho thràth-bhliadhnaichean chun na bun-sgoile ag obrachadh gu math. Bha beachdan phàrantan measgaichte. Bha an dàrna leth airson 's gun deigheadh Bun-sgoil Ùige fhosgladh às ùr. Bha iad a' dèanamh na h-argamaid gum biodh an t-astar siubhail air a ghiorrachadh agus gum biodh e na bhuannachd dhan choimhearsnachd nam biodh sgoil na b' ionadail ann. Nan deigheadh am moladh air adhart, bu chòir dhan chomhairle co-obrachadh leis a' choimhearsnachd gus sgrùdadh a dhèanamh air an dòigh as fheàrr feum a dhèanamh de thogalach Bun-sgoil Ùige. Bu chòir sgrùdadh a dhèanamh le luchd-ùidh mun dòigh a bu chòir goireasan cluiche aig Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire a bhith air an cumail suas is air an leasachadh. Na aithisg co-chomhairleachaidh dheireannaich, feumaidh a' chomhairle na gnìomhan a tha e air a dhèanamh gus dèiligeadh ris a' mhearachd a chaidh a thogail, a chur an cèill.

Luchd-sgrùdaidh na Banrigh An t-Sultain 2019

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

CARE, LEARNING AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

The proposal is to discontinue education provision at Uig Primary School, re-assigning its catchment area to that of Kilmuir Primary School.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

THIS IS A PROPOSAL PAPER PREPARED IN TERMS OF THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY'S AGREED PROCEDURE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

The Highland Council is proposing, subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation process:

- To discontinue education provision at Uig Primary School, re-assigning its catchment area to that of Kilmuir Primary School. (Maps of the current catchment areas are at **Appendices B - Bi**). A map of the merged catchment is at **Appendix Bii**.
- The proposed change, if approved, will take place immediately after the conclusion of the statutory process relating to school closures.

SUMMARY OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Proposal Paper Published

The proposal paper will be available for inspection, free of charge, at:

- Portree Community Library, Fingal Centre, Portree, IV51 9ET
- Kilmuir Primary School, Kilmuir, IV51 9UB

and published on the Highland Council website:

www.highland.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

Copies of this Proposal Paper are also available on request from:

Area Care and Learning Office,
Fingal Centre
Portree
IV51 9ES
Email: Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk

To request this information in an alternative format, e.g. large print, Braille, audio formats, or suitable language, please contact The Area Care and Learning Office, Fingal Centre, Portree IV51 9ES. Email: Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk

Formal notice of the Proposal and relevant information will be given and be made available, free of charge, to the consultees listed as follows:

- (i) Parents of pupils attending Kilmuir Primary School; including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (ii) The Parent Councils of Kilmuir Primary School.
- (iii) The Parent Council of Kilmuir Primary School
- (iv) Members of Parliament and Members of Scottish Parliament for the area affected by the proposal;
- (v) Staff of Kilmuir Primary School;
- (vi) The Head Teacher of Macdiarmid Primary School
- (vii) The Parent Council of Macdiarmid Primary School
- (viii) Trade Union representatives;
- (ix) Uig Community Council
- (x) Kilmuir Community Council
- (xi) Bòrd na Gàidhlig
- (xii) Highland Youth Convenor
- (xiii) Uig Mission Church

Advertisement in Local Media

A notice announcing the public meeting will be placed in the local press and on the Highland Council's Facebook page.

Consultation Period

The consultation for this Proposal will run from 4 June 2019 and will end on 30 August 2019. This period allows for the statutory minimum of six weeks, including at least thirty school days.

Public Meeting

A public meeting will be held at 6.30pm on 19 June 2019 at Uig Village Hall. Anyone wishing to attend the public meeting is invited to do so. The meeting will be convened by the Council, will be chaired by a senior elected councillor, and will be addressed by officers of the Care and Learning Service.

The meeting will be an opportunity for the public to hear more about the proposal; to ask questions about the proposal; and to have the views of all stakeholders recorded so that they can be taken into account. A note will be taken at the meeting of questions asked and views expressed. This note will be published on the Council website. The meeting will also be recorded.

The note will be forwarded to Education Scotland, along with other submissions and comments received by the Council during the consultation process.

Meetings with Pupils and Staff

School staff will arrange to discuss the proposal with pupils (who are considered to be of a suitable age and maturity) in the affected schools. A record of questions, responses and views will be taken and this will be published in the Consultation Report.

Responses to the Proposals

Interested parties are invited to respond to the Proposals by making written or electronic submissions on the Proposals to:

Area Care and Learning Office,
Fingal Centre
Portree
IV51 9ES
Email: Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk

When responding, you are invited to state your relationship with the school – for example, “pupil”, “parent”, “carer”, “relative”, “former pupil”, “teacher in school”, “member of the community” etc. However it is not compulsory to do so.

Those sending in a response, whether by letter or electronically, should know that their response will be open to public scrutiny and may have to be supplied to anyone making a reasonable request to see it. If they do not wish their response to be made publicly available, they should clearly write on the document: “I wish my response to be considered as confidential with access restricted to Councillors and Council Officers of Highland Council”. Otherwise, it will be assumed that the person making the response agrees to it being made publicly available. All written responses must be received by the last day of the consultation period, 30 August 2019 at 5.00pm.

Involvement of Education Scotland

When the Proposal Document is published, a copy will be sent to Education Scotland by the Council. Education Scotland will also be sent, by 16 September 2019, a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Council from any person during the consultation period. Education Scotland will also receive the summary note of the public meeting that will be held and so far as is practicable a copy of any other relevant documentation. Education Scotland will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal not later than 4 October 2019. In preparing their report, Education Scotland may visit the affected schools and make such enquiries of people there as they consider appropriate.

Review of Consultation Exercise

Highland Council will review the proposal having regard to the Education Scotland Report, written representations that it has received, and oral representations made at the public meeting. It will then prepare a Consultation Report. This Report will be published in electronic and printed formats and will be sent to anyone who submitted a written representation during consultation. It will be available on the Council website and at the affected school and local library, free of charge. The Report will include a summary of the written and oral representations made during consultation and a copy of the Education Scotland Report, together with the Council’s considered response to the issues raised. The Report will include details of any alleged inaccuracies and/or omissions and how these have been handled. The Consultation Report will be published at least 3 weeks prior to being submitted to the Care, Learning and Housing (CLH) Committee, who will make a recommendation to the full Highland Council.

In publishing the report the Council will invite any person or party to make further representations to the Committee prior to its meeting. A notice to this effect will also be published on the Highland Council website.

At the present time the Council intends to publish its Report in December 2019, prior to submission to the CLH Committee in March 2020. However, this timescale may change depending on the nature of issues raised during consultation, and the need to give full consideration to those issues. In the latter event, the Report may not be submitted until a later Committee meeting.

Any proposal approved at CLH Committee would require to be confirmed by a subsequent meeting of the full Highland Council.

As the proposal involves the closure of a school, Highland Council would be required to notify Scottish Ministers of its decision and provide them with a copy of the Proposal Paper and Consultation Report. The Scottish Ministers would have an eight-week period from the date of that final decision to decide if they will call-in the proposal. Within the first three weeks of that eight-week period, the Scottish Ministers will take account of any relevant representations made to them by any person.

Note on Corrections

If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this Proposal Paper, either by the Council or any other person, the Council will determine if relevant information has been omitted or, if the paper contains an inaccuracy. The Council will then take appropriate action, which may include the issue of a correction or the reissuing of the Proposal or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period, if appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and Education Scotland will be advised.

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL

Legislative Background

- 1.1 The proposal is advanced within the context of all applicable legislation. Amongst other duties, education authorities are required to secure adequate and efficient provision of school education (S.1 of the Education Act 1980); and to endeavour to secure improvement in the quality of school education in schools that are managed by them (S.3 of The Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000).
- 1.2 Uig Primary School is a rural school within the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (the school is classed as "very remote rural") and the Council has had regard to the provisions of that Act, in particular the special regard required for rural school closures. The Council has considered the school roll projections for Uig Primary taking into account the current pattern of enrolments (see Section 8 below, and **Appendix C**); has given detailed consideration to the viable alternatives to closure (Sections 6-10 below); to the effect of closure on the community (Section 14 below) and to the impact of travel arrangements on children who are not yet of school age but who live in the Uig catchment (Sections 6-10, 12 and 18 below).

General Background

- 2.1 A statutory consultation into the proposed closure of Uig Primary School was undertaken during 2010. Following a review of the oral and written representations made, Highland Council decided to close Uig Primary on a temporary basis, pending a longer term review.

Reason for the Proposal

- 3.1 This proposal is being advanced for the following reasons:
 - No children have attended Uig Primary School since the end of session 2009-10.
 - Re-opening Uig Primary would have a negative educational impact, both on the pupils from Uig itself, and the pupils who remain at Kilmuir Primary. Further details on this are provided in Section 11 below.
 - The community of Uig has made use of the school building since the school was "mothballed" in 2010. The building has been used for church services by the Uig Mission Church, which is seeking to expand provision.
 - The Council has explored alternatives in arriving at this proposal, explained further below.
- 3.2 The current proposal follows informal discussions between Highland Council officials; local elected members and local representatives. Informal discussions with the latter were held with Uig Community Council, Kilmuir Community Council and with parents and residents within the Kilmuir and Uig school catchments.

Current Details – Uig Primary School

- 4.1 Uig Primary is located just off the A87 Trunk Road, at the south end of the entrance to the village. The catchment area encompasses the village of Uig along with Balnacnoc Earlish and Cuidrach.
- 4.2 The school has been mothballed since the end of session 2009-10 when the school roll fell to 2, and the pupils transferred to Kilmuir Primary School.
- 4.3 The accommodation at Uig consists of 2 classrooms, a General Purpose Room and office space. Prior to the school being mothballed one of the unused classrooms had been converted into a staffroom. A dining room and storage space had been created out of the former schoolhouse. There are no facilities for PE although the GP room was used for this purpose, as well as the village hall where necessary. Access to the school is via a steep incline.
- 4.4 The nursery class at Uig was closed prior to the school being mothballed. When the school was last in operation nursery education for pupils from Uig was provided at Kilmuir Primary.
- 4.5 The school has a registered permanent capacity of 25, based on the availability of one classroom.
- 4.7 The Highland Council assesses all of its schools for Suitability and Condition, in line with the Scottish Government's School Estate Management guidelines. Schools are assessed on a scale with the ratings "A" (good) "B" (satisfactory), "C" (poor) and "D" (bad). Prior to mothballing, Uig Primary School was rated as "C" for the educational suitability of the building and "C" for building condition. The Suitability Assessment from 2009 was reviewed as a desktop exercise in 2018 and the rating has not changed from a C.
- 4.8 The most recent review of the building Condition resulted in a "B" rating. This improved rating reflects changes to in the assessment guidance since the school was mothballed. The Condition Survey did however identify a number of issues for rectification, of varying seriousness. The total cost of these is estimated at around £125,000.
- 4.9 As the school has not operated since session 2009-10, placing requests have not arisen.
- 4.10 No HMle Report has been published since before 2006.
- 4.11 Annual CO₂ emissions from the Uig School building are estimated at just under 20 tonnes.

Current Details – Kilmuir Primary

- 5.1 Kilmuir Primary School is situated in Trotternish five miles north of Uig. The school's catchment extends from where it meets the Uig PS catchment, across Trotternish to Kendram, where it abuts the catchment of Bun-sgoil Stafainn. The present school was built in 1928 and has been extended twice, on the last occasion incorporating the lower part of the schoolhouse to provide a small classroom, storage, resource and office space for general school use.

The playground is adjacent to a community play area. Since August 2015 the school has had a large demountable unit situated in the school car park. The English class is located in this facility. At present there are no pupils attending the English Medium nursery.

5.2 The 2018-19 roll is 38, with 23 pupils in Gàidhlig Medium and 15 in English Medium. The anticipated roll for 2019-20 is 35, with 22 pupils in Gàidhlig Medium and 13 in English Medium

5.3 The school has a registered capacity of 75. The 2018-19 roll of 38 therefore represents 51% use of capacity. The anticipated 2019-20 roll of 35 would represent 47% use of capacity.

5.4 The Kilmuir Primary School building is rated as “C” for educational suitability and “B” for Condition.

5.5 There is no current HMle Report for the school.

5.6 The current staffing levels at Kilmuir Primary are as follows:

Head Teacher – Shared with Bun-sgoil Stafainn – notional allocation of 0.5 FTE

Class Teacher – 3.00FTE

Class Contact Time Teacher 0.3 FTE

Nursery Management Time 0.05 FTE

Clerical Assistant – 18 hours per week

General Auxiliary – 5 hours per week

Early Years Practitioners – 44.17 hours per week

Cook 2 - 27.5 hours per week

Cleaning Operative – 15.75 hours per week

Facilities Management Assistant – 3 hours per week

5.7 Were Uig School to re-open as it was prior to mothballing, the staffing entitlements for Kilmuir, as per the Council’s Devolved School Management policy, would be as follows;

Head Teacher – Shared with Uig Primary and Bun-sgoil Stafainn – notional allocation of 0.33 FTE

Class Teacher – 3.00FTE

Class Contact Time Teacher 0.3 FTE

Nursery Management Time 0.05 FTE

Clerical Assistant – 18 hours per week

General Auxiliary – 5 hours per week

Early Years Practitioners – 44.17 hours per week

Cook 2 - 27.5 hours per week

Cleaning Operative – 15.75 hours per week

Facilities Management Assistant – 3 hours per week

5.8 Were Uig School to re-open offering both EM and GM education, the staffing entitlements for Kilmuir, as per the Council’s Devolved School Management policy, would be as follows;

Head Teacher – Shared with Uig Primary and Bun-sgoil Stafainn – notional allocation of 0.33 FTE
Class Teacher – 2.00FTE
Class Contact Time Teacher 0.2 FTE
Nursery Management Time 0.05 FTE
Clerical Assistant – 18 hours per week
General Auxiliary – 5 hours per week
Early Years Practitioners – 44.17 hours per week
Cook 2 - 27.5 hours per week
Cleaning Operative – 15.75 hours per week
Facilities Management Assistant – 3 hours per week

- 5.9 Additional Support Needs teaching and non-teaching staff would be allocated to the school in accordance with an annual assessment of need.
- 5.10 Annual CO₂ emissions from Kilmuir Primary School building from August 2017 to August 2018 were just under 40 tonnes. This figure would not be affected by the formal closure of Uig Primary School.

Examination of Alternatives

- 6.1 In bringing forward this proposal for closure, the Council must give due consideration of alternative courses of action that could be considered. The following reasonable alternatives to closure have been considered:
- i. to continue with the current “mothballing” arrangement.
 - ii. to re-open Uig Primary as an English Medium School, with its current catchment area
 - iii. to re-open Uig Primary as a school offering both English Medium and Gaelic Medium education, with its current catchment area
 - iv. either of options ii. and iii. above with an expanded catchment area.
- 6.2 The option of closing Kilmuir Primary in favour of re-opening Uig Primary was considered but is not regarded as a reasonable alternative. Kilmuir Primary is itself a very remote rural school and a closure proposal would therefore have to demonstrate there was no viable alternative. Any such Proposal would be strongly opposed by the parents and the community of Kilmuir. This option has therefore been discounted.
- 6.3 As part of the consideration of alternatives, the Council has investigated the long-term roll projections.
- 6.4 The detail of the Council’s consideration of the reasonable alternatives is set out throughout this proposal paper and its appendices.

Option 1 – Continued Mothballing

- 7.1 Although it would be possible to continue with the current “mothballing” arrangement, Highland Council does not consider that that would represent the best option for the taxpayer or the community. “Mothballing” would mean the continuation of the current lack of clarity regarding the future status of the school and would prevent the community from developing options for the

future use of the accommodation. The Council would also be burdened with the costs of maintaining a “mothballed” building.

- 7.2 Uig Primary School has now been mothballed since 2010, and it is necessary to decide on the future of the school.
- 7.3 Scottish Government guidance relating to the mothballing of schools makes it clear that mothballing is a temporary measure and should not be used to undermine the requirements to undertake a statutory school closure consultation.
- 7.4 Current school transport arrangements would not be affected by a continuation of mothballing.
- 7.5 At present Uig Primary School building is leased to Uig Mission Church for Sunday services. Mothballing would have no effect on this arrangement.

Option 2 - Re-Opening of Uig Primary School as a School Offering English Medium Education, with its Current Catchment Area

- 8.1 Prior to mothballing, Uig Primary School operated as a school offering English Medium education, and there was no school nursery. This option would therefore represent reinstatement of the status quo prior to mothballing.
- 8.2 For the 2018-19 school session, there are 18 pupils of P1-7 age living within the catchment area of the school.
- 8.3 Six of the current 18 current pupils attend English Medium education at Kilmuir Primary School.
- 8.4 The above figures suggest that, were Uig School to re-open offering English Medium education, as was the situation prior to mothballing, it would be as a single teacher school with a total roll of less than 10 pupils. Highland Council considers that these circumstances present significant impediments to learning and teaching. Further detail is provided at Section 11 below.
- 8.5 The long-term roll projections for a re-opened Uig Primary can be found at **Appendix C**. These are divided into potential EM and GM rolls. The figures suggest that, under the option of re-opening Uig as a school offering English Medium education, the long-term roll would remain below ten.
- 8.6 Were Uig Primary to be re-opened, it would most likely be under an arrangement where the school was managed as part of a “cluster” with other schools within the ASG. However, alternative management arrangements would not address issues around the sustainability of the school.
- 8.7 Were the school to re-open with as it was prior to mothballing, the staffing entitlements, as per the Council’s Devolved School Management policy are as follows;

Head Teacher – Shared with Kilmuir Primary and Bun-sgoil Stafainn – notional allocation of 0.33 FTE
 Class Teacher – 1.00FTE

Class Contact Time Teacher 0.1 FTE
 Clerical Assistant – 16 hours per week
 Cook 3 – 20 hours per week
 Facilities Management Assistant – 3 hours per week
 Cleaning Operative – 7.5 hours per week

- 8.8 Additional Support Needs teaching and non-teaching staff would be allocated to the school in accordance with an annual assessment of need.
- 8.9 Uig Primary School did not have a school nursery prior to mothballing. At present there are 5 children in the nursery at Kilmuir Primary, one of whom is from the Uig catchment. Taking the small numbers of pre-school children into account, Highland Council does not see merit in establishing a new pre-school nursery at a re-opened Uig Primary School.
- 8.10 If the school were to re-open, none of the current pupils would qualify for school transport. Pupils would have shorter journey times to school than they do at present. However, Highland Council does not consider that the travel distances from Uig to Kilmuir are excessive, as the two schools are only located about 5 miles apart. Full details of the transport arrangements are set out at Section 12 below.
- 8.11 The shorter journey times set out above must be balanced against the negative educational effects that would arise for the Uig pupils, and which are set out in full at Section 11 below.
- 8.12 The re-opening of Uig Primary would have a moderate adverse effect on Kilmuir Primary. See paragraph 11.11 for further details.
- 8.13 A re-opening of Uig Primary would mean that the Uig Mission Church would no longer be able to make use of the building.

Option 3 - Re-Opening of Uig Primary School as a School Offering both and Gaelic Medium and English Medium Education, with its Current Catchment Area

- 9.1 Twelve of the 18 current pupils from within the Uig PS catchment area attend Gaelic Medium education (GME) at Kilmuir Primary.
- 9.2 Although, prior to mothballing, Uig Primary did not offer GME, the option of re-opening Uig Primary as a school offering both English and Gaelic medium education could be considered as an alternative to closure.
- 9.3. As mentioned above, there are 35 pupils enrolled at Kilmuir Primary for the 2019-20 session, comprising 22 pupils in Gàidhlig Medium and 13 in English Medium. The school will have 2 Gaelic Medium classes with a P1-3 and a P4-7, and a single English Medium class. 17 of the pupils will be from the Uig catchment, 11 in Gàidhlig Medium and 6 in English Medium.
- 9.4 The possible departure of the 17 pupils from Uig would create the following class structure across the two schools:

Kilmuir Primary – a single GM class with 11 pupils

a single EM class with 7 pupils

Uig Primary – a single GM class with 11 pupils
a single EM class with 6 pupils

- 9.5 The roll projections at Appendix C indicate that if Uig re-opened offering both English and Gàidhlig Medium education, the long-term configuration of classes would continue as one GM and one EM class.
- 9.6 Were the school to re-open offering both GM and EM education, the staffing entitlements, as per the Council's Devolved School Management policy are as follows;
- Head Teacher – Shared with Kilmuir Primary and Bun-sgoil Stafainn – notional allocation of 0.33 FTE
Class Teacher – 2.00FTE
Class Contact Time Teacher 0.2 FTE
Clerical Assistant – 17 hours per week
Cook 3 – 20 hours per week
Facilities Management Assistant – 3 hours per week
Cleaning Operative – 7.5 hours per week
- 9.7 Additional Support Needs teaching and non-teaching staff would be allocated to the school in accordance with an annual assessment of need.
- 9.8 Section 8 above considers the options around the provision of a new pre-school nursery class at a re-opened Uig Primary. In addition, the requirements of offering separate GM and EM classes would mean that the school's GP room would need to be used for nursery accommodation.
- 9.9 The situation with school transport would be the same as described at paragraph 8.9 above.
- 9.10 The educational implications of the above are discussed at paragraphs 11.12 – 11.14 below. Negative effects would arise from splitting the already small numbers attending English Medium education, and from splitting the current GM P1-3 and P4-7 classes into two P1-7 classes.

Option 4 - Re-Opening of Uig Primary School with Expanded Catchment Area

- 10.1 Consideration has been given to extending the Uig PS catchment areas. However, any proposal to extend the Uig PS catchment into the Kilmuir or MacDiarmid catchments needs to take account of the fact that Kilmuir and MacDiarmid Primaries are themselves rural schools (see Appendices B-Bi).
- 10.2 Were Kilmuir to be shorn of the pupils from the Uig catchment, its roll would potentially drop to 20. Current legislation requires that any consultation on changing the catchment areas of schools requires consultation with the parents of any affected school. During informal consultation, Kilmuir parents advised they would not be supportive of any changes to the present catchment area, so it is extremely unlikely that parents would support any further reductions in the school roll at Kilmuir to boost the roll at Uig. Moreover, the current boundary between the Uig and Kilmuir catchments,

which lies just north of Idrigill, is located at a natural gap between local settlements, and fits with the local geography.

- 10.3 The area of Glenhinnisdal lies within the Macdiarmid Primary School catchment, but is geographically closer to Uig. The area lies approximately 5 miles/11 minutes from Uig and 9 miles/15 minutes from Macdiarmid Primary.
- 10.4 Macdiarmid Primary has a current P1-7 roll of 29, of whom 8 are from Glenhinnisdal. The roll at Macdiarmid has declined steeply in recent years. If Glenhinnisdal were removed from the Macdiarmid Primary catchment, the long term roll at that school might well fall to below 20. As with Kilmuir, current legislation requires that any consultation on changing the catchment areas of schools requires consultation with the parents of any affected school and it is extremely unlikely that parents at Macdiarmid Primary would support a reduction in their school roll to boost the roll at Uig.

Educational Benefits

- 11.1 Highland Council is of the view that the school environment should be of a quality that sustains and improves education provision, pupil performance and outcomes for the young people of Highland.
- 11.2 With the above aim in mind, Highland Council has adopted the above indicators in reviewing its' school estate:
- Pupils should be educated in facilities which are rated at least category B for each of Condition and Suitability.
 - Pupils should be members of an age-appropriate peer group.
 - Pupils should have the opportunity to engage in the widest possible range of activities beyond the core curriculum, including music, sports, drama and art.
 - Pupils with Additional Support Needs should be educated in the most appropriate local setting.
 - Pupils should not ordinarily be required to travel for longer than 30 minutes from the nearest classified road pick-up point to school (primary) although it is recognised that this may not always be possible in a rural Council area such as Highland.
 - School facilities should be of a size appropriate to the delineated area that they serve, paying due regard to demographic trends.
 - School delineated areas should reflect geography, travel routes and population distribution.
 - Safe school transport should be provided and safe traffic management in and around school sites should be implemented.
 - Teachers should be members of a professional learning community comprising at least 3 members located in the same facility.
 - The implications of school location to local communities should be considered.
 - Schools, wherever possible, should be located where there is a recognised village or other built up community.
- 11.3 As mentioned above, were Uig PS to re-open as a school offering English Medium education, as it did prior to mothballing, it is the Highland Council's

view that there would be educational detriment to pupils from the Uig catchment. Pupils at Kilmuir Primary regularly work in co-operative learning groups of various sizes, sometimes as a whole school group and sometimes in groups of mixed ages and abilities. A roll of around 6, of varying ages, such as that if Uig Primary re-opened, would mean that the groups would not only be limited in size but also static, since there would be no possibility of changing the membership of learning groups. Such a small roll would also limit the variety of skills that pupils could bring to the groups, and there would be a smaller range of work to use in terms of sharing standards.

- 11.4 Working with others across a wide range of settings is one of the core elements of the school curriculum. This includes planning and carrying out projects in small groups, sharing tasks and responsibilities, and being ready and willing to learn from and with others. Working with others also plays a part in the development of leadership skills, which become increasingly important to pupils as they move through their school years and beyond school education into adulthood.
- 11.5 The Language Programme at Kilmuir Primary aims to develop listening, talking, reading and writing skills. Listening is developed by games, stories, radio & television programmes, music, listening centres and use of ICT. The school aims to develop fluency and clarity of expression and to extend vocabulary. Talking is developed by role playing, mime, reporting, interviewing etc. These techniques are used in both the English Medium and Gàidhlig Medium classes. They are also used for the teaching of French, which is introduced to pupils in the Upper Stages as part of the 1+2 language initiative. Once again, the emphasis is on oral work and role play. In all cases, working with others plays an important role.
- 11.6 As part of the Developing Scotland's Young Workforce the aim is to develop increased awareness of the world of work, social skills and employability skills, including team working, leadership and working with others. Such knowledge and understanding and skills acquisition would very much benefit from discussions and dialogue with peers of the same age/stage.
- 11.7 It is self-evident that a total school roll of around 6 pupils at varying ages restricts opportunities for team sports and other active recreational activities. This applies even to individual sports, where successful learning of skills is helped by talking and sharing of experiences. It further applies to the health and wellbeing element of the curriculum which involves discussion between pupils about health lifestyle choices. Whilst these problems can be overcome by taking the pupils to participate in activities in neighbouring schools, that in itself involves time out of school in travelling.
- 11.8 As with sports, the larger roll at Kilmuir provides a greater likelihood of pupils benefitting from a wider range of group musical and artistic opportunities, events that are more difficult to deliver with restricted numbers. Pupils at Kilmuir are encouraged to create their own dramatic situations. These are developed by mime, stories, poems, and songs. The children from P5 upwards participate in an annual dance festival. The school also has a strong tradition of participating in both the local and National Mod.

- 11.9 Larger pupil numbers also provide more opportunities for after school activities. From time to time, Kilmuir Primary organises teams to compete against other schools in sports such as shinty, football, basketball and hockey.
- 11.10 The level to which pupils are able to become skilled in social interaction will depend to an extent on the opportunities afforded to them. The forging of close friendships and the development of self-esteem is enhanced by each pupil being enabled to be part of an age appropriate peer group of a sufficient size to allow a range of interactions and relationships to form and reform.
- 11.11 Were Uig PS to re-open offering English Medium education, there would additionally be a negative impact on Kilmuir Primary. The expected EM class of 13 pupils at that school for 2019-20 would be reduced in size to 7 pupils, leading to reduced opportunities for social interaction and collaborative working within this class.
- 11.12 As mentioned above, there is an alternative scenario of re-opening Uig Primary, with the school offering both EM and GM education. This would represent a change to what was on offer prior to mothballing.
- 11.13 It can be seen from paragraphs 9.3 and 9.4 above, that in such a scenario the current P1-3 and P4-7 GM classes at Kilmuir would be reorganised into two P1-7 classes, one at each school, whilst the single EM class at Kilmuir, which has 13 pupils expected for August 2019, would split into two classes, one of 7 pupils and one of 6 pupils.
- 11.14 Highland Council believes the above scenario would be educationally undesirable for the pupils at both schools, leading to reduced social interaction and reduced opportunities for collaborative working. In the case of GM, it would involve the creation of classes with children spread across the whole of the 5-12 age range, something which does not occur at present.
- 11.15 As indicated at paragraphs 4.3 and 4.5 above, Uig Primary is a one classroom school with a GP room. A further small classroom was converted into a staffroom prior to mothballing. Were Uig Primary to re-open offering both GM and EM education, the school would lose the use of either the GP room or the staffroom.
- 11.16 In summary, a number of positive benefits have derived from the operational merger of Uig and Kilmuir Primary Schools. Collaborative working within the classroom, language learning, and artistic and sports activities have all benefited from the greater numbers available through the operational merger of the two schools.

Effect of Differing Transport Arrangements

- 12.1 Currently, pupils from the Uig PS catchment are transported to Kilmuir Primary at an annual cost is £18,850.
- 12.2 As Uig Primary is currently mothballed, the pupils from the catchment already travel to Kilmuir Primary and no differing transport arrangement would need to be applied in the event Uig Primary is closed.

- 12.3 The village of Uig is located between 4 and 5 miles from the Kilmuir Primary School. Currently the pupil within the Uig catchment living furthest from Kilmuir, has a one-way journey over just over 6 miles to Kilmuir Primary. The travel times involved are well within the normal range for the Highland Council area.
- 12.4 It is recognised that the larger merged school implies an increase in the number of pupils entitled to school transport compared to the number who can currently walk/cycle to school, should they choose to do so, and the occasional inconvenience for parents who wish to take their child to/from school during the school day, should they require to do so.
- 12.5 It is estimated that the current arrangements for transporting pupils from Uig to Kilmuir result in additional CO₂e emissions of 4.6kg per day, compared to a scenario in which Uig PS was re-opened. Based on 190 school days per session, this represents 0.874 tonnes of CO₂e emissions per school year. The figure can only ever be an estimate as emissions are affected by the speed at which vehicles are driven and the type of road travelled.
- 12.6 The increased annual CO₂ equivalent emissions from the provision of transport (less than 1 tonne) should be set against the annual emissions of over 19 tonnes from the Uig Primary School building itself (see paragraph 4.12 above).
- 12.7 During the last full school session (2013-14) there were no days in which the school remained open but where the education of the Uig children was disrupted due to unavailability of school transport in bad weather.

Effects on Staff and School Management Arrangements

- 13.1 As the school is already “mothballed” there will be no impact on school management arrangements at Kilmuir from a formal closure of Uig Primary School.
- 13.2 A continuation of the current mothballing arrangement will have no effect on current staffing arrangements.
- 13.3 The staffing implications of re-opening Uig Primary School are set out at Paragraphs 4.9 – 4.11 above, whilst the financial implications are set out at Section 15 below, and the associated Appendix D.

Effect on the Local Community

- 14.1 There is an existing village hall in Uig which provides a public space for the local community.
- 14.2 The mothballed school building at Uig is currently being used on some days by the Trotternish Mission Church, who lease the building on a month-by-month basis. The Church are included as a statutory consultee for this Proposal.

- 14.3 Other suggestions have been made for the future use of the building in the event of the closure proceeding. Subject to the Council not having any operational need for the building, Highland Council would be keen to work with the local community over the future use of the building and site. Any such proposal would however have to be progressed within the terms of the Council's current asset management policy.

Financial Consequences

- 15.1 The Table at **Appendix D** sets out the Highland Council's assessment of the Financial Implications of the proposed merger.
- 15.2 It can be seen from the paper that re-opening Uig Primary as a school offering only English Medium education would lead to an increased cost of just under £72,000 per year, in comparison to the current arrangement. Under the second option, under which Uig Primary would offer both GM and EM education, the additional cost would rise to £125,000 per year.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 16.1 The proposal has been assessed as having no impact on the following Equality areas:
- Disability
 - Gender
 - Gender reassignment
 - Pregnancy or Maternity
 - Marriage/Civil Partnership
 - Race
 - Religion or Belief
 - Sexual Orientation
 - Looked After Children
 - Young Carers
 - Children and Young People Living in Deprivation
- 16.2 In respect of age equality, the proposal relates to 2 primary schools and as such primarily affects children in the 3-12 age group, and their parents. The proposal is advanced on the basis of educational benefit to the children in the area concerned. No negative age related effects arise. Age is not a protected characteristic for the purposes of schools provision.

Rural Impact Assessment

- 17.1 Both Uig and Kilmuir are classed by the Scottish Government as "very remote rural schools". Although the proposal involves a formal closure of service, the service itself has not operated since the summer of 2010. In practical terms the proposal will not change the current position.
- 17.2 The relocation of service (which in practical terms has already taken place) involves moving local school provision from Uig to Kilmuir, a distance of 5 miles.

- 17.3 As set out in Section 11 above, the Highland Council believes that the proposal offers educational benefits
- 17.4 At present Kilmuir Primary School has a pupil roll of around 50% of the school's capacity. The school is comfortably able to accommodate the pupils from Uig and no adverse effects for Kilmuir Primary are expected to arise. On the contrary, including the pupils from Uig within the Kilmuir catchment will help to maintain a healthy roll at Kilmuir.
- 17.5 It is recognised that pupils from Uig itself have less opportunity to walk or cycle to school than when Uig School was in operation, and that there is occasional inconvenience for parents who wish to take their child to or from school during the school day.
- 17.6 The maximum additional travel time for school pupils from the Uig catchment to Kilmuir is 14 minutes (source: Google Maps). As school transport is provided by the Council, the proposal would not be expected to have any impact on accessibility to education or on fuel poverty.

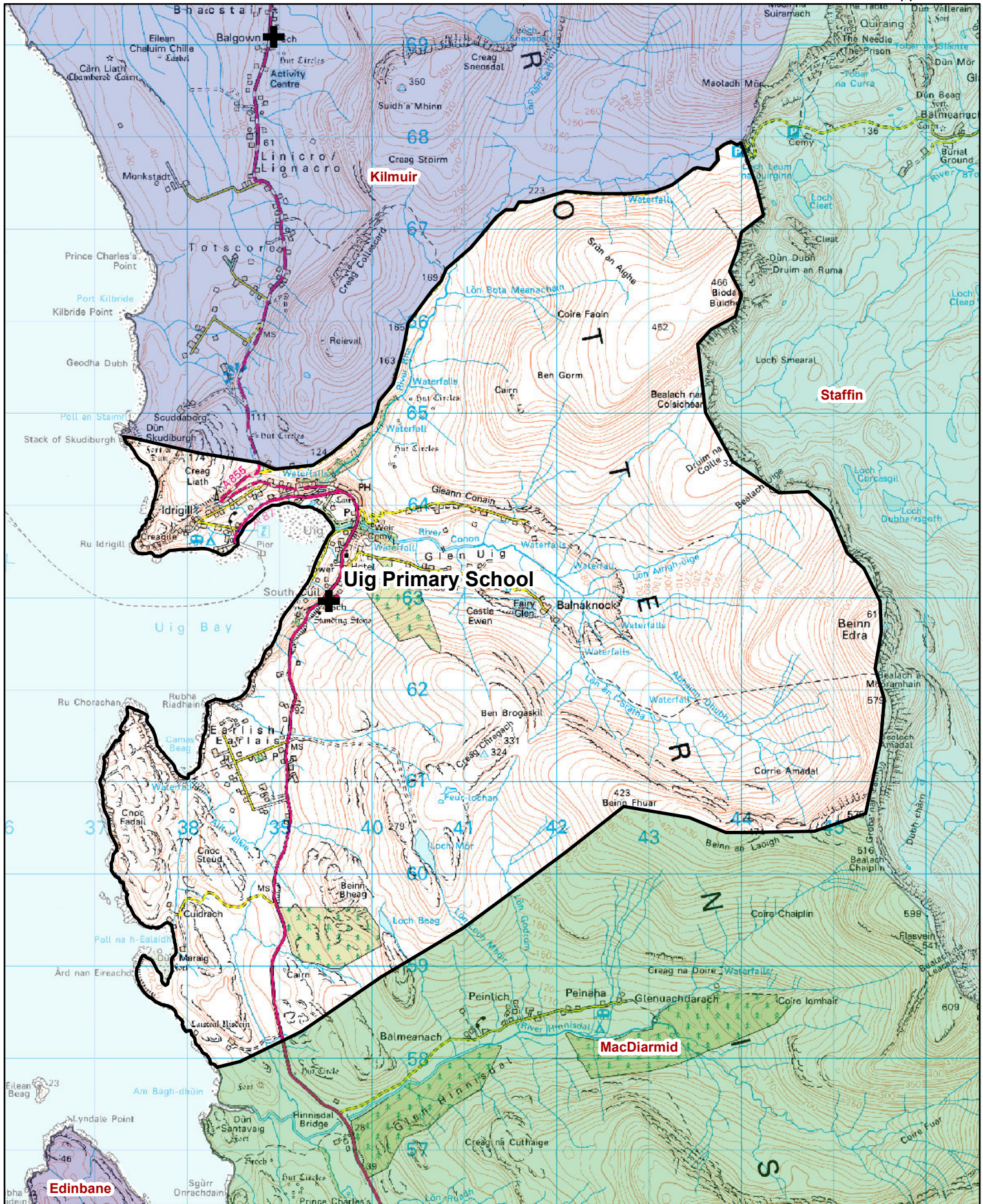
Mitigation of Adverse Effects

- 18.1 The main adverse effect for children in the P1-7 age group is the additional travel from Uig to Kilmuir, details of which are provided above.
- 18.2 Funded school transport is and will continue to be provided to P1-7 pupils from Uig attending Kilmuir Primary School.
- 18.3 If the school re-opened, it would be on the same basis as it existed prior to mothballing, i.e. without a nursery class. Nursery pupils would continue to travel to Kilmuir Primary, as happened prior to the mothballing.

Recommendation

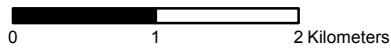
- 19.1 Taking the above into account Highland Council recommends that Uig Primary School, currently "mothballed," is closed and the catchment area re-assigned to that of Kilmuir Primary School.
- 19.2 This proposal paper is issued in terms of the authority's procedures to meet the relevant statutory requirements. Following the consultation period, a report and submissions received will be presented to the Care, Learning and Housing Committee of the Highland Council.

END OF PROPOSAL PAPER



Uig Primary School

1:53,000



1 cm = 530 metres

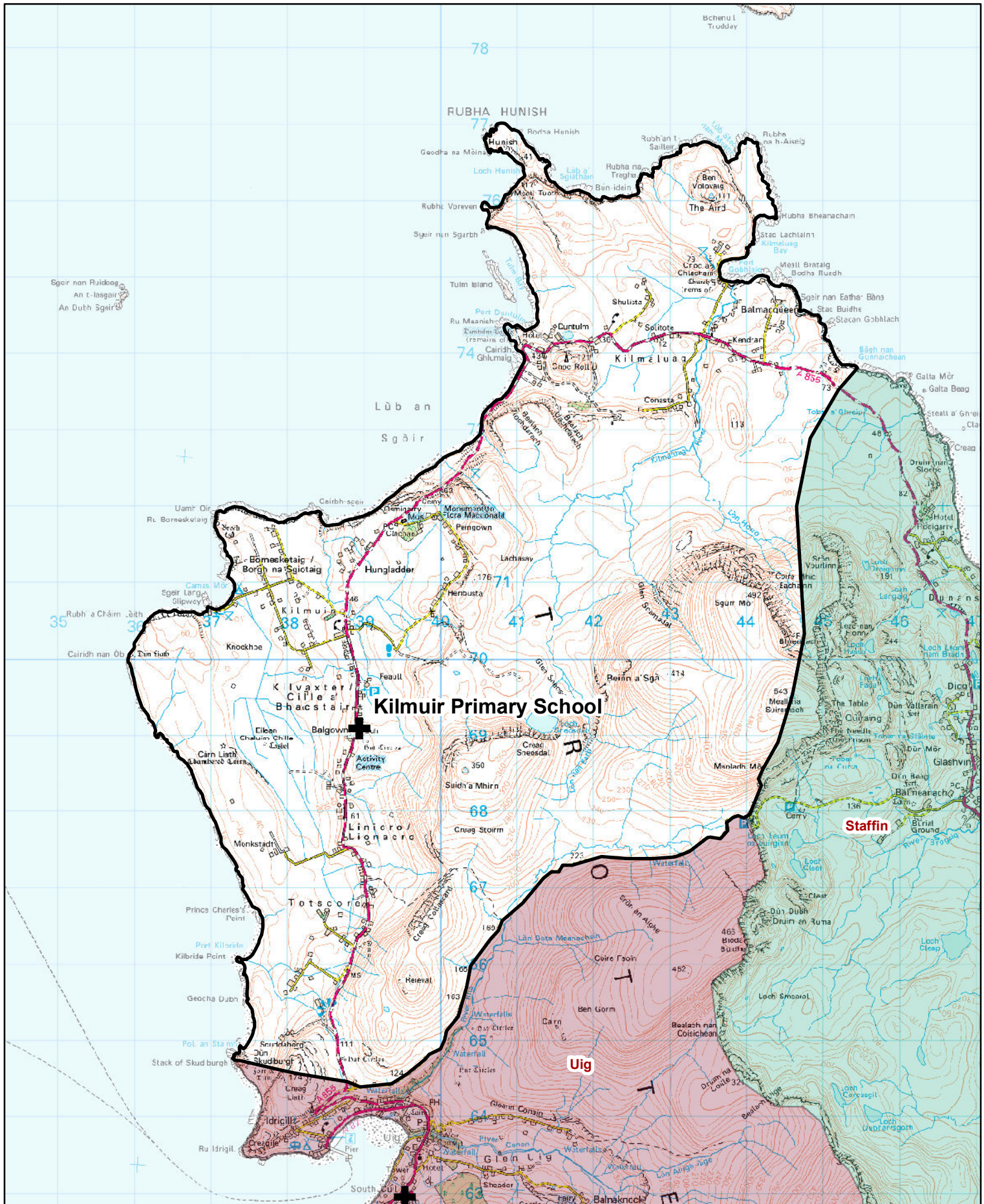
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**Primary School
Catchment Boundary
March 2013**



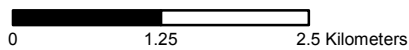
Planning & Development Service



Kilmuir Primary School

1:64,000

**Primary School
Catchment Boundary
March 2013**



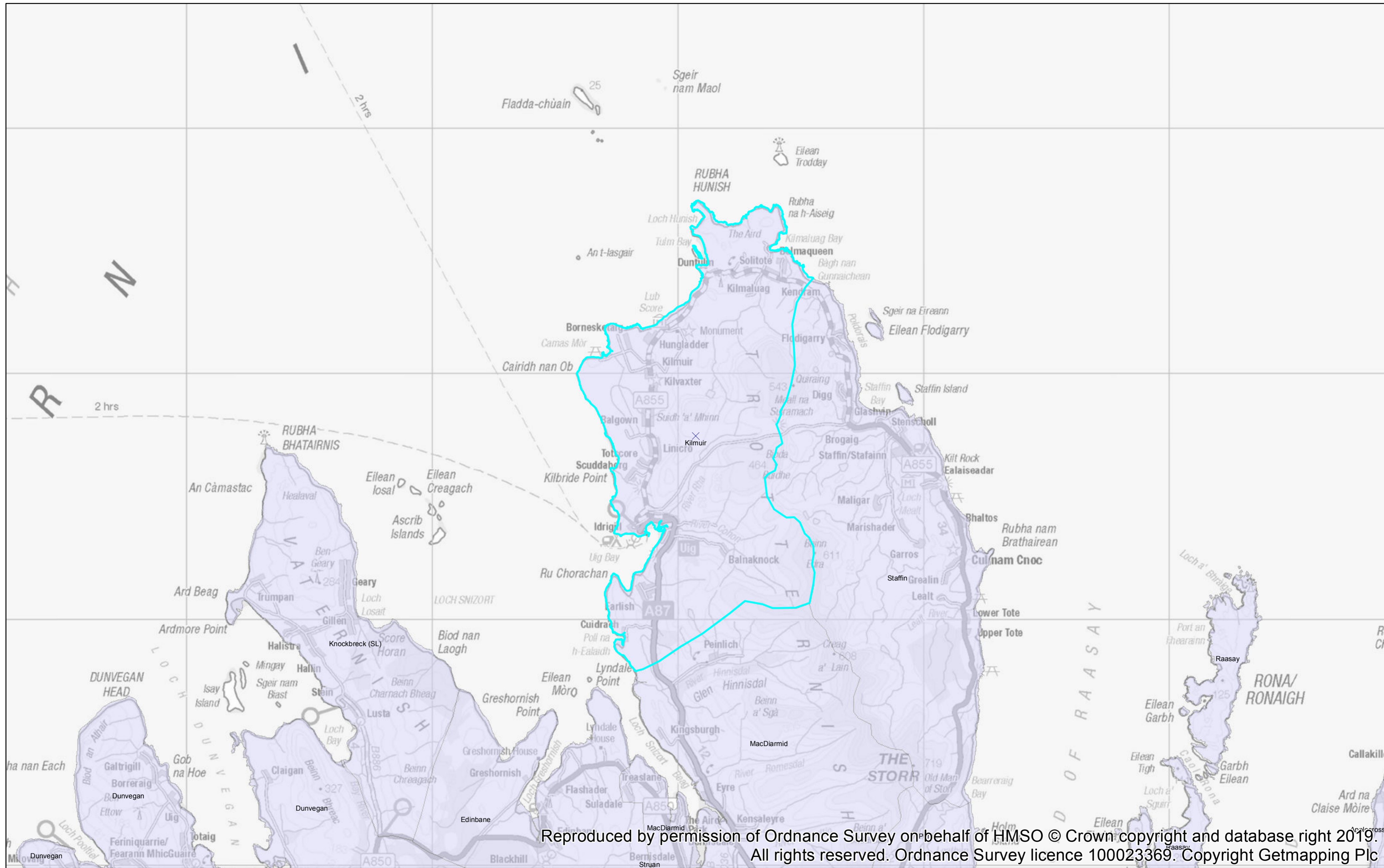
1 cm = 640 metres

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Planning & Development Service



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Proposed new Kilmuir PS Catchment Area DRAFT

Date: 06/02/2019



Uig PS Roll 18/19 with Projections

Appendix C

English Medium	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Nursery 4	0		
Nursery 5	1	0	
P1	0	1	0
P2	1	0	1
P3	0	1	0
P4	0	0	1
P5	3	0	0
P6	1	3	0
P7	1	1	3
Total	6	6	5

Gaelic Medium	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Nursery 4	0		
Nursery 5	0	0	
P1	1	0	0
P2	3	1	0
P3	3	3	1
P4	0	3	3
P5	1	0	3
P6	3	1	0
P7	1	3	1
Total	12	11	8

Uig PS Roll 18/19 with Projections

English Medium

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34
Nursery 2	1															
Nursery 3	1	1														
Nursery 4	2	1	1													
Nursery 5	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
P1	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
P2	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
P3	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
P4	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
P5	3	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
P6	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
P7	1	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	6	5	6	4	5	6	6	7	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7

Gaelic Medium

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34
Nursery 2	1															
Nursery 3	3	1														
Nursery 4	3	3	1													
Nursery 5	0	3	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
P1	1	0	3	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
P2	3	1	0	3	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
P3	3	3	1	0	3	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
P4	0	3	3	1	0	3	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
P5	1	0	3	3	1	0	3	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
P6	3	1	0	3	3	1	0	3	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
P7	1	3	1	0	3	3	1	0	3	3	1	2	2	2	2	2
Total	12	11	11	13	14	13	12	13	15	14	13	14	14	14	14	14

Financial Template - Uig PS Closure - Option 1

Table 1			
	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Forecast revenue costs for Uig PS			
	Costs for full financial year (projected annual costs)	Additional financial impact on receiving schools	Annual recurring savings (column 2 minus column 1)
UIG PRIMARY SCHOOL			
School costs			
<i>Employee costs:</i>			
teaching staff	72,157	20,667	-51,490
support staff	8,313		-8,313
teaching staff training (CPD etc)	291	41	-250
support staff training			0
Supply costs	2,464		-2,464
<i>Building costs:</i>			
property insurance	205		-205
non domestic rates	2,400		-2,400
water & sewerage charges	540		-540
energy costs	5,596		-5,596
cleaning (contract or inhouse)	7,118		-7,118
building repair & maintenance	194	33	-160
grounds maintenance			0
facilities management costs			0
revenue costs arising from capital			0
other			0
<i>School operational costs:</i>			
learning materials	1,727	329	-1,398
catering (contract or inhouse)	10,548		-10,548
SQA costs			0
other school operational costs (e.g. licences)			0
<i>Transport costs:</i>			
home to school	0	18,850	18,850
other pupil transport costs			0
staff travel	310	40	-270
SCHOOL COSTS SUB-TOTAL	111,862	39,961	-71,902
<i>Income:</i>			
Sale of meals			
Lets			
External care provider			
Other			
SCHOOL INCOME SUB-TOTAL	0	0	0
TOTAL COSTS MINUS INCOME FOR SCHOOL	111,862	39,961	-71,902
UNIT COST PER PUPIL PER YEAR	111,862	39,961	-71,902

Table 2

Capital costs	School proposed for closure	Receiving school
Capital Life Cycle cost		
Third party contributions to capital costs		

Table 3

Annual Property costs incurred (moth-balling) until disposal	
property insurance	205
non domestic rates	2,400
water & sewerage charges	127
energy costs	5,705
cleaning (contract or inhouse)	0
security costs	0
building repair & maintenance	0
grounds maintenance	0
facilities management costs	0
other	0
TOTAL ANNUAL COST UNTIL DISPOSAL	8438

Table 4

Non-recurring revenue costs	
none	0
TOTAL NON-RECURRING REVENUE COSTS	0

Table 5

Impact on GAE	
none	0
GAE IMPACT	

Note: As Uig PS is currently mothballed the costs in column 1 of table 1 above reflect the estimated costs of running the school if it were to reopen. As the school is currently mothballed these savings are already being realised.

Financial Template - Uig PS Closure - Option 2

Appendix D

Table 1	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Forecast revenue costs for Uig PS			
	Costs for full financial year (projected annual costs)	Additional financial impact on receiving schools	Annual recurring savings (column 2 minus column 1)
UIG PRIMARY SCHOOL			
<i>School costs</i>			
<i>Employee costs:</i>			
teaching staff	123,647	20,667	-102,980
support staff	8,313		-8,313
teaching staff training (CPD etc)	291	41	-250
support staff training			0
Supply costs	4,347		-4,347
<i>Building costs:</i>			
property insurance	205		-205
non domestic rates	2,400		-2,400
water & sewerage charges	540		-540
energy costs	5,596		-5,596
cleaning (contract or inhouse)	7,118		-7,118
building repair & maintenance	194	33	-160
grounds maintenance			0
facilities management costs			0
revenue costs arising from capital			0
other			0
<i>School operational costs:</i>			
learning materials	1,727	329	-1,398
catering (contract or inhouse)	10,548		-10,548
SQA costs			0
other school operational costs (e.g. licences)			0
<i>Transport costs:</i>			
home to school	0	18,850	18,850
other pupil transport costs			0
staff travel	543	40	-503
SCHOOL COSTS SUB-TOTAL	165,468	39,961	-125,508
<i>Income:</i>			
Sale of meals			
Lets			
External care provider			
Other			
SCHOOL INCOME SUB-TOTAL	0	0	0
TOTAL COSTS MINUS INCOME FOR SCHOOL	165,468	39,961	-125,508
UNIT COST PER PUPIL PER YEAR	165,468	39,961	-125,508

Table 2

Capital costs	School proposed for closure	Receiving school
Capital Life Cycle cost		
Third party contributions to capital costs		

Table 3

Annual Property costs incurred (moth-balling) until disposal	
property insurance	205
non domestic rates	2,400
water & sewerage charges	127
energy costs	5,705
cleaning (contract or inhouse)	0
security costs	0
building repair & maintenance	0
grounds maintenance	0
facilities management costs	0
other	0
TOTAL ANNUAL COST UNTIL DISPOSAL	8438

Table 4

Non-recurring revenue costs	
none	0
TOTAL NON-RECURRING REVENUE COSTS	0

Table 5

Impact on GAE	
none	0
GAE IMPACT	

Note: As Uig PS is currently mothballed the costs in column 1 of table 1 above reflect the estimated costs of running the school if it were to reopen. As the school is currently mothballed these savings are already being realised.