

Agenda Item	14.
Report No	EDU/8/23

## HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** Education

**Date:** 15 February 2023

**Report Title:** Statutory Consultation: Struan Primary School: Proposal to Proceed to Statutory Consultation for Formal Closure

**Report By:** Executive Chief Officer, Education & Learning

### 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report seeks members' agreement to proceed to a statutory consultation, under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, for formal closure of Struan Primary School.

### 2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to agree to proceed to statutory consultation, on the basis of the Proposal attached to this Report.

### 3. Implications

3.1 Resource - The financial implications of the Proposal are set out at Appendix F.

3.2 Legal - The Proposal will be issued for statutory consultation as required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) - Equalities and rural issues are considered at sections 17 and 18 of Appendix A. There are no specific poverty related issues to consider.

3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever – Appendix A 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 – None.

#### **4. Overview**

- 4.1 Struan Primary School has been mothballed since April 2022, when the roll fell to 2. At the time of writing, there are less than five children of P1-7 age within the school catchment, and all of these voluntarily attend other schools, either to access Gàidhlig Medium education, or as a result of placing requests made well before Struan PS was mothballed. Therefore, there are currently no P1-7 pupils whose parents wish to attend Struan Primary.
- 4.2 This proposal is being brought forward following informal consultation with local stakeholders and elected members, and having examined viable alternatives that could be considered. There are currently no children of primary school age whose parents wish them to attend Struan PS, and the results of informal consultation suggest that the wider community accept that Struan PS is no longer viable. Further details are provided in the Paper at Appendix A, which sets out the basis of the proposal, and related information, including the educational, community and transport implications associated with the proposal.
- 4.3 The Proposal Paper identifies various options for reallocating the Struan PS catchment area, but on balance recommends transferring the catchment to that of Dunvegan Primary.

#### **5. Next Steps**

- 5.1 Subject to a Committee decision to proceed to statutory consultation, a public meeting will be held in Struan to discuss the Council's proposal. There will be considerable opportunity for stakeholders to submit views to the Council in advance of any final decision being made. At this stage, it is expected the statutory consultation timeline would see a final recommendation being considered by this Committee in November 2023, though this may be subject to change to ensure the Council has sufficient time to consider and respond to matters arising from the consultation.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer, Education

Date: 2 February 2023

Author: Ian Jackson, Education Officer

## **THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**The proposal is to discontinue education provision at Struan Primary School, re-assigning its catchment area to that of Dunvegan 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 Struan Primary School, re-assigning its catchment area to that of Dunvegan Primary School.
- For the avoidance of doubt, it should be assumed that the related Pre-School provision is included within any reference below to a Primary School. In particular, any reference to Struan Primary School should be taken as a reference to both the primary and nursery classes.
- 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:

Dunvegan Primary School, Dunvegan, Isle of Skye;  
Carbost Primary School, Isle of Skye

and published on the Highland Council website:

[www.highland.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)

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

Area Care and Learning Office,  
Camaghael Hostel  
Fort William  
PH33 7NE  
Email: [Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk](mailto: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, Camaghael Hostel, Fort William, PH33 7NE.

Email: [Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk](mailto: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/carers of pupils attending Dunvegan Primary School; including parents/carers of pre-school pupils.
- (ii) Parents/carers of pupils attending Carbost Primary School; including parents/carers of pre-school pupils.
- (iii) The Parent Council of Dunvegan Primary School.
- (iv) The Parent Council of Carbost Primary School
- (v) Members of Parliament and Members of Scottish Parliament for the area affected by the proposal.
- (vi) Staff of Dunvegan Primary School.
- (vii) Staff of Carbost Primary School
- (viii) Struan Community Council
- (ix) Dunvegan Community Council
- (x) Trade Union representatives.

#### **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 23 February 2023 and will end on 21 April 2023. 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 20 March 2023 at Struan Primary School. 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 Education 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. Questions, responses and views will be taken down and the results 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,  
Camaghael Hostel  
Fort William  
PH33 7NE

Email: [Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk)

Or via an online form, to be found at:

<https://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolconsultations>

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

## Appendix A

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, 21 April 2023 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 2 May 2023, a copy of any 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 23 May 2023. 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 Education Committee of Highland Council, 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 October 2023, prior to submission to the Education Committee in November 2023. 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 the Education 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

## Appendix A

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 Struan 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 Struan PS, taking into account the current pattern of enrolments, has given detailed consideration to the viable alternatives to closure (Sections 6-10 below); to the effect of closure on the community (Section 15 below) and to the impact of travel arrangements on children who are not yet of school age but who live in the Struan catchment (Section 13 below).

### Reasons for the Proposal

- 2.1 This proposal is being advanced for the following reasons:
  - Struan PS has been mothballed since April 2022, after the school roll fell to two. There are currently no children within the catchment who are within the P1-7 age group, excepting a small number who attend other schools voluntarily, either on placing requests or to attend Gaelic Medium Education. (Struan Primary School has never offered GME).
  - Consequently, no children have attended the school since April 2022.
  - The Council has explored alternatives in arriving at this proposal, explained further below.
- 2.2 In November 2022 an informal discussion was held with Struan Community Council about the future of the school. The Parent Councils of Dunvegan Primary School and Carbost Primary School were also given advance notice of the proposal and invited to comment.
- 2.3 A note of the discussion with the Community Council can be found at **Appendix B**. The Community Council accept that the Highland Council should move forward to statutory consultation on closure.

### Current Details – Struan Primary School

- 3.1 Struan Primary School is located in the middle of its catchment area between Meadle and Caroy. The main building dates from the 1890s but has had many alterations internally, over the years, and an extension opened in 1998, which provided modern, spacious accommodation. The school was well resourced



## Appendix A

and enjoyed the use of a spacious detached Demountable Unit and a modern Multi-use Games Pitch both of which are closely adjacent to the school.

When last in operation Struan was managed by a Head Teacher who oversaw both Struan and Carbost Primary Schools. Struan pupils travelled on a weekly basis to the larger Carbost Primary School for P.E, health and well-being, outdoor learning and weekly Assemblies. Both schools engage in a variety of other joint activities such as Ocean School, Christmas plays, performances, parties, visiting workshops and special events.

- 3.2 The school has been mothballed since April 2022 when the school roll fell to 2. Initially the pupils transferred to Carbost Primary School, but one is now at High School and the other has left the area. The only P1-7 pupils from within the catchment now attend Dunvegan Primary School.
- 3.3 There were no nursery children at Struan PS prior to mothballing, but the school did operate a nursery class when there were children to attend it. As mentioned above, this closure proposal encompasses both the primary school and nursery class stages.
- 3.4 The school has a registered permanent capacity of 50, based on the availability of two classrooms.
- 3.5 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, Struan Primary School was rated as "B" for the educational suitability of the building and "C" for building condition.
- 3.6. In the five sessions from 2017-18 to 2021-22, there were 4 placing requests to leave Struan PS, and 1 placing request to join.
- 3.7 No current HMle Report is available.
- 3.8 Between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 the CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions from the Struan Primary School building are estimated at just over 32 tonnes.

### **Current Details – Dunvegan Primary School**

- 4.1 Dunvegan Primary School is located in the village of same name. It is classed as a "very remote" rural school. It provides education in both English (EM) and Gàidhlig(GM). Its English Medium catchment encompasses a wide area of Northwest Skye, and the Gàidhlig Medium catchment covers a still wider area, including the EM catchments of both Struan Primary and Edinbane Primary.
- 4.2 The school premises consist of:
  - the main building which is single storey and has a ramp at one main door, three classrooms, a gym, a resource room, girls' and boys' toilets, an office, a staffroom and staff toilets.

## Appendix A

- a demountable unit which has one classroom, a cloakroom, a resource room, a work room, toilets (staff & pupil), and Art cupboard & a large storage cupboard off the classroom.
  - a demountable unit which has two large rooms, one is the nursery and the other is a library.
  - the canteen where meals are cooked and served.
  - the playground which has tarmac immediately round the school leading into grassed areas.
- 4.3 The 2022-23 roll is 45 pupils within P1-7. There is a near-even split between pupils in English Medium education (23) and Gàidhlig Medium education (22). There are a further 15 children in the nursery class.
- 4.4 The school (excluding the nursery) has a registered capacity of 100. The 2022-23 roll of 45 therefore represents 45% use of capacity.
- 4.5 The Council publishes roll projections for each of its currently operational schools. The latest forecast for Dunvegan PS is contained within the document attached at **Appendix C**, whilst a copy of the Council's methodology for calculating the forecasts can be found at **Appendix Ci**.
- 4.6 It can be seen from Appendix C that the roll at Dunvegan Primary School is forecast to rise to 70 in session 2027/28 and to 98 in session 2035/36. The Council will carefully monitor the roll at Dunvegan PS with a view to managing the accommodation issue if and when capacity issues arise.
- 4.7 The present Dunvegan Primary School building is rated as "B" for educational suitability and "C" for Condition. A replacement building for the school has been nominated by the Highland Council for consideration by the Scottish Government for the third phase of their Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP).
- 4.8 In the 5 sessions from 2017-18 to 2021-22, there were 7 placing requests to leave Dunvegan Primary School, and 7 requests to join.
- 4.9 There is no current HMle Report for the school.
- 4.10 Annual CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions from Dunvegan Primary School building from April 2021 to March 2022 were just over 24 tonnes. This figure would not be affected by the formal closure of Struan Primary School.

### **Current Details – Carbost Primary School**

- 5.1 Carbost Primary School is also a "very remote" rural school. Its catchment serves the area of Carbost, Portnalong and nearby glens.
- 5.2 The school building was opened in 1988 and is surrounded by extensive wooded and grassy grounds, including a tarred Games Pitch area. Two main classrooms are included in the building, along with the normal educational requirements e.g., a well-equipped gym. A modern kitchen enables lunches to

## Appendix A

be provided every day. Nursery education is delivered in a modern and bright building, next to the school.

- 5.3 The 2022-23 roll is 22 pupils within P1-7. There are a further 2 children in the nursery class.
- 5.4 The school (excluding the nursery) has a registered capacity of 50. The 2022-23 roll of 22 therefore represents 44% use of capacity.
- 5.5 The Council publishes roll projections for each of its currently operational schools. The latest forecast for Carbost PS is contained within the document attached at **Appendix C**, whilst a copy of the Council's methodology for calculating the forecasts can be found at **Appendix Ci**.
- 5.6 It can be seen from Appendix C that the roll at Carbost Primary School is forecast to rise gently to 35 in session 2034/35.
- 5.7 The Carbost Primary School building is rated as "B" for educational suitability and "B" for Condition.
- 5.8 In the five school sessions from 2017-18 to 2021-22, there were 5 placing requests to leave Carbost Primary School, and none to join.
- 5.9 There is no current HMle Report for the school.
- 5.10 Annual CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions from Carbost Primary School building from April 2020 to March 2021 were just under 17 tonnes. This figure would not be affected by the formal closure of Struan 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 Struan PS with its current catchment area.
  - iii. To re-open Struan PS with an expanded catchment area.
  - iv. To re-open Struan PS as a school offering Gaelic Medium Education.
- 6.2 As part of the consideration of alternatives, the Council has investigated the long-term roll projections – see Appendix C and Appendix Ci. The roll projections, prepared prior to the school being mothballed, predicted a fall to zero by 2025/26, but in practice this has happened more quickly. There are no planned housing developments in the area.
- 6.3 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 would represent the best option for the taxpayer or the community. The very low number of children in the Struan PS catchment indicates strongly that the school is no longer viable. “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 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. The status of mothballed schools should be regularly reviewed. Having undertaken such a review, Highland Council does not see mothballing as a realistic alternative to closure, and informal engagement with the community supports this view.
- 7.3 Current school transport arrangements would not be affected by a continuation of mothballing.

### **Option 2 - Re-Opening of Struan Primary School with its Current Catchment Area**

- 8.1 For the 2022-23 school session, there are no pupils of P1-7 age living within the catchment area of the school, excepting a small number who attend other schools voluntarily, either on placing requests or to attend Gaelic Medium Education. The issue of GME is considered at Option 4 below.
- 8.2 Taking all of the above into account, the Council’s review suggests there is no possibility of re-opening the school at the present time. Longer-term projections suggest there is no prospect of the roll recovering to a level that would justify re-opening the school.

### **Option 3 - Re-Opening of Struan Primary School with an Expanded Catchment Area**

- 9.1 The Struan PS catchment is linked by road to three other primary school catchments. In one direction the Struan catchment extends very close to the catchment area of Carbost Primary School, a small rural school with a current roll of 22, located 10.9 miles from Struan Primary. The Struan catchment could not be extended towards Carbost without encompassing pupils who live much closer to Carbost than to Struan. It would not be reasonable to expect children from Carbost itself to travel 11 miles to Struan for their primary education, and therefore not reasonable to alter this catchment boundary in favour of Struan PS.

## Appendix A

- 9.2 To the northwest the next school to Struan is Dunvegan Primary, a small rural school with a current roll of 46, located 8.8 miles from Struan PS. The first community within the Dunvegan catchment is at Balmeanach. Whilst this community is marginally closer to Struan, transferring it to the Struan catchment would not materially affect the total roll at that school. At the time of writing there are no P1-7 pupils from Balmeanach.
- 9.3 Altering the catchment of Dunvegan PS in favour of Struan would of course require a statutory consultation in its own right. Taking all the circumstances into account, it would not be appropriate to alter this catchment boundary in favour of Struan Primary School.
- 9.4 In an easterly direction, Struan is linked to Portree Primary School over a narrow mountain road that travels 11 miles over uninhabited upland. The journey times is around 25 minutes one-way. There is no population on this route until Glengrasco, located approximately 8.4 miles (19 minutes) from Struan but only 2.3 miles (6 minutes) from Portree. It would not, therefore, be appropriate to alter this catchment boundary in favour of Struan PS.

### **Option 4 – Re-opening Struan PS as a School offering Gaelic Medium Education**

- 10.1 As mentioned above, Struan Primary School has never offered GME. A very small number of children from the area currently attend Dunvegan PS in order to access GME. However, the number of children concerned does not meet the criteria of five that would generate a GMPE assessment under the terms of the Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education, and no such request has ever been received.
- 10.2 There is a well-known national shortage of Gaelic Medium teachers at the present time. A recent attempt by Highland to introduce GME at Applecross Primary in Wester Ross foundered due to a lack of applicants for the post, and in general Highland Council struggles to staff its already extensive provision of GME.
- 10.3 The Portree High School Associated School Group (ASG) is well-provisioned with GME at the present time. Six of the fourteen primary schools within the ASG already offer GME, as does Portree High School. In terms of expanding GME, Highland Council intends to prioritise schools where parents have actively requested a GMPE assessment.
- 10.4 The Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education is clear that all Local Authorities, irrespective of whether GME is available, must promote GME appropriately. Within the local geographical context of Struan Primary, there would be consideration of existing GME provision as there is reasonable travelling distance to Dunvegan in the case of a GMPE request.
- 10.4 Lack of pupil numbers would however be the most significant barrier to re-opening Struan Primary as a school offering GME.

## 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. Some of the activities listed in the paragraphs below have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, but the educational benefits of the closure are considered in the longer term.
- 11.2 Highland Council has adopted the following 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, evidence gathered by Highland Council to date suggests that there is no realistic prospect of a viable roll at Struan PS. Currently there are no pupils in the P1-7 age group within the Struan catchment, excepting the small number who attend other schools voluntarily. Any individual pupils who might be in the area would suffer educational detriment from attending a school by themselves or perhaps with one other pupil.
- 11.4 Currently, Dunvegan Primary School and Carbost Primary School are managed by a single Head Teacher as part of a "cluster" arrangement. There is thus a commonality of approach to learning and teaching within the two schools.
- 11.5 Children at both Dunvegan PS and Carbost PS regularly work in co-operative learning groups of various sizes. The very small roll of a re-opened Struan PS 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

## Appendix A

groups. A very 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.

- 11.6 A larger school roll makes it easier for the school to attract visiting speakers, tutors and other external partners to work with the children. In many cases external partners look for a certain threshold in the number of children they will be working with.
- 11.7 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.
- 11.8 The existence of pre-school classes at Dunvegan PS and Carbost PS enables a strong transition process for children moving into P1.
- 11.9 The language programmes at Dunvegan PS and Carbost PS aims to develop listening, talking, reading and writing skills. Listening is developed by games, stories, radio & television programmes, music, 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. They are also used for the teaching of French and Gaelic, which are introduced to pupils 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.
- 11.10 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.
- 11.11 It is self-evident that an overall school roll in single figures restricts opportunities for team sports and other active recreational activities. 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.
- 11.12 As with sports, the larger rolls at Dunvegan and Carbost 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.
- 11.13 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

## Appendix A

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.

- 11.14 In summary, there are positive educational benefits to be derived from the closure of Struan Primary School, due to the significantly increased opportunities that can be provided at Dunvegan and Carbost. Collaborative working within the classroom, language learning, and artistic and sports activities, and socialisation, can all benefit from the greater numbers that are available. Conversely, the roll of a re-opened Struan Primary School would be insufficient to keep the school viable.

### **Re-allocation of Struan PS Catchment**

12.1 A map of the current Struan, Dunvegan and Carbost catchments is Appendix D.

12.2 In the event that Struan Primary School closes, there are 3 options for re-allocating school catchment:

- i. Transfer the catchment wholly to that of Dunvegan Primary School
- ii. Transfer the catchment wholly to that of Carbost Primary School
- iii. Split the current catchment between the two schools. One option would be to draw the Carbost /Dunvegan School Catchment boundary along the same line as the boundary between Minginish and Dunvegan Community Councils

12.3 Option iii above has the disadvantage that very few houses are included in the area between the current and proposed Carbost school catchment boundaries.

12.4 For Gaelic Medium purposes, the Struan PS catchment is included with the Gaelic Medium catchment of Dunvegan Primary School. There would be merit in aligning the GM and EM catchments.

12.5 Taking the above into account, Highland Council proposes that the Struan PS catchment should be transferred entirely to that of Dunvegan Primary School, upon the closure of Struan. The Council would however welcome views on this aspect of the proposal.

12.6 A map of the proposed merged catchment is at **Appendix E**.

### **Effect of Differing Transport Arrangements**

13.1 Currently, there are no P1-7 pupils within the Struan PS catchment except a small number who attended other schools prior to mothballing. Therefore, no differing transport arrangement would need to be applied in the event Struan PS is closed.

13.2 The travel time between Struan PS and Dunvegan PS is approximately 14 minutes (source: Google Maps) whilst the travel time from Struan PS to Carbost PS is approximately 18 minutes. Both figures are well within the normal range for the Highland Council area.



## Appendix A

- 13.3 The closure of the school would not at present result in any additional CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions arising from transport. Any that arise in the future would be negligible, and would in any case be set against the annual emissions of over 32 tonnes that could be expected from the Struan Primary School building itself were it operational.

### **Effects on Staff and School Management Arrangements**

- 14.1 As the school is already “mothballed” there will be no impact on school management arrangements at Dunvegan PS or Carbost PS from a formal closure of Struan Primary School.
- 14.2 A continuation of the current mothballing arrangement will have no effect on current staffing arrangements.

### **Effect on the Local Community**

- 15.1 Unlike many communities, Struan does not have a village hall or community centre. The school building therefore represents an important public space, and the only practical location for community meetings.
- 15.2 Since the school was mothballed in April, the Struan Community Council have been active users of the building, and took over the management of the school building in January 2023, with an interim lease setting out the detailed arrangements. The community are interested in securing the future of the building in a way that will benefit local people.
- 15.3 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 arrangements.

### **Financial Consequences**

- 16.1 The Table at **Appendix F** sets out the Highland Council’s assessment of the Financial Implications of the proposed merger. As the school is currently mothballed, the savings identified are already being made and no additional saving would arise to the Council from closure.
- 16.2 The table does not include property costs that would arise if Struan PS were to become operational once more. At the present time this figure can only be a very rough estimate.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 17.1 The proposal has been assessed as having no impact on the following Equality areas:
- Disability
  - Gender

## Appendix A

- 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

17.2 In respect of age equality, the proposal relates to a primary school 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 school provision.

### **Rural Impact Assessment**

- 18.1 Struan PS, Carbost PS and Dunvegan PS 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 April 2022. In practical terms the proposal will not change the current position.
- 18.2 The relocation of service (which in practical terms has already taken place) involves moving local school provision from Struan to Dunvegan, a distance of 8.8 miles.
- 18.3 As set out in Section 11 above, the Highland Council believes that the proposal offers educational benefits.
- 18.4 The maximum additional travel time for school pupils from the Struan PS site to Dunvegan 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**

- 19.1 As there are currently no pupils within the Struan PS catchment who were already attending other schools on either placing requests or to attend GME, no adverse effects arise.

### **Recommendation**

- 20.1 Taking the above into account Highland Council recommends that Struan Primary School, currently “mothballed,” is closed and the catchment area re-assigned to that of Dunvegan Primary School.
- 20.2 This proposal paper is issued in terms of the authority’s procedures to meet the relevant statutory requirements. Following the consultation period, a report

## Appendix A

and submissions received will be presented to the Education Committee of the Highland Council.

**END OF PROPOSAL PAPER**

**Struan Community Council**

**Chairperson**  
**Mr I Beaton**  
**Gesto Farm**  
**Struan**  
**Isle of Skye**  
**01470 572217**

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
**Mr A Morrison**  
**3 Coillore**  
**Struan**  
**Isle of Skye**  
**01470 572357**

**Vice-Chairperson**  
**Mr D Beaton**  
**1 Coillore**  
**Struan**  
**Isle of Skye**  
**01470 572250**

**Minutes of the meeting of Struan Community Council held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Present: Mr I Beaton, Mr D Beaton, Mr A Lockhart, Mr G MacKinnon, Mr D J Morrison, Mr A Morrison, Mrs S Illingworth, Mr G Semler, Mr M N Beaton, Mr D Millar (Highland Councillor), Ms M MacDonald (Area Education Manager) & Mr I Jackson (Highland Council Education Office) by Teams

**1. Welcome**

Mr I Beaton opened & welcomed all to the meeting

**2. Apologies**

Mr K Davies

**3. Minutes of last Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting from Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 were put forward to the meeting for approval, adoption was proposed by Mr A Lockhart and seconded by Mr D J Morrison

**4. Matters Arising**

***a) Notice Board***

Mr G MacKinnon confirmed an application has been submitted to the Trust for funding new Notice Board.

***b) Broadband***

Mr A Morrison advised that an e-mail had been received from Keith Nicolson, Kate Forbes MSP's case worker, we had asked if they could ask the R100 Digital Scotland Division to advise why the Struan Exchange cannot be up graded when so many & further spread communities on either side, Carbost, Dunvegan & Glendale have the service in place, is it the demographic of the population that is having our community passed over. In the response received Mr Nicolson did not have the question answered & simply responded to advise that they have been looking at local projects, such as the Glen Ullinish II Wind Farm proposal, as they are aware through other community benefit schemes broadband can sometimes be offered as part of the scheme, going on to say, if you have not done so already, we would certainly encourage the Community Council to enquire with Muirhall regarding their community benefit scheme and what consideration can be given to linking with Struan.

It was agreed that appears they are simply passing the buck and not interested in assisting us, will respond and press further for an answer to original question.

**Action: Mr A Morrison**

### ***c) Play Park***

Mr G MacKinnon advised that from his discussions with HAGS that the Astra Turf option would be best, however, Hags have advised that although they will come and install the Astro Turf, they will not undertake the preparatory work, therefore, Mr MacKinnon to obtain quotes for this to allow the project to progress. The path to the entrance to the Play Park was also further discussed, agreed that a formal path be constructed from the road round to the back entrance, various forms of path discussed, chips, tarmac, slabs, Mr G MacKinnon & Mr D J Morrison will take on and obtain quotes for consideration.

**Action: Mr G MacKinnon & Mr D J Morrison**

### ***d) Village Improvements***

Mr A Morrison advised all matters ongoing

**Action: Mr A Morrison**

## **5. Struan School**

Ms M MacDonald (Area Education Manager) in person & Mr I Jackson (Education Officer) by Teams, attended the meeting to provide the Community Council with an up-date on the position with the school along with their proposal for moving forward. Mr Jackson advised that the mothballing of a School requires to be reviewed regularly, at each point of review they can either continue to mothball or they can move to commence the process to close the school, due to several factors they are minded to move towards closure of the school. At this point Mr Jackson asked for the views of the Community Council, all believed taking all factors into consideration they had no objection to the process of closure commencing.

Mr Jackson then went on to explain the process involved and the likely timeframe, the process cannot commence until has been put before a full Council meeting, the next one being due in March 2023, as the process likely to take a year after full consultation and final ratification by the Scottish Ministers, the earliest closure likely conclusion would be Spring 2024, Ms MacDonald left Mr I Beaton a timetable of the process for information. Ms MacDonald went on to advise the position with the building upon closure, initially would be offered in house to any Department within Highland Council for their use, if no takers, the next option is a Community Asset Transfer, if this not taken up then would go for sale on the open market. Ms MacDonald also advised that until such time as the school has been formally closed the Education Dept would continue to be responsible for the building and maintenance.

Mr A Morrison went on to advise the up-to-date position with use of the School by the Community, at present can be used by way of contacting Mr Morrison, as he will act as a Keyholder as agreed with Mr F MacDonald Highland Council Property & Facilities, in addition, Mr MacDonald will proceed to draft a Lease Document to allow the Community Council to have control over the building in the interim period, this will allow access to and use of the Keder House by the Community, it is hoped that a Lease will be in place by end of the year or early 2023. Furthermore, the Demountable Unit is to be demolished, the Contract has been agreed, the Unit has been cleared out and only outstanding item is an Asbestos Report to be undertaken, then will be demolished. Mr Morrison advised would keep all up dated on progress.

**Action: Mr A Morrison**

## **6. Glen Ullinish II**

Mr A Morrison advise that subsequent to the last meeting's short discussion on Declaration of Interests, he had sent a copy of Highland Council Code of Conduct for Community Councils to all members requesting they review with the intention anyone with an interest in the Muirhall



Development or for that matter any other Wind Farm Development either on going or proposed would be given the opportunity to declare their interest, Mr A Lockhart, Mr I Beaton & Mr D J Morrison all declared they had an interest in the Muirhall Development. Furthermore, no member has any interest in any other Wind Farm Development either ongoing or proposed.

In relation to the significant Community concerns with possible pollution/disruption to Public & Private Water supplies due to Turbines on the DWPA, Mr Morrison wrote Mr P MacIntyre at Scottish Water in Portree, Mr MacIntyre responded advising "as far as I am aware the Scottish Water catchment team are preparing to ask the planning authorities to stop the 6 turbines going within the catchment area" further going on to say "I have been keeping tabs on this and raising concerns to the Scottish Water sustainable land management people" concluding that he will continue to liaise with Scottish Water Sustainable Land Management people, so as they can hopefully provide reassurance that Scottish Water are doing what is needed to protect the catchment area.

There followed a discussion on the Community Benefit, various aspects discussed, in particular the level of funding being provided for the Community Benefit Fund, felt by all that although the figure proposed by Muirhall purported as being market leading at £7,000 per KW at present, it is still perceived as low in comparison to the return Muirhall will gain from the Development, Mr D Millar advised that he would be bringing this up when Councillors meet with Muirhall and he feels a significantly higher fund should be provided by Muirhall. In addition, was agreed to write Ian Blackford MP for his advice as Scottish Ministers are the land owners of much of the ground upon which the Development is to be sited to see if he can put any pressure on in respect of an increase in the Community Benefit.

Mr I Beaton and Mr A Morrison on behalf of the Community Council are to attend a meeting with Muirhall on Tuesday 8/11, along with representatives from the Development Group and Trust, there will also be representation from neighbouring Community Groups, the purpose of the meeting is for Muirhall to update on present position and provide details of their vision of the Community Benefit Fund, Mr A Morrison advised there is a meeting of the 3 local Groups on Monday 07/11 in preparation for the Muirhall meeting, All agreed that we should be insisting Struan have a separate standalone Community Benefit to others to ensure a guaranteed income year on year and to assist with levelling up, continue to press Muirhall to provide a date for a Public Meeting in Struan with Struan residents, question who should actually be classed as near neighbours and press for an increase in the per KW sum payable. **Action: A Morrison**

## **7. Other Wind Farm Developments**

Mr A Morrison advised in respect of existing and new Wind Farm Developments within the vicinity of the Community:

### **Vattenfall**

An initial e-mail received from Simon Lejeune and subsequently Mr Morrison had a telephone conversation with him in respect of their future plans for the existing Development, Mr Lejeune advised that their intention is to re-power and extend the site, they will be replacing the existing turbines with a larger version, due to this the spacing between each will require to be extended, they hope to have plans in place early 2023 and will arrange Public Event in Struan.

### **Balmeanach**

In respect of the upcoming Development to be undertaken by Wind2, Mr Morrison sent an e-mail to Mr Fraser MacKenzie to se

e if they were intending holding any events in Struan & advising that we do have access to the school and is suitable for anything they may wish to undertake, also, asking about a Public Meeting in the future. Subsequently, response received from Ms Hannah Brown, Project Manager to advise they would be willing to hold an event in Struan, they are awaiting receipt of the formal boards they would use and these likely to be hand late November, can then arrange event in Struan thereafter. Although, an e-mail received from Fiona Scott of SLR Consulting this week advising of in person Consultations in Dunvegan & Edinbane on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>Rd</sup> November, Mr Morrison will contact them for advices on when they wish to undertake one in Struan **Action: Mr A Morrison**

### **8. Community Action Plan**

Mr A Morrison advised he had contacted three firms, Star Development Group, PAS & Nick Wright Planning to see if they would be willing to provide a Proposal & Costing for undertaking the work in relation to producing a Community Action Plan. Mr Morrison spoke at length with Lesley Campbell at Star, after going over what we were looking for, Lesley has provided a Proposal for a Community Action Plan for Struan outlining what they would propose to undertake along with a costing that has been circulated to all Community Council members. Mr Morrison also advised that he has arranged a call with PAS this coming Wednesday to discuss what is required and ask that they provide a costed Proposal, in addition, advised that he has had an e-mail exchange with Nick Wright, although Mr Wright would be delighted to get involved and provide a Proposal, unfortunately he has several Projects ongoing and committed to that will keep him tied up into the middle of next year, therefore, unable at present to get involved. Mr Morrison further advised that he would now send on the Star Proposal to the members of the joint CC, Trust & Development Group in preparation for the meeting this coming Monday and will outline details of the other options at the meeting.

### **9. Cemeteries**

Mr I Beaton advised that the application to the Trust has been successful for re-fencing the new Cemetery, will now contact Ian Leach to have the works undertaken, Mr Beaton further advised that he has submitted a further application to the Trust in respect of the replacement of the front wall at the new Cemetery. Mr D J Morrison advised in process of obtaining estimates for finishing off the perimeter of the Cemetery Car Park, hopes to have in early course, also, cannot locate the "No Overnight Parking" sign but will obtain a costing for a replacement. **Action: D J Morrison**

### **10. Act of Remembrance**

As all are aware this year's Community Act of Remembrance will take place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November with a start time of 10:45am, Mr A Morrison advised he has the 2 Wreaths, will have copies of the Order of Service printed, Mr A Lockhart confirmed Rev James Beaton will officiate, also that Mrs J Beaton with assistance from Mrs K Lockhart will lay the Community Wreath, Mr Morrison confirmed that Alasdair Tindall will lay the Wreath on behalf of the Young People of the Community. Mr M N Beaton will read the Roll of Honour and confirmed that Peter Morrison will be in attendance to play the Pipes. In addition, as the school is now available it was agreed to provide Tea, Coffee & Biscuits after the conclusion Of events at the War Memorial for all. Mr Beaton further advised that the name of Kenneth Lockhart who died during the Boer Warr was not on the War Memorial and feels he should be named, all were in agreement, Mr Beaton agreed to contact John Hearch to see the best way to undertake the addition.

**11. Planning**

Consultation Request Notification received in relation to the Skye Reinforcement Project, response required by 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**12. Correspondence**

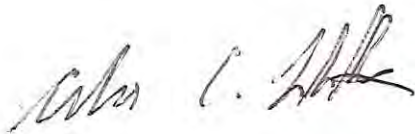
None

**13. AOCB**

None

Date of Next Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023@ 7.00pm at Struan School

The meeting closed at 9.15pm



D.G. Beaton

09/01/2023



5139120	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	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37
S 1	108	94	98	101	86	107	104	96	92	97	101	101	103	105	106	108
S 2	86	110	96	100	103	87	108	105	97	93	98	102	102	104	106	108
S 3	84	88	112	98	102	104	89	110	107	98	94	99	103	103	105	107
S 4	83	86	90	114	100	103	106	90	111	108	100	96	100	104	104	106
S 5	74	72	74	78	97	85	88	90	77	94	92	85	81	85	88	88
S 6	63	57	55	57	60	74	65	67	68	59	72	70	64	62	65	67
<b>Total Roll</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>584</b>
<b>Total Capacity</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>951</b>
Tot Roll - Tot Cap	-453	-444	-426	-403	-403	-391	-391	-393	-399	-402	-394	-398	-398	-388	-377	-367
<b>(Tot Roll/Tot Cap)%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>61%</b>

**School Roll Forecast**

Portree High School

Broadford Primary

5127823	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	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37
P 1	11	9	10	10	11	11	11	12	12	12	12	13	13	13	13	13
P 2	11	12	9	11	11	11	11	12	12	12	12	13	13	13	13	13
P 3	6	12	13	10	11	11	11	12	12	12	12	13	13	13	13	13
P 4	12	7	13	13	11	12	11	12	12	12	12	13	13	13	13	13
P 5	13	13	8	13	14	11	12	12	12	12	12	13	13	13	13	13
P 6	17	14	14	8	14	14	11	12	12	12	12	13	13	13	13	13
P 7	19	18	15	14	9	14	15	11	12	12	12	13	13	13	13	13
<b>Total Roll</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Total Capacity</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>
Tot Roll - Tot Cap	-36	-40	-43	-46	-44	-41	-43	-42	-41	-41	-41	-34	-34	-34	-34	-34
<b>(Tot Roll/Tot Cap)%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>73%</b>

**School Roll Forecast**  
 Portree High School  
 Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Phort Rìgh

<b>1004557</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>2027/28</b>	<b>2028/29</b>	<b>2029/30</b>	<b>2030/31</b>	<b>2031/32</b>	<b>2032/33</b>	<b>2033/34</b>	<b>2034/35</b>	<b>2035/36</b>	<b>2036/37</b>
P 1	29	18	19	21	20	21	22	22	23	23	24	24	24	25	25	25
P 2	27	30	19	19	21	21	22	22	23	23	24	24	24	25	25	25
P 3	24	28	30	19	20	22	22	22	23	23	24	24	24	25	25	25
P 4	21	25	28	31	20	21	22	22	23	23	24	24	24	25	25	25
P 5	16	22	25	29	31	21	21	23	23	23	24	24	24	25	25	25
P 6	25	17	22	26	29	32	21	22	24	23	24	24	24	25	25	25
P 7	19	26	17	23	26	30	32	22	22	24	24	24	24	25	25	25
<b>Total Roll</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>Total Capacity</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>188</b>
Tot Roll - Tot Cap	-27	-22	-28	-20	-21	-20	-26	-33	-27	-26	-20	-20	-20	-13	-13	-13
<b>(Tot Roll/Tot Cap)%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>93%</b>

**School Roll Forecast**

Portree High School

Bun-Sgoil Shlèite

5126525	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	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37
P 1	13	8	14	13	14	14	14	15	15	15	16	16	17	17	18	18
P 2	10	14	9	16	13	14	14	15	15	15	16	16	17	17	18	18
P 3	10	11	15	11	16	14	14	15	15	15	16	16	17	17	18	18
P 4	6	11	12	16	11	17	14	15	15	15	16	16	17	17	18	18
P 5	10	7	12	13	17	12	17	14	15	15	16	16	17	17	18	18
P 6	12	11	8	13	14	17	12	17	15	15	16	16	17	17	18	18
P 7	13	13	12	9	14	14	17	12	18	15	16	16	17	17	18	18
<b>Total Roll</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Total Capacity</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Tot Roll - Tot Cap	-26	-25	-18	-9	-1	2	2	3	8	5	12	12	19	19	26	26
<b>(Tot Roll/Tot Cap)%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>102%</b>	<b>102%</b>	<b>103%</b>	<b>108%</b>	<b>105%</b>	<b>112%</b>	<b>112%</b>	<b>119%</b>	<b>119%</b>	<b>126%</b>	<b>126%</b>

**School Roll Forecast**

Portree High School

Carbost Primary

5126126	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	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37
P 1	0	4	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5
P 2	4	0	4	2	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5
P 3	6	4	0	4	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5
P 4	0	6	4	0	5	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5
P 5	5	0	6	4	1	5	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5
P 6	4	5	0	6	5	1	5	2	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5
P 7	8	4	5	0	7	5	1	5	2	4	4	4	4	5	5	5
<b>Total Roll</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Total Capacity</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>
Tot Roll - Tot Cap	-23	-27	-29	-31	-23	-27	-26	-23	-24	-22	-22	-22	-22	-15	-15	-15
<b>(Tot Roll/Tot Cap)%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>70%</b>

School Roll Forecast  
 Portree High School  
 Dunvegan Primary

5127920	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	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37
P 1	4	9	10	8	10	10	11	11	11	12	12	12	13	13	14	14
P 2	5	4	10	10	8	10	11	11	11	12	12	12	13	13	14	14
P 3	9	5	5	10	11	9	11	11	11	12	12	12	13	13	14	14
P 4	6	9	6	5	10	11	9	11	11	12	12	12	13	13	14	14
P 5	9	6	10	6	6	11	11	9	11	12	12	12	13	13	14	14
P 6	6	9	7	10	7	6	11	12	10	12	12	12	13	13	14	14
P 7	4	6	10	7	11	7	6	12	12	10	12	12	13	13	14	14
<b>Total Roll</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Total Capacity</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Tot Roll - Tot Cap	-57	-52	-42	-44	-37	-36	-30	-23	-23	-18	-16	-16	-9	-9	-2	-2
<b>(Tot Roll/Tot Cap)%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>98%</b>







**School Roll Forecast**

Portree High School

Kilmuir Primary

5126827	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	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37
P 1	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
P 2	6	1	2	2	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
P 3	2	6	1	2	2	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
P 4	3	2	6	1	2	2	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
P 5	2	3	2	6	1	2	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
P 6	4	2	3	2	6	1	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
P 7	5	4	2	3	2	6	1	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	4	4
<b>Total Roll</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Total Capacity</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>
Tot Roll - Tot Cap	-51	-54	-56	-55	-54	-53	-54	-52	-52	-52	-53	-53	-53	-53	-46	-46
<b>(Tot Roll/Tot Cap)%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>38%</b>





**School Roll Forecast**

Portree High School

Portree Primary

5128722	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	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37
P 1	17	19	19	20	21	21	22	23	23	24	24	24	25	25	25	25
P 2	17	18	20	19	21	21	22	23	23	24	24	24	25	25	25	25
P 3	26	18	18	20	20	22	22	23	23	24	24	24	25	25	25	25
P 4	16	27	18	19	21	21	22	23	23	24	24	24	25	25	25	25
P 5	29	17	27	19	19	22	21	23	23	24	24	24	25	25	25	25
P 6	18	30	17	28	19	20	22	22	23	24	24	24	25	25	25	25
P 7	17	19	30	18	28	20	21	23	23	24	24	24	25	25	25	25
<b>Total Roll</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>Total Capacity</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>221</b>
Tot Roll - Tot Cap	-81	-73	-72	-78	-72	-74	-69	-61	-60	-53	-53	-53	-46	-46	-46	-46
<b>(Tot Roll/Tot Cap)%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>79%</b>



**School Roll Forecast**

Portree High School

Staffin Primary

5128323	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	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37
P 1	3	3	4	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6
P 2	7	3	3	4	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6
P 3	7	7	3	4	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6
P 4	5	7	7	4	4	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6
P 5	7	5	7	8	4	4	5	6	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6
P 6	6	7	5	8	8	4	4	5	6	5	5	5	6	6	6	6
P 7	3	6	7	6	8	8	4	4	5	6	5	5	6	6	6	6
<b>Total Roll</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Total Capacity</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>
Tot Roll - Tot Cap	-12	-12	-14	-10	-10	-13	-16	-15	-14	-14	-15	-15	-8	-8	-8	-8
<b>(Tot Roll/Tot Cap)%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>84%</b>



## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 This background paper describes the high level approach taken in preparing school roll forecasts for primary and secondary schools in Highland. It describes the basic methodology used and changes introduced to the processes to improve transparency and ease of use of the forecasts.
- 1.2 The existing school roll forecasting methodology has been iteratively developed over several decades with improvements and adjustments to account for circumstances in Highland. Given the school capacity pressures experienced in recent years, Highland Council's Development and Infrastructure - Information and Research department, together with Care and Learning, took the opportunity to look afresh at the forecasting process. This research has informed the 2017/18 School Roll Forecasts and the preparation of the draft Developer Contributions Supplementary guidance (consultation 2018).
- 1.3 It has been recognised that there is a need for a simplified approach to determining the effect of residential development on the school estate. In preparing the forecasts, a key consideration was the usability of these forecasts to easily identify all anticipated residential developments which feed into the forecasts and undertake development scenario modelling. This information is critical for effective planning of the school estate and assessing Local Development Plan site allocations as well as individual development proposals.
- 1.4 An integrated primary and secondary school Excel spreadsheet based approach has been developed to give confidence in school roll forecasting. A baseline forecast is updated and published annually, which also acts as a template that can now be used for modelling future school rolls based on testing various potential development and school estate management scenarios.

## **2 Input Datasets and Factors**

- 2.1 A key factor in school roll forecasting is a detailed and accurate assessment of the likely residential build-out timescales for new developments. The annual Housing Land Audit (HLA) provides this base information. Since 2016, the HLA has been prepared in parallel with the creation of the annual School Roll Forecasts. In addition to programmed build out rates for Local Development Plan site allocations, allowance for smaller scale 'windfall' development sites is also applied to the forecasts. This windfall rate is based on the prevailing average for the primary school catchment in the previous two years. The build out and delivery of multiple residential developments, which often take place within a similar timeframe, contribute to cumulative pressures on the school estate.



- 2.2 The ratio of additional pupils expected to derive from newly constructed housing (the Pupil Product Ratio or PPR) is the major influence on increasing school rolls. The rates used in Highland are 0.3 primary pupils and 0.13 secondary per new home. These figures are comparable with those used across many Scottish Local Authorities and have been found to be accurate and reliable as recently assessed and reported in the School Pupil Product Ratio Review, prepared by The Highland Council - Information and Research, September 2017.
- 2.3 Forecasts are informed by an annual school pupil census, combined with information on current school capacities to provide the baseline and start point for forecasting and roll pressure analysis. These are provided by Care and Learning and are updated regularly to comply with the latest legislation and regulatory requirements.
- 2.4 Pre-school year group values are populated using GP registration figures supplied by the NHS, to identify children which are not yet of school age. These will be included in the calculation of future P1 intakes for Primary Schools.
- 2.5 A significant exercise was undertaken in 2017 to increase the accuracy of pupil flow modelling. We analyse the current flow of pupils attending schools outwith their catchment area school to determine future roll adjustments from Placing Request applications, as well as calculate intake numbers for Gaelic and Denominational schools.

### **3 Methodology**

- 3.1 Once the input datasets have been refreshed with the latest values, the spreadsheet can be used to forecast school rolls for the next 15 years. As a baseline, each projection sheet shows the number of pupils in each year group for the current school year.
- 3.2 For every additional year to be forecast, the number of pupils expected in each year group will be updated to take account of the influences from the various input datasets, including additional pupils from new housing development completions.
- 3.3 Using the residential development information, estimated build out rates are aggregated by primary catchment and an updated windfall contribution is added to give a year by year additional housing count for each. These values are combined with the Pupil Product Ratios to predict the number of additional pupils expected per school for each year forecast.

- 3.4 These anticipated new housing yields are combined with expected Placing Request numbers and are used to adjust the pupil numbers moving through the education system. Primary School P1 rolls are based on the Pre-school figures collected from the NHS and Secondary School S1 rolls use the product of last years Primary P7 pupils. All other Primary and Secondary year groups are based on the number of pupils expected to progress through from the previous school year. Adjusted year group figures for each projected year are displayed alongside baseline roll figures.
- 3.5 Total school rolls forecasted are reported against school capacities to highlight current and future school's capacity constraints or where schools have excess capacity.

## **4 Outputs**

- 4.1 Forecasts are aggregated into a single summary sheet for each Associated School Group (ASG) and published annually via the Highland Council's Website. From 2018, we will also be publishing mid-year update sheets to reflect any significant changes to the school estate.
- 4.2 The published School Roll Forecast is used internally as a baseline to enable effective management of the school estate and forms an essential part of the Council's evidence base for informing planning decision making.

END

The Highland Council - Information and Research  
Development and Infrastructure  
September 2017



© Crown copyright and database rights 2022, OS 100023369.

# Existing Carbost, Dunvegan and Struan Primary School Catchments



1:230,000







© Crown copyright and database rights 2022, OS 100023369.

# Proposed Merged Dunvegan and Struan Primary School Catchment

Ref: gis2659  
Date: 07 Dec 2023

N  
1:170,000



## Financial Template

Table 1	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Row 1	<b>Current revenue costs for school proposed for closure</b>			
		<b>Costs for full financial year (projected annual costs)</b>	<b>Additional financial impact on receiving school Dunvegan Primary School</b>	<b>Annual recurring savings (column 2 minus column 3)</b>
Row 2	<b>Name of School</b>			
	Struan Primary School			
Row 3	<b>School costs</b>			
Row 4	Employee costs - note 2			
Row 5	teaching staff	101,218	-	101,218
Row 6	support staff	9,784	-	9,784
Row 7	teaching staff training (CPD etc)	253	3	250
Row 8	support staff training	-	-	-
Row 9	Supply costs - note 2	2,428	-	2,428
Row 10				
Row 11	<b>Building costs:</b>			
Row 12	property insurance	246	-	246
Row 13	non domestic rates	-	-	-
Row 14	water & sewerage charges	349	-	349
Row 15	energy costs	14,184	-	14,184
Row 16	cleaning (contract or inhouse)	5,092	-	5,092
Row 17	building repair & maintenance	151	5	146
Row 18	grounds maintenance	-	-	-
Row 19	facilities management costs - note 6	1,924	-	1,924
Row 20	revenue costs arising from capital	-	-	-
Row 21	other	-	-	-
Row 22				
Row 23	<b>School operational costs:</b>			
Row 24	learning materials	1,163	55	1,108
Row 25	catering (contract or inhouse)	6,926	945	5,981
Row 26	SQA costs	-	-	-
Row 27	other school operational costs (e.g. licences)	-	-	-
Row 28				
Row 29	<b>Transport costs: note 3</b>			
Row 30	home to school	4,560	-	4,560
Row 31	other pupil transport costs	-	-	-
Row 32	staff travel	191	-	191
Row 33	<b>SCHOOL COSTS SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>148,469</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>147,461</b>
Row 34				
Row 35	<b>Income:</b>			
Row 36	Sale of meals	-	-	-
Row 37	Lets	-	-	-
Row 38	External care provider	-	-	-
Row 39	Other	-	-	-
Row 40	<b>SCHOOL INCOME SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Row 41				
Row 42	<b>TOTAL COSTS MINUS INCOME FOR SCHOOL</b>	<b>148,469</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>147,461</b>
Row 43				
Row 44	<b>UNIT COST PER PUPIL PER YEAR</b>	<b>148,469</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>147,461</b>

Table 2	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7
<b>Capital costs</b>		<b>School proposed for closure</b>	<b>Receiving school</b>
<b>Capital Life Cycle cost - note 7</b>			
Third party contributions to capital costs			

Table 3	<b>Annual Property costs incurred (moth-balling) until disposal</b>	
property insurance	-	246
non domestic rates	-	-
water & sewerage charges	-	100
energy costs	-	10,703
cleaning (contract or inhouse)	-	-
security costs	-	-
building repair & maintenance	-	-
grounds maintenance	-	-
facilities management costs	-	-
other	-	-
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL COST UNTIL DISPOSAL</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,049</b>

Table 4	<b>Non-recurring revenue costs</b>	
<b>TOTAL NON-RECURRING REVENUE COSTS</b>		

Table 5	<b>Impact on GAE - note 5</b>	
<b>GAE IMPACT</b>		<b>-2242</b>

## Appendix F.

### Notes

1. The total costs incurred for teaching staff (row 5) and support staff (row 6) are required to be included. Column 2 should include the current costs for a full financial year for the school proposed for closure, and column 3 should include the *additional* cost to the receiving school as a result of staff transferring.

For teaching staff, this should include regular teachers, itinerant teachers, learning support teaching staff and special education (ASN) staff.

Itinerant teaching staff includes central support services such as English as additional language support, hearing, visually impaired services, educational psychology services.

For support staff, this should include classroom assistants, administration staff and janitorial staff.

For all staff the costs entered should include salary, NI and pension costs.

If the school proposed for closure has less than 3 staff members, then the cumulative staff costs only should be given in row 5 (for both teaching and support staff), so as to avoid possible disclosure of individual salaries.

Training costs should be identified separately in rows 7 and 8.

2. Supply costs to cover teaching and support staff. This may be held in a central budget, be devolved or shared across the budgets.

3. Home to school pupil transport costs should include those school transport costs incurred in accordance with Council policy. Other pupil transport costs will cover costs incurred for the transport of pupils for activities such as swimming etc

4. Row 30 of column 3 should include the additional transport costs related to the increased home to school transport arrangements that are put in place in accordance with Council policy. This figure is therefore likely to be considerably higher than current costs.

5. This table is to capture the impact on the revenue support grant as a result of changes to GAE. Impact on GAE should consider the issues covered in the GAE section of the guidance document that accompany this template.

6. Facilities management costs will include costs related to caretaking, janitorial and security.

7. The capital costs for the receiving school should be taken across the life cycle of the school in line with the life expectancy of that school. The capital costs for the school proposed for closure should be taken across the same life cycle period.