

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

11 MARCH 2010

Agenda Item	
Report No	

Statutory consultations – proposed school closures

Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport Service

Summary

This report seeks Member approval to carry out statutory consultations in relation to the following proposed school closures:-

- Uig Primary School
- Borrodale Primary School
- Achaphubuil Primary School
- Achnasheen Primary School
- Glenborrodale Primary School

The statutory consultations will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Bill.

This report contributes towards the following outcomes in **Strengthening the Highlands:**

- Develop our asset management plan to ensure that the Council owns or occupies only the appropriate number of buildings and that these are fit for purpose.

1. Background

1.1 The current Education Culture & Sport (ECS) policy is that a school is moth-balled when the pupil roll reduces to the extent that the school is no longer educationally viable. This decision is taken in accordance with the wishes of all stake-holders. There are currently 4 Primary Schools that are moth-balled:-

- Borrodale Primary School – ECS Committee decision, October 2007.
- Achaphubuil Primary School – ECS Committee decision, August 2007.
- Achnasheen Primary School – ECS Committee decision, August 2004.
- Glenborrodale Primary School – ECS Committee decision, August 2001.

1.2 The school roll at Uig Primary School will reduce to a single pupil by August 2010. The current school building condition is Category C

(Poor) per the Scottish Government's School Estate building classification. The operational school roll capacity is 45. There is no Pre School provision at the school. The current devolved budget is £95,501 ,of which £79,805 relates to employee costs

2. Proposals

- 2.1 It is proposed that statutory consultations on the closure of the above schools should proceed on the basis of the draft proposals outlined in **Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.**
- 2.2 The statutory consultation will be conducted in accordance with the legislative requirements of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Bill which will be enacted in April 2010.

3. Consultation process

- 3.1 The consultation process adopted for each of the above proposals is summarised in **Appendix 6**
- 3.2 The consultation period for each proposal will run for 6 weeks, from the date of formal notice, running continuously for a period that must include 30 school days.
- 3.3 At the end of the consultation period all written submissions and minutes of meetings will be presented to the ECS Committee in August 2010.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 Members are requested to agree that:-
 - Statutory consultations are carried out in relation to the proposed closure of Uig PS, Borrodale PS, Achaphubuil PS, Achnasheen PS and Glenborrodale PS in accordance with the requirements of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act.
 - The outcomes from these consultations will be reported to the ECS Committee in August 2010.

Signature:

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 18th February 2010.

Author: Ron MacKenzie, Head of Support Services, Education, Culture and Sport

Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Proposal to close Uig Primary School

Appendix 2 – Proposal to close Borrodale Primary School

Appendix 3 - Proposal to close Achaphubuil Primary School

Appendix 4 - Proposal to close Achnasheen Primary School

Appendix 5 – Proposal to close Glenborrodale Primary School

Appendix 6 – The statutory consultation process

APPENDIX 1

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE EDUCATION PROVISION IN UIG, ISLE OF SKYE

THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE 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

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE PAPER PREPARED IN TERMS OF THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY'S AGREED PROCEDURE TO MEET THE RELEVANT STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO CHANGE EDUCATION PROVISION IN UIG, ISLE OF SKYE

This paper sets out a proposal by Highland Council to close Uig Primary School and realign the existing delineated area of the school to that of Kilmuir Primary. If agreed, it is hoped that the timescales required for consultation would allow for the proposal to be implemented for the start of the new session in August 2010.

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

Background

- 1.1 **Uig Primary School** has had a significantly declining roll in recent years. The current number is 4 and the projected number of pupils in the school for August 2010 is 1. There is no Pre School provision in the school.
- 1.2 Staffing comprises a Head Teacher who is class committed. Additionally, there is a clerical assistant, classroom assistant and catering and cleaning staff, all of whom are part time employees. There are other staff allocated to the school from area teams.
- 1.3 Accommodation currently comprises 2 classrooms, 1 currently being used as a staff room and office space. There is also a General Purpose room. There is a dining room and storage space in the downstairs part of school house. A school kitchen is in a separate building in the school grounds, but meals are no longer cooked there. They are transported 5.2 miles from Kilmuir Primary. Upstairs rooms in the building are used as storage areas. There are no facilities for the delivery of PE although a cleared classroom is generally used and the village hall may be hired, at a cost, if required. Outside there is a small playground with a shelter and shed. The Building Condition score is C and the Building Suitability score is B. Currently the school is operating at 9% capacity.

- 1.4 Entrance to the school off the main road is up a steep incline which leads to an unmarked car parking area with access to the school building through gates at the front and the back.
- 1.5 The nearest school to Uig is Kilmuir Primary which offers both English medium and Gaelic medium education. Current rolls are, English medium 4 and Gaelic medium 16. The school has a projected roll of 5 English medium and 17 Gaelic medium pupils at August 2010. Additionally there is a Gaelic Medium Nursery in the school with a roll of 9. Presently the possibility of establishing an English Medium Nursery from August 2010 is being investigated. The school has 2 classrooms, a Pre School facility, a classroom/dining room, kitchen, office accommodation, staffroom, and entrance foyer. The dining room was previously used for PE lessons but accommodation issues now require that pupils be transported to Kilmuir Village Hall. The current Building Condition score is C and the Building Suitability score is C
- 1.6 There is a grass playing field and plans are in place to provide a parking and turning area for the school. It is anticipated that this will be completed for the start of the new session.
- 1.7 The school has a notional roll capacity of 47. A recent rise in the Gaelic medium roll has resulted in accommodation issues arising at Kilmuir Primary School and these are currently being addressed with a view to alterations being in place for the start of session 2010/11.
- 1.8 Kilmuir and Staffin Primaries are managed by an Associated Schools Head Teacher. Staffing comprises 2 Gaelic medium class teachers and 1 English medium teacher. Additionally, there is a member of staff who acts as clerical assistant, classroom assistant and care and welfare auxiliary. There is also a nursery assistant, nursery auxiliary and catering and cleaning staff, all of whom are part time. There are other staff allocated to the school from area teams.

2 LIKELY EFFECT OF PROPOSAL

- 2.1 The proposals would ensure that the remaining pupil would have extended educational opportunities available, due to the wider range of facilities and the greater opportunities for social interaction at Kilmuir Primary School. It is concluded that there would be no adverse effect on the pupil. However, the pupil would require travelling a 10.4 mile return journey on a daily basis.
- 2.2 Closure would mean that pupils would require to be transported the 5.2 miles to Kilmuir Primary. Projected rolls would suggest that there would be no requirement for additional transport currently. However, were extra transport to be required then the approximate cost of a daily double run would be approximately £60 per day based on current costs.

- 2.3 Any community use of the school building would not threaten the sustainability of Uig Village Hall. No community organisations currently make use of the school premises.
- 2.4 The delineated area for Uig Primary School is from Scuddaborg Farm, north of Uig, to Cuidrach, south of Earlish. Closure would mean that the delineated area for Kilmuir Primary School be extended to include the existing delineated area for Uig Primary School
- 2.5 Revenue expenditure for Uig Primary School is £95,501, of which £79,805 relates to staffing. Closure could realise a capital receipt.

3 SUMMARY

- 3.1 The roll at Uig Primary School has been in significant decline since 2006 when the roll was 15. Kilmuir Primary offers greater educational opportunities due to the more extensive opportunities for social interaction. The only alternative to this option would be to allow the school to remain open in the event that other parents wished to enrol children there at some point in the future.
- 3.2 In line with Highland Council Policy, efforts would be made to redeploy all staff at Uig Primary School to existing vacancies elsewhere.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 For the reasons set out in this paper, the Highland Council proposes the closure of Uig Primary School.

APPENDIX 2

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

**PROPOSAL TO CHANGE EDUCATION PROVISION IN GLENDALE, ISLE
OF SKYE**

**THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE 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

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE PAPER PREPARED IN TERMS OF THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY'S AGREED PROCEDURE TO MEET THE RELEVANT STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO CHANGE EDUCATION PROVISION IN GLENDALE, ISLE OF SKYE

This paper sets out a proposal by Highland Council to close Borrodale Primary School and extend the delineated area of Dunvegan Primary School to encompass that of Borrodale Primary. If agreed the proposal would be implemented for the start of the new school session in August 2010.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Borrodale Primary School has had no pupils since October 2007 when the remaining sets of parents with children at the school submitted placing requests for their children to attend Dunvegan Primary. At the time Highland Council indicated that Borrodale Primary School would remain open (although "mothballed") in case any new parents wished to enrol children there.
- 1.2 Prior to being mothballed Borrodale Primary was managed by an Associate Head Teacher responsible for Dunvegan Primary and Edinbane Primary as well as Borrodale.
- 1.3 The nearest alternative schools are Dunvegan Primary, located approximately 9 miles south of Borrodale Primary, or Struan Primary School, located approximately 16 miles from Borrodale Primary. Dunvegan Primary School provides a choice of English and Gaelic medium education (2 classes in each). The school has 4 classrooms, a pre-school nursery, a GP room, a gym hall/dining room, kitchen, office accommodation, staffroom and entrance foyer and a grass playing field shared with the community. One classroom and the nursery are located in demountable units. The roll currently stands at 60. The school has a "B" rating for suitability and a "C" for condition.
- 1.4 Struan Primary School is a school of 2 classrooms plus a nursery, the latter located within a demountable unit. The school also has a shared GP/dining room, office accommodation and staffroom, and a multi-use games area. The roll currently stands at 17. The school has a "B" rating for suitability and a "C" for condition.

2 LIKELY EFFECT OF PROPOSAL

- 2.1 The proposals would give formal effect to the situation currently prevailing. Formal closure would mean that parents of future school pupils would no longer have the option to seek a re-opening of Borrodale Primary when their children become of school age. As the school age children living within the delineated area for Borrodale School are being educated elsewhere, the closure of Borrodale would have no adverse effects on those pupils. There are, in any case, more extensive educational opportunities available in Dunvegan Primary due to the wider range of facilities and the greater opportunities for social interaction.
- 2.2 Closure would have no impact on the current travelling arrangements for pupils.
- 2.3 Highland Council currently has a site and a building lying dormant. There would also be a benefit in clarifying the future arrangements for the education of children in the area.
- 2.4 Since being mothballed, the building has been used temporarily by the Glendale Trust for a local heritage exhibition. Representations supporting the continuation of this current use of the building have been received from the community. On the other hand, concerns have also been expressed about whether future community use of the school building would threaten the sustainability of Glendale village hall. Clearly there are conflicting views within the local community about the future use of the school building, were the school to be closed.
- 2.5 The catchment area for Borrodale Primary encompasses the Glendale peninsula on the Isle of Skye. All the parents who moved their pupils from the school in October 2007 opted to enrol their children in Dunvegan which is the closest school. The Council proposes to extend the delineated area of Dunvegan Primary to include the existing delineated area of Borrodale Primary.
- 2.6 Revenue expenditure for Borrodale school in the current financial year to date is approximately £7200, mostly relating to electricity costs and rates.

3 SUMMARY

- 3.1 There has been no parental demand for a school at Borrodale since October 2007. Were the school to continue to be mothballed, the Council would be left with a building and site. The building is currently being used by the Glendale Heritage Trust, although there is some opposition to this within the community and if the school were to remain mothballed the Council would require to undertake further discussions to establish the prevailing view within the community over the use of the building. The building would require investment in order to prevent it

becoming derelict. In terms of a viable alternative to closure, the option of keeping the school mothballed would allow the building to remain open in the event that parents wished to enrol children there at some point in the future. There would however be greater educational advantage in pupils attending Dunvegan Primary.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 For the reasons set out in this paper, the Highland Council proposes the closure of Borrodale Primary.

APPENDIX 3

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

**PROPOSAL TO CHANGE EDUCATION PROVISION IN ACHAPHUBUIL,
NEAR FORT WILLIAM**

**THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE 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

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE PAPER PREPARED IN TERMS OF THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY'S AGREED PROCEDURE TO MEET THE RELEVANT STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO CHANGE EDUCATION PROVISION IN ACHAPHUBUIL, FORT WILLIAM

This paper sets out a proposal by Highland Council to close Achaphubuil Primary School and realign the existing delineated area of the school between Banavie Primary and Ardgour Primary. If agreed the proposal would be implemented for the start of the new school session in August 2010.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Achaphubuil Primary School has had no pupils since August 2007 when the 3 remaining sets of parents with children at the school submitted placing requests for their children to attend either Banavie Primary or Ardgour Primary. At the time Highland Council indicated that Achaphubuil Primary School would remain open (although "mothballed") in case any new parents wished to enrol children there.
- 1.2 Achaphubuil Primary School has accommodation of hutted type and has deteriorated whilst empty over the last two years. The notional school capacity is 19.
- 1.3 Prior to being mothballed Achaphubuil Primary was managed by an Associate Head Teacher responsible for Banavie Primary as well as Achaphubuil Primary.
- 1.4 The nearest alternative schools are Ardgour Primary School, located approximately 13 miles south of Achaphubuil, or Banavie Primary School, located approximately 18 miles from Achaphubuil. Ardgour Primary School was constructed in 1993. It is a 2 classroom school with an additional room used as the pre-school nursery, and has a gym hall/dining room, kitchen, office accommodation, staffroom, entrance foyer and a grass playing field shared with the community. There is good ICT infrastructure available to support the learning and teaching of pupils. The roll currently stands at 14. The school has a "B" rating for suitability and a "B" for condition.

- 1.5 Banavie Primary School is a building of mainly 1960s construction. There are 6 classrooms plus a nursery, GP room and a classroom for pupils with additional support needs. Other facilities include a gym hall, dining room, kitchen, office accommodation and staffroom, and a grass playing field. The roll currently stands at 129. The school has a “B” rating for suitability and a “B” for condition.

2 LIKELY EFFECT OF PROPOSAL

- 2.1 The proposals would give formal effect to the situation currently prevailing. Formal closure would mean that parents of future school pupils would no longer have the option to seek a re-opening of Achaphubuil Primary when their children become of school age. As the school age children living within the delineated area for Achaphubuil School are being educated elsewhere, the closure of Achaphubuil would have no adverse effects on those pupils. There, are in any case, more extensive educational opportunities available in the two alternative schools due to the wider range of facilities and the greater opportunities for social interaction.

The building is not required for any community use as there is a well-used village hall in Treslaig, a short distance from the school. There is no identified demand for use of the school building by the community.

Closure would have no impact on the current travelling arrangements for pupils.

- 2.2 Highland Council currently has a site and building lying dormant. Disposal of the site could realise a capital receipt. There would also be a benefit in clarifying the future arrangements for the education of children in the area.
- 2.3 The delineated area for Achaphubuil Primary school extends from Garbhan on the south shore of Loch Eil eastwards to Achaphubuil itself and then south westwards to Gorten on the west shore of Loch Linnhe. For Secondary feeder purposes the primary school delineation was unusual in being divided between two schools. The bulk of the population, contained within the communities of Garbhan, Blaich, Duiskey, and Achaphubuil, were zoned to Lochaber High whilst the community of Stronchreggan, geographically closer to Ardgour, was zoned to Ardnamurchan High. The boundary between the secondary delineated areas was drawn at the Camusnagall ferry which also marks the natural boundary between Loch Linnhe and Loch Eil. If Achaphubuil Primary is formally closed it would be proposed to realign the existing delineated area along these lines.
- 2.4 Revenue expenditure for Achaphubuil School in the current financial year to date is approximately £7500, mostly relating to electricity costs. Closure of the school would realise a consequent saving.

3. SUMMARY

- 3.1 There has been no parental demand for a school at Achaphubuil since August 2007. Were the school to continue to be mothballed, the Council would be left with a building and site of no identified use to the local community. The building would require investment in order to prevent it becoming derelict. In terms of a viable alternative to closure, the option of keeping the school mothballed would allow the building to remain open in the event that parents wished to enrol children there at some point in the future. There would be greater educational advantage in pupils attending either Ardgour or Banavie Primary Schools.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 For the reasons set out in this paper, the Highland Council proposes the closure of Achaphubuil Primary.

APPENDIX 4

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

**PROPOSAL TO CHANGE EDUCATION PROVISION IN ACHNASHEEN,
ROSS-SHIRE**

**THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE 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

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE PAPER PREPARED IN TERMS OF THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY'S AGREED PROCEDURE TO MEET THE RELEVANT STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO CHANGE EDUCATION PROVISION IN ACHNASHEEN, ROSS-SHIRE

This paper sets out a proposal by Highland Council to close Achnasheen Primary School and extend the delineated area of Kinlochewe Primary School to encompass the community of Achnasheen. If agreed the proposal would be implemented for the start of the new school session in August 2010.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Achnasheen Primary School has had no pupils since 2004 when the parent of the one remaining pupil submitted a placing request for their child to attend school elsewhere. At that time Highland Council indicated that Achnasheen Primary School would remain open (although "mothballed") in case any new parents wished to enrol children there.
- 1.2 The accommodation at Achnasheen School has deteriorated significantly since it was last used actively as a school.
- 1.3 The nearest alternative schools are Kinlochewe Primary, located approximately 10 miles west of Achnasheen, or Strathgarve Primary School, located approximately 16 miles to the east. Kinlochewe Primary has 1 classroom, a Pre School facility, and a dining room currently used as the school library. The roll currently stands at 12. The school has a "C" rating for suitability and a "C" for condition.
- 1.4 Strathgarve Primary School is a school of 2 classrooms plus a nursery, the latter located within a demountable unit. The roll currently stands at 17. The school also has a "C" rating for suitability and a "C" for condition.

2 LIKELY EFFECT OF PROPOSAL

- 2.1 The proposal would give formal effect to the situation currently prevailing. Formal closure would mean that parents of future school pupils would no longer have the option to seek a re-opening of

Achnasheen Primary when their children become of school age. As there are currently no Primary school age children living in Achnasheen, the closure of the school would have no adverse effects on pupils. There are in any case more extensive educational opportunities available in Kinlochewe Primary due to the greater opportunities for social interaction.

Closure would have no impact on current travelling arrangements.

- 2.2 Highland Council currently has a site and building lying dormant. There would also be a benefit in clarifying the future arrangements for the education of children in the area.
- 2.3 The school building has been empty since 2004 and there has been no identified demand for use of the site by the community.
- 2.4 The Council proposes to extend the delineated area of Kinlochewe Primary, as the nearest school, to include the existing delineated area of Achnasheen Primary School.
- 2.5 There is no revenue expenditure currently associated with the school. The condition of the building has deteriorated significantly since mothballing and significant capital investment would be required were the school to re-open.

3. SUMMARY

- 3.1 There has been no parental demand for a school at Achnasheen since 2004. Were the school to continue to be mothballed, the Council would be left with a building and site of no identified use to the local community. The building would require investment in order to prevent it becoming derelict. In terms of a viable alternative to closure, the option of keeping the school mothballed would allow the building to remain open in the event that parents wished to enrol children there at some point in the future. There would however be greater educational advantage in pupils attending Kinlochewe Primary.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 For the reasons set out in this paper, the Highland Council proposes the closure of Achnasheen Primary.

APPENDIX 5

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

**PROPOSAL TO CHANGE EDUCATION PROVISION IN
GLENBORRODALE, ARDNAMURCHAN**

**THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE 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

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE PAPER PREPARED IN TERMS OF THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY'S AGREED PROCEDURE TO MEET THE RELEVANT STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO CHANGE EDUCATION PROVISION IN GLENBORRODALE, ARDNAMURCHAN

This paper sets out a proposal by Highland Council to close Glenborrodale Primary School and extend the delineated area of Acharacle Primary School to encompass the community of Glenborrodale. If agreed, the proposal would be implemented for the start of the new school session in August 2010.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Glenborrodale Primary School has not provided education for pupils since August 2001 when 2 pupils began Secondary education and the remaining 5 pupils transferred to Acharacle Primary School.
- 1.2 The schoolroom and house are in need of some repair. Latterly the school had expanded informally into the school house which had ceased to be used as a dwelling by the Head Teacher. Although a new toilet block had been built, the fabric of the building has deteriorated over the years and would require substantial investment to make it suitable for contemporary educational needs.
- 1.3 The nearest alternative school is Acharacle Primary, located approximately 10 miles away. This recently build school is of a high standard and since 2009 has been delivering education in an appropriate 21st Century learning environment. There are 5 available classrooms, a multi purpose hall, changing rooms, a support base, staffroom, office accommodation to include a Feis room and a large entrance foyer. There is a tarred playground and plans are in place for the development of a multi sport playing field. Acharacle Primary School currently has the capacity to accommodate pupils from the Glenborrodale area.

2. LIKELY EFFECT OF PROPOSAL

- 2.1 The proposal would give formal effect to the situation currently prevailing. Formal closure would mean that parents of future school pupils would no longer have the option to seek a re-opening of Glenborrodale Primary when their children become of school age. As school age children currently living within the delineated area for Glenborrodale are educated in Acharacle Primary, closure would have no adverse effects on those pupils.
- 2.2 As the community of Glenborrodale have indicated formally that they do not wish to make use of the building, closure would have no negative effect on community use of the facility.
- 2.3 Closure would have no impact on the current travelling arrangements for pupils.

- 2.4 Highland Council currently has a site and building lying dormant. Disposal of the site could realise a capital receipt. Amongst other possibilities, initial discussions have taken place with a housing association in relation to conversion of the buildings to residential accommodation. There would also be a benefit in clarifying the future arrangements for the education of children in the area.
- 2.5 If Glenborrodale Primary is formally closed, it would be proposed to extend the existing delineated area of Acharacle Primary School to include Glenborrodale.
- 2.6 Revenue expenditure for Glenborrodale Primary School in the current financial year to date is £581.34, relating to electricity and insurance costs.

3 SUMMARY

- 3.1 There has been no parental demand for a school at Glenborrodale since August 2001. Were the school to continue to be mothballed, the Council would be left with a building and site of no identified use to the local community. The building would require significant investment in order to prevent it becoming derelict. It is difficult to accurately predict the total cost of refurbishment or ongoing maintenance, as costs could vary depending on the level of works deemed necessary. In terms of a viable alternative to closure, the option of keeping the school mothballed would allow the building to remain open in the event that parents wished to enrol children there at some point in the future. There would be greater educational advantage in pupils attending the Acharacle Primary School where there is a high quality learning environment suited to the delivery of the Curriculum for Excellence.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 For reasons set out in this paper, the Highland Council proposes the closure of Glenborrodale Primary.

1. The creation of a proposal in the prescribed format.
2. For example the prescribed format for school amalgamations would include the following for each school affected:
 - Educational impact
 - Are there viable alternatives to closure?
 - Community impact assessment
 - Travel implications – pupils and staff
 - Building condition score
 - Building suitability score
 - School roll working capacity
 - Current school roll
 - Percentage occupancy rate
 - Breakdown of devolved budgets
 - Physical distance between schools
 - Capital investment implications
3. The initial proposal would be presented to the appropriate Ward Business Meeting (s)
4. Thereafter the proposal paper would be presented to the ECS Committee seeking formal approval to progress with formal consultation process
5. If approved initiate Notice and Consultation process. The Consultation period should last at least 6 weeks, starting on the date that formal notice is given, running continuously for a period that must include 30 school days. It should be made clear at the beginning of the Consultation process that all representations received will ultimately be circulated to ECS Committee Members and will be available as a public document.
6. At the same time an advertisement will be placed in the local press to advise of the publication of the proposal paper and to advise interested parties where they may obtain copies of the proposal paper and where and by when written representations should be lodged. All consultees will be provided with a pro-forma to complete in order that information is returned in a consistent format.
7. The proposal paper will be issued to the relevant Parent Council (s).
8. The proposal paper will be sent to those MPs and MSPs whose constituents are affected by the proposal with their views and representations being invited..
9. The proposal paper will be sent to those Community Councils affected by the proposal with their views/observations/representations being invited..
10. Teaching and non-teaching staff of any affected school will have the opportunity to make written representations

11. Parents of school age children affected by the proposal and of any children who could be affected within two years of the proposal will be notified of it by letter informing them:-
 - Where they may obtain copies of the proposal paper
 - Where and when representations are to be made
 - The date,time and venue of the public meeting
12. In the case of denominational schools the appropriate person authorised by the relevant church or denominational body will be issued with a copy of the proposal paper and will be invited to make representations.
13. In relation to any proposal which affects the provision of Gaelic medium education, Bord na Gaidhlig is also a consultee.
14. During the consultation period where a material inaccuracy identified by any consultee (s) is accepted by the authority then notification of this amendment must be issued to all consultees.
15. A public meeting will be convened and a minimum of 14 days notice will be given. The authority will be represented at such meetings by:
 - Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman of the ECS Committee or nominee (s)
 - Local Member (s) not otherwise covered by the above
 - Director of ECS or his/her representative
16. After receipt of the report from HMIE, which follows upon conclusion of the consultation period, the Authority will review the relevant proposal having regard to the representations received and the report from HMIE.
17. A consultation report will then be prepared by the Authority that reflects all feedback received, both oral and written, during the consultation period and the Authority's responses to this feedback. The consultation report must be published and notice of its publication advertised.
18. The proposal, the related consultation report, recommendations and all written representations received within the consultation period will be considered by ECS Committee. A period of 3 weeks must lapse between the publication of the consultation report and the ECS Committee meeting at which recommendations are considered prior to the ECS Committee making a recommendation to the Highland Council.
19. If the authority has agreed to a closure proposal there is a 6 week period from the date of approval during which Scottish Ministers may call-in the proposal.
20. Scottish Ministers may call-in an approved closure proposal where an Authority may have failed :
 - In a significant regard to comply with the requirements with the requirements imposed on it by this Act

- To take proper account of a material consideration relevant to its decision to implement the proposal

21. When this 6 week period has lapsed and there has been no issue of notice by Scottish Ministers to call-in a closure proposal then the proposal can be progressed.