

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**  
**EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE**  
**13 NOVEMBER 2008**

Agenda Item	
Report No	

**Class Size Reduction P1 to P3 – Implementation costs**

**Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport**

**SUMMARY**

This report is a follow-up to the report presented to members at the previous ECS Committee and provides details of the indicative costs associated with the full implementation of the Scottish Government's policy to move towards the introduction of maximum class sizes of 18 in P1 to P3.

**1.0 Introduction**

**1.1** In June 2007 the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning announced that a key policy of the new Scottish Government would be the reduction of P1 to P3 class sizes to 18.

**1.2** The Scottish Government has not set a definitive deadline for the implementation of this new policy. Instead local authorities have been asked to move towards implementation as quickly as possible. In addition local authorities have been asked to demonstrate staged progress on an annual basis.

**1.3** The anticipated benefits from reducing class sizes in P1 to P3 are as follows:

- Improved pupil teacher ratios can assist learning and teaching, particularly with children experiencing difficulty in the curriculum.
- Improved discipline as behaviour management is easier with small groups.
- Improved pupil engagement due to more individual teacher attention.

**1.4** Within the approved ECS Capital programme for financial year 2009/10 there is £1.362M specifically identified for class size reduction. This funding was provided by the Scottish Government specifically for the purpose of funding building adaptation costs associated with class size reduction.

**2.0 The Current Position**

**2.1** The current class size requirements within the Primary school sector are as follows:

- P1 – maximum class size is 25 pupils
- P2 and P3 – maximum class size is 30 pupils
- P4 to P7 – maximum class size is 33 pupils
- For all composite classes (eg P2/3) the maximum class size is 25 pupils

The proposal within the Concordat is that local authorities work towards reducing class sizes to 18 pupils for P1 to P3, including any composite classes including P1 to P3 pupils.

**2.2** There are 183 Primary schools within Highland. Due to the rural nature of the authority 100 of the schools have classes at or below 18 in P1 to P3.

### **3.0 Implementation costs**

**3.1** The following information has been in-gathered for a sample of 20 of the 83 Primary schools with class sizes greater than 18 in P1 to P3:

- The number of pupils by age stage and the total number of pupils within the school (per the September 2008 school roll census)
- The corresponding information for academic year 2013/14.
- The current class configuration and number of classes formed based on maximum class sizes of 25 in P1, 30 in P2 and P3, 33 in P4 to P7 and 25 in composite classes
- The revised class configuration and number of classes formed based on maximum class sizes of 18 in P1 to P3, 33 in P4 to P7, 18 in any composite class containing P1 to P3 pupils and 25 in any other composite class.
- The number and physical area of all rooms available for curricular use within the school
- The other rooms/open spaces within the school not currently available for curricular purposes.
- The theoretical maximum school capacity of each room based on 1.7m<sup>2</sup> per pupil (per the School Premises (General Requirements and Standards) Regulations 1967 (SI 1967/1199)).
- The operational school capacity based on maximum class sizes of 25 in P1 etc.
- The operational school capacity based on maximum class sizes of 18 in P1 to P3 etc.
- Placing requests in
- Placing request out
- Teaching entitlement based on school roll.

It should be noted that the curricular areas of all 183 Primary schools in Highland will be physically measured by the end of November 2008 and will form the subject of a separate report on school capacities to this Committee in January 2009.

**3.2** An exemplification of the above information for Hillhead Primary School is contained within **Annex 1**. In addition **Annex 2** provides details of the physical measurements of each room available for curricular purposes within the school.

This exemplification high-lights a number of issues:

- There are 7 rooms within the school available for curricular use with a Sports Hall, Dining Room and a general walk through area also available.
- An additional class would need to be formed if maximum class sizes of 18 P1 to P3 were introduced thereby necessitating the employment of an additional teacher.

- Some form of Capital investment would be required to accommodate the additional class within the school campus as the school would have 8 classes with existing physical space for 7 classes.
- There are 6 placing requests within the school.
- The overall school roll is predicted to fall by 31 within 5 years

**3.3** The main issue to emerge from the sample of 13 (from a total of 83) Primary schools for which the above data has been in-gathered is that each would require an additional teaching group to be formed in order to implement class sizes of 18 in P1 to P3. However the majority would require no Capital investment to accommodate an additional teaching group as there is significant surplus capacity within Primary schools. The main additional cost would therefore relate to the employment of additional teaching capacity.

**3.4** As confirmed in the report to Committee in September, there are currently a total of 233 Primary 1 to 3 classes with more than 18 pupils. If the approach were simply to provide an additional teacher in each instance this would equate to an additional cost of approximately £9M per annum.

The further analysis carried out for the current report shows that classes can be configured to allow for class size reduction on a reduced number of additional teachers, currently estimated at approximately 80 to implement class size reduction across Highland. It should be noted however that this figure will be subject to variation depending upon the make up of classes in the junior school.

The cost of employing an additional 80 teachers is approximately £3.12M per annum.

**3.5** In addition to the additional teaching costs it is likely that additional non-teaching staff may be required in the form of classroom assistants and learning support auxiliaries. At this time it is not possible to quantify the number of additional staff required, nevertheless it is inevitable that additional resources will be required.

#### **4.0 Resource and equality issues**

**4.1** It is not currently possible to identify funding to commence implementation of class size reduction.

#### **5.0 Recommendations:**

**5.1** Members are asked to approve the following:

- The additional annual teaching staffing costs associated with the implementation of introducing maximum class sizes of 18 in P1 to P3 are **at least** £3.12M plus the costs of any additional non-teaching staff required. On the basis that there is no funding provision within the current approved budget to meet these additional costs then the implementation of maximum class sizes cannot be progressed any further at this stage.

Signature:

Designation: Director of Education, Culture & Sport

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> October 2008

Author: Ron Mackenzie

Ref: HF/RM

Background Papers:

Annex 1- Hillhead Primary School – age by stage

Annex 2 - Hillhead Primary School – physical area of classrooms.

# Hillhead Primary School

# ANNEX 1

Age by stage 2008	Current class configuration		Revised class configuration (MAX. 18)		Age by stage 2013
26	<b>P1</b>	26	<b>P1</b>	18	19
21	<b>P2</b>	21	<b>P1/P2</b>	18	20
26	<b>P3</b>	26	<b>P2/P3</b>	18	20
28	<b>P4</b>	28	<b>P3</b>	19	19
29	<b>P5</b>	29	<b>P4</b>	28	17
23	<b>P6</b>	23	<b>P5</b>	29	26
21	<b>P7</b>	21	<b>P6</b>	23	22
			<b>P7</b>	21	
174	<b>Total</b>	174	<b>Total</b>	174	143
	<b>No. of classes</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>No. of classes</b>	<b>8</b>	

Number of rooms for curricular	7
Other rooms/areas within school	2
Physical capacity	271
Operational capacity (25)	217
Class size reduction capacity (18)	186
PLACING REQUESTS IN	6
PLACING REQUESTS OUT	1

Teaching entitlement (ROLL 172 TO 198)		
	Entitlement	Man. Time
Head Teacher	1.00	1.00
Depute Head Teacher	1.00	0.10
Principal Teacher	1.00	0.10
Teachers	4.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>1.20</b>

**SCHOOL NAME**  
**Hillhead primary School, Wick**  
**Sep-08**

**ANNE**  
**X 2**

**TABLE 1**

		Room Number	Room Number	Room Number	Room Number	Room Number	Room Number	Room Number	Room Number	Room Number	Room Number	Room Number
1	Teaching Classrooms	1	2	4	5	6	7					
	Area M2	71.25	71.25	71.25	71.25	71.25	71.25					
		40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00					
	Teaching Classrooms											
	Area M2											
2	Art/music/computing and other specialist rooms											
	Area M2											
3	Additional General Purpose rooms - Note 1											
	Area M2											
	capacity											
4	Learning Support rooms (unless room is below 18 pupil capacity)											
	Area M2											

240.0  
0

5	School Libraries occupying full classrooms	library										
	Area M2	55.70										

31.00

**Total Rooms - Table 1**      **7**      **31.00**  
**271**

**TABLE 2**

	Description	Number of rooms
1	Dedicated Public Library	0
2	Sports Hall	1
3	Dining Room	1
4	Community rooms - Note 2	0
5	Learning Support rooms for severe and profound	0
6	Physiotherapy, medical, sensory etc.	0
7	General Purpose rooms - Note 1	One general walk thru area
8	Stage areas	
9	Nursery/Playgroup rooms - Note 3	0
	TOTAL - Table 2	2

<b>Capacity</b>	<b>271</b>	
<b>Operational capacity</b>		<b>Max 18</b>
P1	25	18
P2	30	18
P3	30	18
P4	33	33
P5	33	33
P6	33	33
P7	33	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>186</b>

Meeting room counted as GP