

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE -

14 January 2010

**Outcome of Consultation on a Proposal to build a new Primary School
for the Milton of Leys area of Inverness**

Agenda Item	
Report No	

Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee on the outcome of the statutory consultation undertaken in connection with a proposal to build a new Primary School for the Milton of Leys area of Inverness.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Education, Culture and Sport Committee, at its meeting on 12 November 2009, agreed that statutory consultation be undertaken on the proposals to build a new Primary School for the Milton of Leys area of Inverness, to identify a site for the school, set out its delineated area and the designated secondary school and that consultation papers be drawn up by the Director of Education, Culture and Sport, for the consideration of the Education, Culture and Sport Service Committee, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee.
- 1.2 There is financial provision for a new Primary School at Milton of Leys within the existing approved ECS Capital Programme.

2. Consultation Process

- 2.1 The Council's agreed procedure with regard to statutory changes to education provision was followed. The consultation paper, agreed by the Education, Culture and Sport Committee on 12 November 2009, was made available to:
- Parents of pupils affected including parents of pre-school pupils
 - Members of Parliament and Members of Scottish Parliament.
 - Parent Council/Forum.
 - Community Council.
 - Local Members
 - Chair and Vice Chair, ECS Committee
- 2.2 By way of press advertisement the availability of the consultation paper was brought to the attention of other interested individuals and members of the public. A copy of the consultation paper is appended (**Appendix 1**).

2.3 A meeting of parents and interested parties was held at Inshes Primary School on 14 December 2009 and a minute of the meeting is appended (**Appendix 2**).

2.4 No written submissions have been received to date.

3. Outcome of the Consultation Process

3.1 The tenor of the consultation meeting with parents and interested parties was that of support for the provision of a new Primary School for the Milton of Leys area of Inverness.

4. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- A new primary school is built for the Milton of Leys area of Inverness as outlined in the consultation paper approved by the ECS Committee on the 12th November 2009.

Signature:

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport Service

Author: Veronica McKay, Education Officer

Date: 23, December 2009

Background Papers:

Appendix 1 Consultation papers approved by the ECS Committee on the 12th November 2009.

Appendix 2 The minute of the consultative meeting held at Inshes Primary School, Inverness on the 14th December 2009.

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
EDUCATION, CULTURE & SPORT SERVICE**

**PROPOSALS TO BUILD A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR THE MILTON OF LEYS AREA OF
INVERNESS, TO IDENTIFY A SITE FOR THE SCHOOL, SET OUT ITS DELINEATED AREA
AND THE DESIGNATED SECONDARY SCHOOL**

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

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
EDUCATION, CULTURE & SPORT SERVICE**

PROPOSALS TO BUILD A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR THE MILTON OF LEYS AREA OF INVERNESS, TO IDENTIFY A SITE FOR THE SCHOOL, SET OUT ITS DELINEATED AREA AND THE DESIGNATED SECONDARY SCHOOL.

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

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The expansion of the Milton of Leys/Inshes area over the next few years will result in a significant increase in the number of primary children. Inshes Primary School will not be able to accommodate the projected increase in pupil numbers. Alternative provision requires to be made and this paper sets out proposals for this provision.
- 1.2 The Education, Culture and Sport Committee meeting on 17 September 2009 agreed that statutory consultation be undertaken on a new school for Milton of Leys, on a site for the school and on the catchment area for the school.

2.0 PRESENT POSITION

- 2.1 Children living in the Inshes and Milton of Leys areas of Inverness currently attend Inshes Primary School.
- 2.2 Inshes Primary School opened in August 2007 with an operational capacity for 300 primary pupils. In addition, the school has accommodation for up to 120 nursery pupils, an additional support needs facility and community facilities.
- 2.3 Actual pupil numbers in the delineated area of the school were much higher than was anticipated and a two classroom extension was added to the school in August 2008. The school's current operational capacity is 342 primary pupils.
- 2.4 Further housing is planned for the area and this could be as many of 981 housing units. In the present economic climate the rate of housing construction is uncertain. The completion of the section of the distributor road between the Milton of Leys and Inshes housing estates, which is expected to be completed at the year end, has removed restrictions on further housing development.
- 2.5 The primary pupil roll projection shown in Table 1 below is based on 34 house completions in 2009/10, 50 house completions in each of the next two years and 100 house completions in 2012/13 and subsequent years.

TABLE 1 INSHES/MILTON OF LEYS AREA PRIMARY ROLL PROJECTION

2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
403	437	492	537	596	634	669	699	724

- 2.6 As can be seen from Table 1, Inshes Primary School already significantly exceeds its operational capacity and it would be difficult to physically accommodate the increasing number of pupils at the school beyond school session 2010/11.

3.0 PROPOSALS

NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL AT MILTON OF LEYS

3.1 It is proposed that a new school be constructed at Milton of Leys on a site that has been identified on the map in appendix 1. The site extends to 2.17 Hectares.

3.2 The planned new school would accommodate initially up to 279 primary pupils in 11 classrooms and 60 nursery pupils in two sessions. In addition, there would be provision for a community room and wraparound childcare. The school would be designed to allow additional classrooms to be added in the future, if required. The estimated cost of this new school is £7m.

DELINEATED AREA OF THE SCHOOL

3.3 The map in appendix 1 sets out the proposed delineated area of the new school together with the revised delineated area of Inshes Primary School. The new Milton of Leys school's delineated area encompasses the Milton of Leys housing estate and Parks Farm. The revised Inshes Primary School delineated area includes the Inshes and Dell of Inshes housing estates.

3.4 The roll projections for the two schools based on assumptions with regard to housing development set out in section 2.5 above are set out in tables 2 and 3 below. The roll projections assume that all primary pupils resident in the delineated area of each of the two schools would attend their local school. Roll projections for nursery children are also shown in the tables.

TABLE 2 ROLL PROJECTION – MILTON OF LEYS SCHOOL

PRIMARY

2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
190	234	268	289	306	322	341

NURSERY

2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
83	77	73	77	79	82	84

TABLE 3 ROLL PROJECTION - INSHES PRIMARY SCHOOL (WITH REVISED DELINEATED AREA)

PRIMARY

2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
302	303	328	345	363	377	383

NURSERY

2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
85	105	104	103	104	104	103

DESIGNATED SECONDARY SCHOOL

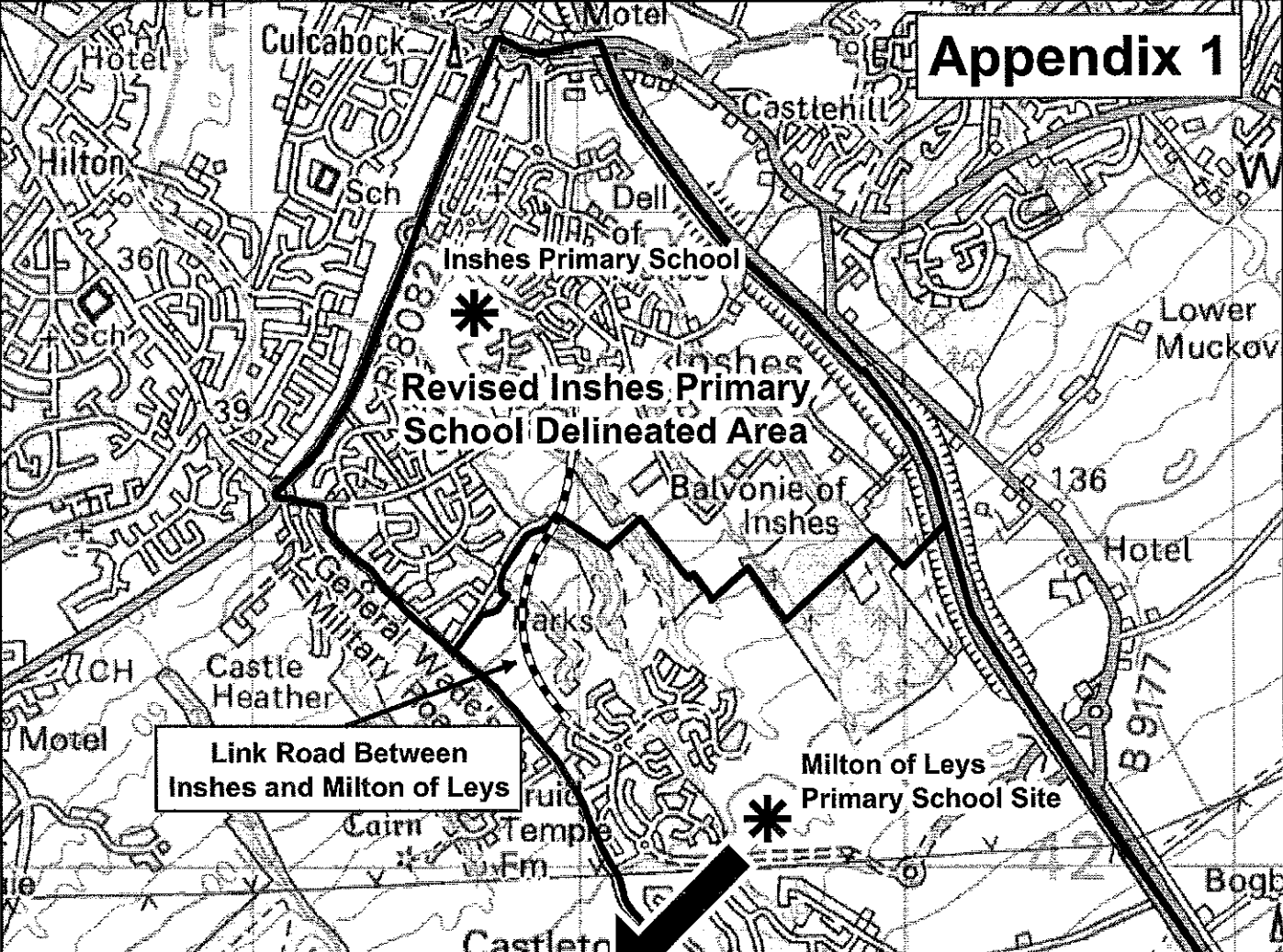
3.5. It is proposed that the designated secondary school for the new Milton of Leys primary school is Millburn Academy.

4.0 CONCLUSION

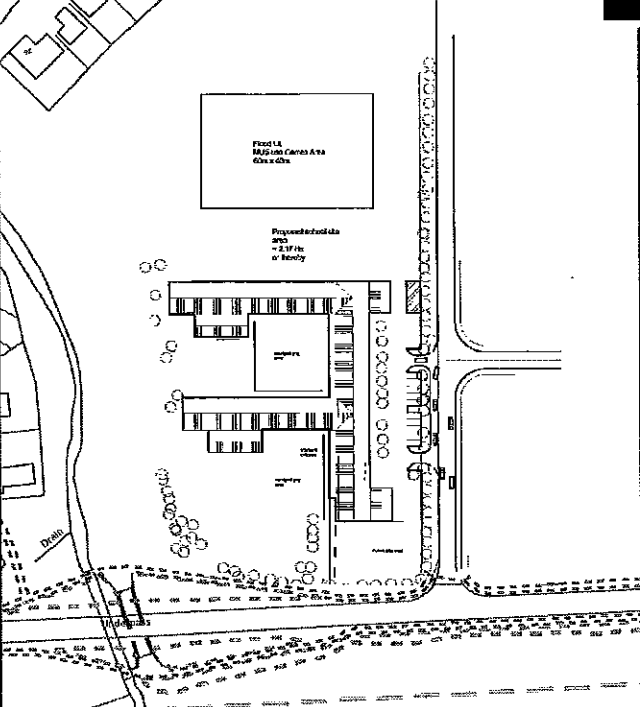
- 4.1 The Education, Culture and Sport Committee wishes to consult on the proposal to establish a new primary school at Milton of Leys in the light of the above factors and having regard to all relevant representations.
- 4.2 Following the consultation procedure a report on submissions received will be presented to the Education, Culture and Sport Committee of the Highland Council.

Area Education, Culture and Sport Office
Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey
5 October 2009

Appendix 1

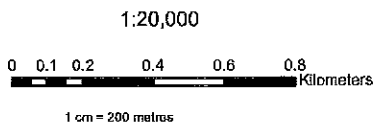


**Link Road Between
Inshes and Milton of Leys**



**Delineated Areas
for Inshes and Milton
of Leys Primary Schools**

c.j.t. Date: 02/10/09



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MINUTE OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14 DECEMBER 2009 AT INSHES PRIMARY

PROPOSALS :-

- **TO BUILD A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR THE MILTON OF LEYS AREA OF INVERNESS**
- **TO IDENTIFY A SITE FOR THE SCHOOL**
- **SET OUT ITS DELINEATED AREA AND THE DESIGNATED SECONDARY SCHOOL**

Present: Councillor Bill Fernie, Chairman, Education, Culture and Sport Committee

In Attendance: Brian Hemming, Estate Strategy Manager
Margaret Barclay, Quality Improvement Officer
Veronica McKay, Education Officer
Ishbel Gilroy, Head Teacher, Inshes Primary School

The meeting was attended by twenty five people including parents, Parent Council members and representatives from Inverness South Community Council.

Discussion

1. Councillor Fernie welcomed those present, introduced the Estate Strategy Manager, Quality Improvement Officer, Education Officer and Head Teacher, Inshes Primary School, he also gave apologies on behalf of the local members who were unable to attend due to other engagements. He explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposal to build a new primary school for the Milton of Leys Area of Inverness, to identify a site for the school, set out its delineated area and the delineated secondary school. He advised that the consultation is a statutory process and that a note of this meeting will be taken and this will form part of the report to the Education Culture and Sport Committee in January 2010, any comments are welcomed and further representation can be submitted in writing to Hector Robertson, Area Education, Culture and Sport Manager, Area ECS Office, 13 Ardross Street, Inverness, IV3 5NS, the final date for submissions is 21 December 2009, written comments can be made available under Freedom of Information Act but all items on the website will be anonymous.

2. The Education Officer presented the consultation paper that had been issued prior to the meeting.

3. The proposed plan is as follows:

Site is identified as shown on map in Appendix 1

Estimated cost is £7m

Proposed catchment area is as displayed on the Map

Designated secondary school is Millburn Academy

4. The Estate Strategy Manager stated that work is continuing on working up the plans for the development. At the previous consultation meeting held in September it had been suggested that the application would be presented to the Planning Committee in November, it has not however been possible to meet that deadline, but nevertheless the programme is still on track to deliver a new school by August 2011. He also advised that Milton of Leys residents may have seen some of the preparatory test ground works being carried out. Trial pits have been dug and bore holes drilled in order that the condition of the site can be accurately established.
5. Robert Roberts, Planning Secretary, Inverness South Community Council, asked why there has been a delay with the planning application as it will now have to wait twelve weeks to be considered. He wanted clarification as to why it wasn't submitted in September, and if this would cause the whole process to be delayed. The Estate Strategy Manager responded that there were process issues involved in causing the delay and as that couldn't be changed now we should move on with the assurance that the development is still on track. Mr Roberts added that he felt the developers were holding out to get houses on that site. Councillor Fernie reminded everyone that the planning application is a planning issue not an ECS one and therefore not part of this statutory consultation.
6. Veronica Mitchell, Inverness South Community Council, asked for assurance that sufficient funds to staff the school in line with current guidance would be available. Councillor Fernie responded that the school would be staffed to the same formula as all other schools.
7. Robert Roberts, Planning Secretary, Inverness South Community Council, queried the boundary catchment stating it does not take in the area of Druid Temple and suggested using the golf course as the boundary. The Estate Strategy Manager suggested that this query be put in writing to Hector Robertson.
8. The question was raised as to whether Millburn Academy was big enough to accommodate all the additional pupils, it was confirmed that Millburn would be able to accommodate pupils from Milton of Leys.
9. Karen Kelbie, parent, asked if parents are aware that they will not get funded travel and how school transport distances are measured. Is it as the crow flies or by route, she pointed out that some pupils get transport when others only streets apart do not. The Education Officer responded that transport is measured by route.
10. Councillor Fernie asked if there were any further questions, although he was aware that many of the parents' concerns had been addressed at the previous meeting held in September. He explained that this consultation meeting was a statutory requirement and part of the due process of the development of a new school. He again stated that if there were further comments they should be submitted in writing to the Area ECS Office by 21st December 2009. There were however no further concerns raised and he duly thanked everyone for attending.
11. The meeting closed at 7.20pm.

APPENDIX 2

MINUTE OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14 DECEMBER 2009 AT INSHES PRIMARY

PROPOSALS :-

- TO BUILD A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR THE MILTON OF LEYS AREA OF INVERNESS
- TO IDENTIFY A SITE FOR THE SCHOool
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