

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE
7 August 2008

Agenda Item	
Report No	

Brora Primary School Teaching Entitlement 2008/09

Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport

SUMMARY

This report sets out the background to the teaching staffing position at Brora Primary School and seeks approval for the teaching allocation to be based on the formula contained within the current scheme of Devolved School Management.

1. Background

1.1 Core teacher staffing allocations for primary schools are made in line with the formula contained within the Council's agreed Devolved School Management scheme. This formula is based wholly on pupil numbers.

1.2 Staffing allocations are reviewed on an annual basis. The review is carried out in the final term of each school session in order that as many as possible of the necessary adjustments to teacher staffing numbers can be made in time for the start of the new school session.

The staffing arrangements are closely monitored and for example in cases where teacher numbers have been reduced as a result of a falling school roll and the pupil roll subsequently increases over the summer holiday period or once the new session has started then the appropriate level of additional teacher staffing is allocated.

1.3 In the case of Brora Primary School the annual review showed that the pupil roll would reduce to 95 which has the affect of reducing the core teaching staffing entitlement from 5 posts to 4 posts.

The relevant formula pupil bandings are:-

- 97 – 120 pupils – 5 teaching staff
- 72 – 96 pupils – 4 teaching staff

In the late stages of the review in late June a further 17 primary schools across Highland were due to have the teacher staffing numbers reduced as a result of reduction in pupil numbers.

1.4 As a result of local views on factors which might lead to an increase in the pupil roll at Brora Primary School and concerns regarding the potential economic and social impact on the community of a reduction in the school's staffing numbers, Members

agreed at the meeting of The Highland Council on 26 June 2008 that the proposed reduction in teacher numbers should not take place prior to the commencement of the school summer holiday period as planned but that a report on the situation should be submitted to the Education, Culture and Sport Committee in order that Members might consider the matter.

2. Current Situation

2.1 At the time of writing this report the pupil roll for Brora Primary School identified to the Area Education, Culture and Sport Manager is 95.

This places the school in the roll banding 72 – 96 and would therefore entitle the school to a core teaching staffing allocation of 4.

2.2 As is normal every year the primary staffing numbers continue to be monitored very closely and we anticipate making a number of changes in line with the formula over the next weeks.

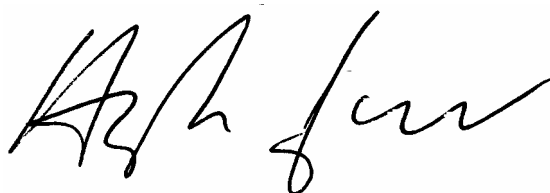
As indicated in paragraph 1.2 above these changes would include increases to teaching staffing allocations where the pupil numbers had increased to a level taking the school into the next formula banding.

3. Conclusion

3.1 Whilst it is recognised that changes to school teacher staffing numbers can be disruptive to pupils, staff and schools it is nevertheless necessary to manage teacher staffing numbers closely in order to ensure fairness in resource allocation from school to school and prudent management of budgets. It is therefore proposed that Brora Primary School be allocated core teaching staff in line with the Devolved School Management formula. In line with agreed practice the teaching staff allocation will be increased if the pupil numbers rise into the next banding.

4. Recommendation

4.1 Members are asked to agree that the teaching allocation for Brora Primary School be based on the formula contained within the current scheme of Devolved School Management.



Signature:

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 31 July 2008

Ref: HF/AC

Background Papers: