**RURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

This Rural Impact Assessment has been prepared on a proposal to discontinue the provision of education at the Black Isle Education Centre.

The Assessment is current prior to public consultation but may be amended in the light of comments received during the course of that consultation.

**Details of Consultation To Be Carried Out:**

The Proposal will be the subject of statutory consultation from under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended.

In accordance with statutory requirements, the following will be consulted:

(i) Parents of pupils currently receiving a service from the Black Isle Education Centre;

(ii) Any pupils currently receiving a service from the Black Isle Education Centre.

(iii) Members of Parliament and Members of Scottish Parliament for the area affected by the proposal;

(iv) Staff of the Black Isle Education Centre.

(vi) Trade union representatives;

(vii) Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council;

(viii) Education Scotland;

(ix) Highland Youth Convenor.

(x) Members of the Highland Community Planning Partnership

The proposal document will also be advertised in the local press and on the Highland Council website.

A public meeting will be held in the Centre on xx June 2016. This meeting will be advertised in advance in the local press and on the Highland Council website.

**What the change will mean in rural communities**

Currently young people with social, emotional and behavioural needs are transported to the Centre by bus and taxi. Under the proposal these youngsters will attend their local schools. The Centre will no longer be needed and will be disposed of. Other than the possible future disposal of the site, the local rural community will not be affected.

**How will people in rural communities be affected?**

As above. The current users of the facility are brought in from elsewhere and there will be no effect on local people.

**Accessibility of service –** The service is offered to young people with social, emotional and behavioural needs, who would be better provided for in their local schools

**Travel time to the service** – Travel time for young people will be reduced.

**Cost to access the service** – The Service is provided free at point of use and this will not change.

**Economic impact** – There will be some changes in direct employment at the Centre. Highland Council will make every effort to redeploy any affected staff, and for that reason there should be no adverse economic impact on the Black Isle.

**Partner service delivery –** This will continuewithin the children’s local schools.

**Other options or adjustments**

Not applicable.