

CONSULTATION MEETING – RELOCATION OF ST. CLEMENT’S SCHOOL

Hybrid meeting, St Clement’s School – 6.30PM, 2 July 2025

MINUTES OF MEETING

Panel

Cllr. Graham MacKenzie – Chairperson
Annika Jansson, Area Quality Improvement Manager
Robert Campbell, Service Lead - Capital Planning and Estate Strategy
Finlay MacDonald, Chief Officer Property & Assets

Also Attending

Cllr. Margaret Paterson
Cllr. Sean Kennedy
Cllr. Sarah Atkin
Colin Masterson – HT St Clement’s School
Sara MacAskill – HT Dingwall Primary School
Ros Bell – Policy Officer
Jack Shepherd – Dingwall Community Council
Andrew MacIvor- Dingwall Community Council
Staff from Dingwall Primary
Parents of St Clement’s School in person and online
Graeme Gordon HM Inspector

Chair Cllr. Graham MacKenzie opened the meeting.

For those who haven’t participated in a Teams meeting, could I ask that you keep your microphone muted if you aren’t actually speaking, as that reduces feedback. You should see a microphone symbol on the bar on the top of your screen, which you can toggle on and off. Secondly, Teams has a system under which anyone who wants to ask a question or make a point should “raise their hand” to attract the Chair’s attention. You do this by clicking on the hand symbol on the bar at the top of your screen. To keep the meeting manageable, could I ask that anyone who wants to ask a question alerts me by clicking on the “raise your hand” symbol, and by clicking it off once you have finished speaking.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the proposal to relocate St. Clement’s School, as set out in the recommendation to the proposal Paper.

We have a number of Council officials present tonight; Annika Jansson, Area Quality Improvement Manager, Robert Campbell, Service Lead - Capital Planning and Estate Strategy, Finlay MacDonald, Chief Officer Property & Assets, Colin Masterson, Headteacher St Clement’s School and Ros Bell, Policy Officer.

Annika Jansson will now describe the consultation process and the detailed reasons for issuing the Proposal.

Annika Jansson – Highland Council is proposing to relocate St. Clement's School, and the relocation of a school is subject to a statutory consultation process, of which this meeting is part. We are currently in the initial phase of that consultation, which is due to end on Friday 3 October, and I would urge anyone who wants to submit views in writing to do so by that date. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to gather views, and we will try to answer any questions that are raised. We are asking for your views as to whether St. Clement's School should be relocated to the proposed site north of Ross Avenue, which will also accommodate a new Dingwall Primary School, and we would welcome expressions of opinion on that, whether for or against.

The formal process has a number of stages. Once the public consultation ends on Friday 3 October, Education Scotland becomes involved. They will look at the Proposal Paper, the note of the meeting tonight, and any written representations, and will form their own view on the educational benefits of the proposal. Education Scotland will contact St. Clement's School, and they will be keen to hear from any parents who wish to make their views known. The Council has to take account of Education Scotland's view on the educational benefits and respond to any points raised by their report, as well as any representations received as a result of the consultation process. Following Education Scotland's input, the Council will prepare a Report reviewing the consultation exercise and present it to Highland Council's Education Committee. The Review Report will be published at least 3 weeks before it is submitted to Committee, and anyone who responded in writing to the initial consultation will be invited to make "further representations" during those 3 weeks. Any further representations that are made are submitted to the members of the Committee, either in advance or tabled on the day, so that members are fully informed of any issues that may have arisen. Members will also see copies of the original responses and the note of this meeting.

In summary, I would say that the consultation process provides multiple opportunities for views to be expressed to the Council before any final decision is made.

Cllr. Atkin - When the links are sent out it is important that other local members with children attending St. Clement's School, and their communities, also need to feed into the consultation, as pupils come from all over Ross shire. I think there are four or five wards, where children attend St Clement's School. It is really important there are as many different views from this wide geographical area as possible. Members can also share this on their social media.

Q1 [Redacted] – How are representations submitted?

A1 Annika Jansson – They are usually submitted by email so we can come back to you for further comments. The important thing is to have everyone's views correctly represented. I would be happy to meet with people if they wanted to talk to me rather

than email but as long as it is captured in an email so their views can then be presented accurately to members before a decision is made and I would be happy to help with that.

The Chair then invited Robert Campbell to provide an update on the project itself.

Robert Campbell – I will give you a brief outline of the design process and where we've got to and what the next steps are.

The design is progressing alongside the statutory consultation rather than waiting for the consultation to be completed, as that would delay the overall completion date. It is obviously subject to the outcome of the consultation, but we are taking the design forward. We've appointed a specialist architect, Jennifer Freeman from Norr Architects, they were recommended to us by the Scottish Futures Trust. They have designed a number of special schools and mainstream schools with enhanced provision bases, and Finlay MacDonald and I have visited some of these schools in the central belt. We did say that we would like maybe for parents and others to visit but appreciate that it is quite difficult for parents to get away, so we are looking to get some images and some videos pulled together as well. Jennifer is going to be carrying out a series of four workshops, two of these workshops have been carried out already prior to the end of term and the next two will be carried out after the summer holidays. The first one was a day in the life of the school, to see how the school operates and limitations and shortcomings of the current accommodation. The second one was more about speaking to people about what they would like out of the new school. She has engaged with various user groups, pupils, parents, and staff. She also visited Dingwall Primary School and spoke to people. We've also asked Jennifer to look at the site layout. We have a building footprint, which we use to test both of the options that were under consideration and Jennifer has taken that forward and her work will inform what goes into the building, outdoor spaces, and how it all fits together. She is also looking at arrangements for things like access, parking, and drop off, which is particularly key, for St Clement's School. We've picked up a number of lessons learned from the school visits and it was good speaking to some staff to see what was successful in the schools that have been completed. We will get some information and circulate that. What we are trying to ensure is that the new school building is at least equivalent to what would have been provided at Docharty Brae which was the original option. There were a number of concerns raised by parents about the co-location challenges, but we are working through those, and I think Jennifer's the right person to bring on board at this stage to work through those. She is a passionate advocate of inclusive design, so I think it's been productive so far. We are certainly determined to get this right and make this building as good as possible. We have got a great opportunity here now that the funding is approved and we will be working closely with all the groups we're going to be engaging with. And just to clarify some of the time scales, funding was approved in March earlier this year. In relation to construction, we are looking to start early in 2027 and to be completed by the end of 2028. Up to two years with the new build,

depending on the other facilities that may be co-located there. We are looking to have the new building up and running in March/April 2029.

The Chair asked if there were any questions.

Q2 [Redacted] - You said that you had visited a few schools in the Central belt. Were these schools on an integrated site, the same as the proposed St Clement's School and Dingwall Primary new build?

A2 Robert Campbell - There was a mixture, with one being a standalone new special school that did have an NHS facility adjacent to it. Others were either joint secondary and a special school, or primary and a special school. Key question was around pros and cons of co-location with no huge negatives from any of the staff or Headteachers we spoke to. The workshops we are running are going to build on that with specific concerns for St. Clement's to be worked through.

Q3 [Redacted] – Can I ask what are these specific concerns you mentioned?

A3 Robert Campbell - These are the concerns which were raised by yourself and the other parents previously. The concerns over proximity, particularly for outdoor spaces maybe more than indoor spaces, and ensuring the school is self-contained with no privacy or any other issues. Parking and drop off was also a concern and the timing of that. Those are the main issues that came from the parents previously.

Q4 [Redacted] How many co-located schools are there in Scotland – both primary and secondary?

A4 Robert Campbell - I don't know the exact number but there are quite a few, we can come back to you on this. We saw various models which seemed to be working successfully where it has been rolled out.

Q5 (Follow on) Were they all fairly new schools?

A5 Robert Campbell - The schools we saw were fairly new. There are some historical ones and there is one that was built 20 years ago, so it's quite a mixture.

Finlay MacDonald - Would it help me to take one of the Headteachers up to speak to both schools to let you know how their experience has been?

[Redacted] – Yes but things can't be sprung on us the day before. We need time to organise these things. If we get an email on the Wednesday telling us we've got a meeting on the Friday, it is so difficult to attend. It would be helpful but it would need to be organised in advance.

The Chair commented that officers understood that adequate notice must be given going forward and that was why sufficient notice had been given for the meeting this evening.

Q6 Cllr. Paterson - This is going to be a very special school. Are you going to look at quite a number of schools and are you inviting members of the parent council to go with you?

A6 Robert Campbell – We understand it is not so easy for some parents to get away, so we are building together these images, some video or walk through 3D images would be helpful to get an idea of the space.

Q7 (Follow on) – I presume parents will be involved from start to finish?

A7 Robert Campbell – There are the 4 workshops where parents can be involved which will start the process.

Cllr. Atkin – We don't have to go too far to see co-location when the Tain Campus opens. I think that might be easier to organise sooner rather than go down to the central belt. It is a co-location from 3-18 and with St Duthus School.

[Redacted] We have strong links with St Duthus parent council and we are aware of their views on how things are.

Q8 [Redacted] - How is the school going to be run and managed in terms of the existing staff from St. Clement's School and Dingwall Primary?

A8 The Chair - Each school will have its own management team, its own staff, and they will be entirely separate. The two schools will each have their own Headteacher, St. Clement's School will retain its own name, own staff and its own facilities.

Q9 [Redacted] - Will both schools be separate from each other within the campus of the new build?

A9 Robert Campbell - They will be separate. Jennifer is working on how the schools will align on the site. St. Clement's School will have its own entrance and be very much self-contained. There would be access to the primary school facilities, but only where appropriate.

Q10 [Redacted] – Will we see the design before the consultation is finished and will we know exactly what we are getting before the decision is made? We have already been told it will be two separate buildings and at another meeting we were told there was to be a walkway between the two buildings. Obviously, we don't know at this moment what we're getting, which is a huge concern. We want to see exactly what we are getting before a decision is made.

A10 Robert Campbell – We have produced a basic footprint with the rooms we think would be appropriate. What Jennifer is doing with the workshops is fleshing that out to see if it is the appropriate accommodation for St. Clement's School or not and looking at the outdoor spaces. We have seen some very good examples of those. It might not be the final sort of lay-out or floor plan, but we will certainly have

something after the holidays that we can share. It's still in development at the moment.

Q11 [Redacted] - So there are conceptual drawings at the moment but no final plans?

A11 Robert Cambell - When the workshops have concluded and we've got all the feedback, we can then look to producing an initial footprint.

Q12 [Redacted] - If we are told that it's two separate units and we are happy with that and are given assurances on this. What happens come October if it is going ahead and it then turns out that is not the final plan. Is it too late by then for things to be changed?

A12 Robert Campbell- We are engaging with parents and Jennifer is leading this process.

Follow on - My son is 16 now and I've been assured in the past and been pretty confident of getting a new school. However, my son is not going to see a new school and I'd hate future children to be let down like he has.

Annika Jansson Obviously your concerns are noted in this meeting as well, that's part of the consultation process that you're voicing these concerns to us.

The Chair commented that in terms of local members, we appreciate those frustrations. Over a year ago, the notion of a new St. Clement's School had gone on the back burner, I would like to emphasise what I now see as a very positive outcome of the investment plan.

Cllr. Atkin - We have an architect who is experienced in these schools, and is totally understanding that this is a completely different kind of need from a mainstream school. I just hope everyone is really reassured. This is a specialism that we've taken the time for. So as long as everyone is completely kept in touch at every single stage, we know what we voted on. It's been said it is to be two separate schools and separate identities, so I think it is really important that everyone has confidence in that.

[Redacted] - We wanted our standalone school that we've been promised for years, and we feel that we are being railroaded into this. It is like us against Dingwall Primary, and that is the way it is being perceived in the newspapers – if you don't accept this then Dingwall Primary won't get a school. We just want what's best for our children.

The Chair commented that he would like to emphasise this whole consultation period is about the relocation of St. Clement's School only. This public consultation meeting starts off the process along with the workshops. The whole purpose of this is to ascertain the views of the community on the relocation of St. Clement's School.

[Redacted] - Integration into primary school is not relevant for our children, although there may be opportunities to visit the primary school. In respect of the argument for potential integration, we don't feel the benefit of this carries as much weight as has been suggested, and is over-riding a lot of the other benefits of the already purchased site. We never felt the plan for a new school for St Clement's had been shelved and we always believed that it would come to fruition. However with this potential POD proposition, we feel we are being shoe-horned into a new site, and not going to be given alternatives to hear our opinions or at least our conceptual ideas of what we'd like to see to futureproof our school.

The Chair confirmed he didn't mean to indicate that the build had been shelved. It was going to happen it would just have been much further down the road had this proposal not come along.

The Chair then invited Annika Jansson to describe the educational benefits of the proposal.

Annika Jansson - In the last Inspection Report into St. Clement's in 2014, Her Majesty's Inspectors were clear that the buildings do not provide the quality or range of facilities appropriate to the pupils. In a new school, we can provide a better educational experience for all. The design and layout of a new building will take account of the wide variety of needs that the children and young people have with an improved environment, with the needs of the pupils at St. Clement's School at the centre of the planning of a new building, which would include more flexible learning and teaching spaces, better facilities for visiting specialists where pupils can access a wider range of experiences, preparing them for positive destinations and life after school.

Examples of educational benefits of the new proposed school would be:

- The new school building would be environmentally efficient, with naturally lit and well-ventilated spaces. Aspects of the design will include purpose-built classrooms, with facilities such as PE and lunch, and with access to sensory and soft play opportunities. Landscaping and access to the outside around the school will also be a better environment than currently.
- Co-location of St Clements and Dingwall schools will offer improved access for specialised support and mainstream setting to support learning to meet the needs of children, with increased opportunities for pupils to participate in wider curriculum offer where possible.
- Better multidisciplinary working with increased access to services to deliver positive outcomes and for cooperation between partners promoting inclusion and transition to positive destinations.
- Improved collaboration and opportunities for staff across the schools. A shared location help breaking down barriers for promotion of inclusion and making the transition to the wider world more accessible. There will also be opportunities to develop and maintain friendship groups across the location, with wider family and community links.

[Redacted] - I was privileged to attend the leaver's ceremony yesterday for all the children who received certificates for their achievements throughout the year. It was in one of the churches in the town, and I know that some of the children couldn't attend because of the journey and the kind of upset caused, and that must change when we have our fit for purpose building. But part of why I'm mentioning the ceremony is that one of the children did a presentation on the history of St Clement's School in commemoration of 50 years. One of the key points of the bulletin I saw, was that years ago, after World War I or World War II, the building was ascertained as not fit for purpose to be a school so Dingwall Academy was relocated to a new building. This is something that is going back generations that this building should not have been repurposed. A new building would be an educational benefit, and summarising what you said, all those benefits are going to be more of an advantage than what we have currently. However I'm going right back to what I've said about location and focussing on education we don't feel that's a strong enough argument to over-ride the original proposal. A lot of people will not be aware of the journey we've had and the repetitiveness of the consultations We feel disappointed that our points of view haven't really been heard and our concerns and our vision for what we actually want for our children hasn't really been put forward to the same extent as the focus on the POD proposition. We feel so strongly we are being put in a very difficult position because of the newspaper articles. If we don't back this and the POD doesn't come to fruition it will not sit very well in our community and I think that's a very big concern.

The Chair thanked **[Redacted]** for expressing her views. These views are what this process is very firmly about so that everyone who has an interest in the development of St Clement's School is able to express their opinions and have them heard.

Annika Jansson - As the Chair has said this is the point of the consultation process. We are listening to everyone and taking note of every contribution to this meeting. Also after this meeting, there are opportunities for all to share their views.

Q13 [Redacted] - The physical space is going to be really important. Also I would like to know what brief the architects have been given, and what portfolio they have previously so we could see examples?

A13 Robert Campbell - In terms of the brief, initially, they were appointed to carry out the series of workshops. We have extended their commission to look at the site layouts as well, and also take the initial floor plan that our in-house architects did and develop that. Norr Architects and Jennifer have a wide experience in schools generally, but also special schools and mainstream schools with enhanced provisions. We could probably share that information through the Chair of the parent council. They did do a presentation for us, so we'll probably need to check it's all okay to share. In terms of spaces, there are metrics that we use in terms of floor areas for pupils and for capacity, but I think we do appreciate the key thing really is flexibility as well. How individual classrooms are used will vary from year to year, depending on the needs of the pupils and the number of pupils that are required. It's not just going to be a cellular row of identical classrooms but will be different size classrooms and classrooms with different facilities inside them as well.

Annika Jansson - In terms of the physical space, Headteacher Colin Masterson has started to engage with the young people as well to see how they feel and what space they think would be meaningful.

Colin Masterson - We can see what the young people did with the materials shared by Norr Architects. They used pictures for one of the workshops and children across the school had a look and highlighted what they would like. Also quite interesting, there is one particular room they don't like. It's the wide open space, as they felt it was going to be too noisy.

Robert Campbell - Something that was mentioned in the March Committee report was maybe working with Highlife Highland and Sports Scotland on some sort of Centre of Excellence for disability sports.

Q14 [Redacted] - In terms of space on the campus what capacity will there be for future expansion?

A14 Robert Campbell- From the brief we have it is a rectangular building so it be designed that if there was a need for further facilities or classrooms that would be almost a bolt on at the end of the wing, and that will be factored in for both schools. We do that for all our schools now, to make sure we have got scope for expansion if required.

Q15 (Follow On) - Will that impact on the outside space?

A15 Robert Campbell- The outdoor space will be generous. It might result in a loss of space, but we will make sure that the site plan takes account of potential future expansion.

Q16 [Redacted] – Do you have further details on the impact assessment?

A16 Annika Jansson – Every Committee paper has to include an impact assessment.

Follow On – The Committee report said it has not been completed yet.

Robert Campbell – There is different levels of impact assessment. There's a screening one and then there is a full impact assessment which will be done on completion of the consultation.

Q17 (Follow on) - Who will carry that out?

A17 Annika Jansson – The impact assessment will be carried out by an officer and then signed off by Chief Officer.

Q18 [Redacted] - What is the capacity of the new school?

A18 Robert Campbell - We are not actually obliged to report on capacity to the Scottish Government for special schools although it is something we are looking at. We do need a capacity or some sort of measure that gives us an idea of the number

of pupils which can be contained in the school. At the moment, it's based very much on the size of a school, but with a bit of growth. We have six standard classrooms, one larger classroom, a complex needs classroom, and then a life skills room. The actual capacity does vary from year to year depending on who is using the rooms. We touched on that earlier that there are staffing entitlements for different types of needs and limits as to the number of pupils that can be in certain types of classes.

Annika Jansson – Staffing entitlements are set nationally depending on the needs of the children in a class and this determines how many pupils you can have in a class. As Robert said, they will be varied depending on the needs of pupils coming through the school as well.

Robert Campbell - By the time we get to concluding the consultation, we will have an idea of how we're going to calculate the capacity of the school.

[Redacted] - We have asked in the past how big the school is going to be and how many places we're going to be able to have. We need to say, we're going to be able to cover all of the current intake and potential development in the area, if nothing else. It can't just be of a similar capacity, the basic argument is that it needs to be bigger.

Robert Campbell – We have 9 classrooms and with even an average of six pupils per classroom, this would give us 54. I think it'll be higher than that when we set the capacity.

[Redacted] - That's not really increasing our accommodation, is it?

Robert Campbell – It is not just the classrooms to consider as there are also the other spaces within the school.

[Redacted] - We said we really didn't want to have a dedicated home economics classroom turned into a standard classroom and taking that positive away from the children because we couldn't accommodate all the pupils, that's where our concerns lie. You have delivered a school and it has a classroom dedicated to home economics, dedicated music classroom etc, and then, 6 months down the line the intake is so much that we're having to give up this dedicated space and these pupils are back to not having that, they have been 20 years now without that dedicated space. This isn't mainstream and for a lot of pupils this is all they have. I won't go into the details of it, but sometimes school is it, you know, and there's not much beyond that for these children. They don't have further education or opportunities for employment. So to get it right and get as much in there that they can experience is so important, and they have been without that for so long. You just don't want a school in say six months time that can't accommodate them.

Robert Campbell - I think that's something else that we've found out from our visits, what different schools are doing in terms of future opportunities for pupils. I think one or two of these schools are innovative in what they are doing with the community.

[Redacted] - It would be reassuring to know that we had another 20, 30 places going forward. I feel for the staff, and I feel for the pupils and I feel for the families

who have children in the school who don't have that confidence at this stage. So it would be really good to have someone come to us and say, we are building you a big school.

Robert Campbell There's a balance to be struck between getting it big enough school on day one and also having that flexibility, but also not making it too big, so there are spaces that are not being fully utilised, so there's a balance to be sought.

[Redacted] - Going back to the fact that this is all we have, it's not just for the children, it's for the parents as we have nowhere to get together. We don't have a school bus run where we meet parents at the bus stop when we drop kids off and find out about each other. We don't have that kind of social space to meet up. We really want to know if there will be a space in the new school we can also utilise socially?

Robert Campbell - That's where the flexibility comes in as well for out of school hours use.

Q19 Sara MacAskill - When the ELC provision in the Dingwall POD idea was first put forward, there was a discussion about a lack of provision for nursery 4 year olds. How will it work for St Clement's School ELC provision, will it start at 5 or will it be earlier from birth or 6 months?

Colin Masterson – The roll is going to be 56 after the holidays with no nursery. Its nine classes.

Robert Campbell – The new school will have 9 teaching spaces

[Redacted] - It's about future proofing and protecting the spaces for the children.

The Chair commented that we want the school to be fit for purpose for opening in 2029 and it is reassuring to hear there are contingency plans for expansion, if it's required in both buildings.

Annika Jansson – There are links for responses and comments and I will send them to Colin Masterson to disseminate to parents and we will also put the links in the minute of this meeting. We will share as widely as possible, across the school community and the wider community as well. The consultation is open to everybody to give their comments and opinions.

[Redacted] - *I would like to read out a small part of a letter we've prepared just to share our vision for St Clement's School: I'm here today to formally present a representation in support of retaining the previously approved site at Docharty Brae for the new St. Clement's School. While I do recognise the value of co-location and integrated service delivery proposed by the new POD site, I believe it's important that we fully consider the significant advantages of Docharty Brae — advantages that are educational, operational, and logistical. Let me outline just a few of the key reasons why Docharty Brae is the right choice:*

- *It was approved by the Highland Council in 2022, following a full statutory consultation process.*

- *It offers a clean-slate, a purpose-built site designed specifically for the needs of pupils at St. Clement's.*
- *It provides a standalone identity for the school — protecting its ethos and specialist role.*
- *It comes with fewer traffic and congestion concerns than the POD site.*
- *The development process would be simpler, without the complications of shared infrastructure.*
- *It is familiar and supported by parents, staff, and the local community.*
- *And importantly, it avoids disruption that would come from live construction near existing school facilities.*

A Bigger Vision: A Shared ASN Campus

Docharty Brae isn't just a site — it's an opportunity. This location has the long-term potential to become a shared ASN campus, supporting learners from early years through to further education and employment pathways. It could deliver transformational outcomes for children and young people with ASN — and become a sector-leading facility for the Highlands.

Let me highlight the potential benefits:

- *Lifelong Learning Pathway. A shared site supports continuity — from pre-school, through primary and secondary, and into post-16. That kind of consistency reduces anxiety, supports routines, and builds relationships that help our children thrive.*
- *Holistic and Personalised Support. When therapists, educators, and support staff work together on one site, our children benefit from specialist care — without needing to be moved off-site. This means better learning, better wellbeing, and better behaviour regulation.*
- *Open Campus Culture. We want a school that's open, welcoming, and visible. A place where parents, professionals, and local employers feel invited — just like at the Seashell Trust in the UK. This kind of engagement reduces stigma and prepares our young people for adult life in the community.*
- *Transition to Adulthood. By co-locating with further education and training providers, we can give young people real access to life skills, vocational training, and future employment — on their terms, in a familiar environment.*
- *Efficient Transport and Accessibility. A centralised site makes transport planning easier, more cost-effective, and better suited to developing independence for pupils. That means less stress for families, better attendance, and stronger long-term outcomes.*
- *Cost-Effective and Future-Proof. By sharing infrastructure across age groups and services, we can ensure public funding is used wisely. Docharty Brae can grow with the needs of the community — not be limited by a shared site with conflicting priorities.*

Reaching Further

First and foremost, we need a new school for our children who attend St. Clement's School — a new school with the capacity to ensure there is a place available for every child in need of ASN provision, now and well into the future. The Docharty Brae site has the potential to become a regional hub — serving not only Dingwall, but the wider Easter Ross and Highland areas. Our vision of a shared ASN campus

is not just about today — it's about building the capacity to support future generations of ASN pupils across the region, from early years through to adulthood. Our vision would allow our children to grow in a consistent, familiar environment, surrounded by staff and services who understand them. It would improve emotional wellbeing, behaviour, and long-term outcomes. It would allow for efficient transport, better access to therapies, and eventually, smoother transitions to further education and employment. We are not against progress — we are in favour of smart, inclusive, sustainable progress. And we believe the Docharty Brae site offers a better opportunity for future investment and development in ASN provision, with the potential for better outcomes — not just for St. Clement's pupils, but for the wider ASN community in the Highlands. In closing: In doing all of this — with careful consideration of our immediate concerns and our vision for the future — the Highland Council wouldn't just be meeting a need; it would be setting a standard. Docharty Brae gives us a chance to lead with care, with clarity, and with ambition. Please support the retention of the Docharty Brae site. Support the pupils. Support the families. And help us build the future they truly deserve.

There were no further questions.

Annika Jansson- I would like to encourage all parents to submit their views. I would be happy to meet with anyone if that would be helpful. It is important we gather views from everybody across the wider community.

Chair – Cllr MacKenzie thanked everyone for their attendance and advised that work will go on at pace during the course of the summer holiday period. He reminded everyone of the process to submit representations.

** Interested parties are invited to respond to the Proposals by making written or electronic submissions on the Proposals to arrive **no later than Friday 3 October 2025** to: Business Support Team Education Service County Buildings High Street Dingwall IV159QN, Email: Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk , Online form, a link to which can be found on www.highland.gov.uk/schoolconsultations*

When responding, you are invited to state your relationship with the school – for example, “pupil”, “parent”, “carer”, “relative”, “former pupil”, “teacher in school”, “member of the community” etc. However, it is not compulsory to do so. Those sending in a response, whether by letter or electronically should know that their response will be open to public scrutiny and may have to be supplied to anyone making a reasonable request to see it. If they do not wish their response to be made publicly available, they should clearly write on the document: “I wish my response to be considered as confidential with access restricted to councillors and officers of The Highland Council”.

Please note the record of the meeting will be made available at least 3 weeks before the meeting of the Education Committee where it is intended that the report of the meeting, plus any submissions/representations and the view of Education Scotland on the proposal, will be considered.