

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT SERVICE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item	
Report No	

Statutory Consultation – Kyleakin Primary School catchment area

Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport Service

Summary

Members are asked to approve that a statutory consultation be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 in relation to the following proposal:

That the Secondary School catchment areas of Plockton High School and Portree High School be amended whereby Kyleakin Primary School would in future be included within the catchment area of Plockton High School.

1. Background

- 1.1 The catchment area for Kyleakin Primary School encompasses the communities of Kyleakin and Kylerhea on the Isle of Skye, extending as far north as the road junction at Drochaid Lusa, where it meets the boundary of the catchment for Broadford Primary.
- 1.2 The arrangements under which primary schools are designated as associated primaries for particular secondary schools are largely historic and sometimes reflect educational, administrative and transport arrangements that have been superseded. In the case of Kyleakin, the administrative arrangements reflect transport arrangements that pre-date the construction of the Skye Bridge.
- 1.3 As a result, the Parent Council of Kyleakin PS has submitted a formal written request to change the designation of Kyleakin PS to being a feeder for Plockton High School. The background is set out in detail in **Appendix 1**.
- 1.4 It is proposed to respond to the request from the Parent Council by formally consulting on the proposed change.
- 1.5 The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 prescribes that changes to catchment areas require formal consultation as laid out within the Act.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that the statutory consultation should proceed on the basis of the options outlined in the proposal document. (**Appendix 1**). The proposal document follows the format set out in the Schools (Consultation) Act 2010.

- 2.2 Under the prescribed procedures a statutory consultation on education provision should run for a minimum period of 6 weeks, with at least 30 days being during term time.

3 Consultation Process

- 3.1 The consultation procedure will include distribution of the proposal document to the following stakeholders :

- a) (i) Parents of pupils in the catchment area of Kyleakin Primary School, including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (ii) Parents of pupils currently attending Portree High School and Plockton High School;
- (iii) All pupils attending Portree High School and Plockton High School and all P4-7 pupils attending Kyleakin Primary School;
- (iv) Members of Parliament and Members of the Scottish Parliament;
- (v) The Parent Councils of Kyleakin Primary School, Portree High School and Plockton High School;
- (vi) Staff of Kyleakin Primary School, Portree High School and Plockton High School;
- (vii) Trade union representatives;
- (vii) The Community Councils for the areas covered by the 3 schools;
- (ix) Education Scotland;
- (x) Local Youth Forum(s)

b) Public advertisement of availability of proposal paper.

c) Meetings of parents will be convened, with a minimum of 14 days' notice.

The Authority will be represented at such meetings by:

- (i) Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Adult and Children's Services Committee.
- (ii) Local Councillor(s) not otherwise covered by above.
- (iii) Director of Education, Culture & Sport or his Representative.

d) Following publication of the consultation paper a minimum of 6 weeks will be allowed for the submission of written comments to the Area Education, Manager. Education Scotland is allowed a further 3 weeks to submit comments.

e) At the end of the consultation period all written submissions and minutes of meetings will be presented to the Adult and Children's Services Committee for consideration and decision.

It is suggested that the consultation period begins on Monday 3 September 2012 and extend to Wednesday 31 October 2012. This meets the legislative requirements regarding the length of the consultation process.

It would be proposed to hold a public meeting on the proposals on 27 September.

- 3.2 It is proposed that the report of the outcomes of the consultation should be considered at the January 2013 meeting of the Adult and Children's Services Committee.

4 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 **Resource Implications** – The potential resource implications are set out in Section 6 of Appendix 1.
- 4.2 **Legal Implications** – There are no legal implications beyond the change to the defined secondary school catchments outlined above.
- 4.3 **Equality Implications** – There are no equality implications arising from these proposals.
- 4.4 **Climate Change Implications** - There are no climate change implications from these proposals.
- 4.5 **Risk Implications** – There are no identifiable risks from the proposals.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 The Committee is requested to agree:

That a statutory consultation be carried in accordance with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 in relation to the following proposal:

That the Secondary School catchment areas of Plockton High School and Portree High School be amended whereby Kyleakin Primary School would in future be included within the catchment area of Plockton High School.

Designation: Director Education Culture & Sport

Date: 14 August 2012

Author: Ian Jackson – Education Officer (West)

Ref:

Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Proposal document

APPENDIX 1

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

The proposal is that the Secondary School catchment areas of Plockton High School and Portree High School be amended whereby Kyleakin Primary School would in future be included within the catchment area of Plockton High School

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE PAPER PREPARED IN TERMS OF THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY'S AGREED PROCEDURE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

This paper sets out a proposal by Highland Council to change Kyleakin Primary School from being an associated primary for Portree High School to being an associated primary for Plockton High School. If agreed, the proposal would be implemented as soon as possible after the start of the new school session in August 2013.

Background

- 1.1 The catchment area for Kyleakin Primary encompasses the communities of Kyleakin and Kylerhea on the Isle of Skye, extending as far north as the road junction at Drochaid Lusa, where it meets the boundary of the catchment for Broadford Primary.
- 1.2 The arrangements under which primary schools are designated as associated primaries for particular secondary schools are largely historic and sometimes reflect educational, administrative and transport arrangements that have been superseded. In the case of Kyleakin, the administrative arrangements reflect transport arrangements that pre-date the construction of the Skye Bridge.
- 1.3 In recent years there has been an increasing trend towards pupils from Kyleakin opting to attend Plockton High School.
- 1.4 Under Highland Council policy pupils placed in a school other than their catchment school are not entitled to school transport. Parents of pupils in the Kyleakin PS catchment attending Plockton HS are therefore responsible for both the organisation and the cost of school transport between home and school.
- 1.5 The status of Kyleakin Primary has been discussed amongst local parents. In April 2011, the parent council carried out a survey of

Kyleakin parents. The survey took the form of a questionnaire and found that, out of 13 parents whose children attend the school, 10 were in favour of the change outlined above, one was against and two were undecided. The Parent Council contend that this is a persuasive mandate for an expanded catchment area for Plockton High.

- 1.6 For the above reasons the Parent Council of Kyleakin Primary School have requested that Highland Council carry out a formal consultation on altering the secondary transfer arrangements for pupils from Kyleakin Primary, with a view to pupils transferring in future to Plockton High School.

Educational Benefits

- 2.1 Highland Council is of the view that the school environment should be of a quality that sustains and improves education provision, pupil performance and outcomes for the young people of Highland.
- 2.2 With the above aim in mind, Highland Council has adopted the following indicators in reviewing its' school estate:
- Pupils should be educated in facilities which are rated at least category B for Condition and Suitability
 - Pupils should be members of an age-appropriate peer group
 - Pupils should have the opportunity to engage in the widest possible range of activities beyond the core curriculum.
 - Pupils with additional needs should be educated in the most appropriate local setting
 - Pupils should not ordinarily be required to travel for longer than 30 minutes from the nearest classified road pick-up point to school (Primary) or 45 minutes from the nearest road pick-up point to school (Secondary), although it is recognised that this may not always be possible in a rural council area such as Highland
 - School facilities should be of a size appropriate to the delineated area that they serve, paying due regard to demographic trends
 - School delineated areas should reflect geography, travel routes and population distribution
 - Safe school transport should be provided and safe traffic management in and around school sites should be implemented
 - Teachers should be members of a professional learning community comprising at least 3 members located in the same facility
 - The implications of school location to local communities should be considered
 - Schools, wherever possible, should be located where there is a recognised village or other built up community
- 2.3 Portree High School is currently rated as A for suitability and A for condition. The 2012-13 roll is 605. The school is accommodated within a new PPP building constructed around 4 years ago and has excellent facilities. Classrooms are spacious and well-equipped with modern equipment and facilities for science, technical subjects, home

economics and modern languages. There is a spacious dining hall. The school has an extensive community wing (the Fingal Centre) which has a wide range of facilities including a synthetic pitch with floodlighting, 25m deck level swimming pool, poolside sauna and team room, fitness suite, games hall and gymnasium, theatre, climbing wall and cave, multi-court area and community library. There is a well-planned traffic management system involving the provision of parking, bus and car drop offs and pedestrian access.

- 2.4 At Portree High School all pupils in S1 and S2 study English, Mathematics, French or German, Gàidhlig or Gaelic, History, Geography, Modern Studies, Science, Art, Technology, Business Studies, Home Economics, Music, Physical Education, Religious Education, Drama and Personal and Social Education. All pupils in S2 study Computing. 8 subjects are available through the medium of Gàidhlig. From S3 onwards pupils choose their specialisations from within a broad curriculum that follows national guidelines.
- 2.5 The school maintains a range of international links with France, Ireland, Uganda, Kenya and Canada. It also takes part in World Challenge every two years-visiting Peru, Uganda and Mongolia. It is involved in a number of enterprise projects including recycling and Bike repairs. Skills for Work courses in construction, engineering and sport and leisure are also on offer. There is a partnership with local churches for assemblies and other initiatives including an annual conference for S6 students on citizenship.
- 2.6 Pupils with additional support needs are provided with appropriate support within mainstream classes to allow them to maximise the educational opportunities available at Portree High, and the school also has excellent facilities and equipment for meeting the needs of the most severely disabled pupils.
- 2.7 Pupils at Portree High have access to a range of after-school and lunchtime activities. These include basketball, canoeing, cross country running, badminton, hockey, shinty, football, drama, trampolining, contemporary dance, swimming and First Aid.
- 2.8 The school is located 33 miles from Kyleakin PS. It is approximately 28 miles from the western boundary of the Kyleakin PS catchment at Drochaid Lusa and approximately 36.5 miles from the community of Kylerhea. Access from Kyleakin village is along the A87 trunk road. Access from Kylerhea is via the A87 and the unclassified road from Broadford to Kylerhea.
- 2.9 Currently the school bus from Kyleakin to Portree High departs Kyleakin at 0750, arriving at Portree High School at 0850. This represents a travel time beyond the 45-minute journey ordinarily regarded as appropriate for a journey to a secondary school.
- 2.10 Pupils from Elgol, parts of Sleat and Kylerhea (the last of these being within the Kyleakin PS catchment) are considered to live too far from Portree High School to travel on a daily basis and are accommodated

within the School Residence, located a short distance from the school itself.

- 2.11 Plockton High School is currently rated as “D” for suitability and “C” for Condition. A major refurbishment has just been completed at providing a new kitchen, dining-room, Home Economics room, improved recreational space, new staffroom and upgraded office/reception area. These assessments will be revised following the completion of the extension. It is the Council's expectation that the school will in future be given a higher Suitability Rating. The 2012-13 roll is expected to be 292. The original front building, dating from 1964, houses the science, maths, technology, art/design, and business studies classes as well as the management and administrative offices, the dining room and the assembly hall. A second building built in 1980 accommodates the games hall, school library, pupil recreational area, and additional teaching areas such as those for modern languages, refurbished computing suite, music, guidance and social subjects. The school's facilities include a synthetic playing field with floodlights, which is also well used by local primary schools and the community.
- 2.12 The building works, now almost complete, include provision of a new dining hall, better access to classrooms, a new biomass heating system, a new home economics classroom and the conversion of the existing home economics room into a computer suite, thereby freeing up the current Lochalsh Learning Centre, which will be used by West Highland College. These works will eliminate many of the current accommodation pressures within the school.
- 2.13 Plockton High School has introduced a Curriculum S1-3 based on broad general education. All pupils in S1 and S2 study English, Mathematics, Geography, Art & Design, French, History, Music, Gaelic/Gaidhlig, Religious & Moral Education, Physical Education, ICT (Business Education and Computing), Personal & Social Education, Science, Home Economics, and Craft Design/Technology. 3 subjects are available through the medium of Gàidhlig. From S3 onwards pupils choose their specialisations from within a broad curriculum that follows national guidelines.
- 2.14 The school maintains a range of international links (Ireland, France, Italy, Spain, Poland, Canada and Ecuador in addition to close links with the Plockton Computers for Africa Project) which enhance citizenship education. Provision for vocational study has been enhanced by the Am Bata/Traditional Boatbuilding project. Skills for Work courses in Hospitality and Rural Skills, Outdoor Education, PC passport, ECDL and Childcare are also on offer. There is a partnership with local churches for assemblies and other initiatives including an annual conference for S6 students on ethical issues.
- 2.15 Pupils in this category are provided with appropriate support within mainstream classes to allow them to maximise the educational opportunities available at Plockton High, but the school also has facilities and equipment for meeting the needs of the most severely disabled pupils.

- 2.16 Pupils at Plockton High have access to a range of after-school and lunchtime activities. These include basketball, volleyball, canoeing, badminton, shinty, football, rugby, drama, trampolining, golf, athletics, debating and drama and music. There is a Young Enterprise Company, Young Engineers Club, Christian Club, Fair Trade Group, Drama Club and Ski Club. Other lunch-time activities include Library, Craft and Cooks' Clubs. The school also operates a Breakfast Club.
- 2.17 Traffic management at the school is adequate with a pick-up/drop off point for buses provided by means of a turning circle. Parking is limited.
- 2.18 Plockton High School is located 7.5 miles from Kyleakin PS and has a current roll of 295. The school is approximately 12.5 miles from the western boundary of the Kyleakin catchment and is 17 miles from the community of Kylerhea. Access to the school from Kyleakin is via the A87 Skye Bridge and the unclassified roads between Kyle of Lochalsh and Plockton. Currently the service bus from Kyleakin to Plockton departs Kyleakin at 0820, arriving at Plockton High School at 0855.
- 2.19 The National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music (NCETM) has been based at Plockton High School since 2000. The Centre offers specialist music tuition to young people from all over Scotland. Pupils attending the Centre enrol at Plockton High School for their non-music related school subjects.
- 2.20 Plockton High is served by a school residence, which provides accommodation both for pupils attending the NCETM and for pupils from Applecross and Arnisdale who live too far from home to travel daily to school.
- 2.21 Highland Council considers that both Portree High School and Plockton High School offer high quality educational experiences for their pupils.
- 2.22 Both schools meet the majority of the criteria for school facilities and locations, set out in paragraph 2.2 above. Plockton High does not meet the required criterion for Suitability and Condition ratings of B or above, although the current extension will address that. Portree High does not meet the criterion for travel times of less than 45 minutes. Those pupils from Kyleakin who attend Plockton High School have significantly shorter travel times than those who attend Portree High. The fact that Plockton High is more accessible is also a factor for parents when considering they may be called to the school if their child is ill.
- 2.23 If the proposals were adopted, all current and future pupils from the Kyleakin PS catchment attending Plockton High School would become eligible for funded school transport between home and school. For reasons of fairness it would be necessary to also continue funding school transport to and from Portree High for any pupil from the Kyleakin catchment who had enrolled at Portree High by or during the 2011-12 school session. Transport to Portree High would not be

available by right to any pupil from the Kyleakin catchment enrolled at Portree High after a decision to change Kyleakin to an associated school for Plockton High.

- 2.24 School transport will be available for pupils travelling from Broadford to Portree High. Pupils from Kyleakin who wished to attend Portree HS could potentially utilise this service upon payment of a fare. It should be noted however, that no transport would be provided from Kyleakin to Broadford.

Effect on the two secondary schools

- 3.1 In the 2011/12 year there were 22 pupils from Kyleakin in secondary education with 7 at Plockton (32%) and 15 at Portree (68%). However, there have been more placing requests to Plockton in recent years with 50% (6 out of 12) of the S1 to S4 cohort attending Plockton. In estimating the future rolls of both schools, it is reasonable to project, on past experience, that an average of 2 pupils per year (half of the pupils numbers given in 3.2 below) from Kyleakin, will opt for Plockton High on placing requests. On the basis of current arrangements and that projection, the estimated rolls for the two secondary schools over the next few years are:

Portree High School

- 2012-13 - 605
- 2013-14 – 583
- 2014-15 – 578
- 2015-16 – 568
- 2016-17 – 597
- 2017-18 – 592

Plockton High School

- 2012-13 - 292
- 2013-14 – 285
- 2014-15 - 291
- 2015-16 - 286
- 2016-17 - 270
- 2017-18 - 272

- 3.2 The projected roll at Kyleakin PS for August 2012 is 26. On present figures the number of pupils transferring to secondary school over the next 7 years will be

- 2013-14 - 6
- 2014-15 - 3
- 2015-16 - 1
- 2016-17 - 5
- 2017-18 – 4
- 2018-19 – 3
- 2019-20 - 4

- 3.3 A change in the secondary transfer arrangements would have a small negative impact on the roll at Portree High, leading to a small reduction in staffing. There would be an opposite impact upon Plockton High, although the proportionate effect would be greater due to the somewhat smaller roll at that school. As mentioned above, however, over the last three years the majority of pupils leaving the Kyleakin PS area have opted for Plockton High School on placing requests. On this basis the change would largely formalise what has recently been happening in practice.
- 3.4 Estimated rolls following the implementation of the proposed change in the secondary transfer arrangements would be as follows:

Portree High School

- 2012-13 - 605
- 2013-14 - 579
- 2014-15 - 572
- 2015-16 - 560
- 2016-17 - 588
- 2017-18 - 581

Plockton High School

- 2012-13 - 292
- 2013-14 - 289
- 2014-15 - 297
- 2015-16 - 294
- 2016-17 - 280
- 2017-18 – 283

- 3.5 The capacity at Plockton High School is 432. The projected roll for August 2013 is 289 so the school could comfortably accommodate an annual enrolment from the Kyleakin catchment.

4 Effect on the Local Community

- 4.1 Highland Council does not envisage any negative effects on the local community as a result of the current proposals.

5 Financial Consequences

- 5.1 Financial consequences could potentially arise in relation to transport. If the proposals were accepted Highland Council would, for a period of several years, be obliged to operate transport from the Kyleakin PS catchment to both Portree High and Plockton High. Whilst transport from the area to Portree High would eventually be phased out, it would still be necessary to operate transport to Portree High from Sleat.
- 5.2 Currently the 11 pupils from Kyleakin travel to Broadford and transfer to a bus from Torrin to Portree. The connecting bus then works a

second journey taking pupils from Broadford, Kyleakin and Kyle of Lochalsh to Plockton. An additional bus operates from Kyleakin to Portree on Monday mornings and Friday afternoons, to provide extra capacity when pupils who stay in Portree Hostel are travelling.

- 5.3 If the proposal is accepted the numbers receiving transport will change over time, potentially affecting vehicle sizes and routes. The existing two-bus contract from Ardvassar and Torrin to Portree High School would be unaffected. Once interim arrangements for existing pupils were phased out, it is likely that the Council would organise a contract from Kyleakin to Plockton High. There may be small savings in respect of the current transport both ways between Kyleakin and Broadford. However, additional capacity would be needed on the Kyleakin – Plockton route, either in the form of a larger bus or an additional bus. The loss of Kyleakin pupils from the Monday morning/ Friday afternoon bus to Portree would not of itself allow that bus to be withdrawn, although if total pupil numbers were to reduce, withdrawal might be possible. As these changes would not take effect for some time into the future, it is not possible to provide accurate estimates of future costs.

6 Summary

- 6.1 The Parent Council of Kyleakin Primary School has formally requested that their school be changed from an associated school for Portree High to an associated school for Plockton High. The above consultation document invites views on the subject.

7 Recommendation

- 7.1 Taking into account the expressed view of the Kyleakin Primary School Council, and the difference in travel times between Kyleakin to Plockton and Kyleakin to Portree, Highland Council recommends that the Kyleakin PS catchment is transferred, for secondary education purposes, into the Plockton High School catchment.
- 7.2 The Council must formally consult on changes to provision, hence the options to be considered in terms of the Council's policy on changes to educational provision. This consultation paper is issued in terms of the authority's agreed procedures to meet the relevant statutory requirements. Following the consultation period, a report and submissions received will be presented to the Adult and Children's Services Committee of the Highland Council.