

The Highland Council
Education, Children and Adult Services Committee
18 May 2016

Agenda Item	13.
Report No	ECAS 38/16

Kinbrace Primary School - Proposal to Proceed to Statutory Consultation for Formal Closure

Report by Director of Care and Learning

Summary

Kinbrace Primary School is currently mothballed and has been since the end of session 2012/13. This report seeks Members' agreement to proceed to a statutory consultation, under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, for formal closure of the school.

1. Background

- 1.1 Kinbrace Primary School has been mothballed since the end of session 2012/13. There are currently four pupils of P1-7 age living within the catchment area of the school, with one further pupil of nursery age.
- 1.2 Current projections indicate the maximum roll for Kinbrace Primary would be 5 pupils by 2019/20.
- 1.3 The Council proposes to proceed to statutory consultation for formal closure of Kinbrace Primary School. If approved, the bulk of the Kinbrace catchment area would be re-assigned to that of Helmsdale Primary School, with a small area being reassigned to the catchment of Melvich Primary.
- 1.4 This proposal is being brought forward, following informal consultation with local stakeholders and Elected Members, and having examined viable alternatives that could be considered.
- 1.5 The consultation report and appendices contained in **Booklet B** set out the basis of the proposal, and related information, including the educational, community and transport implications associated with the proposal.
- 1.6 Subject to a Committee decision to proceed to statutory consultation, a public meeting will be held in Kinbrace to discuss the Council's proposal and in line with the legislation; there will be considerable opportunity for stakeholders to submit views to the Council in advance of any final decision being made. At this stage, it is expected the statutory consultation timeline would see a final recommendation being considered by this Committee in January 2017, though this may be subject to change to ensure the Council has sufficient time to consider and respond to matters arising from the consultation.

2. Implications

- 2.1 **Resources** - These are detailed in **Appendix M** to the report in **Booklet B**.
- 2.2 **Legal** - the statutory consultation will be taken forward per the requirements of

the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

- 2.3 **Equalities** - an equality impact assessment is included in **Appendix N** to the report in **Booklet B**.
- 2.4 **Climate Change/Carbon Clever** - The attached report details the implications in relation to school buildings and school transport. It is estimated that in terms of the Council's carbon emissions, the proposal will see a net reduction.
- 2.5 **Risk** - These will be assessed as part of the statutory consultation process.
- 2.6 **Gaelic** – There are no implications for Gaelic.
- 2.7 **Rural** - The proposal does impact on a rural school. The attached report sets out in some detail the rural/community implications, as required by the legislation. A rural impact assessment is included as **Appendix O** to the report in **Booklet B**.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider this report and attached proposal, and agree to proceed to statutory consultation, per the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, regarding the proposal for formal closure of Kinbrace Primary School and the re-assignment of its catchment area between Helmsdale Primary and Melvich Primary.

Designation: Director of Care and Learning

Date: 9 May 2016

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