

Agenda Item	6.
Report No	EDU/3/25

The Highland Council

Committee: Education

Date: 26 February 2025

Report Title: Statutory Consultation: Creation of a New Primary School for Tornagrain - Final Report

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - People

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 Following conclusion of the statutory consultation process, this report seeks Members' agreement to a recommendation to establish a new primary school to serve the Tornagrain housing development.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- i. Agree to recommend that the Highland Council establishes a new primary school to serve the Tornagrain housing development and amends the delineated area (catchment area) of the current Croy Primary School, in order to create the catchment area for the new school.

3. Implications

3.1 Resource – The capital requirements from the new school have been approved as part of the Council's capital programme, and along with the associated revenue budget considerations.

3.2 Legal - The proposed closure has been taken forward under the provisions of The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 1980

3.3 Risk – Failure to create the new school would, in due course, lead to overcrowding at the existing Croy Primary

3.4 Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people) – The construction of the new school is required to avoid overcrowding at Croy Primary.

3.5 Gaelic – None.

4. Impacts

- 4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies, or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children’s Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.
- 4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.
- 4.3 **Integrated Impact Assessment - Summary**
- 4.3.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment screening was undertaken on 30 December 2024. The conclusions have been subject to the relevant Manager Review and Approval.
- 4.3.2 The Screening process has concluded that all of the impacts will be positive, and that there will be no significant negative impacts. Members are asked to consider the summary in **Appendix 1** to support the decision-making process.

4.3.3 Impact Assessment Area	Conclusion of Screening/Full Assessment
Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and Young People – <i>Positive impact</i> • Children affected by disability – <i>No impact</i> • Older adults – <i>No impact</i>
Socio-economic	<i>No impact</i>
Human Rights	<i>No impact</i>
Children’s Rights and Well-being	<i>Positive impact</i>
Island and Mainland Rural	<i>No impact</i>
Climate Change	<i>No significant impact</i>
Data Rights	<i>No significant impact</i>

5. **Overview**

- 5.1 **Appendix 2** is the proposal for decision. The original proposal for consultation, and relevant documents for consideration by the Committee, are all also circulated as appendices to this paper. They provide details of all consultation comments received, the note of the public meeting, the report from Education Scotland, and the Council’s response to comments arising from the consultation.
- 5.2 A majority of the children at Croy Primary expressed support for the proposal. 101 Children expressed a view, of whom 58 thought the new school should be built whilst 43 did not. When asked whether there should be two schools, or a new school for both? Croy and Tornagrain, almost 80% of children favoured the two-school option.
- 5.3 There were 3 written responses received from other stakeholders. One response expressed opposition to the new school, on the grounds there would not be enough children to justify it. Another raised a concern about the proposed location of the new

school, on grounds of disturbance, loss of privacy etc. The other response asked a question about road safety.

- 5.4 The note of the public meeting is at **Appendix 3**. The note records a total of 45 questions. No participants expressed direct opposition to the proposed new school. A number expressed concern about the condition of the Croy Primary building, or about potential negative effects on the school and community of Croy. Others raised issues around road safety, or about the catchment area for the new school.
- 5.5 In their report, HM Inspectors agree with the educational benefits as set out by the Council in the proposal. They state that there is a clear need for The Highland Council to address the rising roll at Croy Primary School and the existing schools in the area do not have the capacity to accommodate this. A new school in Tornagrain should provide a modern learning environment in the community children live in.
- 5.6 HM Inspectors recommended that The Highland Council work with stakeholders to address the concerns they have raised. This includes in regard to safe routes to Croy Primary School during the interim period whilst any new school is built. If the proposal is agreed, The Highland Council should also consider the suggestions raised by stakeholders about the catchment area for the proposed new school.

Both these issues will be followed up after the conclusion of the current consultation exercise. (See Responses 5 and 6 of **Appendix 2**)

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 The legislation requires that any proposal for decision must be published at least 3 weeks in advance of the meeting at which any decision may be made, to allow time for further representations. The proposal was published on 30 January 2025. Any further representations that are received will be tabled at the meeting for the attention of Members.
- 6.2 Following consideration by the Committee, if the recommendation is agreed, the decision of the Committee will be considered by the full Highland Council. If approved, the school statutory consultation process will be concluded.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - People

Date: 29 January 2025

Author: Ian Jackson

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Integrated Impact Assessment
Appendix 2 – Review of Consultation Report
Appendix 3 – Note of Public Meeting
Appendix 4 – List of Respondents to Consultation
Appendix 4i-4iv – Copies of individual responses
Appendix 5 – Education Scotland Report
Appendix A – Original Proposal Paper
Appendix B – Proposed Catchment for the new Tornagrain Primary
Appendix Bi – Alternative Tornagrain Primary Catchment
Appendix Bii – Tornagrain Primary Catchment Third Option
Appendix C – Proposed Tornagrain School site boundary

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening

This Impact Assessment is marked as confidential or sensitive. If you intend to share this document please check with the Responsible Manager who this can be shared with.

About proposal

What does this proposal relate to? Redesign or change to existing service, Introduction of a new service

Proposal name: Creation of a new primary school for Tornagrain - review of consultation

High level summary of the proposal: Creation of a new primary school to serve the Tornagrain housing development. The Council has carried out a consultation and must now make a decision

Who may be affected by the proposal? Pre-school and primary school age children in the affected area, their parents, and the wider local community of Croy/Tornagrain.

Start date of proposal:

End date of proposal:

Does this proposal result in a change or impact to one or more Council service? Yes

Which Council services will be impacted by this proposal? People, Place

Does this relate to an existing proposal? Yes

Provide details of the existing proposal: Creation of a new primary school for Tornagrain - consultation approved by the Education Committee on 12 September 2024.

Author details

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Service: People

Responsible officer details

Name: Anne MacPherson

Job title: Strategic Lead Resources (Education)

Email address: Anne.MacPherson@highland.gov.uk

Sign off date: 2025-01-27

Equalities, poverty, and human rights

Protected characteristics

Select what impact the proposal will have on the following protected characteristics:

Sex: No impact

Age: No impact

Disability: No impact

Religion or belief: No impact

Race: No impact

Sexual orientation: No impact

Gender reassignment: No impact

Pregnancy and maternity: No impact

Marriage and civil partnership: No impact

Protected characteristics impact details: The proposal involves the creation of a new school. As such it primarily affects children in the 3-12 age group. However age is not a protected characteristic in relation to school provision.

Poverty and socio-economic

What impact is the proposal likely to have on the following?

Prospects and opportunities: Positive

Places: No impact

Financial: No impact

Poverty and socio-economic impact details: The location of the school means the proposal does not affect any vulnerable communities.

Human rights

Which of the below human rights will be affected by this proposal?No human rights will be affected

What impact do you consider this proposal to have on the human rights of people?No impact

Human rights impact details: There will be no negative human rights impacts from the creation of a new school.

Equalities, poverty and human rights screening assessment

What impact do you think there will be to equalities, poverty and human rights? Positive impact

Is a Full Impact Assessment required? No

Children's rights and wellbeing

What likely impact will the proposal have on children and young people? The new school will provide education for children living in the Tornagrain development. As such its creation will avoid an overcrowding situation at Croy Primary School. It will also provide access to education more locally than the existing provision.

Which of the below children's rights will be affected by the proposal? You are working in the best interests of the child (Article 3)

Explain how the children's rights selected above will be affected: The new school will be in the best interests of children in the area. Children have had the opportunity to submit their views on the proposal, and these have been carefully considered.

Children's rights and wellbeing screening assessment

What impact do you think there will be to children's rights and wellbeing? Positive impact

Is a Full Impact Assessment required? No

Data protection

Will your proposal involve processing personal data? Yes

Is any of this data already processed by the Highland Council? Yes

What is the purpose of the personal data being processed? Parents, children and residents have submitted views in response to the consultation. These will be published on the HC website though with personal email addresses, personal phone numbers and signatures removed. Respondents were offered the opportunity to opt out of their responses being published.

Is there an up-to-date privacy notice available on the Highland Council website? No

Data protection screening assessment

What change will there be to the way personal data is processed? No significant change to current processing

Is a Full Impact Assessment required? No

Island and mainland rural communities

Does your proposal impact island and mainland rural communities? Yes

Could people in island and mainland rural communities be affected differently? No

Have any negative impacts been identified? No

Island and mainland rural communities screening assessment

What impact do you think there will be to island and mainland rural communities? Minor differences

Is a Full Impact Assessment required? No

Climate change

Does the proposal involve activities that could impact on greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂e)? Yes

Does the proposal have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity? No

Does the proposal have the potential to influence resilience to extreme weather or changing climate? No

Provide information regarding your selection above: The new school will require the construction of a new building, though it will be built to the highest modern standards and following "net zero" principles. The new school will offer access to education more locally and thus marginally reduce travel to school distances.

Climate change screening assessment

Have you identified potential impact for any of the areas above or marked any as not known? Yes

Is a Full Impact Assessment required? No



HIGHLAND COUNCIL

CARE AND LEARNING SERVICE

REVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL TO SERVE THE TORNAGRAIN HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

This report has been prepared following a review of the proposal:

To establish a new primary school to serve the Tornagrain housing development, and to amend the delineated area (catchment area) of the current Croy Primary School, in order to create the catchment area for the new school.

Having had regard (in particular) to:

- Relevant written representations received by the Council (from any person) during the consultation period:
- Oral representations made to it (by any persons) at the public meeting held at Croy Primary School on 8 October 2024:
- The report from Education Scotland.

this document has been issued by the Highland Council under the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

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Appendices:

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- Appendix 3** - List of Responses to Consultation
- Appendix 3i – 3iv** Copies of Responses to Consultation
- Appendix 4** - Report from Education Scotland
- Appendix A** - The Proposal Paper
- Appendix B** - Proposed Tornagrain Primary School catchment
- Appendix Bi-** Alternative Tornagrain Primary School catchment
- Appendix Bii-** Tornagrain Primary School catchment proposal third option
- Appendix C** Proposed Tornagrain School boundary

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Highland Council's Education Committee, at its meeting on 12 September 2024, agreed that a statutory consultation be undertaken on the proposal to establish a new primary school to serve the Tornagrain housing development, and to amend the delineated area (catchment area) of the current Croy Primary School, in order to create the catchment area for the new school.
- 1.2 **Appendix A** is the original consultative paper and provides full details of the above proposal. **Appendices B-C** are the appendices to the original proposal.

2.0 Consultation process

- 2.1 The formal consultation period ran from Monday 23 September 2024 to Friday 22 November 2024. Written representations on the proposal were sought from interested parties as defined within the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 2.2 In accordance with statutory requirements, the following were consulted:

- (i) Parents of pupils attending Croy Primary School; including parents of pre-school pupils
- (ii) The Parent Council of Croy Primary School
- (iii) Members of Parliament and Members of the Scottish Parliament for the area affected by the proposal
- (iv) Staff of Croy Primary School
- (vi) Trade union representatives;
- (vii) Croy and Culloden Moor Community Council

2.3 The proposal document was advertised on the Highland Council website.

2.4 A public meeting was held at Croy Primary School on 8 October 2024. The meeting was advertised in advance on the Highland Council website and Facebook page, and in the *Inverness Courier*.

2.5 Following receipt of written representations received by Highland Council and consideration of oral representations made at the public meetings, officials reviewed the proposals.

2.6 The outcome of this review process is reflected in the response, conclusion and recommendations outlined below.

3.0 Responses received

3.1 The note of the public meeting is at **Appendix 2**. The note records a total of 45 questions. No participants expressed direct opposition to the proposed new school. A number expressed concern about the condition of the Croy Primary building, or about potential negative effects on the school and community of Croy. Others raised issues around road safety, or about the catchment area for the new school.

3.2 A list of those who responded in writing during the public consultation is at **Appendix 3**, whilst copies of the actual responses are at **Appendix 3i – 3iv**. Pupils (including the nursery class children) at Croy Primary School completed, or were assisted to complete, age adapted questionnaires.

3.3 A majority of the children expressed support for the proposal. 101 children expressed a view, of whom 58 thought the new school should be built whilst 43 did not. When asked whether there should be two schools, or a new school for both Croy and Tornagrain, almost 80% of children favoured the two-school option. The various points raised in opposition are addressed in Section 4 below.

3.2 Three other written responses were received. One response expressed opposition to the new school, on the grounds there would not be enough children to justify it. Another raised a concern about the proposed location of the new school, on grounds of disturbance, loss of privacy etc. The other response asked a question about road safety. These matters are also addressed in Section 4 below.

4.0 Issues raised during the consultation period

- 4.1 The main arguments opposed to the proposal are summarised below, together with the responses from the Council. In many cases different responses have made the same or very similar arguments, and where this occurs the arguments have been addressed only once.
- 4.2 Points of concern raised by the pupils at Croy Primary are at Issue 1 below. Points raised in the written responses are at Issues 2-4 below.
- 4.3 The majority of questions raised at the public meeting were answered directly during the meeting, the note of which is at **Appendix 3**. Other issues will be addressed in follow-up correspondence from Highland Council.

Issue 1

A new school would mean children being separated from their friends.

Response 1

This might happen to some children, but no-one who is already in the P1-7 classes at Croy Primary will be made to move to the new school when it opens.

Issue 2

Tornagrain doesn't need a school, there's not enough children there to make a new school worth building. Many children in Tornagrain go to other schools like Cawdor, some to schools in Inverness and further afield. So the demand of a school in Tornagrain lessened even more.

Also many children are leaving Tornagrain every year and the number is dropping significantly, we know multiple families who have left in the past year. And more to come in the next few years, building houses elsewhere in the Highlands for example. Tornagrain population seems to be getting older and the majority age seems to definitely be 40+.

In a time of financial crisis building a new school for such a small number of children does not make sense.

Response 2

At the time of writing, there are 157 primary school pupils living within the Croy Primary catchment. Of these, 43 pupils are currently enrolled as placing requests to other schools. The majority are in P5-7.

In recent years the Council has had to add demountable units to the accommodation at Croy Primary to accommodate the rapidly climbing roll at the school. Further units will need to be added prior to the construction of

the new school, but there are limitations on the size of the Croy Primary site, and eventually the number of pupils will go beyond the point where they can be accommodated by the addition of further classrooms.

The Council's school roll forecasts are published on its website, and those for the schools in the Culloden Academy group – including Croy Primary – can be found on the link below.

[School roll forecasts April 2024 | Culloden Academy](#)

It can be seen from the forecasts that, without a new school, the roll at Croy Primary is forecast to rise to almost 300 pupils by 2038-39.

Issue 3

In the absence of a layout or design plan, it's difficult to comment fully on the new school proposal. However what I have read so far a multi use games area and/or open grass area is mentioned which could be for community use.

Please see attached photos of the area behind my garden. I would strongly object to an open multi use games area or grass pitch in the field behind my garden. This is because it will ruin my privacy due to the noise generated whilst the garden is used, and also within the house as the sitting room and bedroom faces onto the back garden and proposed school site area.

I am a 70 plus years old retiree with sensory impairment. The random use of the field behind my house as a multi-use ball games at all hours and days has caused problems in the past which have been highlighted to the landowner Moray Estates.

I have lived here over the last seven years and the field space (in my photo attachment) has been used on an odd annual occasion but this has been organised, controlled and advertised which I was able to deal with by making alternative arrangements.

I hope my objection is taken seriously as my life would be severely impaired should a school/community games area be situated behind my house. My partner who lives with me is in full agreement with this objection.

Response 3

The residential property referred to is within a row that was built within the original site allocated for the school, as set out in the original 2009 Planning Application (09/00038/OUTIN) and in a 2011 brochure produced by Moray Estates setting out the new development. The proposed location of the school has therefore been known since 2009. We don't yet know how buildings and outdoor spaces will be allocated within the remaining school site.

If the proposed new school is approved, the eventual design will require

detailed planning permission, and as part of that process, local residents will have the opportunity to comment on or object to the proposal. In taking decisions on a full planning application, account will be taken, as far as possible, of the physical proximity of adjoining properties.

Issue 4

Could you also confirm that the site is on, or there are plans to construct, a safe route to school for walking and wheeling from the Tornagrain housing development it is intended to serve?

Response 4

Should the new school be approved, there will be intensive discussion with stakeholders about the detailed design requirements, including Safer Routes to Schools (SRTS). The formal Planning process for building a new school would also require the Council to consider traffic and other assessments.

The Council acknowledges that in this area the houses would be close to the new school and children will be unlikely to use public transport. Some will be dropped off by car but many will be walking or cycling to school. The Council will be looking to provide safe routes for walking and cycling, as these have a positive social impact.

A Stakeholder Group will be formed to provide input to the specification, design and construction of the new school. That Group would also engage in discussion in regard to SRTS matters.

5.0 Summary of the issues raised by Education Scotland

- 5.1 In line with legislative requirements, Education Scotland was invited to submit comments on the Council's proposals. A copy of the report from Education Scotland is appended – **Appendix 4**.
- 5.2 In their report, HM Inspectors agree with the educational benefits as set out by the Council in the proposal. They state that there is a clear need for The Highland Council to address the rising roll at Croy Primary School and the existing schools in the area do not have the capacity to accommodate this. A new school in Tornagrain should provide a modern learning environment in the community children live in.
- 5.3 HM Inspectors recommended that The Highland Council work with stakeholders to address the concerns they have raised. This includes in regard to safe routes to Croy Primary School during the interim period whilst any new school is built. If the proposal is agreed, The Highland Council should also consider the suggestions raised by stakeholders about the catchment area for the proposed new school.

6.0 Responses to the Issues Raised by Education Scotland

Issue 5

The Council should address local concerns around safe routes to Croy Primary School during the interim period whilst any new school is built.

Response 5

- For the entirety of the current existing school route there is a footpath link that runs between Tornagrain and Croy (Croy Primary School). This is an adequate footpath provided for the supervised walking of pupils along this walking and wheeling route to school. Characteristics are as follows:

Route length is 1500m or thereby consisting of (starting from Tornagrain end):

- o 760 m of rustic/rural unbound footpath, width in the main 1.8m but varies due to encroachment, non street lit, footpath is separated from the road by a grass strip and bank, the width and height of which varies but it provided good separation.
- o 740m of formed tarmac (metalled) footway, width in the main 1.8m but varies. 480m of this section are adjacent to the single track road with roadside kerbing. The remaining 260m (when entering the village) is separated from the road edge by either gravel or grass. Lighting commences on entering the village of Croy itself.

In 2023 a Safer Routes to School Scheme was delivered to provide a section of footpath around an existing lay-by which, once constructed, resulted in the footpath link being complete between Tornagrain and Croy Primary School.

- The carriageway itself is single track with the passing places and the Councils Speed Compliance Tool shows the mean average speed of vehicles on the 60mph section of the route to be 22.3 mph*.
- Travel arrangements for all pupils should comply with “The Highland Council Home-to-School Transport Policy” and routes are assessed using the ‘Assessment of Walked Routes to School Guidelines’ from Road Safety GB.
- The Council are happy to liaise with the community re any remaining concerns they have re this existing route.

Issue 6

The Highland Council should also consider the suggestions raised by stakeholders about the catchment area for the proposed new school.

Response 6

This issue relates to a small number of houses at “old” Tornagrain, currently located on the boundary of the Croy and Balloch primary school catchments, but lying within that of Balloch. Responses to consultation pointed out that if the new school is created, it will be much closer to these houses than Balloch Primary. It is argued therefore, that the Balloch PS catchment should be amended, to move these properties into the catchment area of the new school for Tornagrain. The current proposal is that the new school catchment should be carved from within the existing Croy PS catchment.

The suggestion made, to move “old” Tornagrain into the new catchment, is not unreasonable in itself. However the relevant legislation requires that any changes to catchment areas are subject to consultation with all pupils, parents and staff of any affected school. The current consultation has not included the pupils, parents or staff of Balloch Primary, so it would not be possible to make this change following the current consultation.

If however, the new school is approved as a result of the current consultation, it would be possible to carry out a further consultation on this specific issue of the catchment boundary between Balloch PS and the new school, with views being invited from the pupils, parents and staff of Balloch Primary. There would be sufficient time to do this before the new school comes into operation. Highland Council will give this further consideration, following the outcome of the current consultation.

Although Highland Council’s school enrolment system is primarily based on the principle of school catchment areas, parents do of course have a right to request that their children are placed in a school other than that designated for their home address.

7.0 Review of Catchment Issues

7.1 The Proposal Paper set out 3 potential options for the future catchments of Croy Primary and the new school, with one option being recommended. There were no comments on this aspect of the proposal. It is therefore recommended that the catchment area of the new school should be that outlined at Appendix B of the original Proposal Paper.

7.2 The issue of the boundary between the new school and that of Balloch Primary is considered at Response 6 above.

8.0 Effects on School Transport

8.1 An assessment of the effects on school transport can be found at S.8 of the Proposal Paper, and the assessment has not changed since.

8.2 Safer Routes to Schools issues are addressed at Responses 4 and 5 above.

9.0 Effects on Staff and School Management Arrangements

9.1 An assessment of the effects on school transport can be found at S.9 of the Proposal Paper, and the assessment has not changed since.

10.0 Effects on the Community

10.1 An assessment of the effects on the community can be found at S.10 of the Proposal Paper.

10.2 During the consultation, concerns were expressed about the loss of community green space in Croy, due to land being taken up by the demountable accommodation provide to allow the school to cope with the increased roll. The creation of the new school offers the best prospect of resolving these concerns, by easing roll-related pressures on Croy Primary.

11.0 Alleged omissions or inaccuracies

11.1 No alleged omissions or inaccuracies were identified during consultation.

12.0 Overall Review of Consultation Exercise

12.1 The consultation exercise has not identified any significant opposition to the Proposal. Aside from the pupil responses, only three written representations were received, only one of which expressed opposition to the principle of the new school being established. One other response expressed opposition to the suggested design of the future school building.

12.2 If the current proposal is adopted, the new school will have an agreed catchment area as set out at Appendix B of the original Proposal Paper (a further copy of which is attached for ease of reference). Having reviewed the consultation responses, The Council will also give consideration to a further consultation, potentially amending the catchment boundary between the new school and Balloch Primary School.

13.0 Legal issues

13.1 Throughout this statutory consultation Highland Council has complied in full with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

13.2 As provided for in section 1 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, it is the duty of the Council to ensure adequate and efficient provision of school education within Highland. The above, and all other legislative requirements, have been taken into account in the preparation of this Report.

14.0 Conclusion

14.1 The consultation process has complied fully with legislative requirements and has provided an opportunity for all parties to identify key issues of concern.

These issues have been fully considered and the Council's response detailed in sections 4 and 6 above.

- 14.2 Education Scotland staff visited Croy Primary School to speak to parents, pupils and staff. They also had the opportunity to review in detail the proposal document, all written responses, and the notes of the public meetings.
- 14.3 The Assistant Chief Executive (People) on reviewing all of the submissions, the notes of the meeting, and the Education Scotland report; concludes that the Proposal for a new school should be implemented and that the catchment area should be delineated as per Option B of the Proposal Paper. The reasons for this conclusion are set out above.

15.0 Recommendation

- 15.1 It is therefore recommended that Highland Council proceeds with the course of action set out at Paragraph 14.3 above.

Kate Lackie
Assistant Chief Executive (People)
30 January 2025

CONSULTATION MEETING – PROPOSAL TO CREATE A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL TO SERVE THE TORNAGRAIN HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

HELD AT CROY PRIMARY SCHOOL – 8 OCTOBER 2024 – 6.30pm

MINUTES OF MEETING

Panel

Cllr. Ian Brown - Chairperson

Ian Jackson, Education Officer, Resources

Fiona Shearer, Area Education Manager

Robert Campbell, Service Lead, Education Capital Programme and Estate Strategy

Hayley Brown, Senior Manager Early Years

Cllr. Glynis Sinclair

Cllr. Morven Reid

In Attendance

Emma Patience, Head Teacher, Croy Primary School

Emma McFarlane, Education Scotland

20 members of the public

The Chairperson – Cllr. Ian Brown introduced himself as an elected councillor and Inverness City Leader, a member of the Council's Education Committee, and welcomed everyone to the consultation meeting.

He continued as follows:

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the proposal to establish a new primary school east of Inverness to serve the Tornagrain housing development, and to amend the delineated area (catchment area) of the current Croy Primary School, in order to create the catchment area for the new school.

The Council officials present tonight are Fiona Shearer, Area Education Manager, Ian Jackson, Education Officer, (Resources), Robert Campbell, Estate Strategy Manager and Hayley Brown, Senior Manager Early Years. Cllr. Glynis Sinclair, Inverness Provost, is here and also Cllr. Morven Reid. We have apologies from Cllr. Trish Robertson.

Mr Jackson and Mrs Shearer will shortly make a couple of quick presentations, and following these, I will open to the meeting for questions and observations.

The Chairperson then invited Ian Jackson to describe the consultation process.

Mr Jackson

Thank you, Chair. The opening of a new 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 22 November, 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.

My colleague Fiona Shearer will shortly set out the educational basis for the Council's proposal to create the new school, but before that I will briefly describe the rest of the consultation process.

The formal process has a number of stages. Once the public consultation ends on 22 November, Education Scotland becomes involved. They will conduct their own consultation from 2-20 December. 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 Croy Primary, 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 the completion of that stage, the Council will prepare a Report reviewing the consultation exercise and present it to the 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.

The Chairperson then invited Fiona Shearer to outline the educational benefits that would arise from the Proposal.

Mrs Shearer commented that Section 5 of the Paper outlines the educational benefits of the Proposal. The main issue is the projected growth in the local population. If we didn't have the new school, we wouldn't be able to manage the expected number of children within the footprint of Croy Primary. We already have a couple of modular units and eventually the school will be faced with significant overcrowding. We don't have a crystal ball to project numbers exactly, but you are all aware of the number of houses planned. By building the new school, we would expect the numbers at Croy to come back to where they used to be – the number the school was built for.

The Chairperson opened the meeting to the floor.

Q1 – Can you specify the dates of the consultation process. You mentioned this element was due to end on 22 November, but when will Education Scotland start their consultation, and what follows that?

A1 (Ian) – The Education Scotland consultation has been agreed for 2-20 December. After that we review the results of the consultation, the written responses, the Education Scotland report and the results of this meeting. How long that takes depends on the number and complexity of the responses. We have to go back to the Education Committee for a final decision, and it meets 4 times a year. I haven't seen the dates for 2025, but the pattern is usually to have meetings in February, May/June, September and November. The chances are we would be going back to the May/June Committee for the final decision. If that goes through, the issue would then go over to my colleague Robert Campbell's team, who deliver new builds on the ground.

(Robert) - We are aiming to have the new school ready in 2027. Quite a tight timescale, with planning approval, and completing the design. We are undertaking some initial work just now but we can't put in a planning application until after this consultation is complete. What we normally do is create a Stakeholder group, which comprises council officials and elected members, school staff and community reps. That will probably be established next year and will be used as a forum for exchanging information.

Q2 – Is 2027 a realistic timescale? I don't believe it is.

A2 (Robert) – It will be a challenge, but we learned some things from the last new school we opened at Ness Castle Primary. We use standard designs now as much as we can.

Q3 – What contingency plans have you made if the school isn't ready by then? The impact on this school has already been problematic. Children in this community have already seen a loss of green space.

A3 (Robert) – Our school roll forecasts get updated every year, so the closer we get the better we can anticipate. We will monitor what is happening, and if there is a roll issue at Croy, we would make appropriate plans. It's not possible to say at this moment what the plan would be, since we are 3 years away.

(Fiona) – We do our school enrolments in January, for the upcoming August, so we would have a good idea at that point – by Jan/Feb 2027. We wouldn't be waiting until July and then wondering where to put pupils in August. There would be contingency plans. For example, when the new Ness Castle Primary School opened, the building was not ready when we planned, but the school opened – it opened on a different site until the new build was ready.

The Chairperson commented that the Council would wish to see the new school ready as soon as possible. That was our intention.

Q4 – What will the secondary school catchment be?

A4 – (Ian) It will be Culloden Academy. Changing a school catchment is another thing that requires a statutory consultation. Obviously at the moment the whole Croy/Tornagrain area is part of the Culloden catchment for secondary school purposes. If we were to change the Culloden secondary catchment we would need to go through this whole process again. The paper in front of us does not propose any change to the existing Culloden Academy catchment.

Q5 – Why is there is no current plan for any future expansion of Croy PS, even when there is also a housing development in Croy itself?

A5 – (Robert) – We have the current demountable units on site. We will keep them as long as they are required. We probably won't need to retain all of them though.

Q6 – So when Tornagrain opens, you expect to remove the demountables at Croy?

A6 (Robert) – That is the expectation. As soon as units become surplus they will be removed.

(Fiona) – It depends on the roll.

(Ian) – Broadly the Council works on the basis that we can take 25 children per class – that's leaving aside the nursery – so if you have 4 classrooms you can take 100 pupils. We expect that once the school at Tornagrain opens, the roll at Croy will drop back to more historic levels, and that we will not need all the capacity we currently have or have planned.

(Robert) – The nursery would potentially require two rooms.

Q7 – What is the predicted roll for the new school on Day 1 of its operation?

A7 (Robert) – That is quite difficult to predict. It depends on how many Tornagrain children already attending Croy decide to move. Some might stay, especially if they are in the upper stages of school. If a pupil is already in say, P6, they might just decide to finish their time at Croy. The new school might not be full on Day One, but we would expect it to build up over time.

(Fiona) – In the case of Ness Castle, for example, we wrote to the parents when the new school opened, to say that anyone up to P5/6 would be expected to attend their catchment school. That was the presumption, but obviously there is the aspect of parental choice, and some families chose to put in a placing request for their existing school. The numbers at Ness Castle weren't what we had predicted on Day One, and I don't think we had any P7s at all, but the numbers are building up now. It's really

hard to put a number on the Day One figure though, because we don't know what individual parents will do. We will meet parents closer to the time, to talk through options.

Q8 – The proposed Tornagrain catchment area seems to leave out part of old Tornagrain, which is left as part of the Balloch catchment. Surely it would be better if they were included in the new Tornagrain catchment?

[Some confusion followed about the area being discussed. Ian J wrongly thought we were discussing areas in the Ardersier or Cawdor catchments, but it was eventually clarified that the area in discussion related to a small group of properties which lie just inside the current catchment of Balloch Primary School].

A8 (Ian) – Changes to catchment areas are another type of proposal that are subject to statutory consultation, so we could consider that, but we would need to consult with all the parents in Balloch Primary about that change.

(Fiona) – We kept within the current Croy boundary when we proposed the new catchment.

Q9 – So you simply split the existing Croy catchment into two?

A9 (Ian) – Yes, but the point about the geography is well-made.

Q10 – To me, it's ludicrous that old Tornagrain isn't included in the new school catchment.

A10 (Fiona) – Old Tornagrain is currently part of the Balloch catchment, so changing that would require another consultation.

Q11 – But you would literally have houses separated by a road, being in different catchments?

A11 (Fiona) – We have that in lots of places. I live in Nairn, and there are places where you can live in a street where the houses on either side of the road are in different catchments. As Ian said, this is something we can look at, but it would require full consultation with Balloch parents.

Q12 – How does that process happen? Is that community driven?

A12 (Fiona) – This is a consultation and so an opportunity to give us your views.

(Ian) – The Council would have to advance a Proposal like this one. There would have to be a consultation, and we would have to have another public meeting like this one. In that sense, it would have to be led by the Council, but the Council can respond to identified community demand for a change.

Q13 – So does this feedback today trigger a consultation?

A12 (Ian) – Not necessarily. We have to consider all the responses to this consultation exercise, and when we report to the outcome of the consultation to elected members, we would say whether we agreed or did not agree with the points raised.

Q14 – For old Tornagrain, it will be 4 miles to Balloch Primary, and less than a mile to the new school. It's ludicrous.

A14 (Fiona)– I mentioned earlier about placing requests. If parents in old Tornagrain wanted their children to attend the new school, they could always make a placing request.

Q15 – Since it's far less distance to the new school, why haven't you just proposed changing the catchment?

Q16 (Fiona) – The decision taken by the Council was to consult on creating a catchment for this new school, formed from within the existing boundaries of the Croy PS catchment.

Q17 – But you have decided to change things so that houses on one side of the road are moved into Balloch?

A17 (Fiona) – No, we haven't. Those houses are currently part of the Balloch catchment, and under this proposal they would stay where they are. There's always going to be a boundary somewhere. Old Tornagrain is currently in the Balloch catchment, new Tornagrain is currently in the Croy catchment. It's not any different, except in that the new school will be closer to old Tornagrain than Croy PS currently is.

Q18 – A lot closer!

A18 (Fiona) – Yes, but as I have said parents can submit placing requests. There are certain legal grounds in which we refuse these, but generally they are granted.

Q19 – It's all very well saying people can apply, but if a lot of children apply, then there's a chance some might not be accepted.

A19 (Fiona) – It's a good point, and you know the area better than I do.

(Ian) – And that's the whole point of having this meeting, so that we can get these local views, and pick up issues that we might not have thought about. I think we might well go ahead with building this new school, if people are in agreement, but we need to think about changing that catchment boundary in a separate exercise. It might be sensible to do that, but we would need to consult Balloch parents.

(Fiona) – If were to consult the Balloch parents about changing that small bit of the catchment, the parents of those children would still have the option of keeping their children in Balloch, and because the children were already there, any placing requests would be granted.

Q20 – I would suggest we carry on with this proposal, and go back later to consult with the Balloch parents about that one area.

A20 (Fiona) – Agreed, that issue does not need to delay this consultation.

The Chairperson commented that no decisions would be taken tonight. The meeting was to listen to people’s views. We will take notes and get back to people.

Q21 – There is no easy way down from Croy to the A96 for children on foot. They would have to walk along the main road.

A21 (Ian) – Robert talked earlier about a Stakeholder Group. If we get agreement to set up the new school, then there will be more detailed consultation with stakeholders. The Council has a Road Safety Team and when we build new schools, we look at a process called “Safer Routes to Schools” which is all about encouraging children to walk and cycle to school. I don’t know if anyone is familiar with Ben Wyvis Primary in Conon Bridge, which was formed from two previous schools in Conon and Maryburgh. A lot of road safety measures were put in as part of the planning for that new school, and that is the type of process we would follow for this new build, so absolutely, we are all about promoting walking routes to schools.

Q22 – Can I just ask about the planning for the development shown at Appendix C? Who is the current owner of that land? How is the budget for a school like this established?

A22 (Robert) – The land is covered by a S.75 legal agreement, and it was agreed between the landowner and ourselves as to when that becomes available, based on certain trigger points around the number of houses. We are having ongoing discussions with the Estate. There is a budget identified as part of the Council’s Capital Programme. There is quite a bit of pressure on the capital programme, so we have tested the site and we can fit 16 classrooms onto it, but there won’t be 16 classrooms from Day One. The school will be built in 4-classroom blocks, and on Day One there will either be 8 or 12 classrooms – 8 classrooms would give us a capacity of 200, so it depends on the starting roll. The Capital Programme is kept under continuous review, and developer contributions are part of the funding as well.

Q23 – The community appreciate the decision to keep the existing Croy Primary open, but what does the future hold? The school has to take up the slack pending the construction of the new school. The impact on Croy Primary has been substantial, with children and the community losing recreational space. How do we make sure that the children at Croy Primary get the same opportunities as those at the new school?

(Fiona) – Croy is an established school, so it's not a case of children just coming here while they are waiting for their new school. Where we have opened other new schools, some parents have chosen to stay because that is their child's existing school. They are happy and settled and don't necessarily want to leave.

Q24 – Are there any plans to improve the school's accommodation? It was built in 1998.

A24 (Robert) – In terms of condition, it's not one of our best, but we have a lot worse than this. It's not just Condition, it is also assessed for Suitability – what level of facilities are offered? This school was built to the standard for that time. A new school would be built to a different standard. We would consider all of that.

Q25 – Five or six years ago we had conversations about soundproofing this hall, but the issues are still ongoing. Our children can't hold Christmas pantos in here because no one can hear what is going on. You can come up with money for a new school but not for improvements to existing ones.

A25 (Robert) – We do have money for improvements to existing schools, though it's fairly thinly spread. Once we get over the pressures of the next few years, we do need to look closely at what we need in this school.

Q26 – It just seems a bit ridiculous that so many years have passed without this being sorted.

A26 (Cllr. Sinclair) – I have represented this community for nearly 20 years. Local councillors fought to retain the school, and we did not do that to let the school go to rack and ruin. The thing I most wish we could improve on is a play area for the kids at this school. There is hardly any space for the children to play, and a lack of access to the playing field. The hope is that, as things progress, we can make more of an area for play.

(Fiona) – Hayley and I, and Robert and I, have been talking about that over the last week or so. We are looking at that.

Q27 – The playing field was a community facility, and then it was fenced off. Kids are now playing football in the streets because there is nowhere else. That playing field should still be available to the kids.

A27 (Cllr. Sinclair) – I believe that the field was fenced off for health and safety reasons.

(Fiona) – Yes, because it is part of the school grounds.

Q28 – It isn't. It is a public play park. The land was gifted to the community.

Q29 – The Community Council passed that land to the school on the basis of an email from Robert Campbell that promised access for the community. I understand though the safety issue when the children are actually attending school.

A29 (Fiona) – There is also an issue at weekends, in terms of unlocking and locking gates, and that is the issue Hayley and I have been discussing, to find a solution.

Q30 – As an extension to that, can I just mention that we have to pay for access for a volunteer-run football club at weekends. That's not ideal. It's expensive!

A30 (Fiona) – It's a school let issue, which is also linked into the access issue. We are taking this up with our colleagues in the Property Service and in Cleaning, Catering and Facilities Management. Letting charges are applied throughout our school estate.

Q31 – Who can we contact about this? It's the number one issue within the community.

A31 (Fiona) – Myself. I can link in with the other service. I am working during the October break although I won't get to it this week.

Just for myself, I would like some clarity on this issue of what the area was and what it is.

Q32 - I have some correspondence between the community council, the Parent Council and Highland Council about the transfer of the land. I could forward that if it would be useful.

A32 (Fiona) – Yes please. That would be helpful.

Q33 – A few of the issues that are being raised here, are at a tangent from the direct issue of the new school. On those issues, the Parent Council are looking at what funding they can get at. What we are hearing is that there might be options. I think the Parent Council would probably welcome another meeting with the Highland Council to apprise you of the different options for addressing and delivering on some of these issues. It is important to understand what funding pots exist and to look at the opportunities that might be there. That might be a way forward alongside the separate discussions for the new school.

A33 (Fiona) – Happy to do that.

Q34 – You mentioned developer contributions for the new school. Has any of that been ring-fenced for Croy Primary, bearing in mind that the building ratings for Croy are "B" whereas the new school will be "A" rated?

A34 (Robert) – The developer contributions are in relation to the new accommodation required as a result of the housebuilding.

Q35 – So is there any intention to bring Croy Primary up to “A” building standard?

A35 (Robert) – We have a policy that all our buildings are rated at least “B”. We have quite a lot of schools rated “C” which is “poor”. Our priorities are to get the “C” rated schools upgraded and to maintain “B” rated schools at their current rating as a minimum. Clearly if they were left unattended they would slowly deteriorate. So Croy will need investment in roofs, windows etc.

Q36 – So there are now plans to invest further in Croy?

The Chairperson commented that it was a Highland-wide plan that prioritised the schools in the worst condition, wherever they are.

Q37 – I understand that, but we will have a brand-new shiny school a short distance away.

The Chairperson commented that this wasn’t unique. He lived near to Drakies Primary. A great school but one with dated accommodation, with new schools nearby. The presence of those schools doesn’t downgrade Drakies though. The pupils are happy there and want to stay. He advised that he understood the feeling that Croy is being forgotten about, but it won’t be.

(Cllr. Glynis Sinclair) – I will make sure Croy is not forgotten about!

(Hayley Brown) - We have invested in the nursery. There are now two nursery rooms, with more space than before, with free flow design.

(Fiona Shearer) – So there has been investment. The difficulty we have in Highland is that we have around 200 schools. As the Chair said, we have to look at our schools on a Highland-wide basis, and there are a lot of schools that are not in as good condition as this one.

Q38 – If this is the school for Tornagrain at the moment, why can’t some of the developer contributions be put into Croy Primary?

A38 (Robert) – The new housing at Tornagrain is putting pressure on the school estate. There are formulas for calculating developer contributions, based on the additional capacity we have to provide as a result of the children coming out of the new housing. All the additional school capacity required is related to the Tornagrain development.

Q39 – There’s also the extra school roll generated at Croy from the “Scotia” development. Surely that should come to this school?

A39 (Robert) – Developer contributions are linked purely to requirements for new capacity.

Q40 – So developer contributions from Scotia Homes are not coming to Croy?

A40 (Robert) – If there are developer contributions for the smaller Croy catchment that is something we could potentially look at, but the Tornagrain contributions will be directed to that school.

Q41 – Have previous developer contributions from Scotia gone to Croy?

A41 (Robert) – We have spent quite a lot of money on Croy, but we will review that position.

Q42 – Until the new school is built, children have to come up and down the road from Tornagrain to Croy. It is a dangerous route that needs major investment.

A42 (Robert) – We mentioned earlier that we have a Road Safety Team. I don't know if they have made an assessment of the route.

Q43– In wintertime there is ice all the way along and it is only a matter of time before a child gets killed.

The Chairperson commented that, again, that was not a question about the new Tornagrain Primary School, which is what we were here to discuss.

(Fiona) – I don't know whether the Road Safety Team have a current plan for Croy Primary, but I can follow that up with them on the basis that the circumstances around the school have changed.

Q44 - When Scotia Homes purchased the land for their development, they gifted an area of woodland to the community and school, but the actual cost of making that ground useful meant that it is still there. It's an area of land that could be looked at to create green space for the children, if funding were available.

The Chairperson commented that the phrase "if funding were available" was the all-important one.

Q45 – It should come out of the developer contributions from Scotia Homes.

A45 (Robert) – There is an existing decision on the use of developer contributions in relation to Tornagrain.

There being no further questions, the Chairperson thanked everyone for coming, and reminded everyone that representations should be sent to Ian Jackson, email Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk (address circulated in the letter), or via the online form, to arrive **no later than Friday 22 November 2024**. He also advised that 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.

**List of Respondents to Statutory Consultation Exercise – Proposal to Create a
New Primary School for Tornagrain**

1. Collated Pupil Responses
2. Laura Moodie o/b of Ariane Burgess MSP
3. NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC
4. Jean Sutherland

HELLO EVERYONE!**CAN YOU HELP HIGHLAND COUNCIL WITH AN IMPORTANT DECISION?**

Highland Council thinks that we need to build a new school for Tornagrain. There are lots more houses being built there, which will mean there are more families and children in Tornagrain. These children might come to Croy Primary School.

When the new school is built, some children will go to Tornagrain and some will stay at Croy Primary.

Do you think building the new school is a good idea? Can you put a tick beside either yes or no?

Yes - 58

No - 43

We think that we should keep Croy Primary when the new school is built, so that there will be a school for Tornagrain and a school for Croy. Some people think there should just be one school, for both Tornagrain and Croy.

Which do you think is best?

Idea No. 1 – Build the new school and keep Croy PS	80
Idea No. 2 – Build the new school for all the children in Tornagrain and Croy	22

2. Why did you give the answer above?

I think great Croy primary is a great place to learn so I want to keep it.

I really like all of my friends and I do not want to move. I would like to stay at Croy.

Croy Primary is a fun place to play.

I want to keep Croy primary school because I want to see all of my other friends.

2 schools so people have to travel less

2 schools so people don't have to travel in the snow

2 schools so people are not using so much fuel

2 schools so people don't have to slide if there is snow

1 school because friends might go to the other school

1 school so people are not separated from their friends

I don't want a new school because then I wouldn't be going to the same school as all of my friends.

More houses are being built in Croy as well as Tornagrain, so I think there should be a school in both places.

I think there should be one school because they could make Croy Primary into something else.

I think there should be two schools so people in Croy don't have to go through the 'pain' of *that hill*.

Hello,

Ariane is pleased to see the community's views have been taken on board and that the school proposed is additional too existing primary schools in the area. Would it be possible to get a map that overlays the proposed new boundary with the existing Croy Primary School boundary? Could you also confirm that the site is on, or there are plans to construct, a safe route to school for walking and wheeling from the Tornagrain housing development it is intended to serve?

Many thanks,

Laura

Laura Moodie | Operations Manager with Regional Communications

For Ariane Burgess MSP for Highlands & Islands | Spokesperson for Communities, Land Reform, Housing and Rural Affairs

Dear Mr Jackson

In the absence of a layout or design plan, it's difficult to comment fully on the new school proposal. However what I have read so far a multi use games area and/or open grass area is mentioned which could be for community use.

Please see attached photos of the area behind my garden. I would strongly object to an open multi use games area or grass pitch in the field behind my garden. This is because it will ruin my privacy due to the noise generated whilst the garden is used, and also within the house as the sitting room and bedroom faces onto the back garden and proposed school site area.

I am a 70 plus years old retiree with sensory impairment. The random use of the field behind my house as a multi use ball games at all hours and days has caused problems in the past which have been highlighted to the landowner Moray Estates.

I have lived here over the last seven years and the field space (in my photo attachment) has been used on an odd annual occasion but this has been organised, controlled and advertised which I was able to deal with by making alternative arrangements.

I hope my objection is taken seriously as my life would be severely impaired should a school/community games area be situated behind my house. My partner who lives with me is in full agreement with this objection.

Please can you acknowledge my submission by email as part of this statutory consultation.

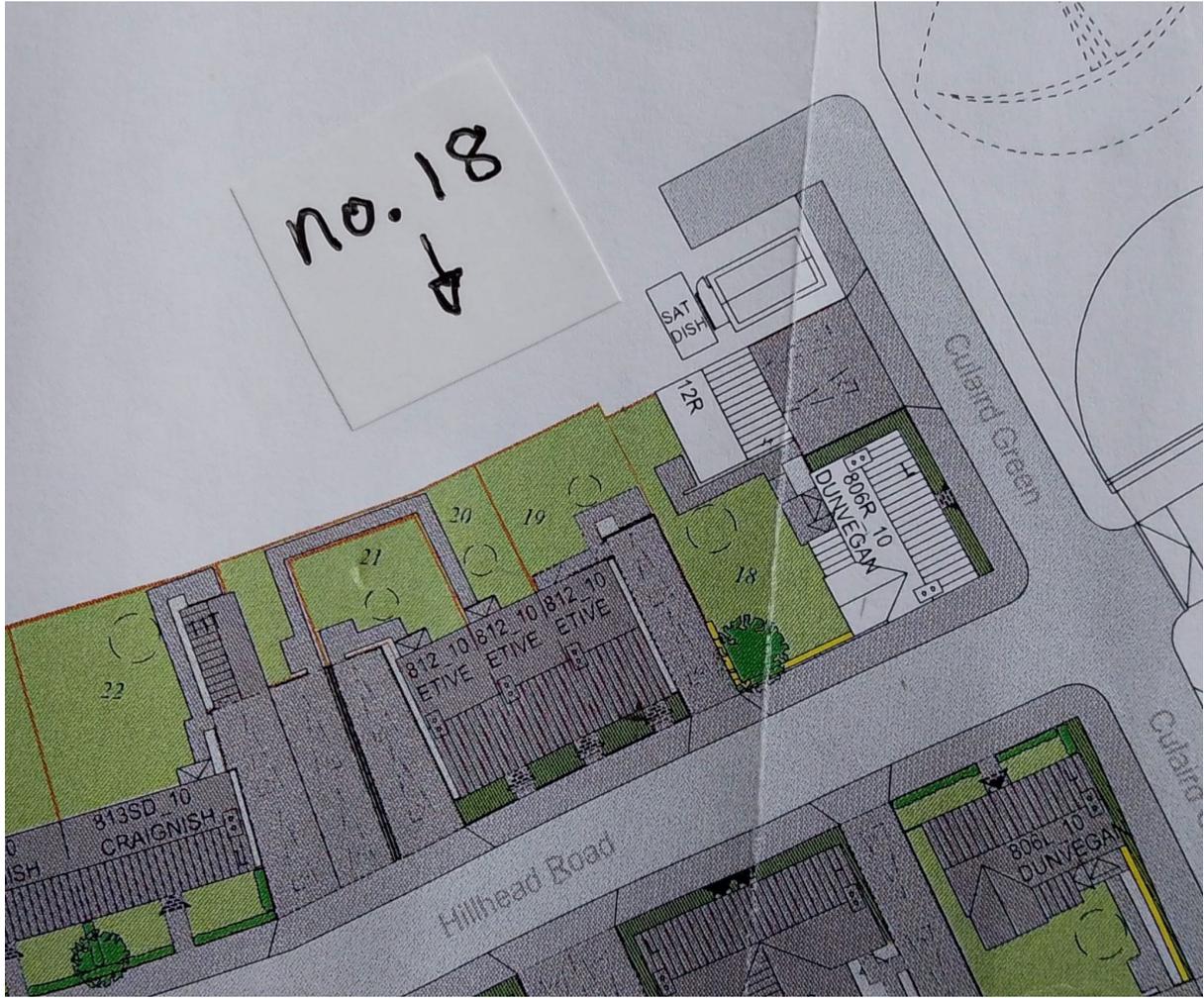
Kind regards

Jean Sutherland (Ms)

18 Hillhead Road

Tornagrain

Enc







Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by The Highland Council to establish a new primary school to serve the Tornagrain housing development.

December 2024

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of a proposal by The Highland Council to establish a new primary school to serve the Tornagrain housing development. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' view. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it alongside any relevant considerations the council received and then prepare its consultation report. The council's consultation report should include this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its consultation report at least three weeks before it takes its final decision. With all proposals the council needs to follow all statutory obligations set out in the 2010 Act.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children of the school; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 8 October 2024 in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- visits to the site of Croy Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

2.1 The Highland Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#).

2.2 The public consultation ran from 23 September to 22 November 2024. Copies of the proposal were made available to stakeholders and on the council website. A public meeting was held on 8 October 2024 at Croy Primary School. Twenty stakeholders attended the public meeting and three written responses were received. Stakeholders asked a range of questions including about timescales for building a new school, the arrangements to manage capacity at Croy over the next few years and the routes children would take to any new school. Concerns about the safety of walking routes children currently take from Tornagrain to Croy were also raised. A few stakeholders queried the proposed catchment area and whether the Old Tornagrain area, which is currently in the Balloch school catchment area, would be better zoned to the proposed new school.

2.3 The Highland Council also consulted children at Croy Primary School. The majority agreed with the proposal to build a new school. Children were asked whether there should be two schools or one larger school that covers Croy and Tornagrain. Eighty children thought that keeping Croy Primary School and building a new school was the best option, and 22 would prefer one new school that covers both areas. Children thought travel to school would be easier with two schools but a few were concerned that having two schools may split up friendships.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The council are proposing to address the capacity issues at Croy Primary School following a new housing development being built at Tornagrain. Croy Primary School has a capacity of 100. Its current roll exceeds this and is projected to increase to 200 by 2029 without the planned new school being created. A modular two classroom unit has been installed at Croy Primary School to address capacity issues in the short term. HM Inspectors agree with the educational benefits as set out by The Highland Council in the proposal. There is a clear need for The Highland Council to address the rising roll at Croy Primary School and the existing schools in the area do not have the capacity to accommodate this. A new school in Tornagrain should provide a modern learning environment in the community children live in.

3.2 All staff at Croy Primary School who met with HM Inspectors agree with the proposal to build a new school at Tornagrain and to retain Croy Primary School. They consider this to be the best option to address the rising number of children living in both of these communities. They are confident that they can provide support to children and their families through any changes that result from this proposal. The council are currently adapting Croy Primary School site to address the rising school roll through further modular units. Staff expressed the view that while this will provide an adequate solution in the short term, the proposal to build a new school is required to meet rising school rolls in the longer term.

3.3 Children who met with HM Inspectors had mixed views about the effect of building a new school at Tornagrain. Most agreed that having two schools, the existing Croy Primary School and a new one at Tornagrain, was the best option. However, they are concerned about the potential loss of existing community and play areas at Tornagrain to accommodate a new school site. They all support retaining Croy Primary School, with a few feeling it should be expanded rather than a new school built. They are all interested in being involved in the design of any new school. If the proposal is agreed, they think it will be important that both schools work together to enable friendships to continue for any children attending Croy Primary School who move to Tornagrain school. Children from the Tornagrain area raised the current challenges they experience with active travel to school. They would like the council to look again at the routes they use to see if they can be improved.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree there are educational benefits to this proposal. A new school should address the current and increasing capacity issues at Croy Primary School. If this proposal is agreed The Highland Council should work with stakeholders to address the concerns they have raised. This includes in regard to safe routes to Croy Primary School during the interim period whilst any new

school is built. If the proposal is agreed, The Highland Council should also consider the suggestions raised by stakeholders about the catchment area for the proposed new school.

**HM Inspectors
December 2024**

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

The proposal is to establish a new primary school to serve the Tornagrain housing development

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

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

The Highland Council is proposing, subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation process:

- To establish a new primary school east of Inverness to serve the Tornagrain housing development.
- To amend the delineated area (catchment area) of the current Croy Primary School, in order to create the catchment area for the new school.

If the new school is approved as a result of this consultation, it is envisaged it will open for the beginning of the 2027-28 school session.

In this paper, the new school will be referred to by the provisional name of "Tornagrain Primary School". In the event that the new school is approved, the final name of the school will be subject to detailed consultation with stakeholders.

It is proposed that the delineated area of Tornagrain Primary School will be as shown at **Appendix B** attached.

A map showing the proposed catchment area of the new Tornagrain Primary and revised Croy Primary catchment is at **Appendix B**. This paper invites comments on the proposed catchment as well as the proposed new school.

SUMMARY OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Proposal Paper Published

The proposal paper will be available for inspection, free of charge, at:

- Croy Primary School,
- Culloden Library, Keppoch Rd, Culloden, Inverness IV2 7LL

and published on the Highland Council website:

www.highland.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

Copies of this Proposal Paper are also available on request from

Business Support Team (South and HQ)
Highland Council HQ
Glenurquhart Road
Inverness
IV3 5NX
E-mail: Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk

To request this information in an alternative format, e.g., large print, Braille, audio formats, or suitable language, please contact The Business Support Team (South and HQ) Highland Council HQ, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. Email: Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk

Formal notice of the Proposal and relevant information will be given and be made available, free of charge, to the consultees listed as follows:

- (i) Parents of pupils attending Croy Primary School; including parents of pre-school pupils
- (ii) The Parent Council of Croy Primary School
- (iii) Members of Parliament and Members of the Scottish Parliament for the area affected by the proposal
- (iv) Staff of Croy Primary School
- (vi) Trade union representatives
- (vii) Croy and Culloden Moor Community Council
- (ix) Education Scotland
- (x) Highland Youth Convener.

Advertisement in Local Media

A notice announcing the public meeting will be placed in the local press and on the Highland Council's Facebook page.

Consultation Period

The consultation for this Proposal will begin on Monday 23 September 2024 and will end on Friday 22 November 2024. This period allows for the statutory minimum of six weeks, including at least thirty school days.

Public Meeting

A public meeting will be held, the details of which are set out below:

Tuesday 8 October 2024 at Croy Primary School, at 6.30pm.

Anyone wishing to attend the public meeting is invited to do so. The meeting will be convened by the Council, will be chaired by a senior elected councillor, and will be addressed by officers of the Education Service.

The meeting will be an opportunity for the public to hear more about the proposal; to ask questions about the proposal; and to have the views of all stakeholders recorded

so that they can be taken into account. A note will be taken of questions asked and views expressed. This note will be published on the Council website. The meeting will also be recorded.

The note will be forwarded to Education Scotland, along with other submissions and comments received by the Council during the consultation process.

Meetings with Pupils and Staff

School staff will arrange to discuss the proposal with pupils (who are considered to be of a suitable age and maturity) in the affected schools. A record of questions, responses and views will be taken and this will be published in the Consultation Report.

Responses to the Proposals

Interested parties are invited to respond to the Proposals by making written or electronic submissions on the Proposals to:

Business Support (HQ and South)

Highland Council HQ

Glenurquhart Road

Inverness

IV3 5NX

E-mail: Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk

Or via an 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 Council Officers of Highland Council”. Otherwise, it will be assumed that the person making the response agrees to it being made publicly available. All written responses must be received by the last day of the consultation period, Friday 22 November 2024 at 5.00pm.

Involvement of Education Scotland

When the Proposal Document is published, a copy will also be sent to Education Scotland by the Council. Education Scotland will also be sent, by 2 December 2024, a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Council from any person during the consultation period. Education Scotland will also receive the summary note of the public meeting that will be held and so far as is practicable a copy

of any other relevant documentation. Education Scotland will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal not later than 20 December 2024. In preparing their report, Education Scotland may visit the affected schools and make such enquiries of people there as they consider appropriate.

Further Consultation

Highland Council will review the proposal having regard to the Education Scotland Report, written representations that it has received, and oral representations made at the public meeting. It will then prepare a Consultation Report. This Report will be published in electronic and printed formats and will be sent to anyone who submitted a written representation during consultation. It will be available on the Council website as well as at the affected school and local library, free of charge. The Report will include a summary of the written and oral representations made during consultation and a copy of the Education Scotland Report, together with the Council's considered response to the issues raised. The Report will include details of any alleged inaccuracies and/or omissions and how these have been handled. The Consultation Report will be published at least 3 weeks prior to being submitted to the Education Committee, who will make a recommendation to the full Highland Council.

In publishing the report the Council will invite any person or party to make further representations to the Committee prior to its meeting. A notice to this effect will also be published on the Highland Council website.

Timescale Following Consultation

At the present time the Council intends to publish its Report in March 2025, prior to submission to the Education Committee in May 2025. However, this timescale may change depending on the nature of issues raised during consultation, and the need to give full consideration to those issues. In the latter event, the Report may not be submitted until a later Committee meeting.

Any proposal approved at Education Committee would require to be confirmed by a subsequent meeting of the full Highland Council.

If approved, the Proposal will then move to the implementation phase. A Stakeholder Group will be established to act as a formal forum for the dissemination of information relating to this development, and to ensure that there is an effective two-way flow of information between the Group and the Council, Project Team and Contractor (once appointed). The Group will also have the opportunity to comment and provide feedback on the Council's proposals in relation to the new school. It is anticipated that the requirements of design, planning permission and build will require a further 30-36 months after the conclusion of the statutory consultation process.

Note on Corrections

If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this Proposal paper, either by the Council or any other person, the Council will determine if relevant information has been omitted or, if the paper contains an inaccuracy. The Council will then take appropriate action, which may include the issue of a correction or the reissuing of the Proposal or

the revision of the timescale for the consultation period, if appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and HMI will be advised.

PROPOSAL PAPER

- 1.1 The proposal is advanced within the context of all applicable legislation. Amongst other duties, education authorities are required to secure adequate and efficient provision of school education (S.1 of the Education Act 1980); and to endeavour to secure improvement in the quality of school education in schools that are managed by them (S.3 of The Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000). As with all Council duties, the Council also has a duty to make arrangements to secure best value, and in securing best value the Council is required to maintain an appropriate balance between, inter alia, the quality of its performance of its functions and the cost to the authority of that performance (Local Government in Scotland Act 2002, section 1). Each of the above, and all other legislative requirements, have been taken into account in the preparation of this Report.
- 1.2 A statutory consultation on this proposal is required under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 on the following grounds:
- i. Proposal to establish a new school;
 - ii. Proposal to alter the catchment area of a school or schools.

Reason for the Proposal

- 2.1 This proposal is being advanced because on current projections the pupil numbers at Croy Primary School will exceed the school's capacity within the foreseeable future. The capacity issue arises from the construction of a new housing development at Tornagrain. A map showing the proposed site of the new school, can be found at **Appendix C**.
- 2.2 The consultation process, together with the planning process, and the design and construction of the new school, is likely to take at least 3 years. Additional modular accommodation will be installed as required at Croy Primary in the intervening period. This accommodation will be an interim measure and will not offer a long-term solution to the capacity issues that will arise at Croy Primary.

Current Details – Croy Primary School

- 3.1 Croy Primary School is a non-denominational school serving the village of the same name, to the east of Inverness. There has been a school in the village since 1872, and the current building dates from 1998.
- 3.2 The main building has 5 teaching rooms, 3 of which are designated as primary classrooms and 2 as nursery rooms. There is also a single court games hall, kitchen and dining area, staff room, and administration and medical rooms. Following the increased house building in the local area, a 2-classroom modular unit has been added on site, both currently used as primary school classes. It is planned to install a new 2-classroom modular unit before August 2025. A grass outdoor area provides space for sports and the tarmac quadrangle in the centre of the school grounds can be used for playground games and other activities. There is a basketball court at the edge of the playing field and

an Adventure Trail. There are other grassy areas, which have picnic benches for the children, a 'bottle' greenhouse, an outdoor classroom and a school garden which is looked after by the pupils.

- 3.3 At the time of writing, the P1-7 roll for the 2024-25 session is anticipated to be 119 pupils. Without the construction of a new Tornagrain Primary, current roll projections for future years are as follows, taking account of the estimated impact of the new housing development:

2025-26	- 134
2026-27	- 154
2027-28	- 176
2028-29	- 198
2029-30	- 200
2030-31	- 209
3031-32	- 215
2032-33	- 221
2033-34	- 232
2034-35	- 243
2035-36	- 252
2036-37	- 277
3037-38	- 291

- 3.5 The school had a permanent planning capacity of 100 at the start of the current school session, with an anticipated roll of 119 at the time of writing. A modular two classroom unit has been installed at the school to provide additional accommodation to address the immediate pressures, but further modular units will be required in the coming years as the roll continues to grow.
- 3.6 The added capacity at the school, when completed, will provide for 7 primary and 2 nursery classes. Seven primary classrooms provide a capacity of up to 198, which on present projections will be reached in 2028-29. It is possible the school may experience accommodation issues earlier, should an individual year group exceed the class size maximum.
- 3.7 The Highland Council assesses all of its schools for Suitability and Condition, in line with the Scottish Government's School Estate Management guidelines. School buildings are assessed on a scale with the ratings "A" (good) "B" (satisfactory), "C" (poor) and "D" (bad). The accommodation at Croy Primary School is currently rated as "B" for educational suitability and "B" for building condition.

Proposed New School

- 4.1 The new school would be of modern design, environmentally efficient, and allowing pupils the opportunity to enjoy a comfortable, naturally lit and well-ventilated environment designed to meet the needs of modern learners and teachers; meeting the requirements for "A" assessments for both Suitability and Condition; and influenced by good practice elsewhere.

- 4.2 The site for the new school is capable of accommodating a 16-classroom building. Since the roll of the school will build gradually, it is likely to be an 8-classroom school when it opens, with extensions being added as required. Extensions would be constructed in 4-classroom blocks.
- 4.3 Pre-school accommodation would be provided, and the pre-school accommodation would be suitable for use by breakfast clubs and after-school clubs, should any be created.
- 4.4 It would be important to include a degree of flexibility and adaptability within the design in order to provide options to alter spaces in the future in response to the changing needs of the school. This approach would optimise the use of available space.
- 4.5 The needs of every child would be placed at the centre of developing the design in recognition of the transitions from pre-school to primary and ultimately to secondary education. The design would be planned to enable the flexibility required to meet the evolving needs of the school curriculum and other developments, including:
- The Pre School educational area having sufficient space to accommodate a variety of activities to support early years learning, together with close internal links with the infant department in order to encourage regular collaborative learning through active play and to enhance the transition between pre-school and Primary 1.
 - Learning and teaching spaces for primary age pupils which have access to internal shared activity areas and external teaching spaces which provide flexibility and opportunities to maximise the use of space inside and outside the building.
 - HT office, reception/admin office, staff room, and meeting room/staff base.
 - Kitchen with dining area.
 - Games hall with changing facilities (potentially accessible to community outwith school hours).
 - Grass playing field, and Multi-use Games Area.
 - A variety of other spaces to support activities within the school, including general purpose space and spaces specifically designed for pupils with Additional Support Needs.
 - Design which will maximise the use of natural daylight and natural ventilation, together with heating, ventilation and electrical systems which provide modern requirements in an energy efficient and sustainable manner.

- The landscaping around the school will be designed in conjunction with the school users to ensure that there is an interesting “play and learning” environment.
 - Safe access to the school with the appropriate arrangements for those arriving/departing on foot, by bicycle, by bus or by car.
- 4.6. The above overview provides an outline of the design opportunities that exist taking into account recent experience with similar primary school projects elsewhere within Highland. These opportunities will be developed in conjunction with the school communities to ensure that the new school design takes account of the aspirations of future users of the facility.
- 4.7 The Scottish Government’s Climate Change Policy specifies that new buildings should be nearly zero in terms of carbon emissions. The Council’s expectation is that the new school would have a Carbon Dioxide equivalent impact of about 15 tonnes per year at most.

Educational Benefits

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 With the above aim in mind, Highland Council has adopted the above indicators in reviewing its school estate:
1. Pupils should be educated in facilities which are rated at least category B for each of Condition and Suitability.
 2. Pupils should be members of an age-appropriate peer group.
 3. Pupils should have the opportunity to engage in the widest possible range of activities beyond the core curriculum, including music, sports, drama and art.
 4. Pupils with Additional Support Needs should be educated in the most appropriate local setting.
 5. Pupils should not ordinarily be required to travel for longer than 30 minutes from the nearest classified road pick-up point to school (primary) although it is recognised that this may not always be possible in a rural Council area such as Highland.
 6. School facilities should be of a size appropriate to the delineated area that they serve, paying due regard to demographic trends.
 7. School delineated areas should reflect geography, travel routes and population distribution.
 8. Safe school transport should be provided and safe traffic management in and around school sites should be implemented.
 9. Teachers should be members of a professional learning community comprising at least 3 members located in the same facility.
 10. The implications of school location to local communities should be considered.
 11. Schools, wherever possible, should be located where there is a recognised village or other built up community.

- 5.3 The projected rolls at paragraph 3.3 indicate that the new school is required in order to address point 6 of the Highland Council criteria “*School facilities should be of a size appropriate to the delineated area that they serve, paying due regard to demographic trends.*” The Tornagrain housing development means that in future Croy Primary will no longer meet this criterion. There is a need for a new school to balance the number of children in the area with the facilities that are available.
- 5.4 If the new school be constructed, the Council would expect the roll of Croy Primary to gradually fall back to the level before the Tornagrain development started. The modular units will be retained as long as they are necessary, but would be removed if they became redundant.
- 5.5 The roll projections provide an overwhelming case for the construction of a new school. It is clear that without a new school in the area, Croy Primary, and possibly other local schools, would be faced with an unmanageable level of overcrowding.
- 5.6 It is of course impossible to predict future school rolls with complete accuracy. Much will depend on the pace of housebuilding in the area. The projections shown are also partly based on the past pattern of local placing requests, but this pattern could itself be changed by the construction of the new schools.
- 5.7 By alleviating future capacity pressures expected to arise at Croy Primary, the proposal would improve the learning environment for the pupils of both Croy Primary and Tornagrain Primary.
- 5.8 In summary, the new school offers the possibility of educational benefit arising through averting future overcrowding at Croy Primary.

Alternative Solutions

- 6.1 In arriving at the proposal set out within this report, the Council has considered alternative solutions. However, none of the neighbouring schools have the capacity to accommodate the number of additional pupils that will arise from the new housing. It has been recognised from the outset that the housing development at Tornagrain would require the construction of the new school.
- 6.2 During informal pre-consultation, the Council explored the option of constructing the new Tornagrain School to accommodate the existing Croy Primary School. In legal terms this would represent the closure of Croy Primary School, which is classed as a rural school. Such a closure would require the approval of Scottish Ministers.
- 6.3 Informal discussions were held at a meeting with parents in December 2023. Following this, the Council issued an informal survey to local people on whether the existing Croy Primary should be merged with the new Tornagrain School, when built. The survey attracted 302 responses, including 196 from parents, 95 from “local residents”, and 8 from staff. The overall response was 57% in

favour of retaining Croy Primary School once the new Tornagrain School is built.

- 6.4 Croy Primary School is classed by the Scottish Government as a “rural school”. Such schools are subject to “special protection” under national legislation, and there is a presumption against closure of schools in this category. Amongst other criteria, a rural school may only be closed where there is no reasonable alternative to closure.
- 6.5 Taking the above factors into account, the Highland Council decided against proposing the closure of Croy Primary, in the context of creating the new school at Tornagrain.
- 6.5. The Council also considered whether Ardersier PS should be included in the option of a new merged school, but ruled this out after a desktop exercise that considered the pupil numbers involved in a 3-way merger, the geographical situation including the physical barrier of the A96, and the difficulty of establishing the lack of any reasonable alternative to the closure of this rural school.

New Catchment

- 7.1 The online survey issued as part of informal consultation offered 3 alternative catchments areas for the new school, each carved from the present Croy PS catchment.
- 7.2 The three options issued are shown at Appendices, B, Bi and Bii.
- 7.3 Of the 3 options, Appendix B gained the most votes, with Appendix Bi narrowly behind.
- 7.4 The Council therefore recommends that the catchment area for the new Tornagrain School is that shown at Appendix B.
- 7.5 The Council does however welcome views on the proposed catchment area.

Effects on School Transport

- 8.1 Pupils attending Croy Primary are not mostly entitled to school transport as the home to school distances are within walking distance. Appropriate arrangements would be made for any transport required for pupils due to Additional Support Needs.
- 8.2 The construction of the new school will not therefore have any significant impact on school transport.

Effects on Staff and School Management Arrangements

- 9.1 An appropriate management structure will be put in place at the new school, reflecting the size of the school and consistent with such arrangements

elsewhere in Highland. Consideration will be given to the need for transitional arrangements, to fully establish Tornagrain Primary.

- 9.2 The staffing arrangements for Tornagrain Primary will also be consistent with the staffing of other schools in Highland. Staffing levels will be arranged in accordance with local and national agreements, and relevant legislation.
- 9.3 At the present time the new school is too far off to be able to look at the effect on individual staff. The Council will at all times follow its redeployment policy, should there be a need to assign any staff to a new school.

Effect on the Local Community

- 10.1 The establishment of the new school provides the opportunity to improve and expand access to community facilities, within the new school, and through the continuation of the existing Croy Primary School. The scope of, and access to, community facilities would be considered through the briefing and design stage following conclusion of the Statutory Consultation.

Financial Consequences

- 11.1 The capital costs of the new Tornagrain Primary are included within the Council capital programme, approved at the meeting of the full Council held in September 2023. Revenue implications of constructing the new school will be taken account of within the Council's budget planning process.

Integrated Impact Assessment

- 12.1 The proposal has been assessed as having no impact on the following Equality areas:
- Gender
 - Gender reassignment
 - Pregnancy or Maternity
 - Marriage/Civil Partnership
 - Race
 - Religion or Belief
 - Sexual Orientation
 - Looked After Children
 - Young Carers
 - Children and Young People Living in Deprivation
- 12.2 In respect of age equality, the proposal relates to 2 primary schools and as such primarily affects children in the 3-12 age group, and their parents. The proposal is advanced on the basis of educational benefit to the children in the area concerned. No negative age-related effects arise. The school is to be built to prevent overcrowding at Croy Primary. As such it will have a positive effect on children's wellbeing. Age is not a protected characteristic for the purposes of school provision.

- 12.3 The proposed new school would be built to modern standards, offering disabled access for children, parents and the wider community, as well as purpose-built teaching accommodation for children with additional support needs. It would therefore have a positive impact on disability issues.
- 12.4 The new school will also be constructed to modern standards of energy efficiency. The Council's expectation is that the new build would have a CO² equivalent impact of about 15 tonnes per year at most.

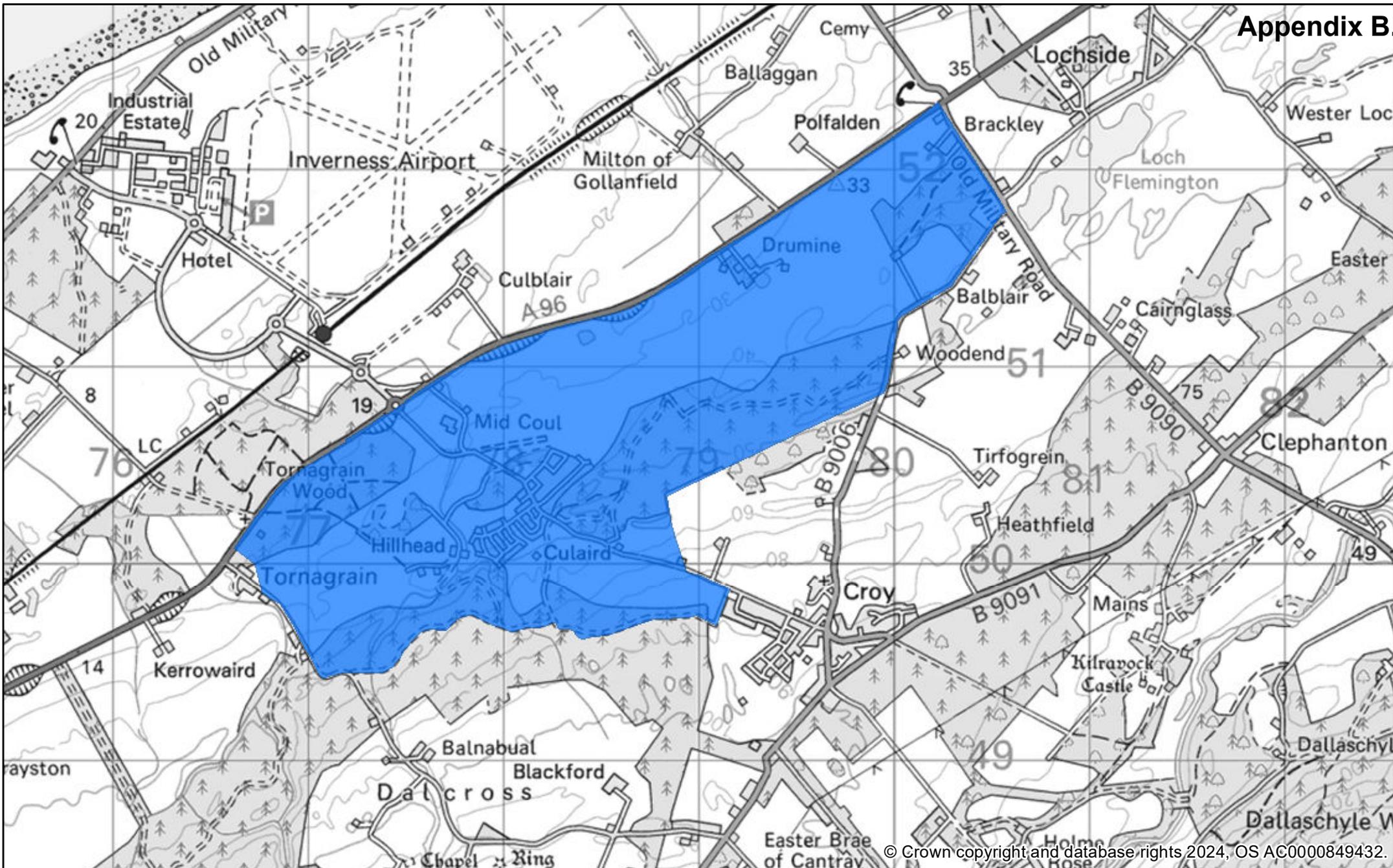
Mitigation of Adverse Effects

- 13.1 Adverse effects from the proposal could include the separation of pupils who previously attended the same school, with implications for existing friendships.
- 13.2 When Tornagrain Primary School opens, any pupils from within the delineated area of the new school already enrolled within the Nursery or P1-7 classes at Croy Primary, will be given the opportunity to enrol in the new school or to continue attending Croy Primary, without having to submit a placing request. Where the latter option is taken, this opportunity will also be extended to any younger siblings of pupils already attending Croy Primary at the time of the younger child's admission. This is to enable siblings to attend the same school.
- 13.3 Subsequent to the opening of Tornagrain Primary School, any pupils not falling within the above categories will be enrolled in their catchment school. Parents who wish their children to attend an alternative school may submit placing requests to that effect.

Recommendation

- 14.1 Taking the above into account Highland Council recommends that a new primary school is constructed to serve the Tornagrain housing development. The new school's catchment area would be as recommended at Appendix B.
- 14.2 This proposal paper is issued in terms of the authority's procedures to meet the relevant statutory requirements. Following the consultation period, a report reviewing the consultations, and the submissions received, will be presented to the Education Committee of the Highland Council.

END OF PROPOSAL PAPER



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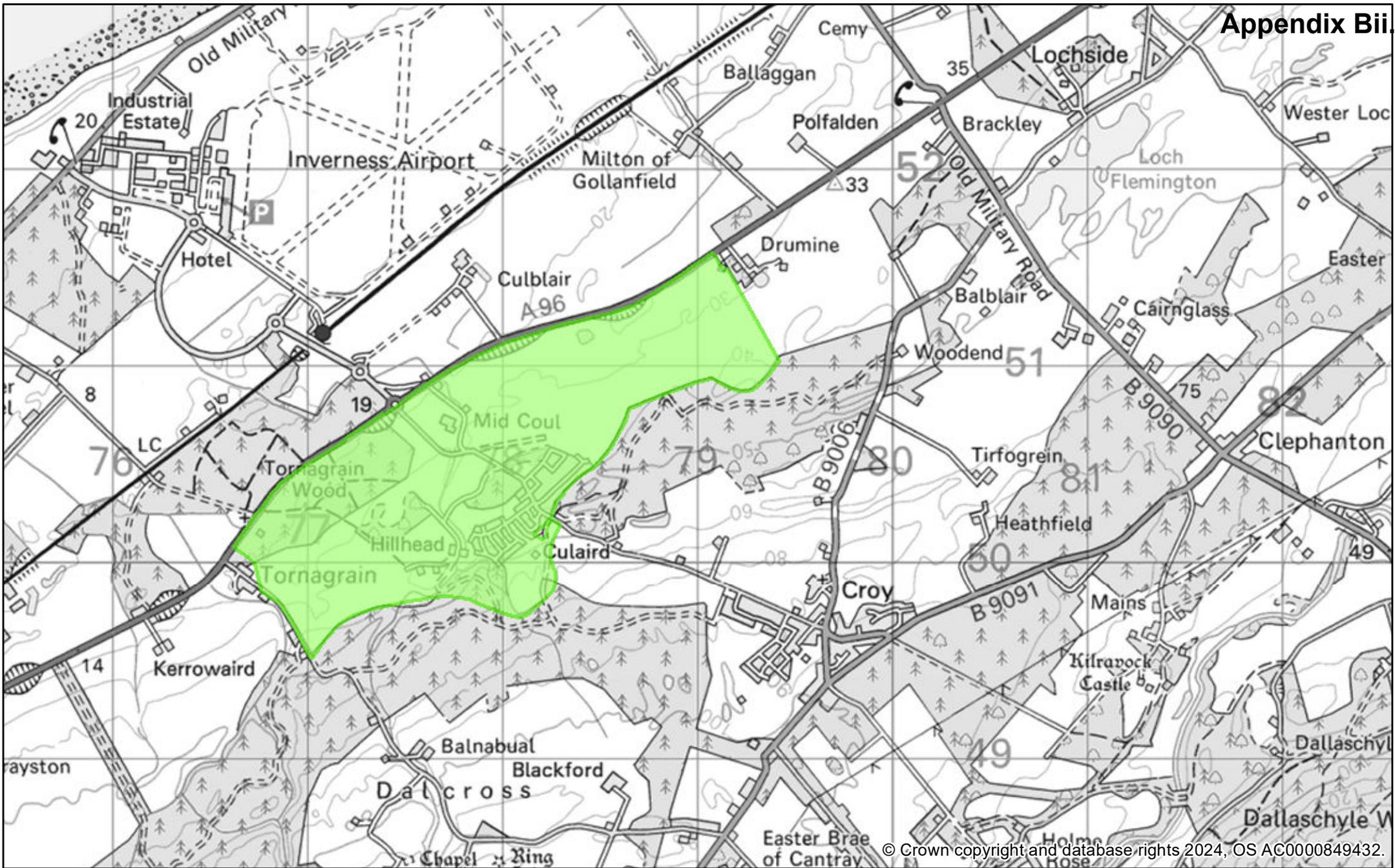
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Proposed Tornagrain Primary School Catchment Option 3

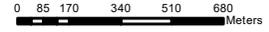
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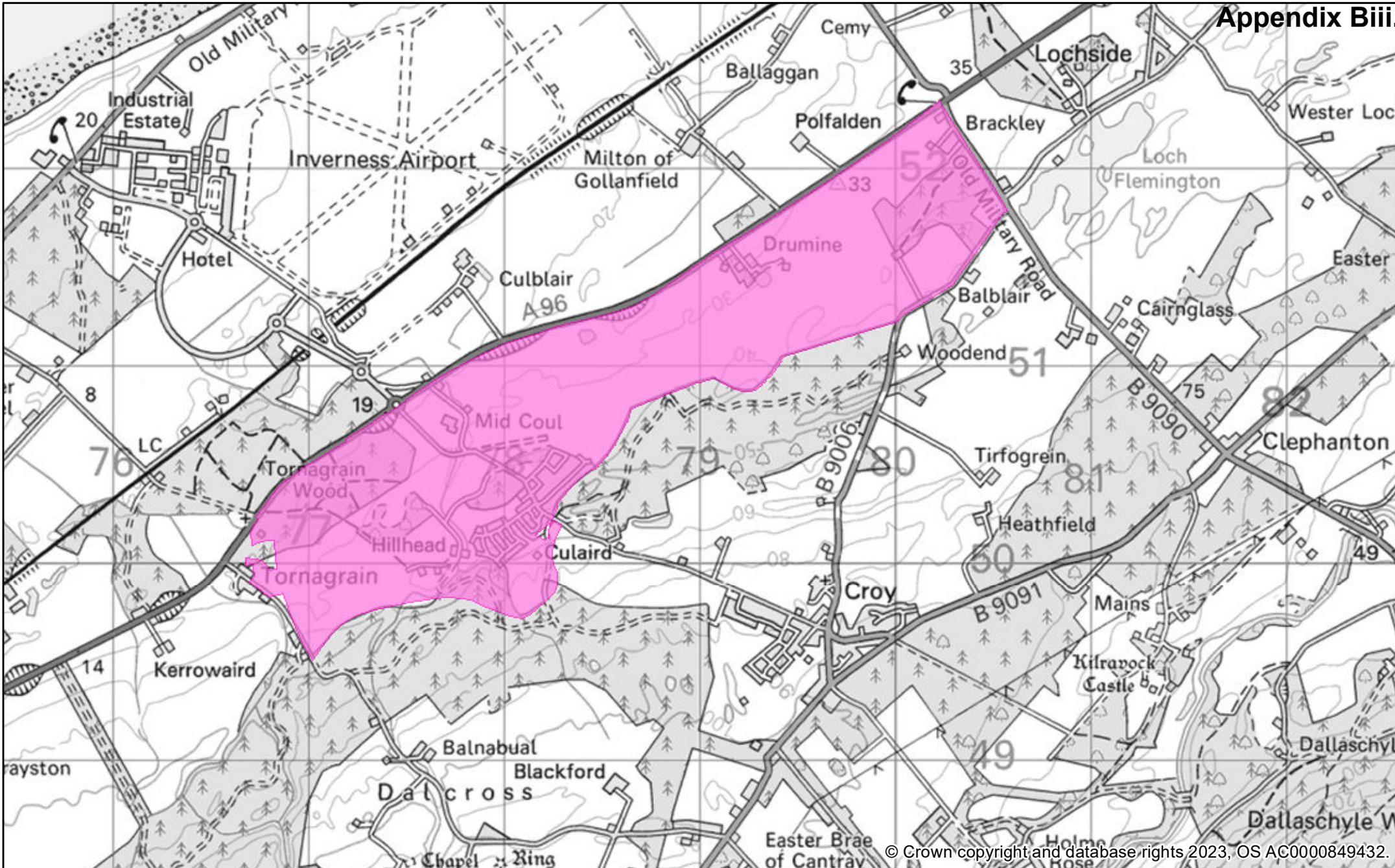
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Proposed Tornagrain Primary School Catchment Option 1

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Date: 31 July 2024





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Proposed Tornagrain Primary School Catchment Option 2

Ref: gis2782
Date: 23 Aug 2023





