

Plockton Primary School Consultation Public Meeting, Monday 28th September 2026 held in Plockton High School

In attendance:

Kate Lackie (Assistant Chief Executive-People)(Chair)

Jo Scott-Moncrieff (Headteacher)

Lyndsay Bradley (Area Quality Improvement Manager)

Dorothy Gibb (Estates Team Lead)

Tom Murdison (Service Lead, Corporate Property)

Parents and community representatives

Kate Lackie opened the meeting and outlined the purpose of the consultation. She reiterated that the consultation relates to the future location of primary pupils rather than the future of the existing school building, acknowledged concerns regarding previous communication and investment, and stressed that all views would be reflected in the consultation process.

Summary of Questions Raised and Responses Given

When will the community see proposals for both sites so that an informed decision can be made?

Response: Officers advised that the consultation is not comparing two development proposals. The Council's position is that the village site is no longer considered suitable for combined Primary and ELC provision due to site constraints, modern

regulations and future service requirements. Investment plans are focused on whichever site is ultimately selected.

Was the move to the High School prompted by building condition issues or concerns about suitability?

Response: Officers explained that the immediate reason for relocating pupils was the structural deterioration of the dining hall, which was considered unsafe. However, longer-term discussions subsequently identified wider suitability concerns relating to the site and accommodation.

Why is the former Primary School site now considered unsuitable when it previously accommodated larger pupil numbers?

Response: Officers stated that current regulations require greater floor space per pupil, increased toilet provision and compliance with modern educational standards. It is argued that the site no longer meets these expectations, particularly for combined Primary and Early Learning provision.

Why was maintenance not undertaken before the situation became an emergency?

Response: The Council acknowledged community frustration regarding historic underinvestment and explained that capital funding pressures across the Highland school estate had limited investment over a prolonged period.

Why has it taken so long to reach this stage of the process, and why has communication been limited?

Response: Community members expressed significant frustration regarding delays, lack of information and unanswered questions over the previous two years. The Council acknowledged these concerns and accepted that the process should have progressed more quickly.

Have all stakeholders been properly consulted, including those across the wider catchment area?

Response: Officers advised that the consultation remains open to all stakeholders, including through online submissions. It was also confirmed that there will be a



further opportunity for comment once the consultation report is published prior to committee consideration.

Why does the consultation appear to favour a permanent move to the High School site?

Response: Several contributors felt that insufficient information had been provided regarding alternatives and redevelopment possibilities for the village site. Officers acknowledged these concerns and accepted that more supporting information should be shared. The Council stated that the proposal reflects its professional assessment of site suitability.

What evidence exists that the village site cannot be redeveloped or rebuilt?

Response: Officers confirmed that no formal feasibility study had been undertaken. Community members challenged the absence of a feasibility assessment and requested further evidence regarding redevelopment options. Officers acknowledged these concerns and indicated that an options appraisal comparing alternatives may be undertaken.

What information is available regarding the condition of the existing buildings?

Response: Officers advised that condition assessments broadly rate the main Primary School building as B overall, with most of the building rated A. The Weavers Building was described as approximately B-/C+ and the canteen building as C. Officers indicated that condition reports would be shared with the community.

What impact has the relocation had on the wider community?

Response: Contributors highlighted concerns regarding the loss of the school's central role within the village, reduced opportunities for community engagement, links with local facilities and concerns regarding the future of an important heritage building. Officers acknowledged the importance of these issues and stated that social, cultural and heritage considerations would continue to form part of the consultation process.

What impact is the relocation having on High School pupils and facilities?



Response: Concerns were raised regarding shared accommodation, playground provision and possible disruption during examinations. The Head Teacher advised that exam disruption is managed through school procedures and confirmed that no formal invigilator reports relating to excessive noise had been submitted during the most recent examination diet.

What is planned for the existing Primary School site if the relocation becomes permanent?

Response: Officers stated that the current intention is to retain the village site as an Early Learning and Childcare facility. They stressed that there is no current plan to dispose of the building and that investment opportunities for the ELC provision would be explored.

Why are other schools receiving major investment while Plockton is not?

Response: Officers explained that schools currently receiving significant investment generally have more serious structural and building safety issues, including reinforced concrete defects such as RAAC and HAAC, and have therefore been prioritised for funding. The Council also advised that Highland had been unsuccessful in securing funding through the most recent Scottish Futures Trust programme. Community concerns regarding perceived lack of investment in Lochalsh were acknowledged.

What is happening regarding the unsuitable playground provision at the current site?

Response: Officers confirmed that funding has been approved for improvement works and indicated that these were expected to proceed in the near future, with further information on timescales to be provided.

What is the long-term future of Plockton High School?

Response: Officers advised that there is no immediate replacement programme for the High School. Ongoing investment and maintenance works will continue, while longer-term estate planning will consider future replacement options.

How often are school condition surveys undertaken and what information is available regarding previous inspections?



Response: Officers stated that school condition surveys are generally undertaken on a five-year cycle, with some buildings inspected more frequently where required. Further information regarding previous surveys and maintenance records was requested and officers agreed to provide additional information where available.

Has important information been omitted from the consultation process?

Response: Concerns were raised regarding the absence of information relating to building condition history, maintenance records, repairs, investment decisions and deferred works. Officers agreed to review whether any material omission had occurred and advised that historical information was being gathered.

How will pupils be consulted and their views captured?

Response: Officers confirmed that pupil views form part of the consultation process. The Pupil Council is gathering views from pupils, supported by staff, and these will contribute to the consultation evidence. Education Scotland focus groups involving pupils, parents, carers and staff will also form part of the process.

Comments regarding educational provision

Parents and community members repeatedly recognised the commitment and professionalism of school staff throughout the period of disruption. While views differed regarding the preferred long-term location of the school, there was broad agreement that teaching staff had worked exceptionally hard to support pupils during the transition. The principal concern expressed by many contributors remained the perceived lack of investment and long-term planning for education provision in the area.

Key Actions Agreed by the Council

- Share condition reports and other relevant information requested by the community.
 - Produce an options appraisal comparing alternatives using consistent criteria.
 - Provide further information regarding future site configuration and investment opportunities.
 - Clarify timescales for playground improvement works.
 - Investigate whether consultation minutes can be shared prior to publication of the final report.
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