

Plockton Primary School Consultation Public Meeting, Wednesday 26 August 2026 held in Plockton High School

In attendance:

Cllr Campbell (Chair)

Dorothy Gibb (Estates Team Leader)

Lyndsay Bradley (Area Quality Improvement Manager)

Parents and community representatives

Cllr Campbell opened the meeting by reading the consultation paper before inviting questions and comments from those attending.

Summary of Questions Raised and Responses Given

What are the structural problems with the school, and how has the building been allowed to reach this condition when the Council has a duty to maintain it?

Response: The main issue relates to the canteen building, which has been deemed unsafe and is proposed for demolition. Officers stated the building had reached the end of its useful life and was not considered viable to repair. No detailed explanation was provided regarding historic maintenance arrangements, but concerns were noted for inclusion in the consultation report.

Why can't the building be demolished and replaced with a new building?

Response: Officers advised that using available space within the High School was considered a more financially viable option than repairing or replacing the canteen building

on a restricted site. It was stated that constructing a replacement building within the existing footprint would be challenging.

Why wasn't the building maintained and are maintenance records available? Why did an emergency closure occur if inspections were taking place?

Response: No specific answer was provided during the meeting. Officers acknowledged these concerns and confirmed they would form part of the consultation evidence and be addressed through the consultation report.

What educational benefits have been achieved by moving to the High School site?

Response: No direct educational benefits were formally identified by officers during the meeting. Parents and pupils highlighted larger classrooms, increased space, access to sports facilities, music rooms, specialist facilities and the canteen as positive aspects of the current arrangements.

What is meant by the High School “providing a more appropriate environment for the delivery of Primary education”?

Response: Officers stated that the High School has available accommodation and facilities and is better able to comply with current standards and regulations. Community members questioned whether this translated into measurable educational benefits.

What impact will relocation have on the community?

Response: Many contributors argued there would be significant impacts on the community, including reduced village activity, loss of inter-generational connections, reduced visibility of children within the community and loss of access to local outdoor learning opportunities. Officers confirmed these concerns would be included within the consultation report.

Would the proposal effectively close the Primary School? What will happen to the existing school building?

Response: Officers clarified that the school itself would remain open, but its location would move permanently to the High School campus. The existing building would no longer operate as the primary school. Officers advised that they could not discuss future use of the building during the consultation process, as doing so could influence views on the proposal. Future use would be considered separately following completion of the consultation.

Concerns raised regarding the future of the High School site and whether similar issues could arise in future.

Response: No direct response was provided at the meeting. Concerns were noted for consideration through the consultation report.

What are the future school roll projections and capacity implications, particularly in relation to future housing development?

Response: Officers advised that school roll projections are publicly available and are generally projected up to ten years ahead. Declining pupil numbers across Highland were cited as a factor in utilising available accommodation within secondary school campuses.



How are pupils being consulted?

Response: Officers confirmed that pupil views would form part of the consultation process and encouraged parents to submit children's views through the consultation process. Schools would also gather pupil feedback directly.

Community concerns regarding loss of links between the school and the village.

Response: Officers noted that contributors highlighted the long-standing relationship between the school and the community, including gardening projects, fundraising activities, sports programmes, outdoor learning and inter-generational engagement. Concerns were expressed that these links had been weakened since relocation. Officers confirmed these views would form part of the consultation evidence.

Parents reported differing views from pupils regarding the current arrangements.

Response: Officers noted that some parents reported that older pupils who had experienced both sites preferred the High School campus due to larger classrooms, greater space, improved facilities and opportunities to interact with older pupils. It was also noted that the current arrangements had created improved opportunities for at least one child with additional support needs. These comments are noted as part of the consultation process.

Concerns regarding playground provision, outdoor space and the temporary nature of arrangements.

Response: Parents raised concerns regarding inadequate playground provision, loss of village-based learning opportunities and the lack of clarity regarding long-term plans. Officers noted these concerns for consideration through the consultation process.

Why can other schools receive investment while Plockton cannot?

Response: Officers stated that investment decisions are influenced by building condition, suitability, regulatory requirements and available budgets. The restricted nature of the Plockton site was identified as a significant factor.

Why can't the village site be rebuilt or redeveloped?

Response: Officers identified several challenges associated with the site, including listed-building status, restricted footprint, nursery requirements, modern toilet standards, security considerations and budget limitations. No detailed options appraisal was presented at the meeting.

What impact is the Primary School having on High School pupils?

Response: Concerns were raised regarding noise, disruption during examinations and the use of shared facilities. These concerns were noted for consideration.

Will questions raised be answered before a decision is made?

Response: Officers confirmed that all questions and comments raised would be included in the consultation report and that responses would be provided before any final decision is made.



Will teaching staff views be included?

Response: Staff representatives advised that staff were participating in the consultation process and that their views would form part of the final consultation report.

Why has a full impact assessment not been carried out?

Response: Officers did not provide an answer during the meeting but agreed the question would be recorded and considered through the consultation process.

Overall Themes Emerging from the Meeting

The meeting demonstrated a wide range of views regarding the proposal. While some contributors expressed concerns about the proposal and the circumstances that led to the temporary relocation, other parents and pupils identified benefits associated with the current arrangements at the High School campus, including larger classrooms, access to specialist facilities, sports provision and opportunities for interaction across age groups.

A number of contributors emphasised that their concerns related less to the quality of education being delivered and more to the long-term implications for the community, the school estate and future educational provision. Several speakers specifically praised school staff for managing the transition and maintaining educational standards during challenging circumstances.

Information Requested by Participants

A number of stakeholders requested additional information to support informed consideration of the proposal, including:

- Building condition reports and maintenance histories.
- Inspection records and investment history.
- Costs associated with repair, refurbishment, replacement or redevelopment.
- School roll projections and demographic information.
- Future plans for both the Primary School and High School sites.
- Feasibility studies, impact assessments and alternative options appraisals.
- Greater detail regarding investment priorities across the wider school estate.

Several contributors expressed the view that this information would be necessary before the community could reach a fully informed position on the proposal.

Communication and Consultation Process

A number of contributors expressed frustration regarding the time taken to reach the consultation stage and the level of communication provided during the preceding two years. Concerns were raised regarding delays, limited information and a perceived lack of clarity regarding future options.



Officers acknowledged these concerns and reiterated that:

- No final decision had been made.
- The purpose of the consultation was to gather views rather than promote a preferred outcome.
- All comments and questions raised would be considered as part of the consultation process.
- Responses would be provided through the consultation report before any final decision is taken.

Clarification Provided

Following discussion, officers also advised that:

- School roll projections are publicly available.
- Condition reports exist for Council school buildings and assist in prioritising maintenance funding.
- Some buildings may eventually become unsuitable for continued maintenance.
- Factors affecting the Plockton site include listed-building status, restricted footprint, nursery requirements, modern standards, security considerations and budget limitations.
- School estate decisions require balancing a range of educational, operational, financial and regulatory considerations.

Additional Themes Raised During the Consultation

- Concerns that stakeholders had not been presented with sufficient alternative options or comparative assessments.
- Concerns regarding the distinction between building condition and site suitability, and the evidence supporting the proposal.
- Concerns regarding trust, communication and the length of time taken to reach the consultation stage.

Additional Note

A community member requested that it be formally recorded that it had taken two years to arrange a consultation meeting regarding the future of Plockton Primary School.

