
BRIEFING NEWSLETTER 2

Aberdeenshire Council Education & Recreation School Estate Management Plan

21st Century School Improvement Programme

In conjunction with the Scottish Executive's "[Building Our Future: Scotland's School Estate](#)" initiative, Aberdeenshire Council wishes to ensure that Aberdeenshire's schools are suitable for delivering Education in the 21st Century.

As previously highlighted in the 21st Century School Improvement Programme Briefing Newsletter (1), issued to stakeholders in January 2005, this programme has already seen the building of new or upgraded facilities at: -

- Banff Primary
- Hill of Banchory Primary
- Longside Primary
- Kintore Primary
- Meldrum Academy
- Meldrum Primary
- Rosehearty Primary
- Rothienorman Primary.

Fire destruction required the building of new schools at:-

- Strathburn Primary
- Port Erroll Primary

Aberdeenshire's current building programme will see new schools opening at:-

- Portlethen Academy in the summer of 2006
- Lairhillock Primary in the spring of 2007.

As part of the 21st Century Schools Improvement Programme all schools in Aberdeenshire were assessed following Scottish Executive Guidelines. This assessment included consideration of the following: -

- The overall physical condition of the school;
- The suitability of the current school facilities for delivering education in the 21st Century;
- School roll projections.

Following this assessment, the Council prioritised a further 24 school projects that it wished to consult on prior to confirming which projects, or options within these projects, should be included within the Council's 21st Century School Improvement Programme.

Two of the school projects proposed the closure of three schools within short timescales. Statutory consultation was undertaken with parents of pupils attending these schools in early 2005. The outcomes of the consultation were presented to Councillors in May 2005. Councillors agreed to close Braeside Primary and Cairnorrie Primary in July 2005, with the pupils transferring to Auchnagatt and Methlick Primary Schools. However, Councillors elected not to close Longhaven Primary and the school was removed from the 21st Century School Improvement Programme. Upgrading works are currently underway at Methlick and plans are being finalised for the upgrading of Auchnagatt as a result of the closure of Braeside and Cairnorrie Schools.

The remaining 22 projects were longer term and involved the building of new schools or the refurbishment of existing schools. As, in the short term, there was no funding available to progress any of these 22 projects, the Council consulted with representatives of stakeholder groups (e.g. school boards, school staff, pupil forums, Community Councils) using Level 1* of the agreed consultation model.

* *The 21st Century Schools Improvement Programme "Briefing Newsletter (1)" issued January 2005 described the consultation model levels as:-*

- Level 1 consultation is undertaken with stakeholder representatives where a project has no realistic prospect of proceeding within the next twelve months
- Level 2 consultation is undertaken when it is anticipated that funding can be identified for a project and any outstanding site purchase or planning issues can be resolved satisfactorily within the next twelve months
- Level 3 consultation is undertaken when funding for a project has been clearly identified or for projects where minimal capital expenditure will be required, and where there are no site purchase or significant planning issues to resolve

The Level 1 consultation exercise was undertaken during 2005. The views of the consultees were presented to Education & Recreation Committee in December 2005, and Members subsequently agreed to remove and/or amend a number of the project options. Members further agreed that the remaining project options would be subject to further consultation with relevant local communities as soon as there was a realistic possibility of funding becoming available to complete the projects.

At the December 2005 Education & Recreation Committee, Members also reviewed the outcomes of a consultation on proposals developed by two Special School Working Groups. Following consideration of the consultation outcomes Members agreed to remove St Andrew's Special School (Inverurie) and Carronhill Special School (Stonehaven) from the 21st Century School Improvement Programme. The options for developing these schools will now be considered as part of broader review of additional support needs provision across Aberdeenshire.

The Priority Projects as at December 2005

The **22** projects listed below now represent Aberdeenshire Council's current assessment of priorities. It should be noted that the circumstances of local communities are subject to change and it is likely that some new priorities may be added to this list whilst others may be deleted.

The estimated overall cost of implementing these priority projects over the next 10 to 15+ years would be in excess of £250 million at today's prices and will require additional funding sources to be identified.

It should be noted that currently no funding has been identified to take forward any of the projects on the list below. The Council will consult with communities when funding for a particular project has been identified, and a realistic timescale for completing the project has been determined.

<i>Project</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Options</i>
		<p>Mintlaw area grows. Demolish Pitfour and Mintlaw Primary Schools.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>b) The phased closure of Pitfour Primary School and replace Mintlaw Primary School (240/235 capacity) on Mintlaw Primary's existing playing field. Subsequently demolish existing Mintlaw Primary School and complete external works. Include pre-school capacity of 50/50 with possibility in long-term future to increase to 100/50 if Mintlaw area grows.</p> <p>Further consultation to take place with the community on the location of the new school.</p>
15123	<i>Cornhill and Ordiquhill Primary Schools</i>	Close existing Ordiquhill School and construct replacement 96 capacity school on new site (not identified).
15124	<i>Rathen Primary</i>	<p>a) Close existing Rathen Primary School and build new 96 capacity replacement school on site to be identified.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>b) Close existing Rathen School & Tyrie School and build new 96 capacity replacement school on site to be identified. This project option will be subject to full consultation taking place, at an appropriate time, with Tyrie Primary School and the site for the new school being acceptable to both schools.</p>
15125	<i>Bracoden Primary</i>	<p>a) Upgrade the existing Bracoden School (96 capacity).</p> <p>OR</p> <p>b) Build new replacement school on existing site.</p>

EDUCATION AND RECREATION SCHOOL ESTATE MANAGEMENT PLAN

(The Priority Projects as at December 2005)

Please note that although an indication has been given below as regards the possible future capacity of schools listed within the E&R Estate Management Plan, the actual required capacity will be reassessed immediately prior to any new build or upgrade work being undertaken.

<i>Project</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Options</i>
15101	<i>Mearns Academy</i>	Replace Mearns Academy (640 capacity) on the existing playing field site.
15102	<i>Alford Academy and Primary</i>	<p>a) Replace Alford Academy (540 capacity) on existing playing fields and construct replacement Alford Primary School (240/235 capacity) on new site (not identified).</p> <p>OR</p> <p>b) Replace Alford Academy (540 capacity) and Alford Primary (240/235 capacity) on the existing site including existing playing fields. Relocate the playing fields to a new site (site to be identified but to be as close as possible to the joint school campus).</p>
15103	<i>Banchory Academy and Primary</i>	Construct new Banchory Academy (840 capacity) on a new site (not identified) and upgrade existing Banchory Primary School (460/445 capacity).
15104	<i>Stonehaven Schools</i>	Phased closure of Dunnottar Primary School and construct new 205 capacity Primary on site yet to be identified and re-zone all Stonehaven primary schools. The site for the new school preferably to be as close as possible to the existing school site.
15105	<i>Drumoak Primary</i>	Replace existing Drumoak Primary School with replacement school on new site to revised 120 capacity.
15106	<i>Portlethen Schools</i>	Construct a new school at Hillside (240/235 capacity) and also construct new 205 capacity school on the Portlethen Primary Site adjacent to the existing school. If it is not practical for health and safety reasons for the new school to be constructed adjacent to the existing school, decanting should be as close as possible to the existing site.

Project	Name	Options
15107	Westhill Academy	Upgrade existing Westhill Academy to revised 940 capacity (school roll capped).
15108	Ellon Academy	Replace Ellon Academy (1600 capacity) on greenfield site (site not identified) thus allowing for rezoning of Balmedie pupils. Community facilities retained on existing campus.
15109	Inverurie Academy	a) Replace Inverurie Academy (940 capacity) on existing site OR b) Replace Inverurie Academy (940 capacity) on greenfield site (not identified)
15110	Kemnay Academy	Upgrade Kemnay Academy (840 capacity) on existing site.
15111	Logie Durno Primary	Construct replacement 96 capacity primary on new site (not identified). Existing Logie Durno site declared surplus to requirements.
15112	Markethill Primary	a) Retain existing Markethill Primary and construct new 205 capacity primary on new site (not identified). OR b) Construct replacement 585/565 capacity primary on new site (not identified). Existing Markethill site declared surplus to requirements.
15113	Newmachar Primary	a) Upgrade existing Newmachar School (460/445 capacity) OR b) Construct replacement Newmachar Primary (460/445 capacity) on existing site.
15115	Westhill Primary Schools	Undertake consultation exercise relating to re-zoning of pupils attending Westhill, Crombie and Elrick Primary schools - if this is a viable option, upgrade the schools involved

Project	Name	Options
15116	Fraserburgh Academy	Upgrade existing Fraserburgh Academy (1200 capacity) and construct a community facility on the existing site. Any future construction of a new swimming pool on a new site to be considered as a separate project.
15117	Peterhead Academy	a) Upgrade existing Peterhead Academy (1400 capacity) and retain existing community facility. OR b) Upgrade existing Peterhead Academy (1400 capacity) and upgrade existing community facility. OR c) Replace Peterhead Academy on greenfield site (not identified).
15118	Peterhead West Primary Schools	Phased closure of Burnhaven Primary, the upgrade of Meethill Primary (240/235 capacity), the upgrade of Clerkhill Primary (460/445 capacity) and the upgrade of Dales Primary (240/235 capacity). Further consultation to take place at an appropriate time with the parents of Burnhaven Primary School, as regards road safety concerns. An “even” distribution of pupils between the Peterhead West schools to be considered
15119	Fraserburgh Primary Schools	Close St Andrews Infant School Building and Fraserburgh North Schools. The upgrade of St Andrews “Central” building and the building of a new 205 capacity Fraserburgh Primary on site to be identified. The re-zoning of all Fraserburgh Primary Schools. It was noted that the community wished the St Andrew’s Infant school site to be retained for the upgraded St Andrews school.
15120	Mintlaw Primary Schools	a) Construct a replacement 240/235 capacity primary school on a site to be identified following consultation with the local community. Include pre-school capacity of 50/50 with possibility in long-term future to increase to 100/50 if