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Council Building
2 High Street
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19/05/2021

A Meeting of the **Lifelong Learning Committee** will be held virtually on **Wednesday, 26 May 2021 at 09:30.**

If you have any queries please contact Committee Services on (01738) 475000 or email Committee@pkc.gov.uk.

BARBARA RENTON
Interim Chief Executive

Those attending the meeting are requested to ensure that all notifications are silent on their device and other devices are in silent mode.

Please note that the meeting will be broadcast online and recorded. The recording will be publicly available on the Council's website following the meeting.

Members:

Councillor Caroline Shiers (Convener)
Councillor John Duff (Vice-Convener)
Councillor Kathleen Baird
Councillor Liz Barrett
Councillor Angus Forbes
Councillor Ian Massie
Councillor Xander McDade
Councillor Beth Pover
Councillor Callum Purves
Councillor John Rebbeck
Councillor Crawford Reid
Councillor Fiona Sarwar
Councillor Lewis Simpson

Mr Jack Bell
Mr Andy Charlton
Mr Adrian Ferguson
Mrs Pat Giles
Mr Martin Gowrie
Mrs Audrey McAuley
Mr Dean McBride
Miss Teresa Moran
Ms Carolyn Weston

Lifelong Learning Committee

Wednesday, 26 May 2021

AGENDA

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED OF THEIR OBLIGATION TO DECLARE ANY FINANCIAL OR NON-FINANCIAL INTEREST WHICH THEY MAY HAVE IN ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCILLORS' CODE OF CONDUCT.

- 1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3 MINUTES**
 - 3(i) MINUTE OF MEETING OF LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE OF 20 JANUARY 2021 FOR APPROVAL** 5 - 8
(copy herewith)
 - 3(ii) MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE JOINT NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHING STAFF OF 8 DECEMBER 2020 FOR NOTING** 9 - 12
(copy herewith)
- 4 MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PARTNERSHIP OF 4 DECEMBER 2020 FOR NOTING** 13 - 16
(copy herewith)
- 5 ABERNYTE PRIMARY SCHOOL - OPTION APPRAISAL** 17 - 66
Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)
(copy herewith 21/64)

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LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee held virtually on Wednesday 20 January 2021 at 9.30am.

Present: Councillors C Shiers, J Duff, K Baird, L Barrett, A Forbes, I Massie, X McDade, B Pover, C Purves, J Rebbeck, C Reid, F Sarwar and L Simpson; Mr A Charlton, Mr A Ferguson, Mrs A McAuley and Mrs C Weston.

In attendance: S Devlin, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); J Pepper, G Boland, C Cranmer (up to Item 5), G Doogan (up to Item 5), S Johnston, F Mackay (up to Item 5), D Macleod, B Martin Scott (up to Item 5), D Macluskey, H Robertson, N Rogerson (up to Item 5) and C Taylor (all Education and Children's Services); C Flynn, L Brown, A Brown, M Pasternak, L McGuigan, A McMeekin and B Parker (all Corporate and Democratic Services).

Apologies for absence: Mr J Bell, Mrs P Giles, Mr D McBride, Miss T Moran and Mr M Gowrie

Councillor C Shiers, Convener, Presiding.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting. Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2. TRIBUTE TO COUNCILLOR H ANDERSON

The Convener reported with sadness the death of Councillor Henry Anderson on 27 December 2020. In paying tribute to Councillor Anderson the Convener referred to his dedicated service to the Lifelong Learning Committee and to the energy and enthusiasm with which he served the local community as an elected member representative for the Almond and Earn Ward. On behalf of the Committee she extended her sincere condolences to Henry's family and friends. Councillors Rebbeck, McDade, Purves, Baird and Simpson also paid tribute to Councillor Anderson.

THE COMMITTEE HELD A MINUTE'S SILENCE AS A MARK OF RESPECT

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct,

4. MINUTES

(i) Lifelong Learning Committee

The minute of meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 4 November 2020 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

(ii) Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff

The minute of meeting of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff of 22 September 2020 was submitted and noted.

5. COMMUNITY PLANNING

(i) Perth and Kinross Children, Young People and Families Partnership

The minute of meeting of the Perth and Kinross Children, Young People and Families Partnership of 18 September 2020 was submitted and noted.

6. COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS – UPDATE ON IMPACT ON EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) and other senior officers provided the Committee with a verbal update on Education and Children's Services continuing response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

C CRANMER, G DOOGAN, F MACKAY, B MARTIN SCOTT AND N ROGERSON LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

THE COMMITTEE TOOK A 10 MINUTE RECESS AND RECONVENED AT 11.15AM.

7. SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES 2021-2024

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (21/6) (1) seeking approval of the Self-Directed Support Strategy 2021-2024 for Services for Children, Young People and Families; (2) reflecting key aspects of the legislation and guidance from Social Work Scotland; and (3) outlining the plan to work with children, young people and their families to increase choice and control when receiving their social care support.

Resolved:

- (i) The Self-Directed Support Strategy for Children, Young People and Families 2021-2024 be approved.
- (ii) The development and inclusion of key performance indicators within the annual Business Management Improvement Plan for 2021/22 be supported.

8. HIGHLAND PERTSHIRE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP – UPDATE REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (21/7) providing a progress update on the work of the Highland Perthshire Learning Partnership.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress of the Learning and Property Sub-Group of the Highland Perthshire Learning Partnership be noted.
- (ii) It be noted that future progress on the work of the Learning Sub-Group will be incorporated in the annual Business Management Improvement Plan.
- (iii) It be noted that future progress on the work of the Property Sub-Group will be reported to Property Sub-Committee.

DRAFT

JOINT NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHING STAFF

Minute of virtual meeting of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff (JNCT) held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 8 December 2020 at 2.30pm.

Present: **Representing Perth and Kinross Council**
Councillors J Duff, J Rebbeck and C Shiers; S Devlin, M Donaghy, G Doogan, S Hagney, S Johnston and D Macluskey (substituting for D MacLeod) (all Education and Children’s Services) and P Johnstone (Corporate & Democratic Services).

Representing Teachers’ Associations
L Gibb, L-J Grant, M Laurie, C Rose, T Summers and C Weston (all EIS); M Mackie (SSTA) and S Topen-Cooper (NASUWT).

In Attendance: F Mackay (Education & Children’s Services); A McAuley, Joint Secretary (Trade Unions); C Flynn, Joint Secretary (management Side) and C Irons (Corporate and Democratic Services).

Observing: J Donnelly, Education & Children’s Services

Apologies: D MacLeod
Councillor J Duff, Convener, Presiding.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted and noted as above.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ELECTED MEMBERS ONLY)

There were no declarations of interest made in terms of the Councillors’ Code of Conduct.

3. MINUTES

The minute of meeting of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff of 22 September 2020 was submitted and approved as a correct record, noting that at item 7/8(i) it should read SNCT and not SNTC.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Working Time Agreements (Item 9 refers)

C Weston provided an update on the Working Time Agreements advising that she would share the latest information with G Doogan and D MacLeod to agree a way forward for all Teachers.

5. INCIDENTS OF DISTRESSED AND/OR CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR – QUARTERLY STATISTICAL REPORT TERM 1- ACADEMIC SESSION 2020-21

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (G/20/146) providing a quarterly statistical report on incidents of distressed and/or challenging behaviour in schools in Term 1: 12 August to 2 October 2020.

F Mackay advised the report presented the statistics in a new format following a short-life working group and noted the low figures due to the exceptional times and no figures being available for part of term 3 and all of term 4 due to home learning during lockdown.

The Teachers Association representatives raised concern that while members had attended the working group they had not been fully consulted on the new reporting format presented today.

C Weston stated not all aspects of violence and aggression were included within the new format making it difficult to identify trends and draw comparisons.

S Topen-Cooper added that he had previously expressed concern of not differentiating between violence and aggression and incidents of distressed and/or challenging behaviour and the previous reporting format referring to violence and aggression was preferable and requested further discussion on such changes.

F Mackay apologised that teacher representatives did not feel the format had been discussed and proposed the working group reform to consider improvements to the reporting and reviewing of incidents and support.

S Johnston re-iterated the apology and hoped further discussion would enable a new format to be agreed taking account of violence and aggression and distressing and/or challenging behaviour as well as providing information and support to improve current practices. S Johnston agreed the report should include violence and aggression and exclusions but was cautious of trying to cover too much in one report. S Johnston also agreed it was important to analyse trends for needs to be met.

The Committee agreed there would be further discussion by the short-life working group to agree a new reporting format for violence and aggression and distressed and/or challenging behaviour.

6. BUDGET UPDATE

The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) provided a verbal update on the current position regarding the budget position for Education and Children's Services and the Council.

S Devlin advised the primary aim for the Council was to deliver a balanced, lawful and achievable budget and that Education and Children's Services five priorities were unchanged – Best Start; Learning and Achievement; Health and Wellbeing; Care and Equity and Safe and Protected.

S Devlin stated the full financial impact of Covid-19 would not be known for some time and as it would not be known for the budget setting in March 2021 a different approach would be needed. It was noted that there had been a shortfall when the budget was set in March 2020 and previously agreed savings had not been met plus there had been significant additional expenditure due to the pandemic.

The Committee noted the update.

7. COVID-19 UPDATE - NOVEMBER 2020

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (G/20/147) providing an update on Education and Children's Services Recovery Plan.

S Devlin acknowledged that all staff in schools were working tirelessly and many of the new ways of working would continue and some aspects of school life would be changed forever.

S Devlin referred to arrangements for contact tracing over the Christmas holidays and advised that Public Health had confirmed schools could stay open up to Christmas as planned and there were no plans to move to blended or remote learning.

C Weston advised teachers were not seeking additional holidays but wanted to see a move to remote learning to protect all and reduce the risk of the area moving to further restrictions in Tier 4.

The Committee noted report G/20/147 and the appendices to the report listing the guidance issued since September 2020 and providing a summary of Covid-19 cases within schools and nurseries.

8. EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2020/21

There was submitted the Education Improvement Plan 2020/21 (G/20/148).

S Johnston advised the Plan was a statutory document which the Council was duty bound to produce even at this time although the focus was now on recovery and wellbeing. There was a renewed focus on closing the poverty-related attainment gap and what could be done to remedy any impact that there had been around the widening of equalities of outcome experienced by children and young people with the purpose of the Plan being Reconnection, Recovery and Renewal.

There followed discussion on the Plan with reference to closing the attainment gap, engagement of pupils in remote learning and the experience for teachers and engagement with parents.

The Committee noted the Plan for 2020/21.

9. PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

A verbal update was provided by D Macluskey on progress and achievement in schools. It was noted there had been a pilot project in primaries, tracking a young persons' journey within a CfE level which is due to be rolled out to other schools in this academic year. This will be deferred in secondary until August 2021 to take into account the time that will be required to address assessment in the senior phase.

D Macluskey added that the pilot had gathered views of pupils, parents and teachers and a shared understanding was crucial. It was acknowledged a different approach was needed to the new process in light of the cancellation of exams this session and further work would be undertaken.

The Committee noted the update provided.

10. VIRTUAL MEETINGS

S Johnston referred to guidance which had been issued to schools advising on conducting safe virtual meetings. Teachers were now regularly taking part in virtual meetings and this was likely to continue.

A survey of parents had shown they were keen to use virtual meetings for contact with schools, such as for parent contact evenings and parents appreciated continuing face-to-face contact in the current circumstances. S Johnston added that while guidance had been issued it was for each school to determine when and how virtual meetings would be used.

C Weston thanked officers for the guidance and that advice was available when needed but there were individual circumstances to address so appreciated that it was for each school to decide what suited best.

11. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS TO JUNE 2021

It was noted that meetings would be held on 16 March and 15 June 2021 (AGM) and that discussion would be held with union representatives if required prior to the next meeting.

12. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There were no other items of business for discussion.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted the next meeting would be held on 16 March 2021.



CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PARTNERSHIP

Minute of virtual meeting of the Children, Young People and Families Partnership held on Friday 4 December 2020 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillor J Duff, PKC
 Councillor J Rebbeck, PKC
 S Devlin, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services), PKC
 S Johnston, Head of Education and Learning, PKC
 J Pepper, Depute Director (Education and Children's Services) and Chief Social Work Officer, PKC
 H Robertson, Head of Services for Children, Young People and Families, Perth and Kinross Council.
 Chief Inspector G Binnie, Police Scotland
 K Pacholek, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration

In Attendance: B Atkinson, Independent Chair of Child Protection Committee;
 P Davison, S Turner and D Williams (all PKC).

Apologies: Councillor C Shiers; and K Reid (PKC).

S Devlin in the Chair

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

S Devlin welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were submitted and noted as above.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in terms of the relevant Codes of Conduct.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of the meeting of the Children, Young People and Families Partnership of 18 September 2021 was submitted and noted as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE ORDER OF BUSINESS BE VARIED

5. PERTH AND KINROSS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE BUSINESS ACTIVITY REPORT SINCE 18 SEPTEMBER 2020

There was submitted a report by B Atkinson, Independent Chair, Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee (CPC) (G/20/142) summarising the key business activities of the CPC since September 2020.

In referring to section 2.5.1 of the report and revised arrangements for the Perth and Kinross Public Protection Chief Officers' Group, J Pepper advised that she felt it would be beneficial for members of the Partnership to have access to this and highlighted that a report to the Partnership to a future meeting in this regard would be helpful.

S Devlin highlighted that the report demonstrated only some of the large amount of work in this area, and expressed thanks and gratitude for those involved in the work in this area, further highlighting the great support provided to schools from across all services.

The Partnership agreed:

- (i) To note and endorse the update on the business activity of the Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee as detailed in Report G/20/142)

6. UPDATE ON TAYSIDE COLLABORATIVE PRIORITY GROUP 5 SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION – LEADERSHIP EVENT

There was submitted a report (G/20/144) updating the Partnership on the Tayside Collaborative Priority Group 5 Leadership Event on 16 October 2020, and to invite the Partnership to lead a local leadership workshop in February 2021.

J Pepper advised that, with regards to the event of 16 October 2020, plans were made moving forward, with a view ahead over the next three years, and further advised that a firm evidence base had been established moving forward.

In response to a query from Councillor Duff regarding whether there were any serious concerns raised by Dr Sarah Vincent, J Pepper advised that whilst concerns would likely to be present in almost all such cases by virtue of the criteria for conducting a review, the focus of the event was more upon good practice and key factors which ensure the effective protection of children. However, although there are themes which emerge from the research, there were no systemic deficiencies reported. B Atkinson commented that the quality and detail of initial case reviews in Perth and Kinross was found by the researcher to be very high giving confidence in our local processes for review and the themes for improvement were more general.

The Partnership:

- (i) Noted the information as set out in Report (G/20/144)
- (ii) Agreed that the Children, Young People and Families Partnership hosts an online workshop in February 2021 involving members of the Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee and Sub-Groups.

7. COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING

There was submitted by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (G/20/143) outlining the recommendations and aims to emerge from the Mental Health Taskforce.

S Turner advised partners that, with regards to mental health, it was important to take a proactive approach as to a reactive approach, and the importance of whole family early intervention. S Turner also highlighted the importance of volunteers within communities, and community involvement. S Turner advised members that a paper would be submitted to Scottish Government within the next week.

The Partnership agreed:

- (i) Noted the information as set out in Report (G/20/143) and the attached appendices.

A TEN MINUTE RECESS WAS TAKEN AT THIS POINT

8. THEMATIC APPROACH TO PERFORMANCE REPORTING

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services, Perth and Kinross Council (G/20/141) concluding the fifth year of thematic reporting for performance/outcome information focused on children, young peoples and families; and (2) setting out a suite of information focused on contextual and inequalities information, for consideration and scrutiny by the Partnership.

In summarising the report, P Davidson advised that this report was considered an end of year catch-all. He highlighted to members that there had continued to be a reduction in teenage pregnancies and that there had been a difference in school attendance for those who are looked after.

In response to a query from Councillor Duff, J Pepper confirmed that those self-isolating but working online from home were considered as being in attendance.

The Partnership:

- (i) Noted the information as set out in Appendices 1 Report G/20/141.
- (ii) Agreed that thematic performance reports continue to be presented to the Partnership for consideration and scrutiny.

9. DATES OF MEETING 2021

Members agreed to the following dates for meetings the Children, Young People and Families Partnership in 2021;

5 March 2021

18 June 2021

17 September 2021

3 December 2021

10. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Chief Inspector G Binnie updated Partners on an ongoing operation by Police Scotland locally regarding a rise in anti-social behaviour in Young People, highlighting a rise in resistance towards police, and adding that this is not exclusive to Perth and Kinross.

Chief Inspector Binnie advised that collaborative work in this regard was ongoing with a number of partners including YMCA and the Council, and action was being taken against premises supplying those underage with alcohol. Chief Inspector Binnie advised that a tiered approach was being undertaken to identify Young People involved in anti-social behaviour, although advised of the difficulties in engaging with schools under present restrictions.

H Robertson added that, with regards the response from a Youth Services, there was a recognition of the issues presently facing Young People, and advised that the although digital platforms were being used, these were not meeting the needs of all Young People. H Robertson added that this issue was not exclusive to Perth City Centre and collaborative work was being undertaken with Community Wardens, Street Pastors and Letham For All amongst others.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Partnership noted the next meeting would be held on Friday 5 March 2021.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Lifelong Learning Committee

26 May 2021

ABERNYTE PRIMARY SCHOOL – OPTIONS APPRAISAL

**Report by Executive Director (Education and Children’s Services)
(Report No. 21/64)**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

On 4 November 2020, Lifelong Learning Committee approved the scope and principles to be used to underpin an options appraisal to be developed for a potential catchment review for Abernyte Primary School and the possible addition of nursery provision to create a sustainable school roll ([Report No. 20/208 refers](#)).

This report notes that the school roll has risen recently, and the projected school roll is due to rise for session 2021/2022, to the extent that both classroom spaces will be required from August 2021. This will be the highest school roll at Abernyte Primary School since 2010. This report seeks approval of the recommendation from the options appraisal (Appendix A) to maintain a school capacity of 44 pupils at Abernyte Primary School, retain the existing catchment area and not include nursery provision within Abernyte Primary School.

1. BACKGROUND

School Estate Transformation – Abernyte Primary School

- 1.1 Lifelong Learning Committee had previously approved an assessment of a potential change to the catchment area at Abernyte Primary School on 21 March 2018 ([Report No. 18/86 refers](#)). That assessment sought to clarify whether a change to the catchment area would provide an increased and sustainable school roll for Abernyte Primary School. The outcome of that assessment was considered by Lifelong Learning Committee on 22 August 2018 ([Report No. 18/243 refers](#)).
- 1.2 On 26 August 2020, Lifelong Learning Committee considered a report which provided an overview of the decisions taken relating to the closure of Abernyte Primary School ([Report No. 20/142 \(REVISED\) refers](#)). Lifelong Learning Committee requested the Executive Director (Education and Children’s Services) to bring back a scoping report for approval to Lifelong Learning Committee in November 2020 which outlined all possible options for a catchment review to build a sustainable school roll at the earliest opportunity, including looking at the possibility of a nursery.
- 1.3 On 4 November 2020, Lifelong Learning Committee approved the scope and principles to be used to underpin the options appraisal to be developed for a catchment review for Abernyte Primary School ([Report No. 20/208 refers](#)).

2. PRINCIPLES AND OPTIONS

2.1 The Lifelong Learning Committee report dated 4 November 2020 ([Report No. 20/208 refers](#)) detailed the principles and options which should be considered and investigated as part of the options appraisal.

2.2 Principles

The principles which should be considered are:

- Any option considered will not cause a detrimental impact to the school roll or sustainability of another small rural school of 70¹ pupils or fewer;
- Any option to be considered would contribute to a sustainable roll for Abernyte Primary School;
- Any option to be considered would relate to a catchment area geographically adjacent to Abernyte Primary School catchment area;
- Any option would not result in a pupil travelling through another primary school catchment area to reach their catchment school;
- Any option would not result in a significant increase in the travel time or distance for a pupil to reach their catchment school;
- There should be no adverse pupil impact in terms of educational benefit in accordance with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010; and
- There must be support from those parents/carers and pupils living in the affected catchment areas.

2.3 Options

The options considered are as follows:

- **Option 1** – Maintain a school capacity of 44 pupils at Abernyte Primary School, increase the catchment area of Abernyte Primary School and not include nursery provision within Abernyte Primary School;
- **Option 2** – Maintain a school capacity of 44 pupils at Abernyte Primary School, increase the catchment area of Abernyte Primary School and build a nursery on site;
- **Option 3** – Maintain a school capacity of 44 pupils at Abernyte Primary School, retain the existing catchment area of Abernyte Primary School and build a nursery on site;
- **Option 4** – Maintain a school capacity of 44 pupils at Abernyte Primary School, retain the existing catchment area and not include nursery provision within Abernyte Primary School;

¹ A small school is defined as 70 pupils or fewer in terms of the Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) - Pupil Numbers: Scottish Government Pupil Census 2020. Pupils in Small Schools: Pupils in primary schools of less than 70, in settlements in Scottish Government urban/rural classifications 5 and 6. (Source: Scottish Government Education Analytical Services Directorate).

- **Option 5** – Reduce the school capacity of Abernyte Primary School to 20 or 24 pupils, include nursery provision within Abernyte Primary School and retain the existing catchment area; and
- **Option 6** – Reduce the school capacity of Abernyte Primary School to 20 or 24 pupils, include nursery provision within Abernyte Primary School and a limited increase to the catchment area of Abernyte Primary School.

2.4 Other Factors for Consideration

The report detailed that in developing the options appraisal, the following factors would also be investigated:

- Impact on the capacity and school environment of Abernyte Primary School as a result of including nursery provision within the school;
- Impact on the capacity and school environment of Abernyte Primary School as a result of a catchment review affecting the school;
- Impact on other schools adjacent to Abernyte Primary School catchment area considered as part of a catchment review;
- Impact on the Early Learning and Childcare provision for the Carse of Gowrie as a result of including nursery provision within the school; and
- Financial impact and Best Value.

3. PROJECTED/HISTORIC SCHOOL ROLLS

- 3.1 The current school roll at Abernyte Primary School is 12² pupils. Table 1 below details the projected school roll at Abernyte Primary School.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Abernyte Capacity	44	44	44	44
Abernyte Roll	20	20	18	18

Table 1 – Projected School Roll.

- 3.2 The projected school roll for August 2021 includes 5 catchment children currently registered to start at the school in P1 as well as 4 placing requests that have been received. The projected roll detailed in Table 1 also includes catchment children due to start at the school in P1 between August 2022 and August 2024. This information is provided by the NHS and relates to the number of under-fives registered at a GP practice for addresses in a catchment area.
- 3.3 Based on these projections, it is likely that there will be the requirement for both classroom spaces to operate at the school in the next four years as the school roll is projected to exceed 17 pupils.

² School Roll correct at 1 April 2021.

3.4 Table 2 below details the historic school roll at pupil census each year.

Primary Classes	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Capacity	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44
Pupils	21	15	15	14	11	8	7	5	6	10	7

Table 2 – Historic School Roll.

4. ENGAGEMENT

4.1 Selection of Catchment Areas for Engagement

4.2 An analysis of a number of the principles approved in the 4 November 2020 report was undertaken in order to determine which catchment areas would be included in the review.

4.3 The outcome of the analysis of the principles contained within the options appraisal (Appendix A) demonstrates that only the areas to the north of the A90 in the Inchtute Primary School and Longforgan Primary School catchment areas fell within the scope of a catchment review.

4.4 Engagement Process

4.5 Officers sought to engage with parents/carers in the identified areas to the north of the A90 in the Inchtute Primary School and Longforgan Primary School catchment areas to ascertain their views about a potential change to the catchment areas. Letters were issued to approximately 500 households in the catchment areas involved in the pre-consultation exercise. All parents/carers living in these areas were asked to complete an online questionnaire if they had primary school age children and/or children under the age of five. The options appraisal provides detailed information on the outcome of this engagement.

4.6 Questionnaire Response

4.7 Table 3 below shows the number of children for whom responses were received. It also shows the number of children living in the catchment area that are known to the Council.

Catchment Area	Primary School age children attending PKC schools	Primary School age children attending PKC schools Responses	Children under the age of five	Children under the age of five Responses
Abernyte Primary School	15	9	9	7
Inchtute Primary School (north of A90)	11	0	11	3
Longforgan Primary School (north of A90)	20	9	13	5

Table 3 – Questionnaire Response.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

5.1 Increasing Abernyte Primary School Catchment Area

The purpose of increasing the Abernyte Primary School catchment area would be to meet the principle of building a sustainable school roll. One of the principles agreed, would be that any change to a catchment area would need the support of parents/carers living in the affected catchment area.

5.2 School Roll

The pupil roll at Abernyte Primary School has increased and will require the use of both classroom spaces from academic session 2021/22. It is anticipated that both classroom spaces will be required for at least the next four years to accommodate the projected school roll. Projections are not available beyond 2024/25 as they are based on actual children living in the catchment area.

Table 4 below details the projected school roll at Abernyte Primary School without a catchment change.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Abernyte Capacity	44	44	44	44
Abernyte Roll	20	20	18	18

Table 4 – Projected School Roll.

5.3 Parent/Carer Views

From the responses received, there is no evidence of support from parents/carers of any current primary school age children living in Longforgan Primary School catchment area (north of the A90) and Inchtute Primary School catchment area (north of the A90) to move their children to Abernyte Primary School. This is not unexpected, and in general, it is the wishes of the parents of the under-fives who will influence whether the school roll will increase as a result of a catchment review.

Based on the responses received from parents/carers of children under the age of five living in the Abernyte Primary School catchment area, 6 out of 9 children would attend their catchment school in future years.

8 children under the age of five, out of a possible 24, known to the Council from Longforgan Primary School catchment area (north of the A90) and Inchtute Primary School catchment area (north of the A90) were represented in the responses from families. The parents/carers of 16 children under five, from those areas known to the Council, did not respond.

The responses received from parents/carers of children under the age of five from the Longforgan and Inchtute Primary School (north of the A90) catchments were as follows:

- Parents/Carers of 4 out of 5 children under the age of five that responded (out of a possible 13 children under five) from Longforgan Primary School catchment area (north of the A90) were not in favour of a catchment review; and
- Parent/carers of all 3 children under the age of five that responded (out of a possible 11 children under five) from Inchtute Primary School catchment area (north of A90) were in favour of a catchment review.

As detailed above, two thirds of children from the areas being considered for a catchment change were not represented by a response from their parents/carers. It is, therefore, not possible to say that the principle of support from parents/carers has been evidenced.

5.4 Introducing a Nursery to Abernyte Primary School

The main factor in considering the implementation of nursery provision was to determine whether implementing a nursery provision, with or without a catchment review, could create a sustainable school roll at Abernyte Primary School.

5.5 Existing Nursery Provision – Carse of Gowrie Community

Abernyte Primary School is within the Carse of Gowrie Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Community. Table 5 below indicates that there is sufficient existing capacity within the Carse of Gowrie ELC community.

	Total number of childcare hours available (per annum)	Total number of childcare hours of childcare taken (per annum)
Carse of Gowrie ELC³	225,720	191,520

Table 5 – Existing nursery provision in Carse of Gowrie ELC Community.

5.6 Nursery Provision – Feasibility Studies

The options appraisal details the outcome of the high-level feasibility studies undertaken to consider nursery provision at Abernyte Primary School. These potential options were as identified in the scoping report approved by Lifelong Learning Committee on 4 November 2020 ([Report No 20/208 refers](#)). The feasibility studies were undertaken in relation to:

- Existing school building;
- Extension to school building; and
- Standalone nursery building.

Table 6 below details the indicative capital costs for nursery provision. Further information is contained in the options appraisal including costs associated with upgrading the building which is needed to progress with all of

³ Information correct at 4 March 2021.

the options above. It should be noted that an integrated nursery has been explored in the options appraisal as a means of using the existing building. This would see the nursery children sharing the same classroom space as early years primary school children.

It should be noted that there are likely to be decant costs associated with any of the options, however, these costs are not available at this point in the process.

Nursery Location	Indicative Capital Cost
Existing school building (Integrated Nursery)	£1.138M
Extension to existing school building	£1.868M
Standalone nursery building	£2.163M ⁴

Table 6 – Nursery capital costs

Table 7 below details the indicative annual revenue costs for nursery provision based on current prices. All of the options would require one Early Childhood Practitioner and one part-time Play Assistant. Note that the estimated property costs are for rates, cleaning/facilities management, energy and water. They do not include annual building maintenance costs.

Nursery Location	Staff Costs	Property/Supplies Costs	Total Cost
Existing school building (integrated nursery)	£38,800	£1,500	£40,300
Extension to existing school building	£38,800	£11,500	£50,300
Standalone nursery building	£38,800	£22,500	£61,300

Table 7 Nursery annual revenue costs

5.7 Nursery Provision – Parent/Carer Views

The options appraisal highlights, from the responses received, that implementing nursery provision would not encourage parents to send their children to Abernyte Primary School. Parents who would enrol their children in the school would do so regardless of a nursery, and parents who would not enrol their children at the school, would not be attracted by a nursery. Based on the responses received from parents/carers, introducing nursery provision at the school would not therefore meet the principle of creating a sustainable school roll.

⁴ The capital costs could be less if the main building was not refurbished. Details are contained in appendix 3 of the options appraisal.

5.8 Alternative Options

As part of the pre-consultation exercise, parents/carers were invited to suggest any alternative options to the catchment review or nursery provision that the Council may not have considered.

Three additional proposed alternative options were received. These were:

- Close the existing Abernyte Primary School and children could attend an Abernyte Primary School that is located at Errol Primary School;
- Children living in the Inchtute Primary School catchment area (north of A90) that wanted to attend Abernyte Primary School as the result of a placing request could be provided with free transport; and
- The option of a forest nursery was suggested by the Abernyte Primary School Parent Council.

The options appraisal details in Section 9 that none of these options were considered to be feasible or did not meet the principle of contributing towards a sustainable school.

5.9 Summary of Analysis

Current Position

The school roll is currently 12 pupils and is projected to increase to 20 pupils in session 2021/22, including pupils enrolled at the school as a result of successful placing requests.

This increase in roll from academic session 2021/22 requires the second classroom space to be used. The use of both classroom spaces is projected to be required for at least the next four years.

Table 2, in section 3 above, highlights the projected roll is the highest pupil roll at Abernyte Primary School since 2010.

Principles

The agreed principles included that any option to be considered would contribute to a sustainable roll for Abernyte Primary School and that there must be support from those parents/carers and pupils living in the affected catchment areas.

Catchment Review

- The options appraisal concludes that, based on the responses received, a catchment review should not be progressed on the basis that if a catchment review took place, the number of children who would attend the school, based on responses received, would not contribute to a sustainable school roll;

Note that the options appraisal also considered including only the postcode area(s) within the Inchtute Primary School catchment area (north of A90) where parents/carers live that responded to the online questionnaire;

- The principle of parental support for a catchment review has not been evidenced for either of the catchment areas considered. Responses were received for 8 children out of a possible 24 children aged under five, and of these, there were only 4 children whose parents/carers responded in favour of a change to the catchment area;
- The school roll has increased and for 2021/22 will be higher than it has been since 2010; and
- Based on the responses received, feedback from the majority of parents/carers of children under five living in the Abernyte Primary School catchment area indicated that their children will be enrolled at their catchment school in future years.

Nursery Provision

The options appraisal concludes that nursery provision should not be implemented at Abernyte Primary School on the basis that:

- Based on the responses received from parents/carers introducing nursery provision at the school would not meet the principle of creating a sustainable school roll. Parents who would enrol their children in the school would do so regardless of a nursery, and parents who would not enrol their children at the school, would not be attracted by a nursery; and
- An additional factor which the Council would have to take in to consideration is the impact on business sustainability of funded providers, ie childminders and private nurseries, within the Carse of Gowrie ELC community and other nearby ELC communities, if additional nursery provision was to be made available, when there was no requirement for additional capacity.

Options

Table 8 below provides a summary of the analysis of the options as detailed in the options appraisal (appendix A).

Proposal	Outcome	Impact
Reduce the school capacity of Abernyte Primary School to 20 or 24 pupils.	The projected roll for Abernyte Primary School indicates that both teaching spaces are required up to August 2024/25. The capacity of the school could not be reduced to 20 or 24 pupils in these circumstances. It is recommended that the capacity of Abernyte Primary School is not reduced.	Options 5 and 6 reduce the capacity of Abernyte Primary School therefore they are discounted.

<p>Increase the catchment area of Abernyte Primary School.</p>	<p>There is insufficient response from parents/carers in the Inchturre and Longforgan Primary School catchment areas north of the A90 to evidence support from the majority of parents for a catchment change. In addition, the number of children who would attend the school, based on responses received, would not contribute to a sustainable school roll.</p> <p>The school roll at Abernyte has increased and is the highest it has been since 2010. Also, the response from parents/carers of children under five years old living in the Abernyte Primary School catchment area would contribute towards a sustainable school roll</p> <p>It is not recommended that the catchment of Abernyte Primary School is increased.</p>	<p>Options 1 and 2 increase the catchment area of Abernyte Primary School therefore they are discounted.</p>
<p>Introduce a nursery.</p>	<p>The responses from parents detailed in the options appraisal indicated those that would send their children to the school, would do so without a nursery. Those who would not send their children to the school would still not do so if there was a nursery. Therefore, a nursery would not contribute towards the creation of a sustainable school roll. There is sufficient capacity in the Carse of Gowrie ELC community, and consideration would also have to be given to any impact on the business sustainability for funded partner providers ie child minders and private nurseries if additional capacity is created.</p> <p>It is not recommended that a nursery is introduced.</p>	<p>Option 3 includes the option to build a nursery on site. This option can therefore be discounted.</p>
<p>Maintain a school capacity of 44 pupils, retain the existing catchment area and do not introduce nursery provision.</p>	<p>The projected roll for Abernyte Primary School indicates that both teaching spaces are required up to August 2024/25. The capacity of the school could not be reduced to 20 or 24 pupils in these circumstances.</p> <p>There is insufficient response from parents/carers in the Inchturre and Longforgan Primary School catchment areas north of the A90 to evidence support from the majority of parents for a catchment change.</p> <p>The school roll at Abernyte Primary School has increased and is the highest it has been since 2010. Also, the response from parents/carers of children under five years old living in the Abernyte Primary School catchment area would contribute towards a sustainable school roll.</p>	<p>Option 4 is accepted.</p>

	<p>The responses from parents detailed in the options appraisal indicated those that would send their children to the school, would do so without a nursery. Those who would not send their children to the school would still not do so if there was a nursery. Therefore, a nursery would not contribute towards the creation of a sustainable school roll.</p> <p>It is recommended that the school capacity is maintained at 44, the existing catchment area is retained and that a nursery is not introduced.</p>	
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Table 8 – Summary of Options

The analysis recommends Option 4. Option 4 is to maintain a school capacity of 44 pupils at Abernyte Primary School, retain the existing catchment area and not include nursery provision within Abernyte Primary School.

5.10 Educational Benefits Statement

An educational benefits statement has not been developed as no changes are proposed.

6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The options appraisal detailed in Appendix A has considered whether a catchment review or the introduction of a nursery would create a sustainable school roll for Abernyte Primary School. The analysis of these potential changes was based on principles agreed by this committee on 4 November 2020.
- 6.2 The options appraisal ruled out a number of school catchments on the basis of the principles. Officers contacted approximately 500 households within the two areas which remained in order to seek the views of parents/carers on a potential catchment review and introduction of a nursery.
- 6.3 The options appraisal has not recommended a catchment review on the basis that the principle of support from parents/carers was not evidenced and the number of children who would attend the school, based on responses received, would not contribute to a sustainable school roll. The recommendation is also based on the recently increased roll and that parents/carers of children living in the catchment area have indicated in their responses that their children will attend Abernyte Primary School in future years.
- 6.4 The introduction of a nursery was not recommended in the options appraisal because, based on the responses from parents/carers, it would not contribute to a sustainable school roll. The majority of parents/carers who responded to the questionnaire indicated that a nursery would not influence their decision to enrol their children at Abernyte Primary School. In addition, if additional nursery provision was made available where there was no requirement, there

could be an impact on the business sustainability of funded providers, ie childminders and private nurseries.

6.5 Alternative options suggested during the engagement were reviewed but were not considered as feasible or did not contribute to a sustainable school roll. Option 4 is the recommended outcome of the options appraisal. Option 4 is to maintain a school capacity of 44 pupils at Abernyte Primary School, retain the existing catchment area and not include nursery provision within Abernyte Primary School.

6.6 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Notes the school roll has risen recently and the projected school roll is due to rise again for session 2021/2022 at Abernyte Primary School. The school roll will be the highest it has been since 2010;
- (ii) Approves the recommendation of the options appraisal to maintain a school capacity of 44 pupils at Abernyte Primary School and retain the existing catchment area; and
- (iii) Notes that the introduction of nursery provision is not required at Abernyte Primary School at this time.

Author

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Sheena Devlin	Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)	14 May 2021

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All Council Services can offer a telephone translation facility.

1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes/None
Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	No
Workforce	No
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	No
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	No
Strategic Environmental Assessment	No
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	No
Legal and Governance	No
Risk	No
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement in terms of the following priorities:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to all of these objectives.

Corporate Plan

1.2 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan Objectives.

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to all of these objectives.

1.3 The report also links to the Education & Children's Services Vision, Values and Priorities in respect of the following key Priority area:

- Learning and Achievement

2. Resource Implications

Financial

2.1 There are no financial implications other than those noted in the main body of the report.

Workforce

2.2 There are no workforce implications other than those noted in the main body of the report.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

2.3 There are no asset management implications other than those noted in the main body of the report.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

This section reflects that the proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

- (i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA

Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report. This is because the Committee are requested to note the contents of the report only and the Committee are not being requested to approve, adopt or agree to an action or to set the framework for future decisions.

Sustainability

3.3 n/a

Legal and Governance

3.4 N/A

3.5 N/A

Risk

3.6 N/A

4. Consultation

Internal

4.1 The Head of Finance, the Head of Legal and Governance and the Head of Property Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

External

4.2 The options appraisal details the consultation which has been carried out in the development of this report.

5. Communication

5.1 A communication plan was prepared which supported effective communication and engagement with stakeholders.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

2.1 No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

3. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Abernyte Primary School Options Appraisal

Appendix A

Abernyte Primary School Options Appraisal

Introduction

The Council's Corporate Plan identifies the vision of 'a confident and ambitious Perth and Kinross with a strong identity and clear outcomes that everyone works together to achieve. Our area will be vibrant and successful; a safe secure and healthy environment: and a place where people and communities are nurtured and supported'.

This strategic approach embraces the vision for our area, our communities and our people as outlined in the Corporate Plan. Our key service priorities support the delivery of our commitments in the Community Planning Partnership's Single Outcome Agreement and Corporate Plan, helping Education and Children's Services to focus on the local outcomes that will achieve meaningful improvements for the area, our local communities and our citizens.

Councils, as Education Authorities, have a statutory duty in terms of the [Education \(Scotland\) Act 1980](#) to make adequate and efficient provision of school education across their entire area for the current school population and future pattern of demand.

Councils also have a statutory responsibility in terms of the [Local Government in Scotland Act 2003](#) to achieve best value.

The Learning Estate is a significant and valuable asset to the communities of Perth and Kinross. The Council approved its updated 9-year capital programme in September 2020. The programme will deliver £160m of further improvements to the Learning Estate between 2021 and 2029.

As part of this investment, the Council has delivered replacement schools for Alyth Primary School, Kinross Primary School, Oakbank Primary School and Tulloch Primary School. At the same time, upgrade and extension projects were completed at several schools including Longforgan and Pitcairn Primary Schools. Upgrade projects are ongoing at Perth Academy, Perth Grammar School, Perth High School and Pitlochry High School.

In addition, a new secondary school, Bertha Park High School was completed and opened to pupils in August 2019.

The School Estate Strategy ([Report No. 12/370 refers](#)) sets out the Councils aspirations for our schools, and in particular the high value we place on learning, through our vision for well designed, maintained and managed schools. The School Estate Management Plan details how we plan to deliver the strategy.

It is important, in light of the significant investment and cost associated with the Learning Estate, that it is managed in an efficient and effective manner, and that the priorities which are addressed meet the wider strategic objectives of the Council and the needs of our communities.

1. Legislation

The [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) provides a strong, accountable statutory consultation process that local authorities must apply to their handling of all proposals of major changes to schools. These consultation processes are expected to be robust, open, transparent and fair, and seen to be so.

They are also expected to be consistent across Scotland. Education authorities must have special regard to a number of factors before formulating a proposal to close a rural school and in consulting on and reaching a decision as to whether to implement a rural school closure proposal. These factors are:

- Effect on the Community;
- Effect on Travel Arrangements; and
- Educational Benefits.

The duties are outlined in the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) and the accompanying [Statutory Guidance](#).

In order to ensure a robust approach to each Options Appraisal carried out under the School Estate Review for any relevant proposal affecting a rural school, the factors that require to be considered as part of a rural school closure will be adopted in all cases as these are considered to be relevant to most proposals affecting a rural school, not just a closure.

[The Education \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#) amends the Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000 by adding in new duties to address inequality of outcome. These duties apply in different ways to both Scottish Ministers and Education Authorities.

Where the Education Authority is making or implementing strategic decisions about school education, it is required to have due regard to the need to carry out its functions in a way which is designed to reduce inequalities of outcome. This is particularly directed in the Act towards pupils who experience those inequalities through socio-economic disadvantage, but there is also a power to extend the range of pupils who are covered by this duty.

In addition, the [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#) sets out a new right for community organisations to request the transfer of local assets into local community ownership/management. Public bodies, including Councils, must consider such requests and respond within a reasonable timescale to them.

2. Background

Lifelong Learning Committee had previously approved an assessment of a potential change to the catchment area at Abernyte Primary School on 21 March 2018 ([Report No. 18/86 refers](#)). That assessment sought to clarify whether a change to the catchment area would provide an increased and sustainable school roll for Abernyte Primary School. The outcome of that assessment was considered by Lifelong Learning Committee on 22 August 2018 ([Report No. 18/243 refers](#)).

On 26 August 2020, Lifelong Learning Committee considered a report which provided an overview of the decisions taken relating to the closure of Abernyte Primary School ([Report No. 20/142 \(REVISED\) refers](#)). Lifelong Learning Committee requested the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to bring back a scoping report for approval to Lifelong Learning Committee in November 2020 which outlined all possible options for a catchment review to build a sustainable roll at the earliest opportunity, including looking at the possibility of a nursery.

On 4 November 2020, Lifelong Learning Committee approved the scope and principles to be used to underpin the options appraisal to be developed for a catchment review for Abernyte Primary School ([Report No. 20/208 refers](#)).

3. Principles

An exercise has been undertaken using the principles agreed at Lifelong Learning Committee on 4 November 2020 to establish the catchment areas which could be considered as part of the catchment review. The principles take account of the fact that Abernyte Primary School and all its adjoining primary school catchment areas are classed as rural schools.

This initial exercise considered the following principles.

- Any option considered will not cause a detrimental impact to the school roll or sustainability of another small rural school of 70¹ pupils or fewer;
- Any option to be considered would contribute to a sustainable roll for Abernyte Primary School;
- Any option to be considered would relate to a catchment area geographically adjacent to Abernyte Primary School catchment area;
- Any option would not result in a pupil travelling through another primary school catchment area to reach their catchment school; and
- Any option would not result in a significant increase in the travel time or distance for a pupil to reach their catchment school.

A detailed analysis of the principles detailed above can be found at Appendix 1. The outcome of the analysis is that only the areas to the north of the A90 in the Inchtute Primary School and Longforgan Primary School catchment areas should be within the scope of any catchment review on the basis of the principles.

4. Creating a Sustainable School Roll for Abernyte Primary School

4.1 Abernyte Primary School Catchment Area

Abernyte Primary School serves all of Abernyte village and the surrounding area.

¹ A small school is defined as 70 pupils or fewer in terms of the Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) - Pupil Numbers: Scottish Government Pupil Census 2019. Pupils in Small Schools: Pupils in primary schools of less than 70, in settlements in Scottish Government urban/rural classifications 5 and 6 (Source: Scottish Government Education Analytical Services Directorate).

The delineated catchment area is from within a boundary line from Outfield Farm, Balloleys Farm, Dundriven, Little Ballo, Lauriston Cottage Knapp and the Scottish Antiques & Arts Centre.

4.2 Abernyte Primary School – Historic School Roll Data (Based on Census²)

Primary Classes	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Capacity	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44
Pupils	21	15	15	14	11	8	7	5	6	10	7

Table 1 – Historic School Roll.

4.3 Current School Roll

At Census 2020, there were 7 pupils attending the school. The current school roll is 12³ pupils, as 5 pupils have enrolled as placing requests since the 2020 Census. Of the current school roll, 8 pupils attend the school as a result of successful placing requests and there are 4 catchment pupils.

4.4 Projected School Rolls

Table 2 below details the projected school roll at Abernyte Primary School without a catchment change.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Abernyte Capacity	44	44	44	44
Abernyte Roll	20	20	18	18

Table 2 – Projected School Roll.

The projected school roll for August 2021 includes 5 catchment children currently registered to start at the school in P1. There are also 4 placing requests that have been received. The projected roll also includes catchment children due to start at the school in P1 between August 2022 and August 2024. This information is provided by the NHS and relates to the number of under-fives registered at a GP practice for addresses in a catchment area.

It is likely there will be the requirement for both classroom spaces to operate at the school in the next four years as the roll is projected to exceed 17 pupils.

² An annual pupil census in publicly funded schools in Scotland is carried out every year for publication by the Scottish Government. This usually takes place in September.

³ School Roll correct at 1 April 2021.

5. Pre-Consultation

5.1 Overview

One of the principles underpinning any recommendation made by this options appraisal is that there must be support for any change from those parents/carers of children living in the affected catchment areas.

In order to establish whether there is support from parents/carers, officers have engaged with the school communities within the areas to the north of the A90 in the Inchtute Primary School, Longforgan Primary School catchment areas and Abernyte Primary School.

5.2 Contacting Parents/Carers

As any catchment review affects parents/carers and children, the consultation was focused on parents/carers of primary school children and children under the age of five.

As the Council only holds contact information for parents/carers of children currently attending our schools, letters (Appendix 2) were issued to all households, of which there are approximately 500, in the catchment areas concerned. This was to ensure all parents/carers in these areas were informed that the Council was undertaking a pre-consultation exercise and had the opportunity to respond.

5.3 Catchment Area(s) – Number of Children

The Council is aware of the approximate number of children under the age of five living within each school catchment area. This information is provided by the NHS and relates to the number of children registered at a GP practice in a catchment area.

Table 3 below shows the number of primary school age children currently attending Perth and Kinross Council schools and the number of children under the age of five due to start primary school between 2021 and 2024 in the catchment areas involved in the pre-consultation exercise.

Catchment Area	Primary School age children attending PKC Schools	Children under the age of five
Abernyte Primary School	15	9
Inchtute Primary School (north of A90)	11	11
Longforgan Primary School (north of A90)	20	13

Table 3 – Children – Catchment Areas.

5.4 Questionnaire

All parents/carers living in these areas were asked to complete an online questionnaire if they have primary school age children and/or children under the age of five.

Information on the proposed catchment area and nursery provision was provided on the Council website to inform parents/carers before they completed the questionnaire.

The letter and questionnaire were shared with the Parent Councils at Abernyte Primary School, Inchtore Primary School and Longforgan Primary School prior to issue. The questionnaire was available for completion between 22 February 2021 and 5 March 2021.

The purpose of the questionnaire was to gather the views of parents/carers regarding the proposed catchment review, implementation of nursery provision and to inform the options appraisal.

5.5 Summary of Pre-consultation Responses

Letters were issued to approximately 500 households in the catchment areas involved in the pre-consultation exercise.

In total, 23 families responded. Of the 23 families who responded, 4 responses have been excluded as the families do not live within the catchment areas involved in the pre-consultation exercise. A summary of the responses is detailed below.

5.6 Questionnaire Response

Table 4 below shows the number of children for whom responses were received in relation to the overall number of children living in the catchment areas.

Catchment Area	Primary School age children attending PKC schools	Primary School Children	Children under the age of 5	Children Under Five
		Responses		Responses
Abernyte Primary School	15	9	9	7
Inchtore Primary School (north of A90)	11	0	11	3
Longforgan Primary School (north of A90)	20	9	13	5

Table 4 – Questionnaire Response.

5.7 Children Under the Age of Five – Enrolment at Abernyte Primary School

Catchment Area	No of children living in the catchment area (based on CHI data)	No. of Children whose parents/ carers responded	No. of children who would not enrol at Abernyte Primary School	No. of children who would only enrol at Abernyte Primary School if nursery provision was implemented	No. of children who would enrol at Abernyte Primary School even if there is no nursery provision
Abernyte Primary School	9	7	1	0	6
Inchture Primary School (North of A90)	11	3	0	0	3
Longforgan Primary School (North of A90)	13	5	4	1	0
Total	33	15	5	1	9

Table 5 – Children under the age of five – Abernyte Primary School.

5.8 Enrolment at an Abernyte Nursery Provision

Catchment Area	No of children living in the catchment area (based on CHI data)	No. of children who would attend a nursery at Abernyte Primary School
Abernyte Primary School	9	4
Inchture Primary School (North of A90)	11	1
Longforgan Primary School (North of A90)	13	1

Table 6 – Enrolment - Abernyte Primary School Nursery.

6. Options

The Lifelong Learning Committee report dated 4 November 2020 ([Report No. 20/208 refers](#)) detailed a number of factors which should be investigated as part of the options appraisal:

- Impact on the capacity and school environment of Abernyte Primary School as a result of including nursery provision within the school;

- Impact on the capacity and school environment of Abernyte Primary School as a result of a catchment review affecting the school;
- Impact on other schools adjacent to Abernyte Primary School catchment area considered as part of a catchment review;
- Impact on the Early Learning and Childcare provision for the Carse of Gowrie as a result of including nursery provision within the school; and
- Financial impact and Best Value.

The scoping report detailed the potential options which could be explored for Abernyte Primary School as part of the options appraisal:

- **Option 1** – Maintain a school capacity of 44 pupils at Abernyte Primary School, increase the catchment area of Abernyte Primary School and not include nursery provision within Abernyte Primary School;
- **Option 2** – Maintain a school capacity of 44 pupils at Abernyte Primary School, increase the catchment area of Abernyte Primary School and build a nursery on site;
- **Option 3** – Maintain a school capacity of 44 pupils at Abernyte Primary School, retain the existing catchment area of Abernyte Primary School and build a nursery on site;
- **Option 4** – Maintain a school capacity of 44 pupils at Abernyte Primary School, retain the existing catchment area and not include nursery provision within Abernyte Primary School;
- **Option 5** – Reduce the school capacity of Abernyte Primary School to 20 or 24 pupils, include nursery provision within Abernyte Primary School and retain the existing catchment area; and
- **Option 6** – Reduce the school capacity of Abernyte Primary School to 20 or 24 pupils, include nursery provision within Abernyte Primary School and a limited increase to the catchment area of Abernyte Primary School.

There is commonality in the six options and in undertaking the analysis of the options, this report considers all options under two broad headings:

- An increase in the Abernyte Primary School catchment area; and
- The introduction of a nursery.

The analysis of these areas has considered these factors which include:

- Increasing the Abernyte Primary School catchment area;
- The impact on the school roll and capacity at Abernyte Primary School as a result of an increase to the catchment area;
- The impact on the school roll and capacity of other schools as a result of a change to their catchment areas;
- Introducing a nursery to Abernyte Primary School; and

- The impact on the school roll and capacity at Abernyte Primary School as a result of introducing a nursery.

7. Increasing Abernyte Primary School Catchment Area

One of the principles agreed in the scoping report is that any change to a catchment area would need the support of parents/carers. The purpose of increasing the Abernyte Primary School catchment area was to build a sustainable school roll.

7.1 Abernyte Primary School Catchment Area

Based on the feedback received, none of the primary school children's parents/carers from any of the areas would choose to move their children to Abernyte Primary School from their current school attended.

Parents/carers of 7 of the 9 children under five known to the Council, living in the Abernyte Primary School catchment area responded to the on-line questionnaire. Based on the responses received from parents/carers, 6 out of 7 of those children would be enrolled at Abernyte Primary School in future years.

7.2 Inchtore Primary School Catchment Area (north of A90)

Parents/carers of 3 of the 11 children under five known to the Council living in the Inchtore Primary School (north of the A90) responded to the on-line questionnaire. Based on the responses received from parents/carers, all 3 of those children would be enrolled at Abernyte Primary School by their parents.

7.3 Longforgan Primary School Catchment Area (north of A90)

Parents/carers of 5 of the 13 children under five known to the Council, living in the Longforgan Primary School catchment area (north of the A90), responded to the on-line questionnaire. Based on the responses received from parents/carers, 4 out of 5 of those children would not be enrolled at Abernyte Primary School. One child would be enrolled at Abernyte Primary School if nursery provision was implemented.

7.4 Pupil Impact/School Environment

The projected school roll at Abernyte Primary School is detailed in table 2. Based on the projected roll both teaching spaces are required up to 2024/25.

If the catchment area was to change to include the Inchtore Primary School catchment area (north of A90) and only the children covered in the response whose parents/carers said they would send their children to the school were to attend then, 3 children would attend between August 2022 and August 2025.

There would be very little impact on the school roll at Inchtore Primary School and the capacity at Inchtore Primary School would remain the same.

7.5 Travel Arrangements

The majority of catchment pupils who attend Abernyte Primary School are entitled to free home to school transport. If the catchment area was to change to include the Inchtute Primary School catchment (north of A90) it is likely pupils in the new part of the catchment would require to be transported to Abernyte Primary School as they would live further than the statutory walking distance of 2 miles from the school. This would need to be confirmed for each individual pupil. These children would likely be transported to Inchtute Primary School too so the impact on travel would be minimal.

7.6 Financial Impact

There would be limited financial impact if the Abernyte Primary School catchment area was to increase as an additional teacher is required from August 2021.

There may be some additional revenue cost for transporting children to the school from any new catchment area if existing school transport was not sufficient for all children. This would need to be confirmed on an individual basis.

7.7 Increasing Abernyte Primary School Catchment Area - Conclusion

One of the principles agreed was that there must be support from those parents/carers living in a catchment area for a catchment change to take place.

Information contained within the letter issued to parents/carers stated that feedback would be considered in determining whether the catchment area would change.

A total of 8 out of 24 children under the age of five known to the Council from the Inchtute Primary School catchment area (north of the A90) and Longforgan Primary School catchment area (north of the A90) were represented in the responses from families. It is therefore not possible to say that the principle of support from parents/carers has been met.

Parents/carers of 6 out of the 7 children under the age of five covered in the response living within the Abernyte Primary School catchment area indicated that they would send their children to Abernyte Primary School in future years.

The following options have been considered regarding increasing the Abernyte Primary School catchment area: -

- A. Include Longforgan Primary School catchment area (north of the A90);
- B. Include the whole of the Inchtute Primary School catchment area (north of A90); and
- C. Include only the postcode area(s) within the Inchtute Primary School catchment area (north of A90) where parents/carers live that responded to the online questionnaire.

Based on the response from parents/carers, a catchment change based on any of the options above, would not contribute to a sustainable school roll.

In conclusion, it is not proposed to carry out a statutory consultation to consider increasing the catchment area for Abernyte Primary School for the following reasons:

- The school roll has increased and for 2021/22 will be higher than it has been since 2010;
- Based on the responses received, feedback from the majority of parents/carers of children under five living in the Abernyte Primary School catchment area indicated that their children will be enrolled at their catchment school in future years. This will contribute to a sustainable roll;
- There is not sufficient evidence to show that the principle of parental support for a catchment review has been met for either of the catchment areas considered. Responses were received for only 8 children out of a possible 24 children under five years old and of these there were 4 children out of 8 whose parents/carers responded in favour or a change to the catchment area;
- If a catchment review took place, the number of children who would attend the school, based on responses received, would not contribute to a sustainable school roll; and
- If a limited catchment review took place for the part of the Inchtute catchment area where parents/carers have indicated that they were in favour of a change, again this would not contribute to a more sustainable school roll.

8. Introducing a Nursery to Abernyte Primary School - Analysis

The main factor in considering the implementation of nursery provision was to determine whether implementing a nursery provision, with or without a catchment review, could create a sustainable school roll at Abernyte Primary School.

8.1 Early Learning and Childcare (ELC)

Early Learning and Childcare settings use a play-based approach towards learning, with qualified practitioners over-seeing the service and setting the curriculum. Funded ELC is available for all three- and four-year olds and some eligible two-year olds across Scotland. The emphasis on funded ELC is to ensure that all children are receiving the best start to life and receiving quality learning experiences within a safe environment.

If nursery provision was introduced at Abernyte Primary School, it would fall within the Carse of Gowrie Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) community.

There is sufficient existing capacity within the Carse of Gowrie ELC community as detailed in table 7 below.

	Total number of childcare hours available (per annum)	Total number of childcare hours of childcare taken (per annum)
Carse of Gowrie ELC⁴	225,720	191,520

Table 7 – Carse of Gowrie ELC.

⁴ Information correct at 4 March 2021.

8.2 Abernyte Primary School Catchment Area

The response from parents/carers living within the current Abernyte Primary School catchment area covered 7 children under the age of five known to the Council living in this area.

Four of these children would attend nursery provision at the school if it was introduced. All of the children who would attend a nursery would enrol at the school regardless of whether nursery provision is introduced or not.

8.3 Inchtute Primary School Catchment Area (North of A90) and Longforgan Primary School Catchment Area (North of A90)

Introducing a nursery at Abernyte Primary School would result in 1 child under the age of five included within the response, from the Longforgan Primary School catchment area (North of A90), attending the school. The 3 children under the age of five included within the response from the Inchtute Primary School catchment area (North of A90) would attend the school regardless of whether a nursery was introduced.

8.4 Abernyte Primary School Nursery – Projected Nursery School Roll

From the responses received to the online questionnaire, the maximum nursery roll at Abernyte Primary School would be 4 until August 2025.

8.5 Nursery Provision

Feasibility studies have been undertaken for the following options for nursery provision at Abernyte Primary School. The scope of the feasibility studies was for 8 nursery pupils which reflects the smallest nursery provision that could be implemented. All nursery settings require the agreement of the Care Inspectorate.

- Incorporating the nursery within the existing school building including the possible introduction of integrated Early Years provision;
- Extending the existing school building; and
- Creating a standalone nursery building (exploring the option of modular building accommodation).

The integrated nursery provision would see nursery children sharing the same classroom space as primary school children. This would require nursery facilities to be provided in one of the classrooms.

Additional information on the feasibility studies is detailed in Appendix 3.

8.6 Financial Impact

Table 8 below details the capital costs associated with the different nursery options that have been explored by the feasibility studies.

Any planned works to the school to re-model or extend the existing property will necessitate significant consequential replacement of the mechanical, electrical and plumbing infrastructure whilst also requiring significant works to the building fabric. This work is required by necessity to provide efficient services and also to meet stringent carbon reduction target which will be a requirement for all school buildings going forward.

The Mechanical and Electrical Report for the existing building, highlights that the Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Installations in the building are in poor condition and in need of urgent replacement. This work in such a small building, would entail extensive disruption to the interior of the building and affect the smooth running of the school. The proposed works will likely require access to the underfloor area where it is likely asbestos would be present. It is likely therefore that there will be decant costs in addition to the capital costs detailed in Table 8 below.

Extensive making good throughout would also be required to surfaces disturbed by the works, along with redecoration. In order to bring the existing building envelope performance, up to modern standards, extensive works will be required to insulate the existing floors, walls and roof along with replacement of doors and windows. These works are in addition to works which were detailed in previous committee reports for Abernyte Primary School.

Nursery Location	Indicative Capital Cost
Existing school building (Integrated Nursery)	£1.138M
Extension to Existing School Building	£1.868M
Standalone Nursery	£2.163M ⁵

Table 8 – Nursery Options Capital Costs.

Table 9 below details the indicative annual revenue costs for nursery provision based on current prices. All of the options would require one Early Childhood Practitioner and one part-time Play Assistant. Note that the estimated property costs are for rates, cleaning/facilities management, energy and water. They do not include annual building maintenance costs.

Nursery Location	Staff Costs	Property/Supplies Costs	Total Cost
Existing school building (integrated nursery)	£38,800	£1,500	£40,300
Extension to existing school building	£38,800	£11,500	£50,300
Standalone nursery building	£38,800	£22,500	£61,300

Table 9 – Nursery Annual Revenue Costs.

⁵The capital costs could be less if the main building was not refurbished.

8.7 Pupil Impact/School Environment

As detailed in section 5.4, both teaching spaces within the school will be utilised up to August 2024/25 based on current projections, therefore it would not be possible to create a nursery within the existing footprint of the building unless integrated Early Years provision was introduced. This provision would see nursery age children sharing the same classroom space as primary school children.

There would be a reduction in the available outdoor play space available at the school if a nursery was built as a standalone in the school grounds or as an extension. The extension option would also reduce the capacity of the school to 37 pupils.

8.8 Transport Arrangements

Parents/carers who choose to send their children to nursery are fully responsible for all transport arrangements and costs. The Council does not transport any nursery children or meet the cost of any transport in relation to nursery children.

8.9 Assessment of Introducing a Nursery to Abernyte Primary School

The proposal to introduce nursery provision to Abernyte Primary School was to establish if nursery provision would support the creation of a sustainable pupil roll at Abernyte Primary School as there is sufficient nursery capacity within the Carse of Gowrie ELC Community.

From the responses received, the majority of parents/carers of children under the age of five living in the Abernyte Primary School catchment indicated they would use nursery provision at the school; however, it would not impact on their decision to enrol their children at the school.

There was only 1 child from a family living in the Longforgan Primary School (north of A90) catchment area that would attend Abernyte Primary School if a nursery was introduced.

The school roll is increasing, and from the responses received, implementing nursery provision would not encourage more parents to send their children to Abernyte Primary School. The majority of parents who would enrol their children in the school would do so regardless of a nursery. The majority of parents who would not enrol their children at the school would not be attracted by a nursery.

Based on the feedback from parents/carers introducing nursery provision at the school would not meet the principle of creating a sustainable school roll.

An additional factor which the Council would have to take into consideration is the impact on business sustainability of funded providers ie childminders and private nurseries, within the Carse of Gowrie ELC community and other nearby ELC communities, if additional nursery provision was to be made available, when there was no requirement for additional capacity.

9. Alternative Options

As part of the pre-consultation exercise, parents/carers were invited to suggest any alternative options that the Council may not have considered.

The following alternative options were proposed:

- Close the existing Abernyte Primary School and children could attend an Abernyte Primary School that is located at Errol Primary School;
- Children living in the Inchtute Primary School catchment area (north of A90) that wanted to attend Abernyte Primary School as the result of a placing request could be provided with free transport; and
- Introduce a forest nursery at Abernyte Primary School.

9.1 Option - Close the existing Abernyte Primary School and children could attend an Abernyte Primary School that is located and operates from Errol Primary School.

On 26 August 2020, Lifelong Learning Committee ([Report No. 20/142 \(REVISED\)](#) [refers](#)) was provided with an overview of decisions taken relating to Abernyte Primary School. Following the decision by the School Closure Review Panel to refuse the Council permission to close Abernyte Primary School this option could not be considered for at least 5 years, or earlier if there is a material change to Abernyte Primary School.

9.2 Option - Children living in the Inchtute Primary School catchment area (north of A90) that wanted to attend Abernyte Primary School as the result of a placing request could be provided with free transport.

This option was proposed as an alternative to undertaking a catchment review for Abernyte Primary School.

It was suggested that:

- This option should be considered because there were a number of children living in the Inchtute Primary School catchment area (north of A90) that wanted to attend Abernyte Primary School and by attending the school this would build a sustainable school roll.
- The main factor in these children not already attending the school was that there was no free home to school transport and because of this, parents/carers have chosen not to send their children to the school.
- The option “**Increase the catchment area of Abernyte Primary School in order to build a sustainable school roll**” explored above would provide these identified children with free home to school transport from any new increased Abernyte Primary School catchment area if it was to change and they attended Abernyte Primary School.

This option could not be considered out-with a change to the catchment area. A condition of all placing requests being granted is that parents are fully responsible for getting their children to and from the school of their choice if they make a successful placing request. This would have far reaching operational and financial implications for every other school, many of which are rural schools, in Perth and Kinross where pupils attend as the result of a placing request.

9.3 Option – Create a Forest Nursery at Abernyte Primary School

The option of a forest nursery was suggested by the Abernyte Primary School Parent Council.

Some investigation has taken place for this option including land ownership searches and the preparation of a scope of works. Further information is detailed in Appendix 3. A full feasibility study would be required to establish costs.

Section 8 above assesses the requirement for nursery provision at Abernyte Primary School. It concludes that a nursery, including a forest nursery, would not contribute towards creating a sustainable school roll and also details concerns that providing additional capacity within the Carse of Gowrie ELC community may impact on the business sustainability of funded providers including childminders and private nurseries.

10. Options – Summary

Table 10 below summarises the outcomes for each option detailed in sections 8 and 9.

Proposal	Outcome	Impact
Reduce the school capacity of Abernyte Primary School to 20 or 24 pupils.	The projected roll for Abernyte Primary School indicates that both teaching spaces are required up to August 2024/25. The capacity of the school could not be reduced to 20 or 24 pupils in these circumstances. It is recommended that the capacity of Abernyte Primary School is not reduced.	Options 5 and 6 reduce the capacity of Abernyte Primary School therefore they are discounted.
Increase the catchment area of Abernyte Primary School.	There is insufficient response from parents/carers in the Inchtute and Longforgan Primary School catchment areas north of the A90 to evidence support from the majority of parents for a catchment change. In addition, the number of children who would attend the school, based on responses received, would not contribute to a sustainable school roll.	Options 1 and 2 increase the catchment area of Abernyte Primary School therefore they are discounted.

	<p>The pupil roll at Abernyte has increased and is the highest it has been since 2010. Also, the response from parents/carers of children under five years old living in the Abernyte Primary School catchment area will contribute towards a sustainable school roll in future.</p> <p>On the basis of the above, it is recommended that the catchment of Abernyte Primary School is not increased.</p>	
<p>Introduce a nursery.</p>	<p>The responses from parents detailed in this options appraisal indicated those that would send their children to the school, would do so without a nursery. Those who would not send their children to the school would still not do so if there was a nursery. Therefore, a nursery would not contribute towards the creation of sustainable school roll. In addition, there is sufficient capacity in the Carse of Gowrie ELC community, and consideration would also have to be given to the impact on business sustainability of funded providers in the locality ie childminders and private nurseries, if additional capacity is created,</p> <p>On this basis it is not recommended that a nursery is introduced.</p>	<p>Option 3 includes the option to build a nursery on site. This option can therefore be discounted.</p>
<p>Maintain a school capacity of 44 pupils, retain the existing catchment area and do not introduce nursery provision.</p>	<p>The projected roll for Abernyte Primary School indicates that both teaching spaces are required up to August 2024/25. The capacity of the school could not be reduced to 20 or 24 pupils in these circumstances.</p> <p>There is insufficient response from parents/carers in the Inchtute and Longforgan Primary School catchment areas north of the A90 to evidence support from the majority of parents for a catchment change.</p> <p>The school roll at Abernyte has increased and is the highest it has been since 2010. Also, the response from parents/carers of</p>	<p>Option 4 is accepted.</p>

	<p>children under five years old living in the Abernyte Primary School catchment area will contribute towards a sustainable school roll in future.</p> <p>The responses from parents detailed in the Options Appraisal indicated those that would send their children to the school, would do so without a nursery. Those who would not send their children to the school would still not do so if there was a nursery. Therefore, a nursery would not contribute towards the creation of a sustainable school roll.</p> <p>It is recommended that the school capacity is maintained at 44, the existing catchment area is retained and that a nursery is not introduced.</p>	
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Table 10 – Summary of Options.

11. Recommendation

The recommendation of this options appraisal is to progress with Option 4, detailed within section 7 and summarised in table 10 ie Maintain a school capacity of 44 pupils at Abernyte Primary School, retain the existing catchment area and not include nursery provision within Abernyte Primary School.

This recommendation is based on the following:

11.1 Catchment Review

- The school roll at Abernyte Primary School has increased and for 2021/22 will be higher than it has been since 2010;
- Based on the responses received, feedback from the majority of parents/carers of children under 5 living in the Abernyte Primary School catchment area indicated that their children will be enrolled at their catchment school in future years;
- If a catchment review took place, the number of children who would attend the school, based on responses received, would not contribute to a sustainable school roll at Abernyte Primary School; and
- The principle of parental support for a catchment review has not been evidenced for either of the catchment areas considered. Responses were only received for 8 out of a possible 24 children and of these there were only 4 children whose parents/carers responded in favour of a change to the catchment area.

11.2 Nursery Provision

- Based on the responses received from parents/carers introducing nursery provision at the school would not meet the principle of creating a sustainable school roll. Parents/carers who would enrol their children in the school would do so regardless of a nursery. Parents/carers, who would not enrol their children at the school, would not be attracted by a nursery.
- An additional factor which the Council would have to take into consideration is the impact on business sustainability of funded providers, ie childminders and private nurseries, within the Carse of Gowrie ELC community and other nearby ELC communities, if additional nursery provision was to be made available, when there was no requirement for additional capacity.

11.3 Conclusion

Option 4 is the recommended outcome of the options appraisal.

Option 4 is to maintain a school capacity of 44 pupils at Abernyte Primary School, retain the existing catchment area and not include nursery provision within Abernyte Primary School.

An educational benefits statement has not been developed as the recommended option proposes that no changes to the school catchment area takes place and no nursery provision is introduced.

Appendix 1

Abernyte Primary School – Catchment Review

On 4 November 2020 Lifelong Learning Committee agreed the scope and principles which would underpin the review of the catchment area of Abernyte Primary School. The principles that were agreed have been explored and outcomes are detailed below.

Principles

- 1. Any option to be considered would relate to a catchment area geographically adjacent to Abernyte Primary School catchment area.**

Catchment areas that are geographically adjacent to Abernyte Primary School are Balbeggie Primary School, Burrelton Primary School, Collace Primary School, Inchtute Primary School, Kettins Primary School and Longforgan Primary School.

Only these schools will be included in the catchment review.

- 2. Any option to be considered will not cause a detrimental impact to the school roll or sustainability of another small rural school of 70 pupils or fewer.**

The only schools geographically adjacent to Abernyte Primary School that currently have a roll of 70 or less are Collace Primary School, Kettins Primary School and Balbeggie Primary School.

Kettins Primary School has a capacity of 46 pupils with a roll of 31 pupils giving an occupancy of 67%. The school roll is projected to rise in future years if placing requests continue to attend the school. If the school catchment area was to change and catchment children attend Abernyte Primary School rather than Kettins Primary School and the number of placing requests reduced this could have a detrimental effect on the school roll at Kettins Primary School.

The school roll at Balbeggie Primary School is currently 54 pupils with a capacity of 73 pupils. The occupancy of the school is currently 74%. The number of pupils attending is projected to remain the same (55 by 2024/25) over the next 4 years. There are approximately 10 pupils known to live in the area of the catchment to the east of the school that currently attend Balbeggie Primary School. This includes children under the age of 5 not yet attending school.

If an area of Balbeggie Primary School catchment was to be subsumed into Abernyte Primary School catchment it is likely it would be this area as it is the closest area geographically.

Losing the catchment pupils currently attending the school from this part of the Balbeggie Primary School catchment area would have a detrimental impact on the school roll. The occupancy of the school would reduce to 66% and may reduce further if the children known to live in this area of the catchment not yet attending school attended Abernyte Primary School.

The roll at Collace Primary School is currently 20 with an occupancy of 41%. The school roll and occupancy are projected to decrease further in the next few years (18 with a capacity of 37%). Losing any area of the catchment to Abernyte Primary School would have a detrimental impact on the school roll which is already low.

Balbeggie Primary School, Collace Primary School and Kettins Primary School are excluded from the catchment review after this principle has been considered due to the reasons explored above.

Only Burrelton Primary School, Inchtore Primary School and Longforgan Primary School are explored under the remaining principles.

3. Any option to be considered would contribute to a sustainable roll at Abernyte Primary School.

Burrelton Primary School

If part of the Burrelton Primary School catchment area was to be subsumed into the Abernyte Primary School catchment area. It is likely to be the area to the east and south of Burrelton Primary School. This is because it is geographically closest to the Abernyte Primary School catchment.

The majority of catchment pupils attending the school live near to the school around Burrelton. If the area to the east and the south of the catchment was to be subsumed into the Abernyte Primary School catchment it is likely that it would not contribute to a sustainable roll at Abernyte Primary School.

This is because:

- there are no known primary school age pupils currently living in this area of the catchment attending the school; and
- there are less than 5 children under the age of 5 due to attend school in the next 4 years known to live in this area. If these children attended Abernyte Primary School the school roll would increase slightly but it would not contribute significantly to a higher or more sustainable school roll.

Inchtore Primary School and Longforgan Primary School

There are currently approximately 5 catchment pupils known to live to the north of the A90 within the Inchtore Primary School catchment area that attend the school. There are also approximately 11 children under the age of 5 due to attend school in the next 4 years known to live in this area.

There are approximately 216 catchment pupils living to the south of the A90 within the Inchtore Primary School catchment area that currently attend the school.

There are currently approximately 15 catchment pupils known to live to the north of the A90 within the Longforgan Primary School catchment area that attend the school. There are also approximately 14 children under the age of 5 due to attend school in the next 4 years known to live in this area.

There are approximately 88 catchment pupils living to the south of the A90 within the Longforgan Primary School catchment area that attend the school.

There are enough pupils known to the Council living to the north of the A90 in both these catchment areas to create a sustainable roll at Abernyte Primary School if there is support from parents/carers for a catchment change.

If the areas to the south of the A90 in both these catchments were included in the catchment review it is likely that the school roll at Abernyte Primary School would be breached.

In addition, the travel distance and time for pupils living to the south of the A90 in these catchment areas would likely increase if their catchment area changed to Abernyte Primary School. There are no pupils living to the south of the A90 in these catchment areas, currently attending these schools, that would benefit from a reduced travel time or distance if the catchment area changed to Abernyte Primary School.

Considering catchment areas of Inchtute Primary School and Longforgan Primary School to the south of the A90 would therefore likely be excluded under principles 5 and 6 detailed below.

Burrelton Primary School and the areas to the south of the A90 within the Inchtute Primary School and Longforgan Primary School catchment areas are excluded from the catchment review after this principle has been considered due to the reasons explored above.

Only the areas to the north of the A90 within the Inchtute Primary School and Longforgan Primary School catchment areas are explored under the remaining principles.

- 4. Any option must have the support from those parents/carers and pupils living in the affected catchment areas.**

It is proposed to establish whether there is support for a catchment change from those parents/carers and pupils living within the areas to the north of the A90 within the Inchtute Primary School and Longforgan Primary School catchment areas only.

Until it has been established that there is support from parents/carers and pupils living in these catchment areas, the impact of further principles will not be considered.

- 5. Any option would not result in a significant increase in the travel time or distance for a pupil to reach their catchment school.**

This exercise will include establishing where pupils live in affected catchment areas, the number of pupils affected, the number of school transport vehicles required and the routes on which school transport would need to take to transport pupils to school.

This will be carried out once it has been established whether there is support for a catchment review from parents/carers and pupils living within the areas north of A90 within the Inchtute Primary School and Longforgan Primary School catchment areas.

6. Any option would not result in a pupil travelling through another primary school catchment area to reach their catchment school.

This exercise will be carried out once it has been established whether there is support for a catchment review from parents/carers and pupils living within the areas north of A90 within the Inchtute Primary School and Longforgan Primary School catchment areas.

The outcome of this principle is interrelated with principle 5 so it is likely they will be considered at the same time.

7. There should be no adverse pupil impact in terms of educational benefit in accordance with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

This principle will be explored within the options appraisal for any catchment area identified suitable as part of the catchment review and not excluded under principles 1 to 6.

Summary of Principles Analysis

Principle	Catchment Considered	Catchment Excluded	Reason for Exclusion
1	Balbeggie Primary School Burrelton Primary School Collace Primary School Inchture Primary School Kettins Primary School Longforgan Primary School	None	Catchment areas are all geographically adjacent to Abernyte Primary School
2	Balbeggie Primary School Burrelton Primary School Collace Primary School Inchture Primary School Kettins Primary School Longforgan Primary School	Balbeggie Primary School Collace Primary School Kettins Primary School	Losing all or part of catchment area could lead to detrimental impact on school roll or sustainability of school.
3	Burrelton Primary School Inchture Primary School Longforgan Primary School	Burrelton Primary School Inchture Primary School (catchment south of A90) Longforgan Primary School (catchment south of A90)	There are not enough pupils within the Burrelton Primary School catchment area that would be considered as part of the catchment review to make Abernyte Primary School roll more sustainable. Areas to the south of A90 in Inchture and Longforgan Primary School catchments would result in a breach of the Abernyte Primary School.

			It is likely some pupils living in these areas would also experience greater travel time/distance if they were to attend Abernyte Primary School.
4	Inchture Primary School (catchment north of A90) Longforgan Primary School (catchment north of A90)	None	

Table 11 – Analysis of Principles.

Appendix 2

Delayed Office Opening for Employee Training

*This office will be closed from
8.45 am - 11.00 am on the first
Thursday of each month.*



Business & Resources Service

Greg Boland, Head of Business & Resources

2 High Street, PERTH, PH1 5PH
Tel 01738 475000 Fax 01738 475710

Contact Greg Boland

www.pkc.gov.uk

Our ref GB / CN

Your ref

Date 15 February 2021

Dear Resident,

Abernyte Primary School Catchment

Perth and Kinross Council Lifelong Learning Committee is considering whether the catchment¹ area of Abernyte Primary School could be extended, and/or a nursery established at the school.

This address is within the area being considered as part of an extended catchment area. It is important that we engage with parents/carers of children living in this area as part of this exercise. This is because if the catchment area changes this would mean that the local school for this address would change from the current school to Abernyte Primary School.

The Council only holds information on children who currently attend our schools and nurseries therefore we are sending this letter to all households in this area in order that we can engage with as many parents/carers as possible.

If your household does not contain primary age children or children under the age of five, then you do not need to take any further action. However, if you would like to know more about this proposal information is available at the website detailed below.

If you are a parent/carer with a child/children currently attending primary school and/or have a child/children under the age of five years living at this address, then we would like your feedback. Your feedback will be taken into account in determining whether the catchment area for your address will change.

Please note that children currently attending another primary school would not be required to move schools if the catchment area change goes ahead. Younger siblings, not yet attending school may be able to attend the same school as their

¹ Councils use 'catchment areas' to decide where your child is allocated a place at school which is determined by your home address.

siblings by making a placing request. Parents always have a right to make a request that their child be placed in a school of their choice and, where there are available places, Perth and Kinross Council will always prioritise pupils with siblings above all other placing requests.

Any change to the catchment will not take place until August 2022 at the earliest. The operational date of any nursery will be dependent on any building works required.

Please visit the Perth and Kinross Council website at www.pkc.gov.uk/abernytecatchmentreview. Information regarding the catchment review and establishment of a nursery will be available on the website from 22 February 2021. You will also find a link to a questionnaire which will seek your views on the proposals. The questionnaire will be available for completion between 22 February 2021 and 5 March 2021.

If you do not have access to the internet or wish to speak to someone regarding this, you can contact Perth and Kinross Council on 07393 267949.

Thank you in advance for your valuable input to this process.

Yours faithfully,

Greg Boland
Head of Business and Resources
(Education and Children's Services)

Appendix 2

Delayed Office Opening for Employee Training

*This office will be closed from
8.45 am - 11.00 am on the first
Thursday of each month.*



Business & Resources Service

Greg Boland, Head of Business & Resources

2 High Street, PERTH, PH1 5PH
Tel 01738 475000 Fax 01738 475710

Contact Greg Boland

www.pkc.gov.uk

Our ref GB / CN

Your ref

Date 15 February 2021

Dear Resident,

Abernyte Primary School Catchment

Perth and Kinross Council Lifelong Learning Committee is considering whether the catchment¹ area of Abernyte Primary School should be extended, and/or a nursery established at the school.

This address is within the existing Abernyte Primary School catchment area. It is important that we engage with parents/carers of children living in this area as part of this exercise as we want to understand your views on any future catchment change.

The Council only holds information on children who currently attend our schools and nurseries therefore we are sending this letter to all households in this area in order that we can engage with as many parents/carers as possible.

If your household does not contain primary age children or children under the age of five, then you do not need to take any further action. However, if you would like to know more about this proposal information is available at the website detailed below.

If you are a parent/carer with a child/children currently attending primary school and/or have a child/children under the age of five years living at this address, then we would like your feedback. Your feedback will be taken into account in determining whether the catchment area for Abernyte Primary School will change.

Any change to the catchment will not take place until August 2022 at the earliest. The operational date of any nursery will be dependent on any building works required.

Please visit the Perth and Kinross Council website at www.pkc.gov.uk/abernytecatchmentreview. Information regarding the catchment review and establishment of a nursery will be available on the website from 22

¹ Councils use 'catchment areas' to decide where your child is allocated a place at school which is determined by your home address.

February 2021. You will also find a link to a questionnaire which will seek your views on the proposals. The questionnaire will be available for completion between 22 February 2021 and 5 March 2021.

If you do not have access to the internet or wish to speak to someone regarding this, you can contact Perth and Kinross Council on 07393 267949.

Thank you in advance for your valuable input to this process.

Yours faithfully,

Greg Boland
Head of Business and Resources
(Education and Children's Services)

Appendix 3 – Nursery Provision

Existing school building

The school is on one level and is made up of 2 classrooms, a hall for dining and PE, toilets, resources room, school office/staff room and the kitchen. The classroom at the main entrance of the school can accommodate 20 pupils and the classroom at the rear of the school can accommodate 24 pupils.

A nursery could only be created within the existing school building by using space within the school. This would not be possible from August 2021 due the operation of 2 classes based on projected rolls unless integrated Early Years provision was introduced.

An alternative to a dedicated nursery would be Integrated Early Years Provision.

This provision would see nursery age children sharing the same classroom space as primary school children.

This option would likely see nursery age children sharing a classroom with primary 1 and primary 2 children with the other classroom space being used by primary 3 to primary 7 children.

Based on the projected roll of the school, detailed in table 2 section 5.4, a maximum of 4 nursery children could be accommodated in this option from August 2021.

The impact on the capacity of the school would be that the capacity would reduce to 30 as the integrated Early Years provision is likely to be accommodated in the larger of the 2 classrooms.

The requirements for this option are likely to be the same as for a nursery with all facilities required to comply with standards as set by the Care Inspectorate, however this has not been confirmed.

The total capital cost for this option is approximately £1.138m as detailed in table 12 which includes upgrading the existing school infrastructure.

Works Required	Capital Cost
Renovation Costs for 287m ²	£852,686
Fees, Planning, Asbestos etc	£181,586
Project Management FF&E and Contingency	£103,427
Total Cost	£1,137,699

Table 12 – Integrated Nursery – Capital Cost.

There will be a recurring annual revenue cost of approximately £40,300 to cover items such as staffing and property costs. Staffing required for this option includes one Early Childhood Practitioner and one Play Assistant

Extending the existing school building

An extension to the school building would create an additional classroom for nursery accommodation in addition to the existing 2 classrooms. The school capacity would be reduced to 37 in this instance.

The total capital cost for this option is approximately £1.868m as detailed in table 13 which includes upgrading the existing school infrastructure to service an extension.

Works Required	Capital Cost
Renovation costs for 287m ²	£815,155
New Extension Costs 148m ²	£627,244
Fees, Planning, Asbestos etc	£255,300
Project Management FF&E and Contingency	£169,770
Total Cost	£1,867,469

Table 13 – Extension to Existing School Building – Capital Cost.

There will be a recurring annual revenue cost of approximately £50,300 to cover items such as staffing and property costs. The property costs include rates, energy, cleaning and facilities management.

Standalone Nursery School building

The feasibility study for this option has explored a modular build and a traditional build.

This option would create additional capacity out with the existing school building for nursery provision. This option would see the existing capacity of the school (44) remain unchanged.

An option to deliver a modular standalone nursery school building has been explored as part of the feasibility but this option has been discounted due to the complexities involved in delivering such a building to site.

If a standalone nursery building was sited within the existing school grounds this would reduce the amount of hard standing area currently available for outdoor play.

The total capital cost for this option would be approximately £2.163m as detailed in table 14 which includes upgrading the existing school infrastructure in order to service any new building on site.

Works Required	Capital Cost
Renovation costs for 262m ²	£718,549
Freestanding Building	£962,067
Fees, Planning, Asbestos etc	£285,100
Project Management FF&E and Contingency	£196,572
Total Cost	£2,162,288

Table 14 – Standalone Nursery – Capital Cost.

There will be a recurring annual revenue cost of approximately £61,300 to cover items such as staffing and property costs. The property costs include rates, energy, cleaning and facilities management.

Forest Nursery

The suggestion to consider a forest nursery was put forward by Abernyte Primary School Parent Council. This has been explored further on a high level only basis.

The Council does not own any forest land in the locality of Abernyte Primary School. There would be a requirement to lease land for such a facility and seek permission for the use of the facility for this purpose. Land searches are currently being progressed in this regard.

Any such facility would require to comply with the standards as set by the Care Inspectorate. This will require the provision of a number of facilities as detailed below. Such provision would depend on the location of the forest nursery and whether or not services such as water, electricity and IT connections were available. Once land is identified, a feasibility would be required to determine:

- Access to car parking and pedestrian routes;
- Toilet facilities, including potential nappy change. May have to consider alternatives such as compost toilets, chemical and portable toilet and wild toileting;
- Hand washing arrangements;
- Shelter;
- Storage for equipment and resources;
- Storage/provision of snacks and meals; and
- Mobile phone and/or tablet and associated infrastructure.

This option would see the existing capacity of the school (44) remain unchanged.

Appendix 4

Projected School Rolls

Abernyte Primary School – Projected School Roll Including Inchtore Primary School Catchment Area (North of A90)

Table 15 below details the projected school roll at Abernyte Primary School if this area was included within the Abernyte Primary School catchment area.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Abernyte Capacity	44	44	44	44
Abernyte Roll	24	26	25	29

Table 15 – Abernyte Primary School Projected Roll.

This table includes all placing requests that have been received and due to start at the school in August 2021.

Abernyte Primary School – Projected School Roll Including Longforgan Primary School Catchment Area (North of A90)

Table 16 below details the projected school roll at Abernyte Primary School if this area was included within the Abernyte Primary School catchment area.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Abernyte Capacity	44	44	44	44
Abernyte Roll	26	29	31	31

Table 16 – Abernyte Primary School Projected Roll.

This table includes all placing requests that have been received and due to start at the school in August 2021.

Abernyte Primary School – Projected School Roll Including Longforgan Primary School Catchment Area (North of A90) and Inchtore Primary School Catchment Area (North of A90)

Table 17 below details the projected school roll at Abernyte Primary School if both these areas were included within the Abernyte Primary School catchment area.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Abernyte Capacity	44	44	44	44
Abernyte Roll	30	35	38	42

Table 17 – Abernyte Primary School Projected Roll.

This table includes all placing requests that have been received and due to start at the school in August 2021.

