

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Lifelong Learning Committee

4 September 2019

**SCHOOL ESTATE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME
LOGIERAIT PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)
(Report No. 19/239)**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

On 27 March 2019 Lifelong Learning Committee approved the proposal to review provision for the Pitlochry Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Community Group associated with Logierait Primary School as part of the options appraisal for Logierait Primary School ([Report No. 19/94 refers](#)).

This report informs Lifelong Learning Committee of the outcomes of the review and recommends that the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) should proceed to establish a nursery at Logierait Primary School with a view to supporting the sustainability of the school.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

School Estate Transformation

- 1.1 The school estate is a significant and valuable asset to the communities of Perth and Kinross. Between 2019 and 2029, the Council will invest £176m in the school estate. This funding supports a wide range of projects including the replacement of Perth High School and Blairgowrie Recreation Centre. A substantial upgrade programme for primary and secondary schools is also being funded. In addition, the new £32.5m Bertha Park High School opened in August 2019.
- 1.2 The School Estate Strategy ([Report No. 12/370 refers](#)) sets out the Council's aspirations for our schools, and in particular the high value we place on learning, through our vision for well-designed, maintained and managed schools.
- 1.3 It is important, in light of the significant investment and cost associated with the school 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.
- 1.4 There are significant challenges for managing the school estate over the coming years. These include changing demographics, including population growth and movement, house building in certain locations, ongoing

deterioration in building infrastructure, pressure on planned maintenance budgets, increasing revenue costs and the expansion of funded Early Learning and Childcare from 600 to 1140 hours.

- 1.5 The Council's Transformation Strategy 2015-2020 'Building Ambition' and Organisational Development Framework were approved by Council on 1 July 2015 ([Report No. 15/292 refers](#)). Together they detail how Perth and Kinross Council will deliver transformation over the next five years. Accompanying the strategy is a programme of major reviews which are considered to be key drivers and enablers of transformation across the organisation. The School Estate Transformation Programme is one such review.
- 1.6 On 24 August 2016, Lifelong Learning Committee ([Report No. 16/347 refers](#)) approved principles to be used as a basis for the transformation review, 'Securing the Future of the School Estate'.

The principles approved by Lifelong Learning Committee as a basis for the transformation review were as follows:

- (i) Schools should have an occupancy rate where possible greater than 60% of the capacity and ideally should be operating at over 80% capacity;
 - (ii) Every school should be rated as A or B, ie at least satisfactory for Condition and suitability; and
 - (iii) Life expired buildings¹ within the school estate should be prioritised for replacement.
- 1.7 On 2 November 2016, Lifelong Learning Committee ([Report No. 16/485 refers](#)) approved the development of a number of options appraisals to consider, in detail, schools which were identified as requiring further consideration.
- 1.8 The development of the options appraisal is being phased. Phase 1 is close to completion. Phase 1 schools are:
- Abernyte Primary School;
 - Balhousie Primary School;
 - Blairingone Primary School;
 - Braco Primary School;
 - Forteviot Primary School;
 - Greenloaning Primary School;
 - Logiealmond Primary School;
 - Methven Primary School;
 - North Muirton Primary School; and
 - St Ninians Episcopal Primary School.

¹ Life expired buildings are defined as buildings which are uneconomic to maintain.

1.9 Work on phase 2 options appraisal began in August 2018 in relation to the following schools:

- Cleish Primary School;
- Grandtully Primary School;
- Logierait Primary School;
- Pitlochry High School (Secondary); and
- Ruthvenfield Primary School

2. LOGIERAIT PRIMARY SCHOOL – PROGRESS TO DATE

Options

2.1 Logierait Primary School is classed as ‘remote rural’ in the Scottish Government’s classification of rural schools.

2.2 Logierait Primary School was included in the School Estate Transformation Programme due to low occupancy. The capacity of the school is 50 pupils. At Census 2015, the school roll was 17 and therefore the occupancy level was at 34%. The school roll at Census 2018 was 16 which is an occupancy level of 32%. The school roll for August 2019 is 18².

2.3 The following options were identified for Logierait Primary School as part of the options appraisal;

1. Logierait Primary School catchment area is reviewed to determine whether this would increase the school roll sufficiently to ensure the future sustainability of the school;
2. Do nothing – school remains open; and
3. Consider closing Logierait Primary School – pupils move to a neighbouring school or schools.

Pre-consultation

2.4 An informal community drop-in session for Logierait Primary School was held on 27 November 2018. The drop-in session was an opportunity to gather the views of the wider community on the options for the school and to understand the impact each of the options may have on the community.

2.5 The wider community were also encouraged to suggest options that the Council may not have considered. Online questionnaires were also available for the wider community to provide feedback.

2.6 The drop-in session for Logierait Primary School was attended by 76 people and 64 online questionnaires were completed. The [detailed feedback](#) has been shared through the Council website.

² As at 19 August 2019

The key themes that emerged from the feedback were as follows:

- Parents are satisfied with the educational experience at Logierait Primary School;
- Many respondees were of the view that a lack of childcare options such as a nursery or after school club impact on the school roll, with parents choosing to send their children to schools where these options are available; and
- The community were of the view that measures were needed to be taken to increase the roll, as without this, closure of the school in future years was more likely.

Review of ELC provision associated with Logierait Primary School

- 2.7 On 27 March 2019 Lifelong Learning Committee was asked to approve a proposal to review provision for the Pitlochry ELC community group as part of the options appraisal ([Report No. 19/94 refers](#)). The review of ELC provision was recommended on the basis that there is a legal requirement to explore all feasible alternatives prior to considering closure of a rural school. It was considered that this could be a feasible alternative on the basis that the school roll was reducing because pupils were attending neighbouring schools.

This review would involve:

- The development of a feasibility study which will establish whether ELC provision could be delivered from the Logierait Primary School building, as well as the cost of any alterations; and
- Consultation with potential parents/carers of children who might attend such a provision to establish the sustainability of demand for ELC provision at Logierait Primary School.

3. ESTABLISHING A NURSERY AT LOGIERAIT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Early Learning and Childcare Strategy

- 3.1 Logierait Primary School catchment area is within the Pitlochry Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Community Group which includes Blair Atholl, Kinloch Rannoch, Pitlochry and Dunkeld. Each community group in Perth and Kinross will contain a “mixed economy” of provisions to deliver 1140 hours of ELC made up of local authority settings, partner providers and childminders.
- 3.2 One of the principles of the ELC expansion plan for extended local authority provision is to use existing settings where possible. Therefore, at Lifelong Learning Committee on 16 May 2018 ([Report No. 18/156 refers](#)) it was proposed that extended provision for this ELC community group would be delivered through providing parents and carers extended day, extended year and outdoor provision at Pitlochry Primary School nursery, and to undertake minor works to the existing nurseries at Blair Atholl and the Royal School of Dunkeld.

- 3.3 In addition, it was agreed that partner providers would be an important element in providing flexibility and choice for parents, and that the local authority expansion plans would include them as key partners in the delivery model. The ELC expansion plan for the Pitlochry ELC Community Group therefore did not include ELC provision at Logierait Primary School because there is sufficient provision on offer at existing facilities for the anticipated demand in the area.

Nursery Pupil Demand – Logierait Primary School

- 3.4 In April 2019 there were 11 children under the age of 5 years living within the Logierait Primary School catchment area who could attend nursery between 2020 and 2022. Table 1 below shows the projected future nursery roll if all of these children attended nursery at Logierait Primary School.

	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Ante Pre-school (3 years old)	4	3	No Data
Pre-school (4 years old)	4	4	3
Total	8	7	TBC

Table 1: Children living in the Logierait Primary School catchment area due to attend nursery

- 3.5 In order to determine whether it was likely that parents/carers would utilise a nursery at Logierait Primary School, a consultation exercise was carried out. Appendix A provides information on the consultation.
- 3.6 The consultation indicated that there would potentially be sufficient children to establish nursery provision at Logierait Primary School for 8 children.

Table 2 below shows the projected future nursery roll if all the children from families who attended the consultation attend the nursery.

	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Ante Pre-school (3 years old)	2	4 ³	2 ⁴
Pre-school (4 years old)	0	2	4
Total	2	6	6

Table 2: Children attending Logierait Primary School Nursery based on families who attended consultation only.

- 3.7 Strong Start 2's which is nursery provision for 2 year olds for eligible families could be available at Logierait Primary School, however provision of Strong Start 2's is dependent on demand and also the potential for other options such as childminders. On the basis of the average numbers of children eligible for Strong Start 2's, ie 20%, it is possible that there could be one child eligible for this provision at Logierait Primary School per annum.

³ One child does not live in the area but parents would send to the nursery

⁴ One child from expectant parents and one child from a family due to live in the area

Building Adaptation

- 3.8 Two options, detailed in Appendix C, were developed to support the accommodation of a nursery at Logierait Primary School:
- (i) Use of the room on the ground floor; and
 - (ii) Creating a nursery through reducing the size of the hall.
- 3.9 Option (i) is the preferred option because it is more cost effective and does not restrict the use of the hall through reducing its size. The P1-P7 class would be accommodated in one of the existing rooms on the upper floor.
- 3.10 The cost of adapting the ground floor room to a nursery is approximately £70,000. This cost includes the upgrade of the electrical distribution board due to the introduction of a snack area.

Impact on the School Roll

- 3.11 The occupancy of Logierait Primary School is currently low due to the number of pupils attending neighbouring schools. Table 3 details the impact of this.

	Pupil Census 2014	Pupil Census 2015	Pupil Census 2016	Pupil Census 2017	Pupil Census 2018
Primary School Aged Pupils living in catchment attending PKC schools	29	35	33	32	35
Logierait Primary School Catchment pupils attending other PKC schools	19	20	19	19	19
Logierait Primary School Catchment pupils attending Logierait Primary School	10	15	14	13	16
Pupils from other catchments attending Logierait Primary School	1	2	0	0	0
Pupil Roll	11	17	14	13	16

Table 3: Logierait Primary School – Destination of catchment pupils

- 3.12 It is the view of the wider community that the occupancy of the school shown in Table 3 will only change if nursery provision is established in Logierait

Primary School. This is because it is less likely that parents/carers would choose to send their children to other schools with nursery provision if it was available at Logierait Primary School. Children would then be more likely to remain at Logierait Primary School when they move to school from nursery.

- 3.13 Table 4 overleaf shows the projected future school roll at Logierait Primary school if all catchment pupils known to the Council attend the school in the next 5 years.

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
P1 intake	2	5	4	4
Pupils in School	18	21	23	22
Capacity	50	50	50	50
Occupancy	36%	42%	46%	44%

Table 4: Logierait Primary School – Projected School Roll

- 3.14 As can be seen from the table above, the addition of a nursery for early education and childcare is not likely to increase the roll of the school significantly in the short term, it will however maintain it just above the current level. If birth rates are sustained at the current level, and all children attend the school due to the introduction of the nursery, it is possible that there could be between 30 and 35 children (i.e. a capacity of between 60% and 70%) in the school by 2028/29.

Financial Impact

- 3.15 In addition to the capital cost of establishing the nursery, there will be ongoing staffing costs. These costs will be £36,500 per annum based on employing one Early Childhood Practitioner (ECP) and one Play Assistant (PA).

4. PROPOSALS

Options

- 4.1 Logierait Primary School is included in the School Estate Transformation Programme due to low occupancy. There are currently sufficient numbers of children living in the Logierait Primary School catchment area to make the school roll sustainable. However, a large number of these pupils attend other schools.
- 4.2 It is the view of the parents/carers and wider community that the introduction of nursery provision would encourage future catchment pupils to attend the school. Table 4 above, shows that there are however only small numbers of children under 5 years old living in the catchment area currently. The introduction of a nursery would therefore build up the roll very gradually until it peaks in 2028, when the first children from the nursery will be in P7.

- 4.3 It is a requirement that the Council considers all reasonable alternatives prior to considering closure of a rural school.
- 4.4 It is anticipated, on the basis of the engagement with parents/carers of children under 5 year old detailed in Appendix A, that it should be possible to establish a nursery by August 2020 for a maximum of 8 children at Logierait Primary School (see paragraph 3.6).
- 4.5 It is proposed to discount the option of a catchment review at this point. Appendix B contains information which indicates that:
- There are insufficient children living in the areas most suitable for a catchment review to make a significant impact on the school roll at Logierait Primary School; or
 - Where there are sufficient children, ie in the Kirkmichael Primary School catchment area, there would be a negative impact on the travel arrangements for those children.

Establishment of nursery provision

- 4.6 The establishment of nursery provision would be a proactive and positive action to try to maintain the school roll at Logierait Primary School, which is classed as 'remote rural' in the short term with a view to potentially increasing the roll in future years.
- 4.7 The requirement to carry out a statutory consultation to establish a nursery class is currently suspended due to the expansion of ELC; therefore no statutory consultation would be required.
- 4.8 The establishment of a nursery will require that works are undertaken, at a cost of approximately £70,000 to adapt the room on the ground floor to a nursery. It is anticipated that the nursery would operate from August 2020.
- 4.9 An Early Childhood Practitioner and a Play Assistant would need to be employed to ensure appropriate staffing ratios at a cost of £36,500 per annum.
- 4.10 Officers from Education & Children's Services (ECS) would work closely with the school to establish the nursery class.

Sustainability of the school roll

- 4.11 Paragraph 3.13 shows that there is potential for the school roll to rise slightly, if nursery children attend, then remain, at the school. In the short term, the school roll would be around 20 pupils on average, however in the medium term it is possible that the school roll could rise above this.
- 4.12 The roll at the school would continue to be monitored in order to assess whether the establishment of the nursery has succeeded in developing a sustainable school roll.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 On 27 March 2019, Committee approved a review of the Pitlochry ELC Community Group as part of an options appraisal for Logierait Primary School.
- 5.2 There were no plans to establish a nursery at Logierait Primary School as part of the extension of ELC in the area, however this was to be considered in order to determine whether a nursery would support the school in developing a sustainable roll.
- 5.3 Work has taken place, since March 2019, to consider this option including a building feasibility report and consultation with parents/carers of children under 5 years old.
- 5.3 The feasibility report concludes that a small nursery could be established through relatively minor refurbishment and with minimal impact on the operation of the school. The cost of refurbishment is estimated to be approximately £70,000.
- 5.4 The consultation with parents/carers under 5 years old indicated that there was demand for 6 nursery places, from those who responded, in 2021/22 and 2022/23.
- 5.5 The cost of staffing the nursery for up to 8 children would be £36,500 per annum.
- 5.6 It is recognised that Logierait Primary School is classified as 'remote rural' however the sustainability of the school roll is dependent on the majority of pupils from the catchment area attending their catchment school in the future. Although it will take time for the roll to increase, it should be clear in the first 2-3 years after the nursery is established whether catchment children attend the nursery and then remain at Logierait Primary School.
- 5.7 On the basis of the conclusions, it is recommended that the Committee:
- (i) Approves the proposal to establish a nursery class within Logierait Primary School from August 2020 with a view to developing a sustainable school roll; and
 - (ii) Requests the Executive Director to review the position in 5 years time in order to assess whether the establishment of the nursery has succeeded in developing a sustainable school roll at Logierait Primary School.

Author(s)

Name	Designation	Contact Details
Carol Taylor	Service Manager (Resource Management)	ECSCCommittee@pkc.gov.uk 01738 475000

Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Sheena Devlin	Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)	21 August 2019

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion, only a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting the Customer Service Centre on 01738 475000.

You can also send us a text message on 07824 498145.

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	Yes
Workforce	Yes
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	Yes
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	Yes
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	Yes
Legal and Governance	Yes
Risk	Yes
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 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 The Perth and Kinross Council Corporate Plan set out five strategic 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 Policy Framework in respect of the following key policy area:

- Maximising Resources

2. Resource Implications

Financial

2.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report other than those discussed within the body of the main report. The capital expenditure will be funded from the Scottish Government ELC Capital Grant. Revenue expenditure will be funded from Scottish Government Revenue Grant for ELC.

Workforce

2.2 As a result of this report there will be workforce/resource implications for the ECS Project Support Team, ELC teams and Property Services.

2.3 Asset Management (land, property, IT)

This report forms part of the School Estate Transformation Programme. The objective of the programme to manage these assets more efficiently and effectively.

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 allow the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

3.1.1 The information contained within this report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome and has been 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.

3.2.1 No action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report.

Sustainability

- 3.3 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.

The information contained within this report has been considered under the Act. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report.

Legal and Governance

- 3.4 The Head of Legal and Governance Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report. The proposals set out in the report are consistent with the Council's duties under the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 and the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010.

Risk

- 3.5 A risk log is being maintained for the School Estate Transformation Programme.

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Finance and Head of Property Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

External

- 4.2 This report details the consultation which has been carried out, to date, in regards to the development of this report.

5. Communication

- 5.1 A communication plan has been prepared which will support effective communication and engagement with stakeholders, and to promote the anticipated efficiencies and benefits of this Transformation Project as well as the links to the wider Transformation Programme. A range of methods will be used to consult with internal and external stakeholders as identified in the draft communication plan, such as meetings, briefings, community consultation and focus groups.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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 – Nursery Provision Consultation
Appendix B – Catchment Review
Appendix C – Building Adaptations