

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Lifelong Learning Committee

25 August 2021

CATCHMENT FOR NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL AT BERTHA PARK AND FUTURE OF RUTHVENFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)
(Report No. 21/136)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks approval of the recommendation from the options appraisal (Appendix A) which has been undertaken following informal pre-consultation in respect of the catchment area for the proposed new primary school at Bertha Park, and the future of Ruthvenfield Primary School.

The options appraisal (Appendix A) recommends proceeding with Option A, which is that a new school will be built on a site adjacent to Bertha Park High School and a catchment area created for the new school. Ruthvenfield Primary School will continue to operate from their existing building at this time with a new catchment area created.

Lifelong Learning Committee is asked to agree that the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) commences a statutory consultation in respect of the new catchment areas as detailed in Option A in the options appraisal (Appendix A) and associated changes as required by the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 22 June 2016, the Council allocated funding of £14.35m for a new primary school within the Composite Capital Programme ([Report No. 16/277 refers](#)). This new primary school is to be built to accommodate pupil numbers from housebuilding within the strategic sites at the north and north west of Perth, as it was previously anticipated that the catchment schools for these strategic sites would not be able to accommodate the projected pupil numbers.
- 1.2 A chronology of decisions leading to this report including reports and options appraisals presented to Lifelong Learning Committee, in relation to Ruthvenfield Primary School and the new school at Bertha Park, are as follows:
 - August 2016 - 'Securing the Future of the School Estate' ([Report No. 16/347 refers](#));
 - November 2016 - "Securing the Future of the School Estate – Next Steps" ([Report 16/485 refers](#));
 - March 2019 – "School Estate Transformation Programme" ([Report No.19/94 refers](#)).

- September 2019 - “School Estate Transformation Programme Strategic Sites North West/North Perth” ([Report No. 19/240 refers](#))

On 22 January 2020, Lifelong Learning Committee approved the following ([Report No. 20/18 refers](#)):

- 1) The proposal to build a new primary school to provide capacity for pupils from the Strategic Sites being progressed to the North/North West of Perth;
- 2) Bertha Park as the preferred location for a new primary school;
- 3) Agrees that options appraisals, which includes informal consultation, are undertaken in relation to both the catchment for a new school and the future of Ruthvenfield Primary School; and
- 4) Agrees that the establishment of a new primary school at Bertha Park, should not necessarily be predicated on the closure of any neighbouring rural schools and options that keep these schools open are considered as part of the options appraisals.

Key Legislation

- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 Councils also have a statutory responsibility in terms of the [Local Government in Scotland Act 2003](#) to achieve Best Value.
- 1.5 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](#).

The Scottish Government’s Rural School List 2017 classifies all the schools considered in this options appraisal, other than Tulloch Primary School, as “accessible rural” schools under Section 14 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The classification is based on two main criteria,

settlement size and accessibility based on drive time. The classification criteria are “areas with a population of less than 3,000 people and within a 30-minute drive time of a settlement of 10,000 or more” (Source: Scottish Government Rural School List 2017).

The classification for all rural primary schools is currently being reviewed and updated by the Scottish Government.

Other relevant legislation is detailed in the options appraisal.

2. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

The options appraisal (Appendix A) considers the rural factors detailed above and the outcome of an informal consultation in relation to both the catchment area for the new school and the future of Ruthvenfield Primary School.

2.1 Principle

On 22 January 2020, the Lifelong Learning Committee approved the principle that the establishment of a new primary school at Bertha Park should not necessarily be predicated on the closure of any neighbouring rural schools and options that keep these schools open should be considered as part of the options appraisals.

2.2 Housebuilding

There is a 30-year masterplan for housebuilding at Almond Valley, Bertha Park and Perth West. In the next 11 years, based on the current Housing Land Audit (HLA), it is anticipated that 2300 houses will be built. This is estimated to generate approximately 620 primary school pupils who will need to be accommodated in schools near to where they live. In addition, there is housebuilding (approximately 150 houses) due to take place at site H319 which is adjacent to Ruthvenfield Primary School. The map showing site H319 is detailed within Appendix 1 of the options appraisal.

Due to proposed housebuilding, Ruthvenfield Primary School and Pitcairn Primary School will not be able to accommodate all pupils in future years without changes being made to their catchment areas.

As a result, the Council are planning to build a new primary school which will comprise of 14¹ teaching classrooms and a nursery on a site next to Bertha Park High School to accommodate pupils from the house building. A school of this size is needed to accommodate pupil numbers which will be generated from new housebuilding in the area.

The funding of the new school will be recouped through developer contributions as housebuilding takes place. The nursery element of the build will be funded by the Council.

It should be noted that sites have been identified in Almond Valley and Perth West as locations for future primary schools. Whether, and when, these

¹ A 14-classroom school would have a capacity of 434 pupils.

schools are required and developed in future years will be determined by the build out of housing and the number of pupils generated from this housing. Any new school will require its own catchment area and therefore a review and a Statutory Consultation will be required prior to any new school being built.

2.3 **Development/Review of Catchment Areas**

All schools have catchment areas and therefore a catchment area must be created for the new school.

The basis for development/review of primary school catchment area is that pupils should be able to attend a primary school that is close to where they live and if possible, within a safe walking distance. It is also important that consideration is given to the number of houses in an area and future housebuilding so that schools have sufficient capacity to accommodate all children living in the catchment area.

The future of Ruthvenfield Primary School has been included in the options appraisal for development of a catchment area for a new primary school at Bertha Park for the following reasons:

- The current catchment area for Ruthvenfield Primary School sits within the major housebuilding development of Almond Valley;
- A part of the Perth West development (the Auld Mart) currently forms part of Ruthvenfield Primary School catchment area;
- A new housing development site named H319 in the Local Development Plan also forms part of Ruthvenfield Primary School catchment area and is in close proximity to Ruthvenfield Primary School;
- Ruthvenfield Primary School does not have capacity to accommodate pupils from Almond Valley, Perth West and H319; and
- Ruthvenfield Primary School is currently rated condition 'C' and therefore improvement works are required.

2.4 **Options**

The options that are considered in the options appraisal are:

Option A

A new primary school will be built on a site adjacent to Bertha Park High School and a catchment area created for the new school. Ruthvenfield Primary School will continue to operate from its existing building with new catchment area created and the condition improved.

Option B

A new primary school will be built on a site adjacent to Bertha Park High School. This school will replace Ruthvenfield Primary School and pupils attending Ruthvenfield Primary School will be educated in the new building when it opens. The capacity of the new school will be larger as it will also accommodate pupils from a wider catchment area including a large part of the major housebuilding sites in the area. The current Ruthvenfield Primary School building would close.

Detailed information on the proposed changes to catchment areas under each of the options are contained in Appendix A.

3. PRE-CONSULTATION

3.1 The Council has undertaken an informal pre-consultation exercise to establish the views of the following groups on the options:

- Parents/carers of all children living within the Ruthvenfield Primary School catchment area;
- Parents/carers of those pupils attending Ruthvenfield Primary School as placing requests;
- The wider community living in the Ruthvenfield Primary School catchment area; and
- Parents/carers of all children living in the Tulloch Primary School and Luncarty Primary School catchment areas who would be impacted by the new catchments proposed in the options.

The informal pre-consultation exercise was undertaken between 3 May 2021 and 16 May 2021. The basis of the exercise was an on-line questionnaire; however, feedback was also received through Methven and District Community Council (M&DCC) and Perth and Kinross Council Housing Officers.

3.2 Pre-Consultation – Summary of Responses

There were 423 letters issued as part of the pre-consultation exercise. 40 responses were received, 34 from the Ruthvenfield Primary School catchment area and 6 from the Tulloch Primary School catchment area. This is an overall response rate of 9%. The response rate from Ruthvenfield Primary School parents/carers is 45%.

The majority of responses received from respondents associated with Ruthvenfield Primary School catchment area, during the pre-consultation exercise, favoured Option A.

Respondents (Ruthvenfield Primary School (RPS) Catchment Area)	Total responses	In favour of Option A	In favour of Option B
Parents/Carers of pupils living in the RPS catchment area	9	8	1
Parents/Carers of pupils attending RPS on placing requests	12	11	1
Parents/carers of under-fives living in the RPS catchment area	7	5	2
Wider community	6	5	1
Total	34	29	5

Table 1 – Summary of Ruthvenfield Primary School catchment area responses.

There were 6 responses from parents/carers of children living in two distinct parts of the Tulloch Primary School catchment area.

- One group of parents/carers, living near Ruthvenfield Primary School, were asked whether they would prefer for their children to attend Tulloch Primary School, Ruthvenfield Primary School, or a new school at Bertha Park. There were two responses, both indicating that they would wish for their children to continue to attend Ruthvenfield Primary School.
- Parents/carers from Double Dykes were asked if they would prefer for their children to attend Tulloch Primary School or a new primary school at Bertha Park. There were 4 responses from parents/carers of children living in the Double Dykes area. These responses indicated that all existing primary school age children would continue to attend their current primary schools but there was a preference from parents/carers of children under the age of five for attending the new school.

There were no responses from parents/carers of children living in the Bertha Park area of the Luncarty Primary School catchment area. However, according to information known to the Council, there are no children under five living in this area currently.

4. IMPACT OF OPTIONS

4.1 Option A

This option would create a catchment area for the new school and revise the catchment area for Ruthvenfield Primary School.

The impact of the new catchment area created for Ruthvenfield Primary School would be that those pupils that live closest to the school, including those from new housebuilding, could attend the school. Some households living in the current catchment area would become part of the catchment for the new school.

85% of all parents/carers that responded to the questionnaire were in favour of Option A. 43% of those parents/carers are not resident in the Ruthvenfield Primary School catchment area ie, their children attend Ruthvenfield Primary School as placing requests.

The condition of Ruthvenfield Primary School, which is currently rated as 'C', would be improved. This will be over a period, with maintenance works taking place in the next five years and the replacement of life expired buildings following this.

This option would retain a school within the community living in the current Ruthvenfield Primary School catchment area. There are no other 'public' buildings in the area currently and it is likely that the community accesses many services in Perth. This may change in the future as plans for the Almond Valley development should provide facilities in the vicinity of the current Ruthvenfield Primary School catchment area and the community will be able to access these facilities.

The majority of pupils from housebuilding at Bertha Park, Almond Valley and part of Perth West would attend the new primary school.

The new school would provide children with purpose-built accommodation to deliver the curriculum. The building will also provide a focal point for families of primary school children. The wider community, including those families, will be able to utilise facilities within the new primary school outwith school hours.

Once the new catchment areas are created, a detailed exercise would be undertaken to establish which pupils would require to be transported to school, however, it is anticipated that many pupils, who currently must be transported to school, will be able to walk to school.

4.2 Option B

This option would create a catchment area for the new school which will include the existing Ruthvenfield Primary School catchment area.

All pupils attending Ruthvenfield Primary School would move to the new school when it opens.

The catchment area of Pitcairn Primary School will be adjusted to ensure that it can continue to accommodate catchment pupils without breaching capacity. Luncarty Primary School catchment area and Tulloch Primary School catchment areas will also be adjusted with pupils from a small number of addresses attending the new school.

All pupils would be educated in purpose-built accommodation that will bring together the majority of pupils from new housebuilding at Bertha Park, Almond Valley, part of Perth West and site H319, as well as the Ruthvenfield Primary School catchment area. The new school would offer families additional facilities such as purpose-built nursery accommodation.

The new school would provide the opportunity for the majority of pupils living in areas of new housebuilding to walk to school rather than be transported to a number of different schools, which is current practice.

New communities would have the opportunity to integrate with existing communities. Parents/carers, pupils and the wider community would benefit from the use of the new school building which would offer accommodation for activities and events for groups and clubs which may not have been able to operate previously due to a lack of numbers, interest and/or suitable space within existing facilities.

4.3 Alternative Proposals

There were two alternative proposals put forward by respondents to the consultation, which are ruled out in the options appraisal:

- Ruthvenfield Primary School catchment area should be changed to include part of Letham Primary School and a larger part of Tulloch Primary School; and

- The size of Ruthvenfield Primary School should be larger than the proposals in Option A.

5. FINANCIAL IMPACT OF OPTIONS

5.1 Capital Costs

The budget for the new school is £14.35m.

Although the school is being funded initially through the Council's Capital Programme, agreements are in place with housebuilders to recoup the cost of the school through developer contributions.

A capital cost of approximately £275,000, will be required to improve the condition rating of the school building at Ruthvenfield Primary within the next 3 to 5 years. These capital costs will be applicable for both options as the new school will not be built until 2026.

If Option A were to progress, additional capital funding will be required beyond 5 years to ensure Ruthvenfield Primary School operates effectively and the condition rating is maintained. Climate improvements will also be required. Feasibility studies are required to determine the level of work required and associated costs, however, previous estimates for this work from Property Services are £2,000,000. This funding will be required to be identified in setting the future Capital Budget for the Council.

Table 2 below details the capital costs associated with both options.

	Option A	Option B
	Indicative Capital Cost	Indicative Capital Cost
Capital to build New School by 2026²	£14,350,000	£14,350,000
Improve condition rating of Ruthvenfield Primary School – 2022/2025	£275,000 ³	£275,000
Replace life expired buildings at Ruthvenfield Primary School post 2026 & further maintenance upgrades	£2,000,000 ⁴	N/A
Total Capital Cost	£16,625,000	£14,625,000

Table 2 – Capital Costs.

² Actual costs for the new primary school building will not be known until the completion of Stage 2 in the hub construction process. This is the budget cost.

³ Note this figure is at current prices.

⁴ This is based on a feasibility study. The feasibility and costs will have to be revised to take into account climate change requirements and any maintenance required beyond 2025.

5.2 Revenue Costs

For Option A, the annual operating cost for the new school (detailed in Table 3) is based on the new school operating with 7 classes in 2026/27. The annual operating cost for Ruthvenfield Primary School is based on the school operating with 4 classes in 2026/27. For Option B, the annual operating cost for the new school (detailed in table 3) is based on the school operating with 9 classes.

Table 3 below details the revenue costs associated with both options. These figures are based on pupil numbers in 2026/27. Costs for the new school will increase as pupil numbers increase.

	Option A	Option B
	Indicative Revenue Cost 2026/27	Indicative Revenue Cost 2026/27
Annual Operating Costs – New School from 2026/27	£1,150,000	£1,285,000
Annual Operating Costs – Ruthvenfield	£400,000	£0
Total	£1,550,000	£1,285,000

Table 3 – Revenue Costs 2026/27.

6. SUMMARY

Table 4 below provides a summary of the analysis of the options as detailed in the options appraisal (Appendix A).

Option A	Option B
<p>Pupil/Travel Impact</p> <p>The creation of new catchment areas and the provision of a new school will provide certainty for parents/carers and pupils that they can attend a school which is near the community in which they live and considers current and future transport arrangements.</p> <p>The change to the catchment area will allow pupils who live closest to Ruthvenfield Primary School to attend a school close by to where they live. This option is the preferred option of 85% of parents/carers who responded to the consultation.</p> <p>Pupils at Ruthvenfield Primary School will benefit from improvements to the school over a period of time. Pupils at</p>	<p>Pupil Impact/Travel Impact</p> <p>This option creates a catchment for the new primary school for children from new housebuilding, children from areas near the new school and from Ruthvenfield Primary School catchment area. As in Option A, it will provide certainty for parents/carers and children that they can attend their catchment school. Some children are more likely to be able to walk to school.</p> <p>Pupils at the new school, including those from the previous Ruthvenfield Primary School catchment area, will benefit from a modern learning environment. Experience in previous new school buildings has demonstrated that a new and flexible learning environment has inspired and</p>

<p>the new school will benefit from a modern learning environment. Experience in previous new school buildings has demonstrated that a new and flexible learning environment has inspired and motivated pupils and has a positive impact on the general health and wellbeing of learners.</p>	<p>motivated pupils and has a positive impact on the general health and wellbeing of learners. This option is not supported by the majority of parents/carers from Ruthvenfield Primary School that responded to consultation.</p>
<p>Community Impact</p> <p>There was a limited response, from the wider community in the Ruthvenfield Primary School catchment area, to the consultation, however, those who responded were in favour of Ruthvenfield Primary School continuing to operate in its current location. It has not been possible to evidence that there is significant interaction between the school and the wider community, however, the school is the only 'public' building in the catchment area. This may change in the future, as part of the Almond Valley development, with potential retail/commercial units being considered.</p>	<p>Community Impact</p> <p>A single new school will create an opportunity for new communities and existing communities to come together through shared experiences and a shared facility.</p> <p>This option is not supported by the wider community from Ruthvenfield Primary School catchment area who responded to the consultation.</p>
<p>Financial Impact</p> <p>This option will cost approximately £265,000 more in annual revenue costs than Option B.</p> <p>The capital cost based on current information is approximately £2,000,000 greater than Option B.</p>	<p>Financial Impact</p> <p>This option would save the Council approximately £265,000 per annum in comparison with Option A.</p> <p>The capital cost, based on current information, is approximately £2,000,000 less in total than Option A.</p>

Table 4 – Summary of Options.

7. THE MASTERPLAN

- 7.1 There is a 30-year masterplan for housebuilding at Almond Valley, Bertha Park and Perth West. It is necessary, at this time, to build a new primary school so that there is certainty for parents/carers and pupils from new house building and houses nearby, that they can attend a school which is near the community in which they live.
- 7.2 It is also necessary that a catchment is created in the next year for the new primary school so that the design and build project can be completed by August 2026 to accommodate pupils from the housebuilding. This also

necessitates a review of neighbouring catchment areas, to create the most appropriate catchments for both the new primary school and existing schools in the vicinity.

- 7.3 As detailed in paragraph 2.2, it is anticipated that further schools may be required to accommodate pupils in the medium to long term. The timing will be determined by the buoyancy of the housing market and the pupils generated by this housing. A further catchment review will be required to create a catchment for any new school at the appropriate time.
- 7.4 There is also an expectation that as the new housebuilding proceeds, the travel infrastructure including the core path network will be developed as per the masterplan. Facilities for health, retail, leisure, and employment are planned in the Bertha Park area and commercial facilities are planned at Almond Valley. This, along with housebuilding, will change the makeup and dynamic of communities in these areas.
- 7.5 Taking all of the above into consideration, it is proposed that a statutory consultation progresses based on Option A at this time. This would allow housebuilding to progress and for a better understanding of future requirements in relation to any future schools. It would also allow officers to consider wider changes within these communities in developing the school estate.

8. EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

- 8.1 An Educational Benefits Statement (EBS) for Option A, which is the recommended option, is set out in Appendix A. The EBS details benefits for learning and teaching through the proposals and also benefits in the environment for learning. It notes that the new primary school will provide an opportunity for the curriculum to be designed for and with learners, parents and the community which is relevant and takes into account the context of the community. It also refers to, the improved condition of Ruthvenfield Primary School building, supporting school staff to continue to deliver learning using a range of approaches including play-based learning, interdisciplinary learning, and outdoor learning.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 In conclusion, it is proposed at this time to recommend **Option A** – A new school will be built on a site adjacent to Bertha Park High School and a catchment area created for the new school. Ruthvenfield Primary School will continue to operate from its existing building with new catchment area created and the condition improved.
- 9.2 This recommendation has been made on the basis that while a catchment area is needed for the new school in the immediate future, it would be prudent to have a better understanding of the delivery of the housing masterplan and the dynamics of the communities, as local services and travel/transport options develop, before making further changes to the school estate.

9.3 The impact of the recommendation to progress with **Option A** is as follows:

- The Ruthvenfield Primary School catchment area will change to accommodate children who live close to the school but are not currently in the catchment area;
- Pupils from housebuilding at Bertha Park, Almond Valley, part of Perth West, Double Dykes and part of Luncarty Primary School catchment will be accommodated at the new school when it opens;
- The capital budget of £14.35m for the new school will be required;
- Capital funding of approximately £275,000, as a minimum, will be required to improve the condition rating of Ruthvenfield Primary School, with additional funding of £2,000,000, as a minimum, to be confirmed through updated feasibility studies, required in the long-term;
- Revenue funding of approximately £1,150,000 per annum will be required to operate the new primary school; and
- Existing revenue funding of approximately £400,000 per annum will be required for the operation of Ruthvenfield Primary School.

9.4. It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Notes the outcome of the informal pre-consultation in respect of the catchment for the new Primary School at Bertha Park and future of Ruthvenfield Primary School;
- (ii) Notes the expenditure pressure of an additional £1,150,000 per annum in revenue costs from 2026/27, which will come forward as part of the Councils Revenue Budget setting process based on the recommendation of the options appraisal;
- (iii) Approves the recommendation of the options appraisal to proceed at this time with **Option A**, detailed in the options appraisal (Appendix A); a new primary school will be built on a site adjacent to Bertha Park High School and a catchment area created for the new school. Ruthvenfield Primary School will continue to operate from its existing building with a new catchment area created and the condition of the building improved; and
- (iv) Agrees that the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) commences statutory consultation in respect of the establishment of the new school and new catchment areas as detailed in Option A in the options appraisal (Appendix A) and associated changes as required by the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010.

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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	No
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	No
Legal and Governance	Yes
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.

3.2.1 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 The recommendations set out in this report are relevant proposals under the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 and statutory consultation is therefore required prior to a decision being made on the proposal contained in Option 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. A range of methods were used to consult with internal and external stakeholders as identified in the scope, such as phone calls, virtual meetings, emails and email briefings.

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 – Catchment for New Primary School at Bertha Park & Future of Ruthvenfield Primary School Options Appraisal