



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

A PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

FOR

ARBROATH SCHOOLS PROJECT (PHASE 1)

The following schools are affected by this Proposal Document:

MUIRFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL; and

TIMMERGREENS PRIMARY SCHOOL

**This document has been issued by Angus Council for consultation in terms of the
Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting on 10 February 2011, Angus Council authorised the Director of Education to undertake formal consultation in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 in relation to the Proposal specified in section 2 below (report 133/11 refers).

2. The Proposal

- 2.1 Angus Council is proposing, subject to the outcome of the consultation process:
- to discontinue education provision at the existing Muirfield and Timmergreens Primary Schools;
 - to establish a new primary school located at a new site adjacent to Hospitalfield House;
 - to combine the existing catchment areas of Muirfield and Timmergreens Primary Schools to create a new catchment area serving the new primary school; and
 - the above changes taking effect from 13 August 2013, or as soon as possible thereafter.
- 2.2 A map identifying locations of the existing Muirfield and Timmergreens Primary Schools, together with existing catchment areas, is included in Annex 1.
- 2.3 A map identifying the location of the new primary school, together with the new combined catchment area, is included in Annex 2.

3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1 Angus Council's School Estate Strategy provided the basis for identifying primary schools in and around Arbroath as most in need of improvement.
- 3.2 The overall pupil roll in primary schools in and around Arbroath has also been gradually decreasing, resulting in an occupancy rate across the Arbroath school estate predicted to be in the region of 70% of capacity in future years.
- 3.3 Accordingly, in the early part of 2009, Angus Council embarked on a broad-based consultation strategy aimed at improving the primary school estate in Arbroath and its hinterland (report 207/09 refers).
- 3.4 Report 442/09 updated the Council's Education Committee regarding the condition/suitability of the entire Angus Council school estate.
- 3.5 Feedback from the initial consultation exercise helped identify a preferred option for providing the basis for a more focussed consultation exercise. That exercise was undertaken during December 2009 and January 2010 (report 747/09 refers).
- 3.6 This second round of consultation included the option of providing a new primary school in the West of Arbroath (as phase 1 of the overall Arbroath Schools Project) by effectively amalgamating the existing Muirfield and Timmergreens Primary Schools.

- 3.7 The key reasons for providing a new primary school in the West of Arbroath were (i) the deteriorating condition/suitability assessment of Muirfield and Timmergreens Primary Schools (being C/C and B/C respectively)¹; (ii) the combined roll for these two schools being 62% of capacity (during school year 2009/10) and declining to below 55% of capacity in future years; (iii) the physical location of these two schools being in close proximity in comparison to other schools in and around Arbroath; and (iv) the opportunity to provide a new school which would enhance the learning and teaching environment and offer improved facilities for the wider community.
- 3.8 The outcome from this consultation exercise confirmed that there was support for a new primary school in the west of the town, subject to the Council addressing parental concerns about pupils crossing the Westway and undertaking a full assessment of four potential site options to identify the preferred site for the new primary school (report 427/10 refers).
- 3.9 The Council has now concluded the site assessment process and identified the new site located adjacent to Hospitalfield House as the preferred site. The Council has also examined in further detail the Westway crossing arrangements and developed a draft School Travel Plan which would support the preferred site selection.
- 3.10 Informal consultation has been ongoing with Muirfield and Timmergreens Parent Councils in tandem with that work. Discussions between council officers and parent representatives have been beneficial in addressing issues from both perspectives.
- 3.11 Head Teachers, together with school staff and associated trade unions, have also been kept informed of the progress made to date with the project and had the opportunity to contribute to the process.
- 3.12 Angus Council has now authorised the Director of Education to undertake formal consultation in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 in relation to the Proposal specified in section 2 above (report 133/11 refers).

4.0 Current Position

4.1 Muirfield Primary School

- 4.1.1 Muirfield Primary School is a single storey building which was constructed in 1974 of steel frame and traditional masonry construction with flat roofs, having an internal floor area of 2,496m².
- 4.1.2 The design philosophy for the building was based on learning and teaching practice from the early 1970s and typical construction techniques prevailing at that time.
- 4.1.3 The school capacity will accommodate 40 pre-school nursery aged pupils (morning and afternoon), 335 primary aged pupils and a small number of nursery aged pupils with Additional Support Needs (ASN).
- 4.1.4 The current school roll for school year 2010/11 is 20 pre-school nursery aged pupils (morning), 17 pre-school nursery aged pupils (afternoon), 194 primary aged pupils and a small number of nursery aged pupils with Additional Support Needs (ASN).

¹ The condition and suitability assessments are carried out by the Council in accordance with the Scottish Government guidance to provide measure of (i) the condition of the fabric of the school building and its grounds; and (ii) the extent to which a school building and its grounds are suitable in providing an environment which supports quality learning and teaching and those other services provided to individual children and to the school community, in terms of practicality, accessibility and convenience. Both condition and suitability are rated on the scale: A (good); B (satisfactory); C (poor); and D (bad).

- 4.1.5 The projected rolls for primary aged pupils up to and including school year 2016/17, including placing requests, are detailed in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Muirfield Primary School Projected Rolls (P1 to P7)					
2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
210	205	200	193	191	196

- 4.1.6 Muirfield Primary School in general has a total of 12 classrooms (mixture of cellular and open plan), ASN/pre-school nursery, gym hall, library, infant department ICT room, community lounge, dining area and associated ancillary accommodation.
- 4.1.7 The overall condition of the building is poor (rated as category C) with major issues being poor quality glazing and curtain walling. Moreover, the under-floor heating has reached the end of its economic life-span, flat roofs leak and internal finishes, fitments and services are generally out-of-date and in need of replacement.
- 4.1.8 The overall suitability of the building is poor (rated as category C), with the major issues being the poor quality of the internal environment, the small size of the dining area which also serves as a circulation route, cellular classrooms, open plan classrooms that also serve as circulation routes, lack of car parking and on-site drop-off/pick-up provision, security issues/access control relating to the main entrance design, and other specific issues relating to accessibility and community use within the building (further information is available in the detailed School Estate Management Plan, if required).

4.2 Timmergreens Primary School

- 4.2.1 Timmergreens Primary School is a two storey building which was constructed in 1969 of concrete frame and traditional masonry construction with flat and mono-pitch roofs, having an internal floor area of 2,841m².
- 4.2.2 The design philosophy for the building was based on learning and teaching practice from the late 1960s/early 1970s and typical construction techniques prevailing at that time.
- 4.2.3 The school capacity will accommodate 40 pre-school nursery aged pupils (morning and afternoon) and 444 primary aged pupils.
- 4.2.4 The current school roll for school year 2010/11 is 19 pre-school nursery aged pupils (morning), 19 pre-school nursery aged pupils (afternoon) and 253 primary aged pupils.
- 4.2.5 The projected rolls for primary-aged pupils up to and including school year 2016/17, including placing requests, are detailed in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Timmergreens Primary School Projected Rolls (P1 to P7)					
2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
232	226	213	208	212	213

- 4.2.6 Timmergreens Primary School has a total of 11 cellular classrooms, an ASN base, an ICT room, a GP area, gym hall, pre-school nursery, library, meeting room, dining area and associated ancillary accommodation.
- 4.2.7 The overall condition of the building is satisfactory (rated as category B). However, there are some major issues including poor quality windows/glazing and curtain walling. The under-floor heating has reached the end of its economic life-span and supplementary electric storage heating is costly and inefficient. The nature of construction is poor thermally and does not provide suitable flexibility/adaptability to make improvements. Roof coverings are nearing the end of their economic life-span

and internal finishes, fitments and services are generally out-of-date and in need of replacement.

- 4.2.8 The overall suitability of the building is poor (rated as category C), with major issues being the poor quality of the internal environment, a gym hall which also serves as a circulation route, cellular classrooms, accessibility difficulties due to level changes within the building at ground level and no access lift to first floor level, a lack of car parking and on-site drop-off/pick-up provision, security issues/access control relating to the main entrance design and other specific issues relating to accessibility and visitors accessing the building (further information is available in the detailed School Estate Management Plan if required).

5.0 Proposed New Primary School

5.1 Proposed Site

- 5.1.1 Following a detailed analysis, the Council has concluded the site assessment process relating to the four potential site options and identified the new site located adjacent to Hospitalfield House as the preferred site (full details of the site appraisal process are included in report 133/11).
- 5.1.2 The Council has the opportunity to purchase this site from the Hospitalfield Trust subject to finalising legal/commercial issues and the outcomes of the consultation in relation to this Proposal, and subsequent to obtaining planning approval to develop the site for a primary school.
- 5.1.3 An indicative layout of the site is included in Annex 3. The following are the key reasons for the Council identifying this as the preferred site:
- the ground conditions and topography of the site, together with the proximity of utility services and the drainage network, are capable of supporting a primary school building without undue technical difficulty;
 - the site is located in a central location between the two existing primary school sites and is within reasonable walking distance for pupils residing within the proposed combined catchment area;
 - the site area (circa. 2.76ha) is the largest of the four site options and the site shape will accommodate a single storey building footprint, together with the full requirements of the proposed facilities (refer to section 5.2 below), including opportunities for developments in relation to Curriculum for Excellence;
 - a draft School Travel Plan has been prepared for the site which minimises the number of major road crossings for pupils overall. That plan will support closer management of Westway crossing arrangements (refer to section 5.3 below) and provide opportunities for encouraging pupils to adopt a healthy life-style by walking to and from school;
 - vehicular traffic will have good access to the site with its main access points being located directly off the Westway; the site area is capable of accommodating a dedicated pupil drop-off/pick-up area, and dedicated staff car park, better facilities in comparison to the other site options;
 - staff and pupils will remain in the buildings at the existing Muirfield and Timmergreens Primary School sites while the new school is being constructed. They will move to the new school once it has been completed, thereby avoiding temporary decanting arrangements and minimising any disruption to learning and teaching during the construction phase;

- the west side of the site is located adjacent to the Westway, with the remaining sides nestled between private housing and the grounds of Hospitalfield House (a grade A listed building). The building design, together with the retention of an established hedge, can visually screen and reduce impact from the Westway, while the secure play areas and sports fields utilised by pupils can be accommodated behind the building within a tranquil natural setting; and
- while the adjacency of the grade A listed Hospitalfield House provides some additional challenges in relation to the construction process, the new primary school will benefit from a 'sense of place' and from associated educational opportunities that may be available through its close proximity to this historic property.

5.2 Proposed Facilities

- 5.2.1 Since the design solution for the school will be developed in consultation with the school community, this section of the Proposal is intended only to give an outline of the facilities.
- 5.2.2 Facilities will be required to accommodate up to 500 primary aged pupils, 40 pre-school aged pupils (morning and afternoon), specific facilities for pupils with Additional Support Needs and community use during and out-with normal school hours, including breakfast and after school care clubs.
- 5.2.3 The projected combined rolls for the new primary school for primary aged pupils up to and including school year 2016/17, including placing requests, are detailed in Table 3 below. It should be noted that the pupil rolls for school years commencing in **2010**, **2011** and **2012** are for information purposes only, as the new primary school would not be available until the start of the new school year in August 2013.

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
447	442	431	413	401	403	409

- 5.2.4 The information provided in Table 3 above identifies the projected roll in 2013 as 413, significantly lower than the proposed capacity of 500 primary aged pupils. While at present, it is anticipated that the combined school roll will gradually reduce in the medium term, the capacity of 500 will provide flexibility to deal with any unanticipated increase in pupil numbers.
- 5.2.5 The design concept for the new primary school building will provide a modern purpose built facility for pupils, staff and the wider community. It will be a unique design solution to suit the surrounding environment and will meet the needs of the school and community users.
- 5.2.6 It will be important to include within the design a degree of flexibility and adaptability in order to provide options to alter spaces in the future in response to the changing needs of the school in light of Curriculum for Excellence developments. That approach is likely to optimise the use of available space.
- 5.2.7 The needs of every child will be placed at the centre of developing the design in recognition of the 'journey' they will make through the school, from nursery to P7. The design will be carefully planned, taking full account of the requirements for delivering the Curriculum for Excellence, and will include the following further:
- the pre-school/nursery educational area having separate entrance/reception and space to accommodate a variety of activities to support early years learning, including a direct link to a secure and dedicated external play area, together with close internal links with the infant department in order to encourage regular

collaborative learning through active play and enhance transition between pre-school nursery and P1;

- a pre-school./Additional Support Needs area and multi sensory room to support the inclusion of nursery pupils who require additional help and assistance with learning, with close adjacency to the 'mainstream' pre-school area;
- 16 learning and teaching spaces for primary aged pupils (split into 3 zones relating to infant, middle and upper school pupils) which are adjacent to central internal activity areas and have direct access to outside teaching spaces which will be accessible through external classroom doors, providing flexibility and opportunity to maximise the use of space inside and outside the building;
- gym hall and adjacent dining/community spaces which can be used flexibly as one large space or a combination of smaller spaces to provide for the needs of the school and the wider community, for example, by providing the space to deliver activities to support physical education, performing arts, school dining, out-of-school care and community activities generally;
- a variety of other spaces to support a range of activities taking place within the school including general purpose space which may for example accommodate musical tuition; library/ICT learning resource space; support for learning space for pupils requiring specialist teaching; tutorial spaces for small group work or individual tuition; meeting space; staff social and dedicated work-space for preparing lessons; medical room; resource base/reprographics to assist with the production and storage of resources; senior management team office/administration accommodation; and other 'ad hoc' ancillary/infrastructure space;
- building services design which maximises the use of natural daylight and natural ventilation, together with heating, ventilation and electrical systems which provide modern requirements in an energy efficient and sustainable manner;
- security design features incorporated inside and outside the building to support management arrangements and provide an accessible and secure environment for all building users, with external public areas of the site being separated from the private secure pupil play areas and the building itself forming a secure feature separating the two areas;
- hard landscaped surfacing around the exterior of the building incorporating general play and netball court markings, with the potential to support an increasingly important aspect of the curriculum by gradually developing other areas around the site in association with 'grounds for learning' initiatives to accommodate wildlife/eco garden/habitat areas, a play equipment area and an outdoor classroom educational area;
- grassed sports pitch accommodating 7-a-side football, in accordance with Sportscotland's standard, together with other general amenity grass play areas; and
- suitable footpaths within the site to provide safe access for the movement of pupils, staff and visitors, access provision for vehicles, with dedicated drop-off/pick-up facility and separate car parking spaces for staff.

The above overview represents only the principles of the outline design concept for the new primary school. This will be developed into a final design solution in consultation with the school community, in order to provide the opportunity to achieve the best possible outcomes for all users of the site.

5.3 Westway Pupil Crossing Arrangements

5.3.1 Draft School Travel Plans have been developed by the Council as part of the work undertaken to assess the four potential site options. This process has identified, in principle, the following:

- potential walking routes, including the opportunity to provide a 'walking bus' scheme which would allow pupils to walk along a designated risk assessed route;
- school crossing control points (operated by School Crossing Patrollers) to be located at various road crossings to suit pupil movement desire lines; and
- provision of a light controlled crossing point for pupils having to cross the Westway, with walking routes designed to converge at this point.

5.3.2 These draft School Travel Plans have been used as part of the ongoing informal consultation between council officers and representatives from Muirfield and Timmergreens Parent Councils to examine in greater detail the merits of suggested walking routes and crossing points.

5.3.3 The draft School Travel Plan for the preferred new site located adjacent to Hospitalfield House provides the best opportunity to manage the Westway crossing arrangements in comparison to the arrangements which would apply to the other three site options. A map, showing the potential walking routes, school crossing control points and light controlled crossing point, is included in Annex 4.

5.3.4 Walking routes to the new site adjacent to Hospitalfield House are best considered in four zones as follows:

- zone 1 – the area to the North East of the new catchment area (including Newbigging Drive/Emislaw Drive/Charles Avenue);
- zone 2 – the area to the South East of the new catchment area (including Arbirlot Place/Moneymusk Road/Viewfield Road);
- zone 3 – the area to the South West of the new catchment area (including Hospitalfield Road/School Road); and
- zone 4 – the area to the North West of the new catchment area (including Bloomfield Road/Newton Avenue).

5.3.5 Pupils walking from zones 1 and 2 will not have to cross the Westway and will be able to utilise the potential walking routes and school crossing patrol points.

5.3.6 Pupils walking from zone 3 will require to cross the Westway and the walking route has been developed to follow the paths network accessible from Hospitalfield Road and emerging via The Steading onto the Westway close to the location of the light controlled crossing point.

5.3.7 Pupils walking from zone 4 will also require to cross the Westway and the walking route has been developed to follow established walking routes to the existing school crossing control point at Arbirlot Road West and then follow the paths network accessible from Arbirlot Road West and emerging via The Steading onto the Westway close to the location of the light controlled crossing point.

5.3.8 The draft School Travel Plan will continue to be developed by working in partnership with parents/carers of Muirfield and Timmergreens Primary Schools. This commitment would also include consultation with Angus Council's Roads Division about the need for additional road safety measures, including a reduced speed limit

on the section of the Westway adjacent the light controlled crossing, the provision of safety barriers and new signage.

6. Educational Benefits Statement

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Angus Council believes that this Proposal will provide a range of educational benefits and enhance its efforts to meet statutory obligations enshrined in:

- the Education (Scotland) Act 1980;
- the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000;
- the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003;
- the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004;
- the Educational (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009; and
- the Equality Act 2010.

6.1.2 In comparison to the existing facilities at Muirfield and Timmergreens Primary Schools which are relatively poor in terms of condition and suitability (see sections 4.1 and 4.2 above), the new merged primary school will provide modern fit-for-purpose facilities that are specifically designed to create a stimulating learning environment described in section 5.2 above.

6.1.3 The new school will be designed to provide a fully accessible and inclusive environment to accommodate the needs of all building users, and in particular pupils with additional support needs.

6.1.4 The facilities will support the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence by providing an environment conducive 'to nurturing successful, effective, confident and responsible young people who are able to learn and apply their learning in ways that will help them to reach their full potential and respond to the variety and pace of change they will encounter in today's and tomorrows world'. The facilities will be built in accordance with the latest building standards and regulatory requirements relating to building design.

6.1.5 There are specific benefits associated with the preferred site which is adjacent to Hospitalfield House, a grade A listed building, and which will offer the new school campus a 'sense of place'.

6.1.6 Details of the history surrounding Hospitalfield House is available at www.hospitalfield.org.uk. Hospitalfield is an intrinsic part of Arbroath's heritage, originating from medieval days. The House itself was developed into its current form by Patrick Allan-Fraser in the middle of the 19th century. The House has played a key role in education and the arts and can claim to be Scotland's first school of fine art. This proposal brings together a modern day educational facility and an established cultural setting which is steeped in history and which will offer the school community ample opportunity to enrich the curriculum.

6.1.7 The staff and pupils from Muirfield and Timmergreens Primary Schools will be actively involved in development work facilitated through the Council's 'Project Blueprint' initiative. This initiative has developed an inter-disciplinary toolkit for collaborative practice aimed at supporting schools in the development of their own plans/manifesto relating to new school design. This process is informed by the needs of users and is in itself a model for inter-disciplinary learning prompted by Curriculum for Excellence.

6.2 Likely effect of Proposal on pupils currently attending Muirfield and Timmergreens Primary School (or expected to attend)

6.2.1 Pupils currently attending Muirfield and Timmergreens Primary Schools (or expected to attend within the next 2 years) will discontinue their education at the existing school facilities and re-locate to the newly established primary school. Both schools are currently operating with rolls significantly below their capacity (refer to section 3.7 above). With effect from 13 August 2013, or as soon as possible thereafter, when the new primary school is operational, the projected roll for the new primary school will be 413 pupils (i.e. 83% of capacity).

6.2.2 There are a number of educational benefits associated with the design of the new primary school:

- the main entrance will be developed to provide a focal point for access to the building which will be purpose designed as a welcoming and stimulating space in which the successes and achievements of the school and its pupils can be displayed, with security features incorporated, together with appropriate foyer seating and toilet accommodation, to ensure that parents/carers and community users have an attractive focal point for access to the facilities, thereby fostering and building a positive ethos of the school as a community school;
- a design that will support learning across the four contexts of Curriculum for Excellence and with appropriate adjacencies of identified infant, middle and upper school peer group spaces thereby enhancing coherence and progression within and through Curriculum for Excellence levels;
- access to spaces designed to facilitate active learning and collaborative work between classes by providing classrooms adjacent to large internal activity areas and also giving direct access to outside spaces, with these areas supporting both group activity and individual work;
- internal activity areas which are a key feature of the school and which offer specialist learning and teaching space to facilitate personalisation and choice in ways likely to broaden and deepen learning;
- attractive social and circulation space and wet areas with sinks to support art and other 'wet' activities;
- activity areas which may be utilised, for example, for group work or art work requiring additional space or for a science experiment or reading information relating to a personal project or group listening to a story;
- the provision of general purpose rooms and group/tutorial rooms adjacent to the main learning and teaching spaces providing further flexible accommodation to support curricular activities which require to be undertaken outwith mainstream spaces but with easy access, for example, supporting music tuition or small group discussion/presentation or drama activities or 'circle time' or practising modern language skills;
- a specialist 'support for learning' area providing space where pupils with a range of learning difficulties can gain specialist teaching to support inclusion and integration within the mainstream learning environment;
- the incorporation of moveable/retractable partitions at locations where this additional flexibility can be offered to suit the specific learning needs of pupils;

- an integrated ICT infrastructure to maximise the use of the latest technology to facilitate access to learning and teaching resources, including interactive whiteboard provision, flexibly managed computers/electronic devices, integrated digital TV/radio and digital signage to facilitate presentation of information/pupils' work;
- management, office and staff facilities suitably located in order to support staff in delivering the curriculum and facilitate a positive school ethos and collegiate working culture;
- dedicated resource base space incorporating reprographics equipment and other facilities for use by teaching and support staff to support the production of pupil resources;
- a medical/visiting specialist room to assist with first aid arrangements and medical examinations when required;
- spacious games hall provision including mobile stage with an integrated stage lighting and sound system (with adjacent male, female and accessible changing accommodation), to support physical education and games, assemblies, performance and dramatic arts activities;
- specialist Library/ICT learning resource areas at the heart of the school and accessible to pupils at all stages to support the development of ICT skills;
- the provision of a Dining/Community area (linked with a flexible partition to the games hall to facilitate the option of creating one larger space) with production kitchen facilities and equipment to support ongoing and new healthy eating initiatives and the provision for meals for all pupils, if required;
- integrated infrastructure and storage space, designed to ensure that the functional areas of the school are not compromised and are fully available and accessible for learning and teaching purposes;
- provision of furniture that is ergonomically designed, age appropriate and provides flexibility to change configuration and support a variety of learning and teaching approaches, including ICT based apparatus;
- pupil toilet areas, cloaks storage and general circulation arrangements designed to provide safe and easy to supervise pupil movement;
- design of the internal environment that provides excellent thermal comfort and air quality within the building across all seasons of the year, with acoustic performance that creates an ambience and atmosphere likely to support all staff and pupils to maximise their potential;
- natural day-lighting supplemented with artificial luminaries, where necessary, to provide illumination levels that fully support the activities of the school, together with specialist automated communication systems (door security access systems, fire alarm, bell sounder, hearing induction loops, phone system) that create a reassuring and safe environment; and
- the external areas of the site designed and developed to provide safe, secure and educationally stimulating journeys into and leaving easily supervised and navigated school grounds, where landscaping has been carefully planned to support recreational and play activities, including suitable areas of soft and hard landscaping incorporating seating, sports pitch, differentiated play areas and

areas capable of being developed by staff and pupils as part of 'grounds for learning' initiatives and other environmental education projects.

- 6.2.3 It is proposed that the new primary school will be constructed on a site adjacent to Hospitalfield House. There will be no detrimental impact on the existing learning and teaching during the building operations. During the construction phase there will be excellent opportunity for joint working between staff and pupils of Muirfield and Timmergreens Primary Schools with a view to building the ethos of the new primary school (sections 6.1.6 & 6.1.7 above also refer).
- 6.2.4 The new facilities would provide a major opportunity to enhance extra curricular activities through the provision of specialist internal and external areas including games hall, Library/ICT learning resource areas, sports pitch, netball court and environmental garden areas.
- 6.2.5 Pre-school pupils who would have attended Muirfield and Timmergreens Primary Schools' nursery classes will have a new pre-school nursery facility with a capacity for 40 morning and 40 afternoon places. Since the current combined pre-school nursery roll already accommodates 39 morning pupils and 36 afternoon pupils, the new primary school facility will have sufficient capacity to accommodate the current demand for places.
- 6.2.6 There are a number of educational benefits associated with the pre-school nursery facility:
- a welcoming pre-school nursery entrance space (incorporating a private meeting room area) to facilitate access by parents/carers to drop-off/pick up pupils thereby allowing regular and encouraging interaction with staff in ways which are likely to foster positive school/home links at this early years stage;
 - provision of a large pre-school nursery play area incorporating dedicated food preparation and wet play areas, along with flexible areas which can be adapted to create an exciting, stimulating and motivating learning and teaching environment;
 - dedicated toilet accommodation, incorporating laundry facilities, designed to support appropriate privacy, supervision and hygiene requirements; these will strike a balance between providing suitable assistance from staff and encouraging pupil independence;
 - a design providing close adjacency to the primary school infant spaces to support interaction between pre-school nursery staff/pupils and primary school infant department staff/pupils; regular interaction will support a seamless transition from nursery into the mainstream primary school; and
 - outdoor dedicated play space within a secure area which is accessed directly from the inside pre-school nursery area and provides a mix of soft and hard play surfaces with play equipment to stimulate active play activity.
- 6.2.7 The pre-school ASN nursery facility will be located within the new primary school. This facility will also incorporate a multi-sensory room with specialist equipment to support pupils with additional support needs. The design strategy will facilitate positive collaboration between support staff including ASN assistants, specialist and visiting teachers and other interagency professionals to help pupils access the full range of curriculum entitlements. This area of the school will be designed to encourage the ready involvement of parents/carers as partners in their children's learning with a view to achieving improved outcomes.
- 6.2.8 Pupils who currently attend either Muirfield or Timmergreens Primary Schools as a result of a successful placing request will be able to enrol in the new school. Any new

placing requests will be considered in accordance with the Council's policy on placing requests (refer to www.angus.gov/schools).

6.3 Likely effect of Proposal on Community Users

6.3.1 Community related activities currently delivered within Muirfield and Timmergreens will continue to be supported and accommodated within the new primary school. Community provision currently in place includes:

- at Muirfield Primary School:
 - Playgroup and lunch club;
 - Out of school care clubs (breakfast and after school);
 - Parent and toddler group;
 - Football training;
 - Netball training; and
 - Ad hoc occasional bookings to accommodate specific events,
- at Timmergreens Primary School:
 - Netball training; and
 - occasional bookings to accommodate specific events.

6.3.2 There will be opportunities to increase the range of community activities through the level of accommodation and flexibility built into the design of the new primary school.

6.3.3 The dining/community area could be used by community groups outwith the school lunch break for community activities to be undertaken during the school day. That area will be provided with a dedicated community kitchen/snack bar area, together with a community toilet and dedicated store.

6.3.4 This dining/community area may also be used outwith the school day, together with other aspects of the new facilities including the games hall/changing rooms, library/ICT resource area and sports pitch. The Council will actively encourage community use of the new facilities.

6.3.5 Related management arrangements will be put in place to support the continued and potentially extended use of the new facilities by community groups.

6.4 Likely effect of Proposal on other pupils across Angus Council schools

6.4.1 The likely effect of the proposal on other pupils across Angus schools will be minimal. The proposal for the Arbroath school estate will assist the Council to direct the Education revenue budget towards learning and teaching resources and the provision of high quality space, rather than supporting the over provision of space and higher running costs associated with that challenge.

6.4.2 The new primary school may result in additional placing requests. It is anticipated that any additional requests be accommodated within the potential spare capacity of the new primary school.

7. The Consultation Process

7.1 At its meeting on 10 February 2011, Angus Council authorised the Director of Education to undertake formal consultation in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 in relation to the Proposal specified in section 2 above (report 133/11 refers) and the arrangements noted below have been made to discharge that instruction.

7.2 The initial aspects of the consultation process are specified in the following table:

Item	Date/Details
Issue Proposal Document to notify consultees (in advance of start of required consultation period)	Monday 14 February 2011
Public notices to be advertised in The Arbroath Herald and The Courier and placed on notice boards in relevant Angus Council buildings and Angus Council Website to be updated with relevant information	During week commencing Monday 14 February 2011 (Notices displayed, Courier advert and Council website on or before Wednesday 16 February 2011; Arbroath Herald advert TBC)
Formally commence consultation period (the formal Date of Publication)	Wednesday 16 February 2011
Public meeting	Tuesday 8 March 2011
Consultation period ends (over 6 weeks since commencement, including 30 school days)	Friday 1 April 2011
Comments/representation submitted to the Director of Education during the consultation period forwarded to HMIE to allow preparation of their report	By Monday 18 April 2011
HMIE provide the Director of Education with report (3 weeks from submission of information)	Monday 9 May 2011

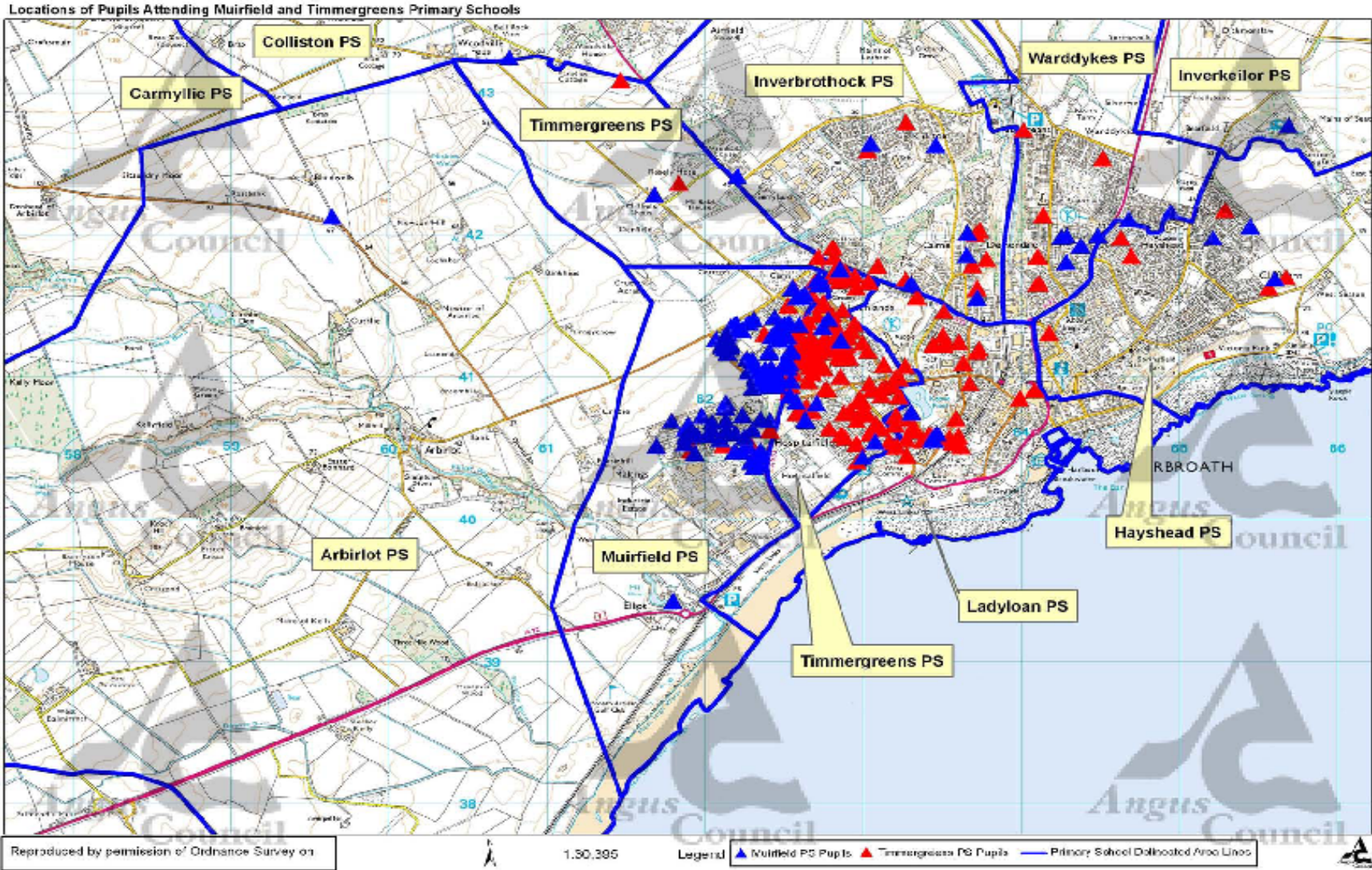
7.3 The Proposal Document will be issued by the Director of Education to the consultees included in the following list:

- Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Education (HMIE);
- the Parent Councils of Muirfield and Timmergreens Primary Schools;
- the parents/carers of pupils attending Muirfield and Timmergreens Primary Schools;
- the parents/carers of any children expected by Angus Council to attend either Muirfield or Timmergreens Primary Schools within two years of the date of publication of this Proposal Document (with that date of publication being defined in the table included in section 7.2 above), including those pupils attending all private and voluntary pre-school nursery schools in the Arbroath area;
- the pupils attending Muirfield and Timmergreens Primary Schools (insofar as this is possible and taking cognisance of the age and maturity of the pupils);
- the teaching and ancillary staff at Muirfield and Timmergreens Primary Schools;
- the trade union representatives of the above staff;
- user groups or individuals who currently utilise the facilities at Muirfield and Timmergreens Primary Schools;
- Arbroath Community Council;
- Arbroath and Area Partnership (local Community Planning Group);
- the constituency MSP;
- the constituency MP; and
- the constituency MEP.

7.4 The Proposal Document will also be published on the “have your say” section of Angus Council’s website www.angus.gov.uk and copies will also be available from the reception point at the following Angus Council buildings:

- Muirfield Primary School, School Road, Arbroath DD11 2LU;
 - Timmergreens Primary School, Emislaw Drive, Arbroath DD11 2HJ;
 - Arbroath Library, Hill Terrace, Arbroath DD11 1AH;
 - Arbroath Access Office, Old Parish Church, Kirk Square, Arbroath DD11 1DX; and
 - Angus House, Orchardbank Business Park, Orchardbank, Forfar DD8 1AX
- 7.5 The Proposal Document can also be made available in alternative formats or in translated form for readers whose first language is not English. Please make contact with Angus Council's Education Department, Angus House, Orchardbank Business Park, Orchardbank, Forfar DD8 1AE, Tel: 01307 476300, e-mail: education@angus.gov.uk
- 7.6 A public notice to advertise the consultation will be placed in the Arbroath Herald and The Courier and the same notice will be displayed on the reception area notice boards in the above noted Angus Council buildings.
- 7.7 A public meeting will be held at Arbroath High School (main assembly hall), Keptie Road, Arbroath DD11 3EN, on Tuesday 8 March 2011 at 7pm, at which representatives of Angus Council's Education Department will be in attendance to present the details of the Proposal, answer questions and record comments/representations from those in attendance at the meeting.
- 7.8 Comments/representations may also be made by using the "have your say" section of Angus Council's website www.angus.gov.uk or by writing to the Director of Education, Angus House, Orchardbank Business Park, Orchardbank, Forfar DD8 1AE or e-mailing education@angus.gov.uk.
- 7.9 At the end of the consultation period, the Director of Education will submit a copy of all written comments/representations, together with oral comments/representations made at the public meeting, to HMIE who will prepare a professional and independent report on the educational aspects of the Proposal.
- 7.10 The Director of Education will consider all written and oral comments/representations received in relation to the Proposal which have been received during the consultation period, together with HMIE's report, and prepare a Consultation Report.
- 7.11 The Director of Education shall publish the Consultation Report which shall be issued (either in full or as a summary document) to the consultees specified in section 7.3 above; be made available on the "have your say" section of Angus Council's website www.angus.gov.uk; be available in printed format from the reception points at Angus Council buildings specified in section 7.4 above; and be issued to all those who responded and provided contact details through the consultation process.
- 7.12 The Consultation Report shall be published to allow a period of no less than 3 weeks prior to the Council's Decision to either implement or reject the Proposal.
- 7.13 The Director of Education shall immediately notify Scottish Ministers if the Council's Decision is to implement the Proposal which would discontinue education provision at the existing Muirfield and Timmergreens Primary Schools.
- 7.14 Representations (from consultees) can be made to Scottish Ministers within 3 weeks of the Council Decision to request Scottish Ministers 'call-in' the Council Decision.
- 7.15 Angus Council can only implement the Council Decision 6 weeks after the date of the Council Decision or in the event such earlier notification is received from Scottish Ministers.

- 7.16 Angus Council cannot implement the Council Decision if 'called-in' by Scottish Ministers during the 6 week period after the Council Decision and Scottish Ministers will then adopt the position of making the decision to either implement or reject the Proposal.



Locations of Pupils Attending Muirfield and Timmergreens Primary Schools

