

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 10 JANUARY 2017**

**UPDATE IN REGARD TO MOTHBALLING OF LETHNOT PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Committee approval was given in May 2016 to mothball Lethnot Primary School from August 2016. The term 'mothballing' is used, according to Scottish Government guidance, to refer to a temporary decision to close a school where the roll has fallen to zero. Mothballing, rather than closing a school, gives the opportunity for it to reopen should circumstances change. There is no legal process for mothballing.
- 1.2 Lethnot Primary School is a remote rural school which is part of the Brechin cluster of schools. The school roll naturally fell to zero by the end of school session 2015/16. At the time of mothballing there were no other younger children living in the school catchment area. There were no current enrolments or placing requests for children to attend Lethnot School from session 2016/17.
- 1.3 Committee also agreed that the decision to mothball would be reviewed in December 2016. This review should include an analysis of any demand at the time that would necessitate the re-opening of Lethnot Primary School. In the meantime the delineated area for Lethnot Primary School was temporarily re-aligned to Edzell Primary School.

**2.0 CURRENT POSITION**

- 2.1 Since Lethnot School was mothballed, one family has moved into the catchment area and enrolled their child at Edzell Primary School. There have been no placing requests for Lethnot School.
- 2.2 Lethnot School therefore remains mothballed until the Angus School Investment Strategy reports in August 2017. This strategy will propose future actions for the Angus school estate.

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