

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 20 FEBRUARY 2018  
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**ANGUS SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE  
CONSULTATION PROPOSALS FOR RURAL SCHOOLS IN BRECHIN CLUSTER**

**REPORT BY MARK ARMSTRONG, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - PEOPLE**

**ABSTRACT**

This report presents the proposal documents for changes to the provision of rural schools in the Brechin cluster.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Angus Council:

- (i) Notes the consideration of the Children and Learning Committee on 20 February 2018;
- (ii) approves the consultation proposal for closure of Lethnot Primary School and adjustment to catchment area for Edzell Primary School (Appendix 1);
- (iii) approves the consultation proposal for closure of Tarfside Primary School and adjustment to catchment area for Edzell Primary School (Appendix 2);
- (iv) approves the consultation proposal for closure of Stracathro Primary School and adjustment to catchment area for Edzell Primary School (Appendix 3); and
- (v) approves that consultation begins with the Edzell school community for the expansion and re-development of the current school building.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN/CORPORATE PLAN**

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans:

- 4. The best start in life for children
- 5. More opportunities for people to achieve success
- 6. Improved physical, mental and emotional health and well-being

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 On 30 January 2018, Angus Council approved report 36/18 "School Investment Strategy 2017-2047". This report authorised consultations relating to the closures of Lethnot, Tarfside and Stracathro Primary Schools.

3.2 Each of these closure requires a separate consultation in line with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

**4. CURRENT POSITION**

4.1 Lethnot Primary School is currently mothballed (committee report 202/16).

4.2 Tarfside Primary School's roll has naturally fallen to zero.

4.3 Stracathro Primary School had a roll of 19 (at September 2017) and provides early learning and care facilities for 3 children.

- 4.4 It is projected that Edzell Primary School's roll will exceed its capacity by 2023. There is also a need to adapt the school to facilitate the increase in early learning and care provision for 2020. Accordingly, we need to expand this building, whether or not the proposed school closures outlined above proceed.

## 5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 It is proposed that consultation on the closure of Lethnot, Tarfside and Stracathro Primary Schools begins on Monday 24 February 2018 and continues until Friday 20 April 2018. Thereafter, a consultation report will be prepared, Education Scotland will undertake their review of the consultation exercise and a report with recommendations will be presented to the Children and Learning Committee on 18 September 2018.
- 5.2 Each of the closure proposals will be a separate process. Proposal documents have been prepared in this way and are appended to this report for approval.
- 5.3 It is also proposed that work begins to plan the extension of Edzell Primary School. This does not require a formal consultation process. Nevertheless, we propose that we consult with children, parents/carers, staff and the wider community associated with the school about the design and planning process. This work will begin as soon as possible to allow for the projected increase in school roll and the expansion of early learning and childcare. As well as addressing the increased space requirements it is our intention to re-develop aspects of the school that do not support our principles and ambitions for our learning estate.

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 It is likely that the closure proposals (if approved) will generate revenue savings. Indicative information is contained in each of the consultation proposals (appendices 1-3).
- 6.2 In assessing the savings implications, we have assessed each proposal individually. This means that we have considered the current arrangements for each school and identified any potential additional costs for Edzell Primary School (if changes to its catchment are approved following consultation). This information will be firmed up as the process develops and decisions are made.
- 6.3 The extension and re-development of Edzell Primary School will require capital investment. A separate report will be presented to the Children and Learning Committee after initial consultation.

**NOTE:** The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Committee Report 36/18
- Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

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List of Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Proposal to Close Lethnot Primary School and the amend the Edzell Primary Catchment Area
- Appendix 2 Proposal to Close Tarfside Primary School and the amend the Edzell Primary Catchment Area
- Appendix 3 Proposal to Close Stracathro Primary School and the amend the Edzell Primary Catchment Area