



**CHILDREN AND LEARNING**  
**CONSULTATION REPORT**  
**PROPOSAL TO CLOSE STRACATHRO PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**AND AMEND THE CATCHMENT OF EDZELL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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

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## Purpose of the Consultation

We consulted on the proposal to close Stracathro Primary School and amend the catchment of Edzell Primary School. The feedback obtained during the consultation period helped to inform the Council's decision not to proceed with the proposed closure of Stracathro Primary School. Section 2 (a) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 allows for such a decision to be made following the publication of a consultation report. Accordingly, this consultation report has been prepared to enable the council to formalise the decision not to close Stracathro (sections 9 and 11 of the said Act).

The statutory consultation period was originally scheduled to run from 26 February 2018 until 20 April 2018 inclusive. During this period there were two weeks school holiday from Monday 2 April to Friday 13 April 2018 inclusive. The statutory consultation period was therefore due to run for 30 school days. Due to severe weather conditions in March 2018, the consultation period was extended to Friday 27 April 2018.

An inaccuracy in the consultation document was pointed out on 18 March 2018 and an amendment issued. This was assessed as not material. On 13 April 2018 an omission from the consultation document was identified and as a result the consultation period was further extended to 11 May 2018. The consultation would have run for 45 school days. A decision to cease the consultation was made on 10 May 2018.

The consultation was advertised in the local and regional press, on the Angus Council website, Facebook page and twitter feed, via posters in the local library, health centre, soft play centre and Community Campus (see appendix 3), and via emails to parents and carers of children attending neighbouring schools and their nursery classes. Emails were sent to Parent Councils of neighbouring schools and local playgroups, and contact made with Health Visitors asking them to inform parents of young children that they were working with. Education Scotland, the Care Inspectorate, MPs, MSPs and the Community Councils were also informed.

During the period a number of consultation events were held:

- With children attending Stracathro and Edzell primary schools including early learning and childcare provision;
- with staff in both schools;
- Public consultation events in Lethnot Hall; St. Drostan's Hall, Tarfside; Inchbare Hall; Edzell Church Hall; and Inglis Memorial Hall, Edzell
- Online consultation was also available

During the consultation period responses in relation to the proposal to close Stracathro Primary School were received as following:

- comments from children and staff were recorded
- comments were recorded from the public drop in events
- a note was taken of the meeting at Inglis Memorial Hall, Edzell
- 45 online surveys were completed

There were two reported omissions or inaccuracies within the proposal document during the consultation period. This resulted in the proposal being amended and the consultation period extended by two weeks for the omission.

Over the course of the consultation, in response to feedback, amendments were made to the consultation website and the consultation documents. Where appropriate, the consultation period was extended to ensure consultees had sufficient time to consider changes and any additional information provided. These adjustments have all enhanced the consultation process.

The consultation process engaged the local communities and there was particular interest and engagement from the Stracathro community and the parents and carers of children currently attending this school.

Having listened carefully to the feedback and comments received, particularly in relation to parents and carers of children presently attending the schools. Angus Council at its meeting of 10 May 2018 agreed to stop the current formal consultation on the closure of Stracathro Primary School and its early learning and childcare provision with immediate effect. Article 3 of the minute of Angus Council refers, see report 155/18 <http://www.angus.gov.uk/sites/angus-cms/files/2018-05/155.pdf>.

This demonstrates that the council has been listening to the concerns of the communities and that it is serious in its aspirations to engage in clear and transparent processes and that, within the policy and financial constraints affecting it, will be responsive to the needs of our citizens and communities.

## The Consultation Programme

The timetable for the consultation process was as follows:

Commence formal consultation period (the formal Date of Publication) for a minimum of 6 weeks, including 30 school days	26 February 2018
Consultation period on proposed closure extended to 27/04/18 due to impact of adverse weather	08 March 2018
Public Meeting, Lethnot Hall, Parents/Carers and members of the public/community	13 March 2018
Public Meeting, St. Drostan's Hall, Tarfside Parents/Carers and members of the public/community	15 March 2018
Public Meeting, Inchbare Hall Parents/Carers and members of the public/community	20 March 2018
Public Meeting, Edzell Church Hall Parents/Carers and members of the public/community	21 March 2018
Due to an omission in the narrative explaining our financial figures consultation period extended to 11 May 2018	13 April 2018
Public Meeting, Inglis Memorial Hall, Edzell Parents/Carers and members of the public/community	16 April 2018
<b>Angus Council decides to cease consultation</b>	<b>10 May 2018</b>
<i>Consultation Period Ends</i>	<i>11 May 2018</i>
Estimated Education Scotland Report on Consultation to be issued to Angus Council	18 June 2018
<b>Education Scotland and Angus Council consultation reports issued</b>	<b>26 October 2018</b>
<b>Angus Council restates it's decision to cease consultation made on 10 May 2018</b>	<b>8 January 2019</b>
<b>Angus Council notifies Scottish Ministers of decision</b>	<b>09 January 2019</b>

## List of Consultees notified

The following people / groups were notified of the consultation: –

<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Notification Method</b>	<b>Proposal Document</b>
The parents/carers of any children attending Stracathro or Edzell primary school.	Text message and email.	Electronic link provided
The parents/carers of any children attending Stracathro or Edzell early learning and childcare provision.	Text message and email	Electronic link provided
The Parent Councils of Stracathro and Edzell primary schools.	Email issued	Electronic link provided
The parents of any children expected by the education authority to attend any affected school within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper	* See below	
Edzell Playgroup	Email issued	Electronic link provided
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE);	Email issued	Electronic link provided
The Care Inspectorate;	Email issued	Electronic link provided
Inveresk Community Council;	Email issued	Electronic link provided
City of Brechin and District Community Council;	Email issued	Electronic link provided
The constituency MSP	Email issued	Electronic link provided
The constituency MP	Email issued	Electronic link provided

\*Based on information from NHS Tayside, there were 2 children who would be expected to attend Stracathro primary school within two years of the date of publication of the Proposal Document. This information was provided only for school roll projections and as such there was no data sharing agreement in place which allowed Angus Council to contact the parents of these children directly. In order to address this, contact was made with Health Visitors to request that they raised the consultation with any parents they were working with, and posters were also placed in Edzell Health Centre, Brechin Library, Brechin Community Campus and Adventure Kids Castle Brechin. Emails containing details of the consultation were also sent to Edzell Playgroup.

The proposal document was made available for download via an electronic link in notification letters and social media messages, by means of a web address on public notices and press releases, and printed copies could be made available on request. Printed copies were also available at the public meetings.

## **Omissions and Additions**

After due consideration in accordance with section 5 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, we determined that there was one inaccuracy and one omission from our proposal document. Both the inaccuracy and the omission were notified by consultees. After due consideration we agreed that there had been an inaccuracy and omission, and amended our consultation documents accordingly.

The inaccuracy was as follows:-

Page 19, Section 8.3 of the Stracathro PS consultation document stated that:-

“The building at Stracathro is less suited to these activities as it is in a very rural location with no pavements, parking for up to 4 cars, no gym hall and the toilets are upstairs.”

This was amended to read:-

“The building at Stracathro is less suited to these activities as it is in a very rural location, with limited car parking, no gym hall and toilets that require four steps to be climbed in order to be accessed. In the immediate locality, the Inchbare Hall would provide more parking and more accessible toilets than Stracathro primary school.”

It was our consideration that this inaccuracy does not materially change the points being raised. The consultation document was amended and uploaded to the Angus Council website on 30/03/18.

We determined that the narrative explaining our financial figures was not sufficient. Our opinion was that this omission does not constitute a material consideration for the reason that our proposal is based on providing the best quality learning environments for all of our children and young people, and not on financial considerations (Section 5 (2)).

We decided to amend our consultation document to include a narrative explaining our costings and in order to allow consultees time to consider this additional information we extended the consultation period to Friday 11 May 2018 at 5.00pm (Section (4)(b)).



## Consultation Methodology

### Children's Consultation

#### Children attending Stracathro Primary School

The consultation was undertaken by two members of council staff. The following is the session plan used: -

#### Children's Survey Stracathro and Edzell Consultation/ Session 1 hour

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017 13 30 – 14 30 Stracathro Primary School

(15 young people in Stracathro)

1. Introduction to pupil consultation will be read out. (5 mins)
2. Show children the following clip of what schools in the future could look like.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8HklGdHKcc> (5mins)
3. What would your ideal school look like? (15 mins)  
Divide children into three groups, mixed ages.

Flipchart paper and pens to be given to each group. In groups children to write down and or draw what they think the following should look like, sound like and feel like in a school.

- PE provision
- Digital
- School building and grounds

Groups to share what they have put together, then identify which is most important to them (PE/Digital/Building and Grounds) (5 mins)

4. Do you think Stracathro Primary School should remain open? (5 mins)  
Individual activity.
5. If Stracathro was to close is there anything that might worry you? (5 mins)  
Split whole group in two. Discuss and record any responses.

The introduction used is as follows: -

### **(Introduction)**

Hello my name is **(Insert)** and this is **(Insert)**.

I am here from Angus Council today to talk to you about your school and what you think makes a good place to learn.

### **(Context)**

Over the past few month Angus Council have started to look at all schools in the Angus, Monifieth, Carnoustie, Arbroath, Montrose, Forfar, Kirriemuir and the Brechin area. We are here today because your school is part of the Brechin area. The council are looking to make sure all schools in Angus are the best possible places for children to learn. This might mean there will be some changes to some of our schools. This could mean some new schools might get built, some schools might be extended, some schools might merge or join together or some schools might close. There has been no decisions been made about any of these possible changes to schools yet.

Children's views at all our schools are really important to us and we want to make sure your views are listened to. We are going to be talking to all children in all the schools where there might be changes happening to their school in the future. We are here today to make sure your voices are heard about what you think makes a good place to learn. ***(Children have a right to have their voice heard and their opinions taking into account. (UNCRC; Article 12))***

Today we are going to ask you some questions about what you think a school should look, feel and sound like to learn in. The questions we are going to ask you are similar to the questions in the online questionnaire we have asked whoever lives at home with you to complete. You are also allowed to complete one of these questionnaires if you want. If you want to see the questionnaire you should speak to someone at home about this.

### **(Feedback)**






At the end of today we will give all the information you tell us back to people in the council. They are collecting information from lots of different people until the 27<sup>th</sup> of April. After that date someone will come back and talk to you about what happens next with schools in the Brechin area.

### **(Exceptions)**

As I have already said all of your views are really important to us and we will listen to everything you have to say, and we promise to take all your suggestions seriously. However, we cannot promise that all the suggestions you make will happen.

If you have any questions about what we are doing please ask us while we are here, or ask **(Head teacher)** once we have gone and she will make sure we answer the questions.

Children were also given the opportunity to complete the form below.

<p>Do you think Stracathro Primary School should remain open?</p>	<p>Please write or draw a picture to explain your reason why.</p>
 	
	
 	

## Responses from Children and Young People

The collated responses are below.

Learners were asked to consider the importance of three themes (Buildings and Grounds, PE and Technology) and how they could make Angus schools great places to learn. These themes align with those identified in the on-line survey.

### Buildings and Grounds

- More PE
- Sit on cushions
- Go outside to learn on good days/outside learning places
- Learn geography and flags
- Learn about what different countries have gone through and how they split about the world and got named and how they were created
- They should have both grass and concrete area
- School should have things to do outside e.g. climbing frame
- They should not always be sat down writing they should also be active
- A school should be strong and safe
- Change our jumpers logo to Cyril the squirrel
- A school ground would look safe and sound fun
- A school building would look welcoming and feel fun and sound like a place to go
- A school building would provide learning by not focusing on technology
- Bike shelter/outdoor rain shelter
- Be welcoming, sound fun, feel nurtured/safe
- Safe environment
- Built out of granite
- Has more outdoor learning
- Made out of wood/sticks/chalk
- Learn on computers

### PE

- Rock climbing made out of rock
- Monkey bars on the roof with a mattress underneath
- They do different things
- Sections that suit all people doing gym
- Different sports – sounds safe and inviting
- Different games
- Longer PE sessions
- Decent equipment and a running track
- Swimming, rugby and football as well as normal things in PE
- Proper tennis racquets
- No dangerous equipment
- Climbing wall
- Playing games
- Running
- More running every day and 15 laps every day
- Gymnastics all a time

- Basketball
- Jumping
- Do 10 laps every day run a mile
- Climbing/wear safety belts if you are climbing
- Sliding
- If you can't hear or see properly do lot gymnastics stuff
- Rugby posts
- You can be in and outside
- A proper football equipment
- A basketball net with a blackboard
- Longer than 1 mile it is not long enough
- Learn about lots of different types of sport and try them out
- Don't push pupils to do what they cannot do
- More gym as well as being outside
- Do real sports
- More equipment
- Consider asthma
- Give pupils a choice to run or not
- Increase the space
- Do a boot camp to increase the strength of the pupils
- Do not push pupils till they are confident
- Supply water to pupils
- Different games
- Get a trampoline
- Do different subjects
- Swimming pool to play and have fun and play races

## Technology

- More sumdog
- Computer
- Watching videos
- Phones/ a lot of phones in school because you can go on the internet
- Laptop
- More MIE
- Have whiteboard that can go in to tables
- Tap your finger on the whiteboard screen
- Video walls
- Laptop/computer course to make one big thing
- Robot helpers
- Wall mounted TV learning
- Feel safe, don't be discouraged by safety
- Look enjoyable again don't be discouraged
- Make you want to do it
- Interactive learning
- Use technology in work
- More educational games!
- Use technology only for learning
- Try not to cover the schools in tech
- Computers can talk and do what you say and if you say a name of a video it will show you it

- Listen to music during lessons
- Chrome books so pupils can take them home to do their homework
- Each pupil should be able to go on the computer to find facts
- A tablet for people to research facts
- More things on the internet to teach new things

Of the 15 learners asked on the day:

60% felt that Buildings & Grounds were most important in making schools great places to learn

7% felt that PE was most important in making schools great places to learn

33% felt that Technology was most important in making schools **great** places to learn

All children at Stracathro primary felt the school should remain open.

**STRACATHRO PUPIL  
CONSULTATION COMMENTS**

**Do you think Stracathro Primary School should remain open?**





15

**Please write or draw a picture to explain your reason why.**

- Stracathro is small but everyone knows everyone very well. Everyone helps each other if you are stuck. Everyone is like a family. The teachers have lots of time for everyone in the class.
- I think Stracathro Primary should stay open as it would be a shame for us, the teachers and the community. That's the best thing about Stracathro, it includes the community. We put on shows, do Burns Suppers, Church Services and other things that we all enjoy. I was really shy when I started and the school really helped me as it was smaller.
- I think it should stay open because it is a fantastic school. When you are at Stracathro you make lots of friends. You get more time with the teachers because they don't have to help a big class but here the teachers don't have to help as much people because it is a small class.
- Because here in Stracathro it was easy to find a friend as in Edzell I would never found a friend. Over the years a lot of work has gone in to the school it would be a shame to see it go.
- Stracathro consistently produces good learners and a lot of them continue it through to high school. Children get more teacher time. Children make a lot of friends and don't often get bullied. It has good outdoor learning space. The school links together with the community lots. The teachers know the children well and can help them learn.
- Because I have had a great education here and got lots of help when needed I think this is an ideal school. (Drawing of a boy with thumbs up). I am now confident in all areas of school.
- Stracathro Primary School should remain open because: - If Edzell school or nursery is full we're another choice to go to. If Stracathro Primary School closes teachers will loose their jobs. Stracathro doesn't have too much children so it's not as

	<p>much of a hassle to look after the children. Stracathro pupils get challenged and are given work that's suitable for them. The whole gets together for learning not just getting together for assembly. Everybody knows everybody and no one is bullied.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You should not shut down Stracathro school because it could have 1,000 people and it is a good place to learn. Also it has great teachers and if it closed they would need to retire or go to a new school.</li> <li>• Because I love learning in it. It is fun. I like the sums because they are hard and I can do them. This school looks nice. I like all my friends at this school. (Drawing of 2 people playing basketball).</li> <li>• I want the school to stay open because we don't need a gym hall because we use Edzell's gym hall. Because we get lot of attention because we learn quickly. We get to do science.</li> <li>• It has good learning. It makes you smart. It makes your brain think harder. I like reading, eating my lunch, science, shapes, maths, playtime.</li> <li>• Everyone gets along. Everyone helps each other. No one fights each other. Everyone is friends.</li> <li>• The school should stay open because the school is sweet and nice and we learn and we have nice teachers and they teach us lovely things like maths, so please keep Stracathro school open.</li> <li>• You have got friends at school. At school you get to play with your friends. The work is good, we have to work hard, I like going on the computer. We like doing run a mile. We get to have indoor playtime if it rains. (Drawing of Jolly Phonics).</li> <li>• We get time with the teacher because we have a little school. We get fun whilst we learn. We do good fundraisers for different people. We get good topics in the school. We get to go to pantomimes. We have good teachers. The teachers help us if we are stuck with words and to spell words. We get to make stuff we help each other.</li> </ul>
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<p>Do you think Stracathro Primary School should remain open?</p> 	<p>Please write or draw a picture to explain your reason why.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: 20px auto; text-align: center; line-height: 80px;">0</div>
<p>Do you think Stracathro Primary School should remain open?</p> 	<p>Please write or draw a picture to explain your reason why.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: 20px auto; text-align: center; line-height: 80px;">0</div>

The children identified the following as things that might worry them if Stracathro was to close:-

- Might split up in different school – worries about relationship
- Loss of friends
- Might not be a suitable school in the future for me
- Bullies in another school
- New teacher – getting used to them and moving to High school getting used to more new teachers
- Might not see your friends
- If the school closes might not see my friends again
- If we move to a new school we might not get there on time
- Teacher might lose their job, might have to move to a new place
- If move to another school you might be shy
- If we go to a bigger school we will be in bigger classes, might not be with our friends
- If you go to a bigger school you might be distracted and the move might distract you
- Bigger classroom you would not get the same attention in class
- We might never see our friends ever, ever again
- If schools closes the resources would go to waste and teachers would not get the opportunity to teach freely and child would not be able to receive as much as they are used to

- If we move school not get to see friends, might be difficult to make friends in future
- More people
- No friends/not seeing friends during class time because old friend would have made new friends
- Not knowing anyone and not having friends
- Little sister
- Getting in taxi with someone who says mean things
- People making fun of my answers – hurt my feelings
- Worried about going to a new school
- Not getting enough teacher time
- Siblings go to different school – feeling lonely and scared
- Getting bullied
- Work not at correct level
- Where would I go to school?
- Getting lost in a bigger school/not knowing where things are
- Bullying in a new school and not making friends
- Teacher would not know you so wouldn't help you because they had to help others

## **Children attending Edzell Primary School**

There are currently 4 classes in Edzell Primary School. On 23 April 2018 two members of council staff undertook consultation activities to gather thoughts and hear views and opinions from all learners P1-P7. As well as being used to inform the possible closure of Stracathro primary school and change to Edzell's catchment, some of this information will be used to inform the planned expansion of Edzell primary school. The planned expansion is not dependent upon the closure decision.

The following is a summary of the responses: -

Learners were asked to consider the importance of three themes (Buildings and Grounds, PE and Technology) and how they could make Angus schools great places to learn. These themes align with those identified in the on-line survey.

### **Buildings and Grounds**

- separate space for gym hall and dining hall
- doors on classrooms, bigger classrooms
- rooms for specific subjects, breakout spaces
- corridors so we don't walk through classrooms/other work areas
- kitchen for use by staff and pupils
- 2 story building, balcony for art
- review ratio of grass to hard-standing
- more resources for learning outside
- lots of light and windows

### **PE**

- facilities for whole community – swimming leisure facilities
- running lanes, white lines for pitch
- more trees, but not on pitch
- all-weather pitch – grass gets muddy
- water fountain in gym hall
- bigger storage cupboard
- get rid of echo in gym
- interactive whiteboard in gym
- more outside equipment
- more toilets in (bigger) changing rooms
- safer mats, non-slip floor in gym

### **Technology**

- wifi
- laptop / iPad / Chromebook for every learner
- more equipment / time / space in GP so everyone can have a go
- bigger whiteboards, more pens
- robots to play / work with if you have no one else
- computer suite
- speakers to playground
- be able to use phones

Of the 70 learners asked on the day:

49% felt that Buildings & Grounds were most important in making schools great places to learn

17% felt that PE was most important in making schools great places to learn

34% felt that Technology was most important in making schools **great** places to learn

Noted below are Learners comments from small group discussions when asked to consider both the positive and not so positive aspects should a decision be made for Stracathro PS to join Edzell PS.

### **Positive (multiple responses in brackets)**

- Meet new people and make new friends (21)
- Less travel for Stracathro children when they come to the gym, go on school trips and travel to and from school (7)
- More people for the daily mile
- Learn new things and learn together
- Bigger classes
- Will help to prepare for secondary school and for the future
- More friends for making up sports teams
- Re-allocation of funds for travel on trips rather than transport for PE
- Travel reduction more eco friendly
- Opportunities for intergenerational work
- More parents for after school clubs and parent councils
- Boost for community, business, housing, public facilities (Gym and Toilets)
- Better fundraising and charity work
- Costs savings of running Stracathro
- Campus model for everyone
- More attractive to other professionals music, science, sports and art
- It might be easier for the children of Stracathro who live closer to Edzell
- They won't have to make choices for school lunches in a week in advance
- They would see all the cool staff and classes in Edzell

### **Not so positive (multiple responses in brackets)**

- Too many people in class room and in the school (6)
- Too busy at lunch time
- Bullying
- Not enough toys
- Take our food, share Edzell s' food (Pack lunches)?
- Children in Stracathro might not what it to close
- Travel time to and from school
- We would need more parking spaces
- More help for learners who need it might not be available in Edzell
- The playground might feel smaller to beginning with
- We would need more space for bike ability
- It won't be so good to have too many children in the class room for reading
- Would have to wait longer to get on a computer
- Building an extension
- Teachers losing their jobs

- Parents want children in quite school
- Losing old friends
- Would need an extension
- Increase ease cost of buying equipment, furniture and trips
- Gym hall is not big enough, we would have to increase
- More people needed to keep track of the class
- Not enough outside space
- Might not know people from Stracathro

Of the 49 learners asked individually whether they thought Stracathro PS joining Edzell PS was a good idea, here is what they said:

#### **Yes (32%)**

- Make more friends
- They come here already for PE, they could have more resources and support at Edzell
- Being with more people will better prepare them for secondary school
- Reduce school travel time and cost
- There would be more money if both schools came together
- People are always welcome in our school and we are ready for a change
- There isn't another school for them to go to

#### **No (43%)**

- Too noisy and crowded
- Need more of everything – including teachers
- More children = less attention for each learner
- Stracathro learners might lose the memories of their teachers

#### **Unsure (25%)**

- Concerns around lack of space and increase in noise
- How much would it cost?
- Are we getting an extension?
- People might have to drive further to get to school
- Money saved on school transport could be spent on other things
- Some staff might lose their jobs

## Staff Consultation

Consultation was carried out with the staff at both Stracathro and Edzell primary schools on 28 March 2018. This was led by the Service Manager, Primary Education. The following is an outline of the consultation process: -

### Staff Groups

Stracathro- semi-structured interview facilitated by Service Manager

Edzell group activities

- (i) Carousel
- (ii) Working in groups on all questions. Each group feedbacks

On line platform available on the night.

- Format/ purpose of staff consultation
- What the proposals are  
(Supporting information/ literature and displays)
- Questions for staff to respond to
  - What are the advantages to closing Stracathro
  - What are the disadvantages to closing Stracathro
  - Likely impact on the community
  - What are the alternatives to closure
  - Do you want the school to stay open (with opportunity to comment)
  - General comments ( with option of private post-it box
- Plenary- feedback comments
- Conclusion- explanation of what next steps are in consultation. Look at timeline.

The feedback from the staff consultation is provided below: -

**PROPOSAL TO CLOSE STRACATHRO PS AND  
AMEND EDZELL PS CATCHMENT AREA**



**ALTERNATIVES TO CLOSURE**

- All staff expressed the feeling that school and its environment supports Education benefits expressed in consultation document. All staff expressed they would like school to stay open.
- Revise catchment to capture new families.
- Improve facilities e.g. toilets.
- Early Years environment believe environment to support aspirations of ELCC. Environment is already suitable to high quality learning experiences. "National Play Strategy Scotland" "Loose Parts Play" "My World" Space to Grow – Current environment supports this.
- Outdoor environment is unique – rich learning environment.
- Class environments support learning – children are not distracted by people passing through
- School does provide breakout space – (at least 2 spaces for 2 classes).
- If school does remain open – it must be maintained appropriately.

**PROPOSAL TO CLOSE STRACATHRO PS AND  
AMEND EDZELL PS CATCHMENT AREA**



**LIKELY IMPACT ON COMMUNITY IS (positive and negative)**

- Staff are situated locally which supports employment in the area (cleaning staff).
- School is central – school brings community together, fundraisers, church services, Links to organisations – multi-generalisation projects between the school and hospital.

**PROPOSAL TO CLOSE STRACATHRO PS AND  
AMEND EDZELL PS CATCHMENT AREA**



**STAFF WANTED TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK IN RELATION TO UNIQUE OFFER STRACATHRO  
CAN PROVIDE:-**

- Positive benefits of having small class numbers and direct support to individuals can be provided in small classes at Stracathro – it provides personalised learning.

- School has placing requests and people choose the school because of small numbers. They drive past other schools to come to Stracathro.
- An example of benefits of small classes and quality of education at Stracathro provides (EAL and LAC children). Other professionals noted Stracathro provides best levels of support they have ever seen. Children make good progress.
- Outdoor environment supports high quality learning experiences.
- Closing the school would negatively impact on particular families. They need specific support which Stracathro provides.
- Stracathro provides a safe, caring and consistent environment for all children but specifically for children with social and emotional needs.
- Multi-composite classes provides lots of opportunities to challenge children in their learning. Peer to peer learning stretches children's learning. Children are working beyond expected progress. Children aspire to work at higher levels and achieve challenging learning goals. Multi-composite classes supports application of learning.
- School provides a variety of opportunities for leadership for children. Stracathro children consistently excel at Stracathro school and achieve 16+ positive destinations. Stracathro children push themselves.
- The school has a good reputation in the community with strong community links (Stracathro Hospital).
- Existing joint working with Edzell is very effective.
- Stracathro has a long standing record of inclusive, support environment for children with a variety of needs.
- Close family links and strong parental links. School and staff has ability and willingness to support families and deep relationships with families. School and staff go above and beyond.
- Staff retention is a sign of positive difference school makes and the unique offer that Stracathro provides.
- Staff team is strong. All working to the benefits of the children.
- Nursery provides a good home environment for children to learn in. Nursery numbers continue to increase (3 children at census – 9 new enrolled).



## Summary of Public Events

### Lethnot Hall, Glen Lethnot – Public Consultation, Drop in Event.

One parent of children currently at Stracathro attended the public meeting at Lethnot Hall. Their comments, along with those from later meetings, were recorded and shared on the Council website and at subsequent events. The amalgamated responses are reproduced below.

### St. Drostan's Hall, Tarfside

The parents of a primary age child who lives in catchment for Tarfside but goes to Stracathro primary attended the meeting. Their comments were recorded by a member of Angus Council staff. These were then typed on to comments boards for use at subsequent meetings. The consultees felt that the typed comments were not a true representation of their feelings and opinions and asked for the comments to be removed. This was done.

### Inchbare Hall, Inchbare

Approximately 40 people attended the public meeting in Inchbare Hall. People had the opportunity to record their comments on flip chart sheets or by members of Council staff. All comments received have been recorded and shared on the Council website and reproduced below.

### Edzell Church Hall, Edzell

Around 40 people attended the public meeting in Edzell Church Hall. People had the opportunity to record their comments on flip chart sheets or by members of Council staff. All comments received have been recorded and shared on the Council website and reproduced below.



## **Stracathro Primary School**

### **Parent/Carer comments**

- Doesn't think children get the same opportunities at a town school compared to a rural school and feels that Stracathro is not too small. Wants to determine if there is any other way to keep the school open. Perhaps increase the size of the catchment area and/or use an additional bus. The catchment boundary change could release the pressure off Edzell. Questions on pick-up and drop-off times if there was only one bus.
- It is important to note that there is a lot of parental involvement in Stracathro. In some ways, it's not about the school, it is the parents, as Stracathro feels like a family. There are also good relationships between Edzell and Stracathro with kids already mixing with those from Edzell and other schools. This will make the transition to high school easy.

- The parents at Stracathro have been trying to get broadband as the Stracathro Estate can bounce a signal from their wind turbine. Rural schools help children to develop confidence from nursery age and, furthermore, they are able to interact with older children which is beneficial. Children become confident learners as not afraid to ask questions and are able to maintain their achievement at school through difficult circumstances. Small schools help facilitate this.
- By closing the school you are taking choice away from people and taking people away from where they want to be.
- There is less vandalism in the area. Children have all done well in life.
- Feels like a community.
- At present, there are a lot of houses under construction.
- If more children go to Edzell there will be increased transport costs. At present, children are currently taken to school by parents
- It is important to prove that there will be educational benefits for the children if the school is closed. It shouldn't just be a financial decision.
- Instead of trying to close the school, it should be advertised as jewel in crown of education in Angus.
- Concerns about the council. 10 years ago, the council told people that Edzell had four classrooms and that old people live in Edzell. School homework and classwork is supposed to be done on-line, but there is no internet. The council seems only interested in keeping Edzell open
- The closure of Tarfside and Lethnot makes sense but not necessary for Stracathro. Should have built six classrooms at Edzell as it should have been built bigger. There is no room at nursery at Edzell.
- Stracathro always been a good school. Disabled access not a problem and, in the past, people with disabilities managed at the school for the whole seven years of their primary education.
- Whole education system is of a poor standard with complaints about high school. Digital learning is not possible in much of the area.
- There is a need to upgrade Stracathro at present. The community does lots of things in Stracathro while the council does nothing.
- Consultee did not complete online survey as there is no broadband access.
- The nursery is full and need to think about future demand.
- Noted that while no child walks to school this doesn't take account cycling.
- The consultation should take into account transport costs.
- With increased transport time, children may not get off school bus until after 4.20pm. This impacts on time for homework or leisure.
- A recent suitability survey indicated that trees and rabbit holes impact outdoor PE. However, last year the school hosted sports day for three schools with lots of room for outside PE.
- The Stracathro proposal states that classrooms are, in effect, corridors so there are not the same issues as Edzell. However, the classrooms in Edzell have the same problem, but this issue isn't highlighted.
- All doors are big enough for paediatric 55cm wheelchairs and level access to toilets in nursery and staffroom.
- The consultation document says teaching posts will transfer to Edzell but also that there is a financial saving on teachers. These seem to be contradictory statements.
- There are larger year groups. It is not the age group that matters but also the stage as there are benefits of mixed classes and multi-stage learning.

- Larger numbers of pupils in same age group hinders social development and at Edzell children are less likely to be in mixed age groups.
- Enquiries on if every school has to have community lets to be viable noting that this doesn't affect the learning of the children.
- Concerns that if the children transferred to Edzell, all events would happen in Edzell. This would result in a loss of 'community' for Inchbare as children would feel singled out as special arrangements would have been made.
- The strategy should be creative as flexible spaces are not just specific to physical spaces.
- The projected school roll is an issue for consideration.
- There is no information about how to maintain relationships
- The same head teacher nurtures different identities at each school.
- Concerns that closing Stracathro will mean a waste of Stracathro resources.
- People are passionate about Stracathro and want to see it remain.
- Smaller class sizes mean that individual children enjoy higher levels of attention compared to a big school.
- There is no value in closing the school.
- It is important to note that contact with older pupils in composite classes has positive benefits.
- This school has a positive impact on children's learning and development.
- The council should invest in a successful school and not close it.
- There is good broadband connectivity in the area which allows for modern learning and the use of technology.
- Smaller class sizes work and there are demonstrable educational benefits.
- Children enjoy more attention as they can't hide or get lost in small classes.
- Social contact comes out with the school so small classes are not an issue. There are lots of opportunities for informal learning in the community.
- Children from the school have made a positive transition to Brechin High School and the move from a small school to the secondary has not been problematic, socially or educationally.
- The school can have a positive social impact on more challenged or vulnerable children and families in the smaller environment.
- There are no behavioural issues as children and adults are respectful of each other in the school community.
- The school creates a positive work ethic amongst its pupils and they are motivated to learn.
- In bigger classes there will be more effort is spent on managing behaviour and less on supporting learning.
- There are real issues at Brechin High School (teacher shortage; behaviour and so on) which the council should address first before thinking about changes to the primary cluster.
- Conditions such as dyslexia are identified early at Stracathro. It would take longer in a bigger school/class.
- The school is at the heart of the community and has a wide social impact. The contacts and networks formed at and through the school are important for parents and families beyond the core business of the school.
- The school is well linked to the wider community with a strong partnership between school and community.
- There is active parental involvement and engagement. Fund raising by the PC has led to investment and improvements to the school (for example, outdoor classroom).

- It is easy to make connections to skills for learning, life and work - immediate relevance of learning for the children. The children are supported to develop softer skills (for example, resilience, adaptability).
- Being part of a smaller school community allows children more opportunity to participate in activities beyond the classroom. They accumulate a broader range of experiences resulting from smaller numbers and this greater opportunity to be part of things.
- Closing the school will take away the future of the community and jeopardise the reasons for new families to relocate to the area.
- It is important to recognise that there is a link between early years' opportunities and the growth of the school roll. If there was full-day nursery provision, more families are likely to use it and progress to the school roll.
- School roll numbers have fluctuated over time and this needs to be considered for future planning purposes.
- Fitness of the school for community use should not be a factor in considering the school's suitability. It is a school for primary age children and needs to be suitable to that purpose.
- Parents like the benefit of small class sizes for example the opportunity for 1-1 work with some children. Allows children to have a close relationship with their teacher.
- Stracathro provides parents with choice and the proposed closure removes this choice and will result in larger class sizes. The parent has concerns about larger class sizes and the staff's ability to punish children. He believes that children are not as well-disciplined in a larger school. Children would get 'lost' in a bigger class.
- Parents choose to send their children to Stracathro, for example from Brechin, because it works for them
- By the time children go to the High School they are well equipped. They have friends from Stracathro and are also able to make new friends.
- If Stracathro needs wheelchair access, thinks that the schools community would raise the required funding.
- The children do have access to a hall, they use Edzell PS and also Inchbare Hall for events.
- Stracathro is the perfect education and his children are performing well.
- The parent stressed that they have never put a price on education.
- The time is not right to close Stracathro. There are too many children. Understand reasons behind Lethnot and Tarfside, but Stracathro should remain open.
- Worry that the class size in Edzell will be too big. 15 is a nice class size.
- There are plans for an additional 50 houses at the other end of the village which will also impact Edzell.
- There is a push towards child led learning therefore, age should not be used as a marker for children's development. To force them into peer to peer learning based on chronological age can knock the motivation and self-confidence of some learners. Stracathro provides a much less stressful environment for children functioning below age group norms.
- Stracathro School provide for special needs children who cannot cope in larger classroom environments.
- There is more opportunity for friendships to form with others who match or complement the kids needs and styles and

- The constantly changing classroom composition helps teach the children patience, empathy and maturity. The environment promotes cooperation and social development. The younger children learn from the elder, and the older ones respect the needs of the younger members of the school.
- There is no travel plan. Children who cycle to school are now going to have to sit on a bus for up to 80 mins a day.
- The school roll projections are a farce. It claims the roll will drop significantly in the next five years, yet the roll has increased year on year for the past five. There are 9 children in the nursery after Easter, yet they have projected only 4 pupils in P1 in the next two years. There is no provision for any new builds, yet there is planning in place for two 4 bed houses, three 4/5 bed houses and planning requests for two further 2 bed houses in the Stracathro catchment area and.. There are no proposed placing requests have been requested despite them also increasing year on year.
- It says they will save £33k a year on teaching staff costs, yet they also anticipate that all teachers will be employed at Edzell, with additional staff employed for a fixed period to cover the transition.
- Where are the pictures of the portacabins that our children will have to use for the next few years? Surely this is more relevant at this stage?
- On one hand we are being told that the building works at Edzell are not related to the Stracathro and will be complete at Edzell in 2020, that there will be no disruption to children as they will do the majority of the work in the holidays, yet they are telling us that they won't make any decisions on the extension until it has been decided what is happening at Stracathro. How can they therefore reassure us that our children won't end up in portacabins until the work is complete?
- Why are there no transport costs reported in the Finance table?
- How can you claim savings from teaching costs at both Lethnot and Tarfside when they are closed?
- I expected a meeting at which I could hear other peoples opinion. This set up does not allow that.
- Why are there people here representing the council that know nothing more about the consultation than th process? I was expecting answers to my concerns, not a poster to write my comments on.
- They are proposing spaces for 32 nursery kinds in the new school, and in 2020 they have to provide fill time provision, yet at the moment there are 20 kids already at Edzell and 9 in Stracathro, with Edzell playgroup also full – with new housing about to open in Edzell, new families in the Glens and more housing proposed for both Edzell and Stracathro, how many children will be turned away and not receive their entitled pre school places? Keeping Stracathro open would at least give a bit of breathing space and it has just received a near perfect HM Inspection report. It would be a waste to lose this fantastic pre school facility.
- The school has been misrepresented in a lot of comments in the proposal paper e.g it says the doors aren't big enough for wheelchairs, yet we have checked and they are.
- It appears to me that the council haven't even considered any alternatives to closing the school. I can't see any evidence of this in the paper.
- My children attend out of school activities at Edzell already, but the council claim that closing our school will provide the opportunity for more of school activities. How exactly/ Are they going to make more days in the week?

Whether my children spend their school day in Edzell or Stracathro will make no difference to the councils ability to put on out of school clubs as they are already currently well supported by Stracathro children.

- Trying to encourage children to limit their out school activities to the school they attend inhibits their social development especially in rural locations as it actively discourages activity with children from other areas and other schools.
- Our out of school schedule is tight, the children cycle home, do their instrument practice, their homework, are fed at 4pm as they can be the pool at the campus at 5pm, then follow this with rugby, football, beavers, cubs, scouts and dancing. Placing them on a school bus would mean getting home later and then either their schoolwork or their activities would suffer. It wouldn't be fair on the children to sacrifice any of these.
- It said that the PE lessons at the hall; were stopped for educational reasons – yet there's no explanation as to what these are?
- Why does a school have to become a community centre to justify its existence? I can't see how whether the local WI uses the building out of school hours would improve my kids education.
- It says we have no flexible spaces, yet we have a dining room which is used for PE, a dedicated library and an outdoor classroom and shelter. Flexibility isn't just about physical spaces, it's about how you use the spaces which you have.
- It says our outside space is not suitable for PE yet we hosted the rural schools sports day for all the children and parents last year with no problems.
- There's no information presented on what arrangements will be put in place to support the children on transition when they are separated from their friends and moving to strange larger classroom environments, and how they are going to help maintain and foster their current relationships.
- The council seem to think that because there is a joint head that the two schools have the 'same ethos' and culture. This is not the case, the Head Teacher is very good at allowing each school to retain it's identity and she recognises that we indeed have very different ethos's and cultures and is very sympathetic with her approach to this.
- It says in the document that children can't walk to school because there is no pavement due to the rural location. If the council had bothered to put any effort into researching the school and the rea they would be aware that there is a public footpath from the village directly to the school positioned behind the hedge which runs along the roadside. We annually organise 'walk to school' weeks for the children who have been driven in for logistical reasons or are placing requests from Brechin as part of Health week, whereby we meet early at the village hall and are then escorted to the school along th4e footpath by parent volunteers.
- Why is an old energy rating being used just because the certificate is still valid despite major improvements being carried out in the school? The school has just had new windows installed. Any major changes would normally warrant a re-assessment.
- Essentially a school with an outstanding educational record, running at 70% capacity with a building in great condition with minimal planned maintenance costs is being considered for closure just because other schools nearby are falling short of the grade. The suitability rating being placed on the school is dubious at best when compared like for like to the other schools in the consultation. This cannot be the basis to consider closure of a perfectly of a perfectly viable school.

- I bought my house because of it's proximity to a primary school. It's very important to our family that our children can walk or cycle to school.
- It will have health and environmental implications for my children to no longer cycle to school, but instead go on a school bus for up to 80 mins every day.



## Stracathro Primary School

### Community comments

- There is no mention about trying to keep the community going.
- The proposal is to close the school for the wrong reasons.
- Tarfside and Lethnot schools are not in best place.
- There is no proof that centralisation is a better approach and not convinced that the reasons for the proposal are not financial.
- The biggest rumour is that as soon as there is capacity at Edzell, the decision will be delayed for three years if the decision not to close is made now. People need to believe in the process.
- There is a need to attract people to move into the town.
- Broadband proposal is interesting with questions on if it can bounce it off turbine.
- Questions on the reason for change as there are no educational benefits.
- Questions on the reasons why PE taken from Inchbare Hall as the community built a path down to hall. The proposal documents state that children go to Edzell for PE however, not all PE lessons done at Edzell (for example the daily mile).
- The school has used other venues for events so the proposal is not because of space.
- Stracathro was a great school in previous years and all children have achieved and excelled. Even children with ASN are well supported and the community was close in the past.
- Enquiries if there has been an increase in home schooling.
- It is disappointing for children as parents are upset and children are aware of this.
- Questions on the number of children that come from out-with the catchment area.
- Examples of children that went to Edzell as well as Stracathro with both having good experiences.
- Transition to secondary was straightforward
- It is important to note that more parents are involved in small schools.
- There are a lot of houses in Inchbare with people who are moving away with the expectation that more families with small children will move in.
- There will be a wider impact on the community. Need to advance the educational conversation as part of a more holistic approach to sustainable community - affordable housing and so on. Closing the school is almost akin to closing the community.

- We need to be prepared to consider alternative and more radical solutions including more volunteer efforts, digital opportunities and alternative funding streams. Simply closing the school may resolve one issue (educational or financial), but there are unintended social impacts for smaller and more vulnerable communities.
- Concerns about the Stracathro community and the impact of closing the school
- What could he do to help keep the school open?
- Understand it may not be worthwhile having the school open, but it is a good school.

The following are comments provided by Vice Chair of the Parent/Council group and noted as comments from the community:

- I don't see the point of the drop-in. There isn't any information about the closure of the school. The basic points should have been presented in a simple way. I don't want to be handed a huge document to read.
- I'm not sure what the purpose is of the evening. I expected a presentation or something by the council, but it is just people milling around.
- I should have known about this. It is happening on my doorstep, yet had the Parent council not contacted me I wouldn't have even known this was happening. They should have sent a letter to the people affected in the catchment of the school.
- How is this a consultation? No-one can answer my questions – all they've done is direct me to the questionnaire.
- There are just pictures of the 3 schools being closed, but a whole presentation of the floor plans of the extension at Edzell. The only people interested in site drawings are developers, this is irrelevant.
- What are the costs for this extension at Edzell?
- Who are these people? I've been told they are here to help and support us, yet they appear to know nothing about the school or the consultation except the process involved – that's no use to me, I want answers about what's in the document.
- I thought the Edzell extension was going ahead anyway, so why is this being shown here? This consultation is supposed to be about Stracathro.
- What is the budget for the new school at Edzell? Surely a small amount of the money from the developer can be used to replace the toilet block at Stracathro if that's where their issue is.
- I stay closer to Stracathro than Edzell and was thinking about putting my daughter there, but with all this going on I'm so confused, I don't want to have to move her if it closes so am thinking I may put her to Edzell instead.
- Are they seriously proposing to put the nursery into the old gym hall? They won't even have any windows to look out of. We stay in the country, nature is an important aspect of their lives.
- Where will the nursery classroom be? Has the person who designed this even been to Edzell school?
- Has the Head Teacher been consulted on this drawing – surely she wouldn't think this proposal is suitable.
- Stracathro school shouldn't be closed – all the children who attend it go on to do well despite the high School.



- The shows and Burns and Hogmanay nights they put on for us are fantastic.
- They haven't considered the Stracathro community at all, we have a wonderful community spirit and they are expecting us to bolster Edzell and make it the hub. We don't want to do that – it's a different community altogether.



### **Stracathro Primary School**

#### **Other responses**

- There are questions around the Edzell expansion and design and this should have been part of the formal consultation document for Stracathro closure.
- It is important to recognise the importance of the school and village hall for the community as a whole.
- There is no value in closing the school.

### **Inglis Memorial Hall, Edzell**

In response to public demand, an additional public consultation event was organised on 17 April 2018 from 6pm - 7.30pm at Inglis Memorial Hall, High Street, Edzell, DD9 7TF.

The same display boards were set up as at previous public consultation events with comments cards available for completion (see appendix 1). No comments cards were completed at the meeting. A presentation was delivered outlining the proposal and inviting questions and comments from those in attendance (see appendix 2). The following is an extract of the Stracathro section of the minute of this meeting.

## ANGUS SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

### BRECHIN RURAL SCHOOLS CONSULTATION

Note of Meeting of the Brechin Rural School Consultation held in Inglis Memorial Hall, Edzell on Tuesday, 17 April 2018 at 6.00 pm.

Present: - Mark Salmond, Convener, Children & Learning Committee  
Mark Armstrong, Strategic Director – Place  
Dr Pauline Stephen, Head of Schools and Learning  
Elaine Hughes, Service Manager – Performance  
Steven Mill, Service Lead (Finance)  
Elaine Whittet, Team Leader, Members Services

Also present: - Councillors Braes, Nicol, Myles, Sturrock and David Gregory, Education Scotland

MP/MSP: - Ewan Smith representing Mairi Gougeon and Daniel Hale representing Kirstene Hair

#### Introduction

Councillor Salmond welcomed 32 members of the community to the meeting which had been called to hear comments and answer questions on the proposed closures. It was also explained that the elected members present were in attendance to hear the views expressed but to not share any opinion at this stage.

Mark Armstrong then proceeded to give an overview on the reasons for the Schools for the Future programme and detailed the guiding principles to be followed by the Council along with the reasons for change.

#### Stracathro Primary School

The attendees were advised that the September 2017 census indicated that there were 19 children enrolled in Stracathro Primary School. With three year groups that had two children, three that had three children and one that had four children which made it possible for all age groups to work together. However, there were limited opportunities for collaborative working. A number of issues were highlighted in respect of the school and that the accommodation did not provide a range of flexible spaces. It was therefore not financially viable to adapt the accommodation.

**Mrs Lee Ann Waddell** was then given the opportunity to address the meeting. Her statement read as follows:

“There are so many things wrong with this consultation I don’t know where to begin. The leading questionnaire, the costings, the lack of an educational argument, the flawed travel arrangements, the school roll, the suitability survey.

The shock maybe? There was no warning, no rumours and no alarm bells.

It was sneaked in under the radar on page 3, section 6.10 of an appendix for a "school investment strategy" agenda item on a council meeting.

The lack of due consideration given to the entirety of the consultation so far leads me to believe that the council thought it was a 'done deal' a 'tick in a box'.

Not a second thought was given to keeping the school open. The recommendation for closure is there already in the document. There should be no recommendation until all views have been heard and considered.

Renovations have been quoted as being 'prohibitive'. Yet the building is in great condition and a freedom of information request revealed that no alternatives have been considered or costings for what refurbishment they believe are needed to be done.

One problem needing solved to bring the school into line with Edzell on safety, and a Suitability of B is the lack of a lock on the gate, you know what – at the price of £2.50, the Parent Council is more than willing to donate!

The only justification we have been given for the consultation was that nearby schools had issues needing addressed so they though 'it would be wrong' not to propose to close Stracathro at the same time.

It would be wrong – close a school with an exceptional educational record which passes HMI inspections with flying colours.

It would be wrong – not to close a school with exceptional pastoral care due to its smaller classroom sizes.

It would be wrong – not to close a school which has no issues with the fabric of the building except that it doesn't meet the 'one size fits all mould school' the council is trying to oppress upon us.

It would be wrong.

It's akin to a developer bulldozing down the last thriving shop on the High Street on his way to build a shiny new supermarket at the edge of town. You know what though, some people prefer that familiar walk to their local shop.

The contradictions during this process so far have been rife. A solution given by Mr Armstrong at an Edzell parent council meeting to address increased traffic concerns with the extension by Edzell parent, was a plan to promote more walking and cycling to the school, yet he is happy enough for my children to no longer cycle to school every day and instead sit on a school bus for upwards of an hour. The increase travel time will impact their lives out of school.

We've been told that schools should be community centres, yet we are told that community is not allowed to access Edzell School during School hours. We are being told they want to support communities, yet we are being told that we should no longer utilise our local Parish Halls, but instead support the new soulless spaces that will be created for us.

We've been told there is a lack of flexible spaces within the school, yet the Government guidance emphasises that flexible spaces are not physical, they come from within the creative minds of the teachers and pupils using them. There is an irony that creating that they feel are 'flexible physical spaces' and handling them to us on a plate, will actually remove creative ability from our future engineers, architects and designers .....

The sums just simply don't add up. There have been a claimed £51,000 of savings, yet we still haven't had a explanation about the £33k savings from teachers costs when the new narrative says it has been costed for both teachers, why they think you can run a 16 seater 40 miles for the cost of a six seater 4 miles is beyond me and the government grant has not been deducted either. We did our own sums and our figure is more like a COST of £70,000 a year to close Stracathro.

Concern has been raised about the isolation of Stracathro pupils and lack of integration. The children from both schools frequently work together and after school activities in Edzell are already being attended by Stracathro children, and the plans proposed to increase these activities will keep the children in Edzell village and minimise their socialisation with children further afield. Stracathro children will attend cubs, football, swimming, rugby and other activities in Brechin with the children they will progress onto High School with. Ironically being from a smaller school actually means a wider social circle for these kids.

There has been a year on year increase in school roll, placing requests and pre-school places for the past 5 years, yet despite the school being bottom heavy and pre-school places currently like hens' teeth, the projection by the council in conveniently that the roll will now decrease year on year to 2023. Oh and there is planning within the catchment for 7 new properties, 5 of which are 3-5 bedroomed.

I'm just scratching the surface here I could go on all night, but I'm sure that you all have your own questions you'd like answered, so I'll move on."

**Hugh Campbell Adamson** would like to say a few words for the community.

The main points raised were as follows:-

- A long time talking about money
- It will cost £51k to move everyone to Edzell
- Stracathro Church – self funding, Halls – self funding
- We are told the school is not good enough for our children
- Must get figures right in terms of attendance
- Look at the number of Head boys and Girls, Dux winners that have come from Stracathro through to Brechin High School

Please listen – so vital to the community and only saving £50k.

## Questions

1. How may attend Stracathro that actually line in the catchment area?

A. *Seven within and 8 outwith*

2. Son who is disabled and in a wheelchair can access the toilet in the nursery. Child has also suffered hearing loss due a severe illness and will require a smaller classroom with little ambient noise. He may have difficulties in a larger class.
  - A. *Very sorry to hear and of course the best solutions are considered to meet individual needs with the context of school.*
  
3. Question to Cllr Myles – At Pre-Consultation stage in November 2017 – you were asked if there was any threat to Stracathro Primary School. At that time you answered No – can you confirm if the decision was changed?
  - A. *Councillors are here to listen to the discussion only.*
  
4. In the 80's/90's questioner was chairman of the School Board. It was known that children who had difficulties thrived better in the smaller environment. How will Angus Council deal with this now?
  - A. *All schools have resources to meet needs also Brechin has a Resourced School. All individual needs are assessed.*
  
5. Individual went to school with 20 pupils which was a great benefit to him. The report speaks of community groups and access to space. What use do communities have during school hours? (in the larger schools). His son went to Edzell nursery and didn't like it. Moved to Stracathro and loved it. A close knit community feel nursery – parents and children should have choice.
  - A. *Examples of community projects include integration projects, mums and babies groups, intergenerational projects.*
  
6. Why is consultation to close Stracathro? Why no options to develop? Stracathro is not failing in Education.
  - A. *Explained that this was a consultation process and there was plenty of time to bring ideas forward.*
  
7. What will the additional transport times be?
  - A. *AC are looking to close the school from 2020. At the moment information is that pupils will have a ten minute increase in journey time but not for all.*
  
8. Individual worked at Tarfside for six years and has worked in big schools. I would choose to send my children to smaller schools. Why is there no question of Aberlemno closing? Why Stracathro? One size does not fit all.
  - A. *The strategic analysis identified that all rural schools in the Brechin cluster should be reviewed. Through its schools for the future programme the council will be reviewing all its schools. The aim is to do it once and to do it well.*
  
9. We all remember 1996 and the Dunblane tragedy. How will Angus Council police disclosures of those individuals using the school for community use?

- A. *PVG checks would continue to be carried out where required and Risk Assessments carried out for certain activities.*
10. Report mentions a £33k saving – what is that? Where does it come from? There is a planned expansion of Edzell why is that not happening now! It is needed now.
- A. *A full time head teacher post will be in place at Edzell therefore the £33k relates to the 0.5 head teacher post at Stracathro PS.*
11. Core pathway – maintained by the estate so there is a safe walk way to school. What is the educational reason for stopping using hall for PE? Why are pupils now being transported?
- A. *Not sure – May have been cost/£420 per year.*
12. Transportation costs – no figures that serves Edzell. Edzell to Stracathro is 57 minutes that's 37 minutes on current transport time if child is from Tarfside. The numbers don't add up.
- A. *Full transport costs will be provided.*
13. Angus Council should promote how right it is at Stracathro and get it Right for Every Child! Access to opportunities never going to be possible for all. You are taking it away. Some kids get good learning environments, some don't. How can you take that opportunity away from our children?
- A. *The Strategy is about creating the best quality school estate possible.*
14. Edzell currently has 32 pre-school places – 28 in use. There are 6 – 8 houses to be built and nurseries are almost full. How will we cope with more children?
- A. *The future model is based on projections.*
15. Edzell parents were told that nothing would be happening until completion of the consultation. Why are you waiting there will be increased numbers by 2020?
- A. *Work has started on scoping the needs of the school and the changes will be implemented by 2020 – Working group established and consultation with children arranged.*

### **Statements**

1. The forward assessment of the school is dubious, when the viability of a school is questioned the communities react. Why is the school not sufficient now?
2. Attendance is cyclical and a threat of closure is detrimental to all. Families come and stay and become part of the Community.

3. We are being told that small number limit collaborative working but those who attended Stracathro and are now adults have thrived. Small schools do give kids what they need.
4. Son has had two fully funded masters' degrees. The report concentrates on new concepts. Small classroom sizes along with attention and time from teachers is paramount. Excellent teaching given at Stracathro and at the time of her sons education there were 52 in school. Composite classes with no intimidation by other pupils just helping and learning from each other. Her son has never had any difficulties talking to an adult!
5. No consultation on alternatives it's about closure only!
6. Remember the importance of parental choice. What will be left? Parents know what a school can offer in terms of education opportunities and advancement. This is not just about facilities the school is performing well.
7. Ten reasons for change – no opportunities for all. One size does not fit all. Opportunity to look at again. What are the rational basis for closing Stracathro?
8. Angus Council state that they will be doing this for the next 30 years! This is very optimistic as education today will look very different in 30 years! We have a community and a school that is doing well.
9. Hopefully Angus Council will understand that this is about our Rural Communities.
10. How can that be right! Angus Council projected 3 at Stracathro and there are currently 9. No discussion has been held with a local property owner regarding demand in the area! This is not going to save any money! Please don't do this.
11. Basically there are too many schools in the council estate so we are going from 4 – 1 that is all we will have! Closure has to be on educational attainment.
12. Not impressed with the panel. Too many blank spots. Very disappointed at the transport issues. The panel have not answered the questions asked.

At the conclusion of the meeting Cllr Salmond thanked all those present for their contribution and advised that representations could be submitted until 11 May 2018 and attendees were reminded that this was a consultation exercise and that the council are listening.

## Online Consultation

A dedicated Angus Schools for the Futures area on the Angus Council website was created to provide online users with further information relating to the proposal. The website contained information on the proposal, detailing key points, and also contained a link to the full proposal document. The web page also contained a link to an online survey where users were encouraged to leave their views on the proposal.

Each participant online was invited to answer the following questions:

1. In what capacity are you commenting?

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Parent/carer of child/children attending primary school in Angus	40.00%	18
Parent/carer of child/children who will attend a primary school in Angus	13.33%	6
Parent/carer of child/children in another Angus school	2.22%	1
Child/young person	0.00%	0
Member of the community	26.67%	12
Member of staff in a primary school in Angus	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	17.78%	8
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>45</b>

The 8 other respondents were: -

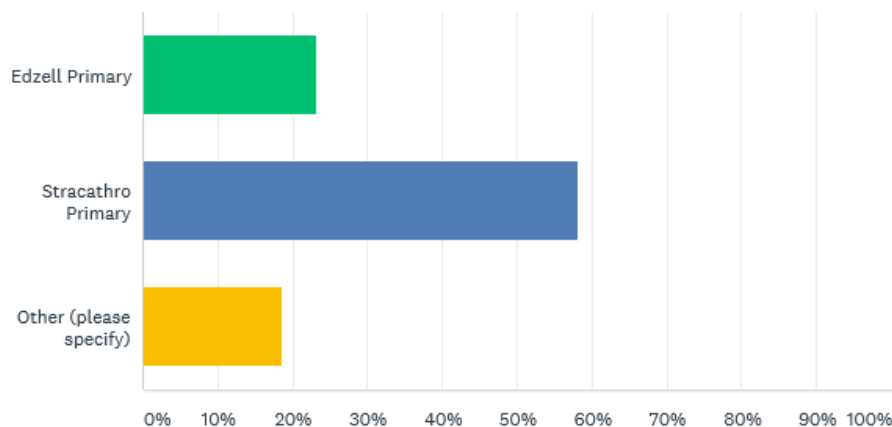
- 1 on behalf of Inveresk Community Council;
- 4 concerned citizens;
- 1 concerned parent;
- 1 concerned friend; and
- 1 parent of past student from Stracathro primary



Q2

## What school do you have a connection with?

Answered: 43 Skipped: 3



The other responses are made up of

- 1 with a connection to both schools;
- 1 with no connection;
- 1 with a historical connection;
- 3 with a connection to Maisondieu; and
- 1 with a connection to Maisondieu previously Stracathro.

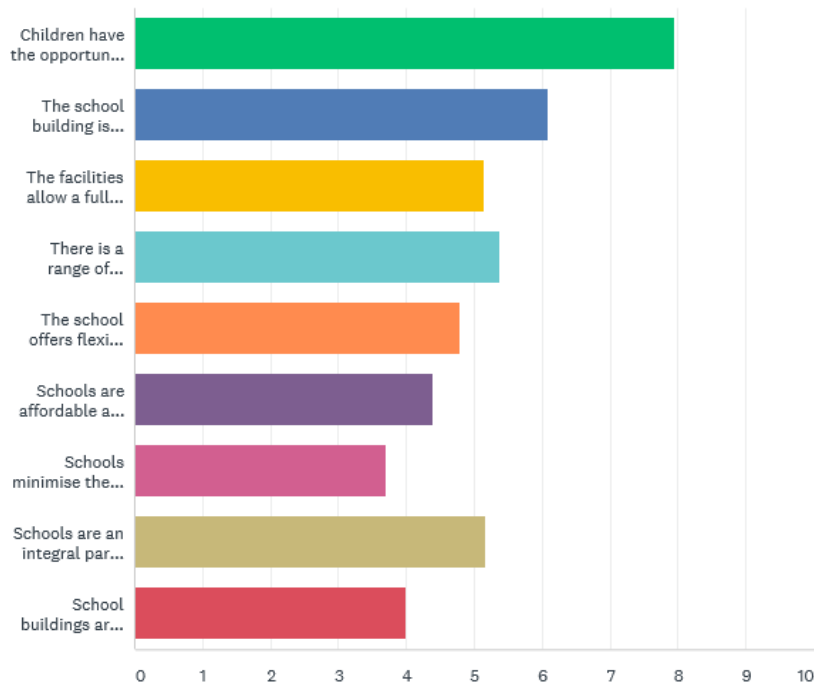
3. When thinking about Stracathro Primary School, please rank the following statements in order of importance (1 being the most important)
- There are opportunities for children to work collaboratively with others of a similar age or stage of education
  - There are opportunities for children to develop the positive mental, social, physical and emotional skills they need at school and throughout life
  - The facilities allow a full P.E. program to be delivered on site
  - Schools are well maintained
  - Schools are an integral part of the community they serve
  - Schools minimise their carbon footprint and make best use of natural resources
  - Schools are affordable, and we invest our resources equitably across all of our children and young people

Q3

Customize Export

When thinking about Stracathro Primary, please rank which of the following are most important to you (with 1 being the most important)

Answered: 31 Skipped: 15

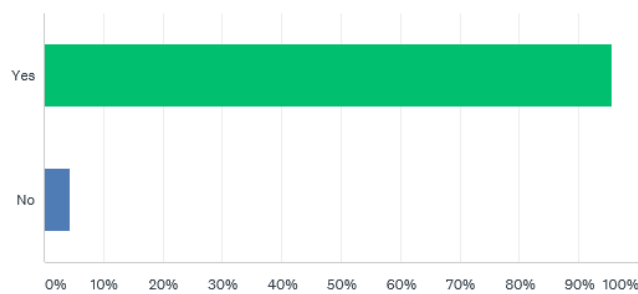


Q4

Customize Export

Do you think Stracathro Primary School should remain open?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	95.56% 43
No	4.44% 2
TOTAL	45

## Q5 Please provide comments in support of your response to question 4

Answered: 44 Skipped: 2

1 INVERESK COMMUNITY COUNCIL Response from Inveresk Community Council to the notification of the Proposals to close Lethnot, Tarfside and Stracathro Primary Schools. We would also like to comment on the proposed extension of Edzell Primary School. We have slight concerns regarding the closures of Lethnot and Tarfside Schools respectively due to their extra rural location and the potential impact of families in their locale increasing. However, we understand that these two schools are currently not being utilised and there has been no approach to us by any concerned families from their catchment areas. Our greatest concern lies with the proposed closure of Stracathro, to which we are opposed. The issues surrounding the closure of the school have been brought to our attention from community residents and parents of the families who would be affected. Several of the areas of concern are not addressed sufficiently within the proposal document and questions relating to projected school roles in both Stracathro and Edzell catchment area have had inadequate responses from unqualified sources during the "drop-in" sessions. Firstly the lack of correspondence from Angus Council that Stracathro Primary School was under threat of closure is an issue we are unhappy with. The Closure Proposal came as a surprise to the Committee despite the proposal document stating a "pre-consultation" had been undertaken in November. This was not brought to the Community Council as an agenda item. Each of the communities affected has their own strong identity. The rural lifestyle adopted by residents from within the Tarfside, Lethnot and Stracathro catchments are very different to the more urban, village environment preferred by the residents of Edzell village and we understand that it is important to the residents of the outlying areas that their children's educational setting reflects their home environment. The closure of Stracathro school will have a significant impact on the community of Inchbare & Stracathro and the families that live in the area. Many families appreciate the opportunity to send their children to a smaller rural school and this school has an exceptional educational record and provides an excellent learning environment. Families consider educational choices very carefully when relocating and the provision of a rural school in this area is seen as an attraction to many and can be seen as an incentive to younger families to live within this community. The school helps support the Parish hall and draws the community together through various events. It would be a hard proposal to have an Edzell Parent Council organise events outwith their own community when they have halls within the village which can be utilised for these purposes. The discontinuation of use of the hall for physical education by Stracathro pupils was taken by the Council without prior consultation with parents or the community. There is no clarification in the closure proposal regarding the "educational benefits" gained by transporting Stracathro pupils into Edzell for these classes. As the hall is proposing a major upgrade, with underfloor heating and adequate equipment remains stored there, we would hope that the council could consider returning the physical education classes to the parish hall thus negating the requirement to extend Stracathro school building for the sole purpose of an indoor gym facility. A sheltered pathway, separate from the main road, was created by parent volunteers several years ago to allow pupils safe access to and from the parish hall. This pathway remains in good condition, is regularly used and is adopted in the Angus Council core pathway network with its upkeep incurring no additional charge. We do not feel that full consideration has been given to the projected school roll for Stracathro Primary School. We are aware of 7 planning applications for housing within the catchment area, 3 of which are 4/5 bedroom dwellings, 2 are 3 bedroom dwellings and 2 are 2 bedroom. Despite this the proposal document does not accommodate for any potential children from these developments in the 5 year projection. We have been informed that there are 6 placing requests from outwith the catchment at Stracathro Primary School for the school year starting 2018, yet these are also not included in the projections. The nursery roll has increased from 3 to 9 pupils since the compilation of the document. The projection of the school roll at Edzell shows that within the next few years the school will be over capacity. With a proposed 68 further dwellings planned for the village and catchment areas we fully back the proposed extension to the Primary School. We also have concerns that inclusion of the Stracathro pupils could adversely affect the transition into the extended premises due to the significant increase in pupil numbers being educated in temporary buildings which we understand will be portacabins. Pre-school provision within our communities as a whole is of concern. Currently our facilities at Edzell Playgroup and Edzell Primary School are full, with children being turned away. Stracathro Primary has space for only one further child. The proposal for the extension at Edzell will accommodate only 32 pre-school pupils. If Stracathro Nursery closes we have concerns that there will not be sufficient pre-school places available for all the children who qualify. Our representative who attended the recent Drop-In session held at Stracathro Parish Hall was informed that the overall re-development of Edzell would not be reviewed until a decision had been made relating to the closure

proposals. We feel that the proposals are not related, the case has already been made for the extension at Edzell. Due to the urgent nature of the requirement for extra provision in Edzell Village at this time we feel it should be progressed immediately irrespective of the outcome of the closure proposals. Families currently considering Edzell as a family living environment will see restricted pre-school places and temporary structures for teaching as a negative factor. Lesley Anderson Community Councillor on behalf of Inveresk Community Council  
5/2/2018 8:21 AM

2 It is a true rural school!! A smaller setting which suits our child perfectly. We chose to make the decision to put our child to this school rather than Edzell as the environment at Stracathro suits his needs. The smaller class sizes and one to one with the teacher means he is excelling and is setting him up for a fantastic future. The integration with all ages in the school is fantastic and will also set him up well in life. The environment in which he is learning means he not only excels but enjoys his school experience. He is keen and eager to learn and feels part of an extended family. We live in a rural environment which he has grown up in. We live in a close net community and have already had the doors close on our local school, which he has grown up attending from community days, to baby group to nursery. The upset and distress this would cause our son doesn't bare thinking about. He enjoys his school learning experience and environment where he is, in the countryside. It would be a considerable loss to the community and what is the beating heart of its rural area. It's something we know to well having lost our local school. Meeting up with Edzell regularly and the after school activities we have him involved in means he gets the best of both worlds and the integration he has with all the ages in the school itself means we know integration to high school will not be an issue. Stracathro is a choice for people. It's an excellent school and environment for children and the community. It's small but mighty. It is imperative these smaller schools stay open they are an integral part of our rural Scottish economy. The school also provides additional preschool experience for children. It has an excellent nursery which is an asset to the area.  
5/2/2018 12:04 AM

3 The quality of education delivered at this school by far exceeds the need to close it. Having come from a small primary myself I know the needs of the kid would be much better met where they are.  
4/17/2018 7:25 AM

4 Stracathro should be kept open because it is an integral part of the community it serves, provides an excellent education for its pupils and to close it would fly in the face of the Scottish Govts aim of maintaining rural communities and keeping the local school at its heart - I believe the legal consultation process was designed to make sure that councils do not close rural schools against the wishes of the communities they serve - if this is the case then you are obliged to keep this school open and apologise for the anxiety and concerns your wish to close it has caused to all involved.  
4/12/2018 8:20 PM

5 Small communities especially rural ones need to maintain their local fabric. A school is part of that fabric.  
4/8/2018 6:40 PM

6 The school provides well rounded education in a rural setting.  
4/8/2018 6:32 PM

7 I do not believe that the money spent on Stracathro Primary, either from the local authority or from government grants, is the best use of funds. It is about a small group of children getting a more personalised education than is afforded to the majority of children in the Angus area. When there is a large attainment gap across the area, spending funds on a small school in a relatively affluent area seems unfair. It also needs to be considered that there is a good local school relatively close. I cannot see how transport costs for a small number of children can exceed the costs of running a school. This exercise is about benefitting the children of Angus as a whole, not about accomodating a very small group of children who will be comfortably accommodated and welcomed at a local rural school.  
4/8/2018 9:49 AM

8 I think you need to consider not asking leading questions - number 1 I fully expect an excellent learning and teaching environment, 2 - staff provide a balanced curriculum that meets individual children's needs, 3 - positive ethos, vision and values of a school are essential, 4 - community and social integrity is instilled in our learners thus promoting learners who are ready to be effective contributors within our society, 5 - parents have a choice in the type of education their children receive, 6 - rural living is celebrated and not judged by those that have no experience or Knowledge of it, 7 - focus on quality education, parents can easily promote social after school activities to extend achievements for their children. These points are much more important than the leading questions asked so far within this survey! Decisions to Close schools should Be based upon evaluations of the learning environment and quality of learning and teaching that takes place.

Not an attempt to cut costs, and should not become an opportunity for those whose children attend larger schools to judge other parents choices due to misinformation - costs per pupil?! The government subsidies rural schools so this information is not accurate!!!!!!!!!!

3/30/2018 9:19 PM

9 We have been involved in Stracathro Primary for 10 years and still currently have a child at this school. Our eldest child has since left and I believe we have given him the best start in education attending Stracathro. He was recognised as having dyslexia in primary 3 and as it was early in his education we were able to work with the school to enable him to employ the correct strategies in order for him to progress and prepare him for high school. We canvassed other parents over the region after it was identified that he had dyslexia and no other parents had their child recognised this early, and also many did not have the support that we had in alleged "bigger and better" schools. I fully believe that the educational setting of Stracathro was a major benefit to us and more importantly to him. Additionally, Stracathro school is an integral part of our community. This is as important as any other factor when this decision is taken. There are some who think small schools limit a child's social abilities. I attended a larger school and I believe the opposite is in fact true. All of the children at Stracathro are fully committed to stage shows, talking in public and display many other social skills. I have witnessed them all at various stages being involved in events that it would be easy to hide from in a larger school. I know because I did. Almost all of the kids are involved in social activities such as Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, various sports and clubs all interacting with the children from other schools in readiness for high school and I have witnessed myself with one of my children the ease at which the move to high school was taken. One of the other points raised was the suitability of the school grounds and play areas. What can be better than a rural setting? I do believe technology and infrastructure is important to modern learning. I am aware that Stracathro does not have fast internet, however the whole area does not have fast internet, including Edzell. This is a BT infrastructure issue, not limited to just our school. I feel at this point I need to comment on Brechin Campus. It is a lovely building, nice and modern, however, there are still not enough resources. For example my child has numeracy classes where he does not even have a numeracy teacher and a stand in with free time takes the class. This is unacceptable. We have had to make complaints as the class was in chaos and affecting my sons learning, and he is keen to learn not muck around. (a trait due in no short part by his excellent primary schooling). My point here is that whilst the "school for the future" campus looks nice, there is more to do before swinging the axe at excellent primary schools. Unfortunately, I see this proposal as simply a cost saving exercise, with our community and the education of our children of less importance. I have no issue with Edzell school or how it is operated, we share the same head teacher and many of the teaching methods, however packing all the children into one school only allows the opportunity to have even less resource per child.

3/29/2018 8:44 PM

10 Children learn better in smaller class sizes. There's no way to hide in a small class so this enables each child to get the right support towards their lessons. The teacher has more time for each child and their needs. Children's behaviour! Manners and respect is far higher than in large classes. That's what is missing from classrooms these days. If you take and compare a child from Stracathro verses a large school, our kids put the others to shame. There's no behavioural problems in our school. Any issues that do arise are quickly and effectively dealt with. My eldest is at high school now and he is still amazed at the poor behaviour and attitude of the majority of other kids. Since when did the amount of kids wanting to learn and do well, slip down to the minority in schools.? Families with social probs have prospered really well in our school. The kids at risk are better looked after and monitored. They don't get lost in the system and go on to having a higher chance at being successful with their education and life in general. Are you going to put a price on the that? Stracathro provides lots of space for in door as

well as outdoor learning. All children get the chance to be involved in lots of activities, ie - sports, competitions, quizzes, trips to places in connection to projects and the community. In larger schools the kids have to compete to be able to enter these activities. Therefore kids don't even get the chance to see if they are any good at these activities or would enjoy them. They may not do very well in competition but it opens the door to them carrying on themselves out with of school. If it's not broke, don't fix it. So leave our school alone please.

3/19/2018 3:09 PM

11 My catchment area is stracathro and I am not happy at the thought of having to drive from northwaterbridge to edzell when I pass stracathro to go to work in Brechin. Stop trying to fix your debt but cutting out services that don't need to be cut! Why close a perfectly good school and over crowd other already full primaries.

3/16/2018 7:39 PM

12 This is a rural school which provides an excellent opportunity for children. As a rural school, note should be made to the fact that the Scottish government will not permit closure of a rural school for financial reasons only. Stracathro has and does offer the best in education for young children. Its environment offers what town schools and larger classes have lost.

3/12/2018 10:32 PM

13 I understand smaller schools with a small role closing like glen esk but stracathro isn't one of them! The money spent having to extend Edzell will be phenomenal! Also speaking as a EYP from a different council there are far many more pros to small schools than larger schools. Stracathro and Edzell are lovely community schools. Why go and ruin that by closing one and making one even larger!!!!

3/10/2018 9:18 AM

14 Stracathro primary is a well loved, close knit community of parents and teachers. Edzell are not in a position to accept more kids at this stage without effecting those currently there or due to attend in summer. Stracathro primary has adequately taught children for the past number of years and can continue to do so. Rather than expanding Edzell, perhaps more care should be to stracathro to find a way to make changes there where required. Closing stracathro would be a complete and utter disappointment and yet another joke to add to the council list

3/10/2018 6:17 AM

15 With tarfside and lethnot closing they should keep stracathro open.

3/9/2018 2:46 PM

16 It is much needed!

3/9/2018 2:03 PM

17 I feel the school should be open to the children within the relevant catchment area. My only concern is my child received school transport along with a few others to travel to Edzell school, one child gets on the bus to travel to stracathro. This child lives a further distance away from me and is travelling past Edzell school to stracathro. This child going to stracathro means my child is dropped off at Edzell half an hour before school opens which means my child and the others having to stand outside in the cold so one child can then be transported further to a school that isn't even their local school!!

3/9/2018 12:06 PM

18 There is no benefit to closing stracathro in any form, monetarily or emotionally.

3/9/2018 12:03 PM

19 .

3/9/2018 11:40 AM

20 It is an old building which carbon foot print is high. The cost per child in average is more than double compared to the average school in Angus. The EPC Energy rating shows how inneficient the school is in terms of energy performance.

3/9/2018 10:58 AM



21 There has been no demonstrable saving shown by closure. It will cause distress and anxiety and will actually COST Angus Council to close it. It is part of Angus Council's inexplicable drive to abandon Victorian buildings.

3/9/2018 10:32 AM

22 Disruption to the kids at Stracathro and Edzell, commute required, loss of outside space in Edzell, poor car parking facilities for increased qty of cars. A benefit would be to have separate classes for each year but I doubt that'll happen.

3/9/2018 10:04 AM

23 It's a rural school which is at the heart of a community - here doesn't appear to be an educational reason to close the school merely financial ones and finances shouldn't be allowed to dictate children's education

3/7/2018 2:46 PM

24 No educational case to close the school in the proposal

3/7/2018 11:48 AM

25 Small schools are important to communities

3/6/2018 10:32 PM

26 Rural schools are paramount to our communities

3/6/2018 10:20 PM

27 It is a good school and no sound educational case to close it. It would have an adverse effect on local parents and be disruptive and upsetting for the children's learning.

3/6/2018 9:55 PM

28 The children who attend Stracathro have the advantage of a small group in which they learn. Many of the children cycle to school or walk. Taking the school away would mean they would need to be transported by bus to school. They would lose vital fitness/health opportunity from cycling and walking. And they'd be part of a much larger school with less opportunities to be heard. We should be safeguarding our glen and local schools, not destroying our rural communities further.

3/6/2018 9:11 PM

29 It's ridiculous. Once again Brechin loses out to the other areas. Are you going to close all the rural schools except one in each part of Angus?

3/6/2018 7:12 PM

30 There is not enough information to make a comprehensive decision to close the school without causing great disruption to the education of the current and future pupils.

3/6/2018 6:55 PM

31 It's an excellent rural school with a strong sense of community.

3/6/2018 5:15 PM

32 No educational case to close, rural schools are a vital part of the community. Transporting primary age children for 30 minutes each way by bus is likely to be detrimental to learning. I believe the case for closing the school is insufficient.

3/6/2018 5:10 PM

33 It provides a local resource which would be much missed. The impact of making pupils travel further is great, including losing the ability to travel to school by bike/on foot therefore depriving them of a healthy start

3/6/2018 5:09 PM

34 I think that the focus is in the wrong area regarding the above questions. Having checked HMI reports, Stracathro has excellent results and I would choose not to put my child elsewhere. If you close this school you will be taking away my right of choice as a parent

3/6/2018 5:02 PM





## Q6 What suggestions do you have as an alternative to closing Stracathro Primary School?

Answered: 33 Skipped: 13

1 Not Closing Stracathro!! Focusing on what works and not trying to fix something that isn't broken. Expanding the school catchment. Making the minor improvements that's potentially needed. Promoting it in the area and keeping it alive so it's a choice for people who need it. Angus council recognising it has a good working school providing excellent education that's an asset to the area, instead of amalgamating everything into one big super school. One size does not fit all.  
5/2/2018 12:04 AM

2 Yeh simple keep it open, and give it proper funding.  
4/17/2018 7:25 AM

3 Formally close Lethnot and Tarfside and invest in Stracathro and Edzell - Edzell is a relatively new build - would there still be a need to extend it if Stracathro is kept open, invest the money earmarked for the extension at Stracathro.  
4/12/2018 8:20 PM

4 I feel Stracathro school should remain open.  
4/8/2018 6:40 PM

5 Help with running rural schools which are integral part of rural life.  
4/8/2018 6:32 PM

6 The children should get the option to be transported to Edzell or either Brechin primary schools.  
4/8/2018 9:49 AM

7 it should not happen  
3/30/2018 9:19 PM

8 I don't feel the need to suggest an alternative to closing our school as it doesn't need closing. Our school does not under perform in any way and is an excellent educational facility. I recognise that Edzell school is not big enough and will need expanding, notably to the detriment of external areas for the children, so thus reducing the size of their playground? However, this school was built to be expanded up the way, not out the way as per the drawings? It's also very frustrating to the overall community that a school that is only just over ten years old is already not big enough? This does not give the public much confidence in the "thirty year plan" the council are touting if they can't plan for ten. If it's a financial alternative, the cynic in me might suggest saving on a layer or two of council management.  
3/29/2018 8:44 PM

9 You don't need an alternative!!!! This proposal is all about cost cutting no matter what way you try and present it. Shame on you for putting a price on our children's heads. Shame on you for proposing this damage to our children's education. Now, what proof are you going to provide that you have taken on board anyone's comments and concerns?  
3/19/2018 3:09 PM

10 Save some money elsewhere by actually thinking about things rather than jumping the gun. Stop penalizing the community for mistakes made by "people in power". Try making the stracathro catchment area bigger to make the most of the school that's already there!  
3/16/2018 7:39 PM

11 Closure of this school should never have been an option. The council should have saved its money, time and effort by not suggesting this. They should put the education of the children first by sustaining the educational resources available instead of attempting to find ways to "Save Money". It is clear and

apparent that what the council is attempting will cost considerable more than they could ever save, alienate the local community, parents and damage the education and childhood of these pupils.  
3/12/2018 10:32 PM

12 Leave it open!!  
3/10/2018 9:18 AM

13 Keep it open  
3/10/2018 6:17 AM

14 Use the money they need to make Edzell primary bigger to support these extra children his should be used for stracathro  
3/9/2018 2:46 PM

15 None.  
3/9/2018 12:03 PM

16 There are other primary schools in the area that can take part of the children for example Maisondeui, Andover or Edzell. The majority of non school age parents from the rural area near Stracathro drive to Brechin or Montrose to toddlers groups, swimming lessons, nurseries, playgroups, etc. I do not think allocating their primary school children would be an inconvenience.  
3/9/2018 10:58 AM

17 Keep it open. Angus Council have not proved closing it will save any money or bring any benefit.  
3/9/2018 10:32 AM

18 Don't close it.  
3/9/2018 10:04 AM

19 Widening the catchment area and promoting the school to those who are unable to get their children in to local over subscribed primary schools to boost numbers  
3/7/2018 2:46 PM

20 keep Stracathro open - it's a good school!  
3/6/2018 9:55 PM

21 What's your reason for closing the school? Then I might have suggestions!  
3/6/2018 9:11 PM

22 Leave it well alone  
3/6/2018 7:12 PM

23 There is no acceptable alternative. It therefore should remain open.  
3/6/2018 6:55 PM

24 Keep the school open.  
3/6/2018 5:10 PM

25 Keep it open. From reading the buildings and suitability reports it is a good school in great condition and minor alterations would improve it enough to make it 'suitable' as you deem it should be. It would in fact save you money in the long run if your sums are correct in the report!  
3/6/2018 5:02 PM

26 Don't close it.  
3/6/2018 4:49 PM

27 Look at catchment areas for the town schools. I know people who stay outwith the town who are catchment for either Maisondieu or Andover who would be better placed at the rural schools. This would solve both problems at once.

3/2/2018 4:23 PM

28 Extend Stracathro to take the overspill from Edzell and keep two smaller sized schools. Make the improvements you feel need to be done there. The cost probably won't be that much.

3/2/2018 4:16 PM

29 Ensuring the changes are made which need to be done to make it suitable in the councils eyes to retain it within our community.

3/2/2018 4:08 PM

30 I feel that the small issues raised can easily be rectified and I'm sure the parents could and would come together to achieve changes alongside the council.

2/27/2018 10:27 PM

31 Leave Stracathro as it is, as the saying goes if it's not broken why fix it? Or develop it & have 2 rural schools both serving 100 kids, splitting the catchment areas

2/27/2018 12:00 AM

32 The parents at stracathro have always been happy to fund-raise to help provide the children with the materials they need and have been quite self sufficient that way,continue to let them do this,as all the children that attend stracathro primary school are well educated happy pupils.

2/26/2018 9:49 PM

33 Encourage the parents of the children's who do less well in a big class to attend smaller school.they will develop much better.

2/26/2018 9:09 PM

## Other Submissions

The following are copies of all emails received in relation to the proposal. These include all questions and comments. Please note that copies of any attachments referred to in the response to any question are reproduced below the correspondence.

25 January 2018

**From:** [Future Schools](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Building and Suitability Report request  
**Date:** 25 January 2018 17:04:52  
**Attachments:** [Stracathro P.S - Condition Survey.pdf](#)  
[Stracathro PS Site Condition Summary.t.pdf](#)  
[Stracathro P.S - Scottish Gov - Suitability Survey.pdf](#)  
[Stracathro P.S - Angus Council - Suitability Survey.pdf](#)

---

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your email regarding Angus Schools for the Future, your views are most welcome.

If Angus Council approves the proposed Schools for the Future programme on 30 January 2018, we will undertake a formal consultation on the rural schools in the Brechin area. This consultation will begin in early February 2018.

The consultation is an opportunity to share information and gather views and ideas on the proposals. It is likely to take the form a drop in session in each of the affected catchment areas. All of the information at the drop-in sessions will also be available on the Angus Council website. As with the pre-consultation period, those who are unable to attend the drop-in sessions will also have the opportunity to find out more and have their say on these dedicated webpages.

We will advertise the locations and dates for the consultation in the press/on the Angus Council website: [www.angus.gov.uk/futureschools](http://www.angus.gov.uk/futureschools)

I have enclosed copies of the most recent condition and suitability surveys. If the Future Schools Programme is approved we will prepare consultation documents which will include these surveys.

Thanks again for your interest.

Future Schools team

[future\\_schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:future_schools@angus.gov.uk)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 24 January 2018 16:00  
**To:** Future Schools  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Building and Suitability Report request

To whom it may concern,

Could I possible obtain a copy of the buildings and suitability reports for Stracathro Primary School.

It would be appreciated if these could be forwarded prior to the future for schools meeting on the 30th Jan.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Future Schools](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Stracathro primary closure  
**Date:** 25 January 2018 17:10:00

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Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your email regarding Angus Schools for the Future, your views are most welcome.

If Angus Council approves the proposed Schools for the Future programme on 30 January 2018, we will undertake a formal consultation on the rural schools in the Brechin area. This consultation will begin in early February 2018.

The consultation is an opportunity to share information and gather views and ideas on the proposals. It is likely to take the form a drop in session in each of the affected catchment areas. All of the information at the drop-in sessions will also be available on the Angus Council website. As with the pre-consultation period, those who are unable to attend the drop-in sessions will also have the opportunity to find out more and have their say on these dedicated webpages.

We will advertise the locations and dates for the consultation in the press/on the Angus Council website: [www.angus.gov.uk/futureschools](http://www.angus.gov.uk/futureschools)

Thanks again for your interest.

Future Schools team

[future\\_schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:future_schools@angus.gov.uk)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 January 2018 10:06  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Stracathro primary closure

Dear [REDACTED]:

It is with great sadness I am writing this email to you. I returned home from Edinburgh sick kids hospital yesterday with my son who had just received his 4th round of chemotherapy, to find an email regarding the proposed closure of his and his older sisters school.

I had been unable to attend the pre consultation in November again due to being in Edinburgh with my son, however I had been given assurances from [REDACTED] that's Stracathro was not earmarked for closure. I am angry to now find that this is indeed the case.

Does my son not deserve to have the same education as other children? I was never so glad I had chosen to place my girls at Stracathro 4.5 years ago as I was last year when my son was initially diagnosed with a brain tumour which was, a few weeks later confirmed as cancer! I firmly believe it was the schools support that firstly led the gp's in Brechin to really listen to me rather than look at me like a crazy woman when continually turning up with up at surgery with a child who didn't look ill!! They backed me all the way and he was referred to Ninewells where his horrific diagnosis was given. Since then, through numerous operations and treatments, the staff at the school have

been there for my whole family. The support they have shown has been above and beyond what I could have hoped for my children. My son has, with their support, continued to attend nursery through his treatment as much as possible and even attempted to join P1 in August as he should have. They have researched his cancer and have spoken to his outreach nurse and have his care sorted and I can say I am very happy for my wee boy to continue to attend knowing that he will be cared for and educated and nurtured in the best way possible for him and know that the school will contact me immediately if any issues arise. The infection control is the biggest issue I have in allowing my son to continue attending nursery and at the smaller sized nursery I feel confident I am not placing him, or indeed any other child, in any danger. A small school equals less infection for my child. I could never allow him to go to his catchment school as it would be far too dangerous for him.

This is just one of many reasons I believe the closure of Stracathro primary would be detrimental to the children and indeed the community as a whole. It's not just our children either. How are the children of Edzell primary going to feel having their school turned into a building site to accommodate not just our children but also those who are proposed to move into the area with the new housing scheme? I have done research into Edzell primary and found that it was over capacity when it opened so where are our children meant to go? I can assure you my children will not be attending their catchment school (Andover) as I know there are huge issues there with bullying, understaffing and most importantly, with the management team. My children and their peers at Stracathro deserve the best education we as parents can supply and we strongly believe that is only possible by retaining their school where it is! I believe I am a voice for a number of parents when I say we will not go down without a fight. The school has a motto, small but mighty, and you can guarantee that although our numbers may be small, we are more than prepared to be mighty on behalf of our children.

Look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Regards

[REDACTED]

A very concerned parent  
Sent from my iPhone

29 January 2018

**From:** [Future Schools](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Stracathro Closure Proposition.  
**Date:** 29 January 2018 10:08:36

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email regarding Angus Schools for the Future, your views are most welcome.

If Angus Council approves the proposed Schools for the Future programme on 30 January 2018, we will undertake a formal consultation on the rural schools in the Brechin area. This consultation will begin in early February 2018.

The consultation is an opportunity to share information and gather views and ideas on the proposals. It is likely to take the form a drop in session in each of the affected catchment areas. All of the information at the drop-in sessions will also be available on the Angus Council website. As with the pre-consultation period, those who are unable to attend the drop-in sessions will also have the opportunity to find out more and have their say on these dedicated webpages.

We will advertise the locations and dates for the consultation in the press/on the Angus Council website: [www.angus.gov.uk/futureschools](http://www.angus.gov.uk/futureschools)

Thanks again for your interest.

Future Schools team

[Future\\_schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Future_schools@angus.gov.uk)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 January 2018 14:58  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Stracathro Closure Proposition.

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing as I have great concern as a parent of a Stracathro School and as a member of Stracathro community regarding the shock announcement that the council is to recommend a proposal to consult on the closure of Stracathro Primary School in February.

I am incredulous as to the fact that the first we have heard about this is as a general distribution e-mail 4 working days before the proposed meeting.

There has been no indication as to the reasoning or justification behind the proposed closure of this exceptional education provider.

I, along with other parents from the school attended the pre-consultation at Brechin Community Campus to voice our concerns regarding the future of the school as there are less than 10 families with children attending the school and therefore we don't have the numbers to create as much fuss as other schools. Our concerns however, were brushed under the carpet and we were informed that the main focus at this time was mainly the town schools and campuses.

I feel the pre consult was too generic, and didn't give rise to the need or opportunity to officially oppose or lodge objections to a consultation regarding the closure of the school. It was never highlighted that it was possible as there wasn't an official possible 'consultation' to oppose at the time. I also know that some parents completed the questionnaire anonymously so it may have appeared that many Stracathro parents did not respond.

It has been highlighted before by the Education Secretary that the Schools Consultation Act legislation is subjective and has been misinterpreted by local councils and the reminder is there that the educational benefits - not the financial benefits should be the main consideration when considering a school closure, and that there should always be a 'clear legislative presumption against closure'. Tighter

budgets and the need to streamline the estate cannot be justification alone for the closure of a school.

A clear, overall benefit to the rural community involved should also be identified, and as a member of the local school community I would like to see where it will benefit me that the events organised by the school to bring the community together (such as Hogmanay parties, Burns night dances and School productions to provide a rare evening out which you can travel to on foot) are stopped? It has been an oversight regarding the 'Suitability report' that our school does not utilise the building for the community, but instead uses the community hall. This however does not stop the school from being an important hub regarding pulling the community together, and feel safer due to the traffic and presence of people around the area which deters crime. Members of the community are also employed within the school. Losing the school would mean loss of income for families in the community also. No overall benefit there whereby should they manage to find alternative employment, they will have income offset against costs of transportation.

The children should be at the centre of any proposal. The families have chosen Stracathro not only because they fall within the catchment (we currently have more catchment pupils on the school roll than historically over the past decade, with one family currently attending moving within the catchment boundary in the next week) but also because of the educational environment which the school provides. Some families have moved their children to the school due to bullying issues as it provides a safe, supportive environment for all of the children attending. The proposal would mean returning these children to the environment which caused them stress and anxiety, this can not be in any child's best interest.

The small nature of the school helps to develop confident learners. There is no choice but to be involved in all end of term concerts, school productions and musical events and be centre stage at some point. There is no opportunity to simply 'slip through the system' Alongside a fantastic education, the children develop essential life skills after having to gain the confidence to stand up in front of an audience regularly from Pre-School age. The Act states that there should be 'Neutral Educational impact' - and there should be 'No Educational Detriment to children directly concerned'. I would appreciate any evidence to the positive regarding taking a child from a small nurturing environment and placing them into a larger facility, with larger class sizes and less support to their individual need.

This is only taking into account the educational impact - I can't even begin on the physical and mental impact on the children. Has any evaluation been done regarding the impact of the children and the community following a closure? The impact upon our family alone will be monumental. My children are very active and weather permitting, like to cycle or walk to school. I have one son who has gone right through the system and is about to start his next chapter at High School, however behind him are three siblings - the youngest of which is due to start in the School Nursery next year. There will be a health and environmental impact on having to transport all of the children to the proposed replacement school. They will no longer being able to walk or cycle to school at a time where health studies are at the forefront of their curriculum, and I fear for their emotional development where they will be entering into a new school environment at a stage where friendships have already developed and they may struggle to integrate.



Each child has made strong bonds with their peers (and please note in this case their peers range wholly from P1 - P7) Is there a reassurance that all children at the school will be offered places together at Edzell - the proposed rural school, where there is current concern regarding capacity issues and where there is a new housing estate due to open imminently next door?

Another issue which has been conveniently overlooked, is the provision of pre-school services to the children currently placed in the nursery. We are currently at full capacity, as is both the proposed alternative school Edzell, and also the Edzell Playgroup (in fact I have been told I will not be able to secure a place for my daughter who should have started there last week until after summer) My daughter is due to start at Stracathro next year and by then the new housing development in Edzell will be open which will put even more pressure on the facilities.

Despite the fact that the decision cannot be made on financial grounds, I have found it incredibly frustrating at the continued reporting of the cost per head of each child in Stracathro - when the council know that these costs could be greatly reduced, despite them choosing not to. We currently run with two teachers in both the school and the nursery. Both require only one. There is a joint Head position (was this even taken into account when looking at management costs?) and we do not have any special needs children requiring extra support. The school is a great facility in good condition (rated B) and has a fantastic outdoor space which facilitates an excellent outdoor learning experience. I was informed during the pre-consultation that Stracathro was 'on the radar' for internet upgrade. The question does have to be asked as to why this has not already been done, when the school sits in an area which is currently able to receive Fibre Optic? Any cynic would think it had been purposely held back to ensure the school was downgraded intentionally?

As stated, there are less than ten families with 15 pupils in the school (discounting the 7 currently attending the nursery), but we are not just a number. We are real people and real lives are going to suffer irreversible consequences as a result of this decision.

As a parent, as a member of the affected community and as the Vice Chair of the Stracathro Parent Council, I along with all the other parents at Stracathro, are going to fight this decision tooth and nail. This is NOT a decision made to benefit the children and their educational needs nor as a benefit to the wider community surrounding the school. The Alumni of Stracathro have historically excelled educationally and have always been highly regarded by the coaches/instructors/leaders of any groups or clubs to which they belong. This is a true reflection of not only the education they receive at the school, but of the life lessons they are taught and learn organically whilst attending this outstanding facility.

This is all without the access to latest digital technology - can you imagine the young achievers you'd create if you actually took the time to invest in the school instead of simply closing the door.

Regards



On behalf of the parents of Stracathro Primary School and the Stracathro Parent Council.

08 February 2018

**From:** [Future Schools](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Bcc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Stracathro Schools  
**Date:** 08 February 2018 13:31:27  
**Attachments:** [RE School Fund.msg](#)

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Good Afternoon [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email regarding Schools for the Future. I apologise for the delay in replying. At the last census, September 2017, there were 19 children in Stracathro, which has now fallen to 15. We are projecting there will be 15 in 2023.

Following on from your advising Council yesterday that there are 15 pupils at Stracathro School, the following questions have occurred to me based in my previous knowledge of trying to do something similar about 15 years ago!!!!

1. How many of the 15 pupils live outwith the catchment area for Stracathro School and which school catchment areas do they live in?  
Of the 15 primary age children, 8 children live outwith the Stracathro catchment. The catchment the other children live in are Andover, Edzell and Tarfside.
2. Do any of the pupils live outwith Angus and if so what school should they be attending? Not at present
3. Do any of the pupils living in the Stracathro catchment area attend any other primary schools in Angus and, if so, which schools? I have been unable to get up to date information for this question. The most recent data I have is as at March 2017. At that time there were 20 primary age children living in the Stracathro catchment area. Of these 9 attended Stracathro and 11 attended other Angus schools.
4. Do any of the pupils living in the Stracathro catchment area attend any other primary school outwith Angus and, if so, which schools? We do not have this information.

I trust this answers your questions and I apologise once again for the delay.

Future Schools team  
[Future\\_schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Future_schools@angus.gov.uk)

20 March 2018

**From:** [Future Schools](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Information required re: Brechin School Cluster Consultation  
**Date:** 20 March 2018 16:09:08  
**Attachments:** [Copy of Copy of Stracathro - School Closure Audit Trail 160318.xlsx](#)  
[Copy of Tarfside - School Closure Audit Trail 160318.xlsx](#)  
[Copy of Lethnot - School Closure Audit Trail 160318.xlsx](#)

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Good Afternoon [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail below. We are still gathering some of the information you have requested and will get back to you as soon as possible.

1) The job titles and educational qualifications of all members of Council Staff who completed the suitability surveys for the Brechin Cluster Schools under consultation, as well as the workings used for the calculations and the handwritten notes used during the surveys and calculations.

Job titles of those carrying out the Stracathro Suitability Survey are:

Head Teacher  
Property Advisor  
Schools and Learning Support Officer

I should advise that information relative to a person's qualifications constitutes personal data in respect of which disclosure would contravene the Data Protection principles and that this constitutes a ground of absolute exemption in terms of Section 38 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

There are no handwritten notes from the surveys as these were all combined to form a single Angus Council supplementary suitability survey. The calculated grades come from the Scottish Government suitability survey and are built in to the spreadsheet provided by government.

A copy of the blank template with formulae is attached.

2) A breakdown of the financial costs across Stracathro, Tarfside, Lethnot and Edzell Primary Schools.

See Q9 below

3) Primary School Home to School Transport Tenders and quotations for 2016/17 and 2017/18

All contracts for transport are included on the public contracts website. The link is : - [https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Contracts/Contracts\\_Search.aspx?AuthlD=AA00236](https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Contracts/Contracts_Search.aspx?AuthlD=AA00236).

If you select transport in the browse category it will bring back 11 records including the 2016 and 2017 school transport services.

4) The current Primary School staffing Formula

To follow

5) The new Primary School staffing formula as calculated under the newly passed adopted budget.

To follow.

6) What coatings have been made between January 1st 2016 and 15th Feb 2018 for a) improving and b) replacing Stracathro Primary School

No detailed costings for improving or replacing Stracathro have been made during that period. As at 07/06/17, there were identified planned maintenance requirements of £24,800. We know, however that from the metric used by Scottish Futures Trust, an approximate cost for building a new two classroom school and associated nursery would be in the region of £2.1mill.

7) What are the proposals/costings/plans and financing details of the extension at Edzell Primary School

At this point, there are no detailed proposals or costings for the extension at Edzell. We have an initial discussion design document and costings will be developed as the design is developed.

8) What is the proposed arrangement of classes at Edzell Primary School following the closures of the other Brechin Cluster Rural Schools.

Each year all Head teachers examine the number of children coming to their school and their age groups and using this data propose the class structure for the coming school session. There are currently no children in either Lethnot or Tarfside and all children who might have attended these schools have already been accommodated in the class configuration of other schools. This exercise will continue to be undertaken annually to accommodate the ages of the children and the physical capacity and layout of the school.

9) A breakdown of how the 'cost per pupil' advertised figure has been calculated for Stracathro, Tarfside, Lethnot and Edzell pupils for each of the financial years 2015/16 2016/17 and 2017/18.

The attached spreadsheets contain details of the costings. The cost per pupil was arrived at by dividing the Total Cost minus Income for School by the number of pupils.

10) What steps have been taken to a) identify and b) contact statutory consultees for the Brechin Cluster Rural School Proposals

a) The relevant consultees are Parent Councils, parents of pupils attending an effected school, the pupils themselves, parents of pupils likely to attend an affected

school, staff at an affected school, any trade union which appears to the education authority to be representative of those staff, and any other users. We already have details of most of the relevant consultees, and we have been in contact with NHS Tayside regarding parents of children likely to attend the school in coming years.

b) We have advertised the consultation on the Council website, facebook page and twitter feed; we have issued press releases to local and regional papers; we have emailed Parent Council Chairs; Community Council Chairs; MSPs; MPs; and elected members. We have sent text messages to parent of children in both Stracathro and Edzell Primary Schools: we have put notices in local and regional papers; we have emailed the local playgroup, and put a poster in the Edzell Health Centre. We have consultation scheduled with the children in Stracathro and with staff and relevant trade unions.

11) A list of all schools which operate mixed age classes in Angus

The following schools all have at least one composite (mixed age) class

Aberlemno	Glamis	St Margaret's
Airlie	Hayshead	St Thomas'
Andover	Inverarity	Stracathro
Arbirlot	Inverkeilor	Strathmartine
Auchterhouse	Isla	Tannadice
Birkhill	Ladyloan	Tealing
Borrowfield	Liff	Timmergreens
Burnside	Lochside	Warddykes
Carmyllie	Mattocks	Whitehills
Colliston	Monikie	Woodlands
Cortachy	Muirfield	
Eassie	Murroes	
Edzell	Newbigging	
Ferryden	Newtyle	
Friockheim	Southmuir	

I hope this information is of assistance.

Thank you

Future Schools team  
Future\_schools@angus.gov.uk

Attachments as follows:

Stracathro – School Closure Audit Trail 160318

**Error! Not a valid link.**

Tarfside – School Closure Audit Trail 160318

<b>Calls &amp; Postage</b>	100			<b>100</b>	
Remote School Allowance	40			<b>40</b>	
Telephone & Postage	140	0	0	<b>140</b>	
Other Equipment		72		<b>72</b>	Allocated on Total Teaching Costs
Employers Insurance		181		<b>181</b>	Allocated on Total Teaching Costs
Other Supplies & Services		201		<b>201</b>	Allocated on Total Teaching Costs
Parent Council		417		<b>417</b>	
School Catering		428	797	<b>1,225</b>	
<b>Total Supplies &amp; Services</b>	<b>3,020</b>	<b>1,299</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>5,116</b>	
<b><u>Transport Costs</u></b>					
School Transport			20,704	<b>20,704</b>	Per Transport Manager
Teacher Car Allowances		86		<b>86</b>	Allocated on Total Teaching Costs
<b>Total Transport Costs</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>20,704</b>	<b>20,790</b>	
<b><u>Central Support Services</u></b>					
Property	89			<b>89</b>	
Finance	2,681			<b>2,681</b>	
EDS	0			<b>0</b>	
<b>Total Central Support Costs</b>	<b>2,770</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,770</b>	
<b><u>Income</u></b>					
Sale of Meals			-797	<b>-797</b>	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-797</b>	<b>-797</b>	
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>116,063</b>	<b>10,168</b>	<b>20,704</b>	<b>146,935</b>	

Lethnot – School Closure Audit Trail 160318

ICT SLA Charge	2,130			<b>2,130</b>	
Replacement & Maint of Equipment	2,827	0	0	<b>2,827</b>	
Calls & Postage	100			<b>100</b>	
Remote School Allowance	40			<b>40</b>	
Telephone & Postage	140	0	0	<b>140</b>	
Other Equipment		244		<b>244</b>	Allocated on Total Teaching Costs
Employers Insurance		155		<b>155</b>	Allocated on Total Teaching Costs
Other Supplies & Services		206		<b>206</b>	Allocated on Total Teaching Costs
Parent Council		417		<b>417</b>	
School Catering		744	-86	<b>658</b>	
	3,910	1,766	-86	<b>5,590</b>	
<b>Total Supplies &amp; Services</b>					
<b><u>Transport Costs</u></b>					
School Transport			13,128	<b>13,128</b>	Per Transport Manager
Teacher Car Allowances		84		<b>84</b>	Allocated on Total Teaching Costs
<b>Total Transport Costs</b>	0	84	13,128	<b>13212</b>	
<b><u>Central Support Services</u></b>					
Property	90			<b>90</b>	
Finance	2,681			<b>2,681</b>	
EDS	0			<b>0</b>	
<b>Total Central Support Costs</b>	2,771	0	0	<b>2,771</b>	
<b><u>Income</u></b>					
Sale of Meals			-592	<b>-592</b>	
<b>Total Income</b>	0	0	-592	<b>-592</b>	
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	109,291	8,332	12,450	<b>130,073</b>	

Link to All Contracts for Transport on Public Contracts Website

- [https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Contracts/Contracts\\_Search.aspx?AuthID=AA00236](https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Contracts/Contracts_Search.aspx?AuthID=AA00236)

27 March 2018

**From:** [Future Schools](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Information required re: Brechin School Cluster Consultation.  
**Date:** 27 March 2018 08:51:10  
**Attachments:** [PRIMARY TEACHER ENTITLEMENT.DOC](#)

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Good Morning [REDACTED]

I apologise for the delay in getting the missing information to you. This information is routinely published on the Council's website or through its Publication Scheme. I have attached a copy of the primary school teacher entitlement for your information.

Thank you again for your interest

Future Schools team  
[Future\\_schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Future_schools@angus.gov.uk)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 March 2018 16:15  
**To:** [REDACTED]; [Future Schools](#)  
**Subject:** Information required re: Brechin School Cluster Consultation.

Dear [REDACTED]

I have perused the Consultation Papers for all of the Brechin Cluster schools currently under proposal for closure and there are several pieces of information which are either incorrect, or the relevant information which any reasonable person would require to assist understanding of the proposal has been omitted.

As you are aware time is now of an issue, therefore I would appreciate the provision of this information in a timely manner so as it can be read and digested in sufficient time that an informed response to the Proposal Papers can be made.

Information required immediately is:

- 1) The job titles and educational qualifications of all members of Council Staff who completed the suitability surveys for the Brechin Cluster Schools under consultation, as well as the workings used for the calculations and the handwritten notes used during the surveys and calculations.
- 2) A breakdown of the financial costs across Stracathro, Tarfside, Lethnot and Edzell Primary Schools.
- 3) Primary School Home to School Transport Tenders and quotations for 2016/17 and 2017/18
- 4) The current Primary School staffing Formula
- 5) The new Primary School staffing formula as calculated under the newly passed adopted budget.
- 6) What coatings have been made between January 1st 2016 and 15th Feb 2018 for  
a) improving and b) replacing Stracathro Primary School



- 7) What are the proposals/costings/plans and financing details of the extension at Edzell Primary School
- 8) What is the proposed arrangement of classes at Edzell Primary School following the closures of the other Brechin Cluster Rural Schools.
- 9) A breakdown of how the 'cost per pupil' advertised figure has been calculated for Stracathro, Tarfside, Lethnot and Edzell pupils for each of the financial years 2015/16 2016/17 and 2017/18
- 10) What steps have been taken to a) identify and b) contact statutory consultees for the Brechin Cluster Rural School Proposals
- 11) A list of all schools which operate mixed age classes in Angus

Kind Regards



Attachment as follows:-

### ANGUS COUNCIL PRIMARY TEACHER ENTITLEMENT

Primary Teacher entitlement is based on six specific areas:

1. **Number of classes and McCrone allocation**  
For each class an additional 0.1 fte is allocated to cover reduced contact time

Basic McCrone Cover	
Number of classes	FTE
1	1.1
2	2.2
3	3.3
4	4.4
5	5.5
6	6.6
7	7.7
8	8.8
9	9.9
10	11.0
11	12.1
12	13.2
13	14.3
14	15.4
15	16.5
16	17.6
17	18.7
18	19.8

## 2. Management time

This is based on the number of primary and nursery pupils

Management Time	
No of Pupils	FTE
1-35	0.3
36-109	0.4
110-220	0.9
221-330	1.2
331-439	1.5
440-500	1.7

## 3. Deprivation

The 8 schools which have the highest deprivation identified using the SIMD index are allocated 1 fte each. (using codes of pupils).

## 4. Resourced School

Each resourced school receives an additional 0.7 fte.

## 5. Additionality/Clawback

This is based on the number of primary pupils.

The school must pay a charge of £7,400 per 1 fte per year. However there is a maximum allocation of 0.6 fte.

Number of pupils	FTE	Cost (£)
1-23	0	0
24-45	0.1	740
46-109	0.3	2,220
110-220	0.4	2,960
221-330	0.5	3,700
331-500	0.6	4,440

This cost is split over 2 financial years.

For example: 0.6 fte = £4,440

August – March = £3,090

April – July = £1,350

## 6. Joint Headship

Schools with a joint headship receive an additional 0.3 fte per school.

**From:** Future\_Schools  
**Sent:** 27 March 2018 08:43  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Inaccuracy - Stracathro Closure Proposal Document \_ Draft Reply  
**Importance:** High

Thank you for your emails regarding Angus Schools for the Future. We are in the process of typing up the feedback received at the drop in events last week, and I would hope to have that information, along with questions we have been asked and their responses, and the timeline published on the Council website by the end of this week.

I will send you an e-mail to let you know when this is done. I hope this helps.

Thank you for your continued interest.

Future Schools team  
[Future\\_schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Future_schools@angus.gov.uk)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 March 2018 19:41  
**To:** Future\_Schools  
**Subject:** Inaccuracy - Stracathro Closure Proposal Document

Good Afternoon,

I attended your drop in meeting on Wednesday at Edzell Church & on one of the boards there was a time line. Is there any chance we could get a copy of the document?

Keep us up to date on what is happening & when.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]



29 March 2018

**From:** [Future Schools](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Inaccuracy - Stracathro Closure Proposal Document \_ Draft Reply  
**Date:** 29 March 2018 17:53:46

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Good Afternoon [REDACTED]

I should have mentioned in my email, that if you disagree with our determination, you can make representations to the Council under Section 5 (2)(C) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act.

Could you please let me know if you agree with our determination?

Thank you

Future Schools team  
[Future\\_schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Future_schools@angus.gov.uk)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 27 March 2018 12:48  
**To:** Future\_Schools  
**Subject:** Re: Inaccuracy - Stracathro Closure Proposal Document \_ Draft Reply

Thank you for your email regarding Angus Schools for the Future, and I apologise for the delay in replying.

I agree that there is an inaccuracy in the document regarding the existence of a pavement. There is a short pavement which allows additional vehicle parking on the road.

In terms of the toilets, there are four steps that require to be climbed to reach the toilets.

Whilst I agree that there is an inaccuracy in the document it does not materially change the points being raised. I will however correct the inaccuracy by way of a formal "erratum" to read as follows.

The building at Stracathro is less suited to these activities as it is in a very rural location, with limited car parking, no gym hall and toilets that require four steps to be climbed in order to be accessed. In the immediate locality, the Inchbare Hall would provide more parking and more accessible toilets than Stracathro primary school.

Thank you once again for your interest.

Future Schools team  
[Future\\_schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Future_schools@angus.gov.uk)

5 April 2018

**From:** [Future Schools](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Bcc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Stracathro Suitability Survey Invalid  
**Date:** 05 April 2018 15:57:23  
**Attachments:** [HT0102-16 - School Investment Strategy 301116.pdf](#)  
[Suitability Assessment Procedure 1.0.doc](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Good Afternoon,

Thank you for forwarding this email to me and please feel free to share this response.

I have attached a copy of the letter issued to all Head teachers in November 2016. This letter highlights that the Head Teachers input to the suitability assessment is key and that a small group of staff will visit the school to carry out the survey with the Head Teacher. The staff involved in carrying out the survey with the Head Teacher were another education professional who could provide an independent view of the suitability of the school, and someone with a property background who could support the education professionals in terms of building knowledge. The scores for the school suitability surveys were agreed by the Head Teacher and the other officers at the time of completing the surveys.

This process was carried out in all Angus schools during to December 2016 to February 2017, with the exception of schools which were either newly opened or in the process of being replaced. In recognition that a large number of staff were involved in carrying out assessments, a moderation process was put in place to make sure that the assessments were consistent. This arrangement provided a robust method for carrying out assessments.

Each school was assessed on its individual merits.

All comments recorded on the handwritten forms were on the supplementary suitability survey and these were all typed into a single supplementary survey for each school.

The suitability score included in the consultation document is from the Scottish Government Questionnaire. The guidance requires comments to be added to the document if there are any ratings of D. As there were no D ratings in Stracathro, there are no comments in the document.

The information from the supplementary suitability survey "Educational Aspirations for the Future" is relevant to the consultation it is related to our aspirations for our school estate over the next thirty years.

I hope this clarifies matters.

Thank you once again

Future Schools team  
[Future\\_schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Future_schools@angus.gov.uk)

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Tue, 3 Apr 2018, 18:38

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Stracathro Suitability Survey Invalid

Now that I have received and reviewed the additional FOI request responses I felt I should expand on my initial letter sent regarding my concern about the manner in which the Suitability Survey was conducted at Stracathro Primary School.

As I highlighted, councils are required to measure and report the suitability of their school estate according to the methodology laid down in The governments 'Suitability Core Fact' guidance (link for reference)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/Doc/238946/0065800.pdf>

As pointed out in my last letter it states that:

*'It is generally accepted that those best placed to assess the suitability of a building are the users, and therefore for a school the Head Teacher is best placed to bring that assessment together, taking account as appropriate, of the views of others, principally pupils and staff.'*

For local authorities own purposes a Comments Box is provided on each worksheet in order that a Head Teacher can flag up any issue of particular concern.

**It has now been confirmed that the Head teacher did not personally complete the survey. She was merely consulted on her opinion whilst the visiting officers filled in the pro forma questionnaire.**

In addition it usefully tells us exactly what they should be assessing against....

*"There is no one right design for a school. School designs, like those of other buildings reflect aspects of what was fashionable at the time of construction, and will vary according to the available site, space, expected pupil roll and sector (primary, secondary or special). It is therefore not about assessing a school against the perfect school, nor ranking it against*

*neighbouring schools, but rather considering it in the context of the paragraphs above and then reflecting how well it serves its purpose in terms of the agreed criteria below.”*

A: Good – Performing well and operating efficiently (the school buildings and grounds support the delivery of services to children and communities)

B: Satisfactory – Performing well but with minor problems (the school buildings and grounds generally support the delivery of services to children and communities)

***C: Poor – Showing major problems and/or not operating optimally (the school buildings and grounds impede the delivery of activities that are needed for children and communities in the school)***

D: Bad – Does not support the delivery of services to children and communities (the school buildings seriously impede the delivery of activities that are needed for children and communities in the school)

**Despite the guidance clearly stating that the school should not be ranked against neighbouring schools, I am led to believe that the two visiting council officers led the survey with their knowledge on how aspects of the building and grounds compared to other schools.**

Additionally all the evidence we have compiled so far does not in any way reflect their grading of a school which is ‘Poor, and showing major problems’

For the FOI I requested the following information:

1)

The job titles and educational qualifications of all members of Council Staff who completed the suitability surveys for the Brechin Cluster Schools under consultation, as well as the workings used for the calculations and the handwritten notes used during the surveys and calculations.

And received the response:

*“Job titles of those carrying out the Stracathro Suitability Survey are:*

*Head Teacher*

*Property Advisor*

*Schools and Learning Support Officer*

*I should advise that information relative to a person’s qualifications constitutes personal data in respect of which disclosure would contravene the Data Protection principles and that this constitutes a ground of absolute exemption in terms of Section 38 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002”*

**A ‘Property Advisor’ should not be involved in any shape or form regarding the suitability survey of a school. Their purpose is to advise on the CONDITION survey. There is a very clear distinction laid out between the two on page 7 of the *Suitability Core Fact guidance*.**

More worrying the FOI response received, just hours before the irregularities between the grades in the papers were highlighted to the council, also stated:

*“There are no handwritten notes from the surveys as these were all combined to form a single Angus Council supplementary suitability survey. The calculated grades come from the Scottish Government suitability survey and are built in to the spreadsheet provided by government”*

This is a **direct contradiction** to the statement released by the Council in response to the irregularities between the reported scores on the papers printed in the Proposal Papers where it was claimed that the ‘Supplementary Survey (appendix 5b)’ was in no way related to the weighted survey.

*“It is important to note that the purpose of the two suitability documents is different and the criteria and questions contained within each document are stand alone. There is a ‘weighted’ suitability tool provided by Scottish Government (5a in our consultation document).*

*“Angus Council developed an additional suitability assessment ‘Educational Aspirations for the Future’ (Appendix 5b in our consultation document) based on the standards agreed in our School Investment Strategy. These assessments are ‘unweighted’ and is an internal guide to assess our estate against our overall aspirations. Direct comparisons between the two documents should therefore not be made.*

If they are now claiming they are irrelevant to the proposal, why were they published in the Proposal Document?

The absence of any handwritten notes – or indeed any supporting paperwork whatsoever used to justify the scores given in the Stracathro School Suitability Survey means that there is no auditable trail regarding the completion of the survey. Given Angus Council’s record of ‘administrative errors’ as in the case of the recently reported Abirlot Primary School Suitability Survey, how can any concerned party be assured that no such error has occurred during the reporting of this final survey?

I have asked for clarification as to whether the ‘handwritten notes combined to form the single Angus Council supplementary suitability survey’ have in fact been destroyed.

With no auditable record regarding the compilation of the survey, and subsequent evidence that it was not completed by the relevant parties in the manner laid out in the government guidelines, **there can be no choice but to render the Suitability Survey for Stracathro Primary School null and void.**

The Proposal paper contains many other flaws, for which I will also be seeking rectification or clarification under Section 5 of the Act.

This, in addition to the lack of a valid educational argument for the closure of the school, should give cause for consideration when contemplating the recommendation of council officers to close Stracathro Primary School.

Kind Regards



Attachment as follows:-

HT0102-16 School Investment Strategy 301116

Your Ref

Our Ref MW/EH/AD/HT0102/16

30 November 2016



To: All Head Teachers

**CHILDREN AND LEARNING**  
Strategic Director:  
Margo Williamson

Dear Colleague

### **SCHOOL INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

You will be aware that work has been on-going to develop a school investment strategy for the next 30 years. This has been taken forward by a number of working groups including staff from across the Council and a number of partners.

This strategy will inform where we invest our limited resources in the future. One of the most important considerations in making these decisions is suitability of our schools for delivering learning and teaching in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It is vital that we have robust and consistent information. To this end we will be carrying out suitability surveys during December 2016 and January 2017.

I am sure you agree that the Head Teachers input to that assessment is key. You will be contacted shortly to arrange a time for a small group of staff to visit you at your school to carry out the survey with you. A copy of the questionnaire will be sent to you before the visit to allow you time to think about the areas being assessed.

We will not be visiting the schools which are either newly opened or in the process of being replaced at this time. They will be involved in post occupancy evaluations and suitability surveys in due course.

I appreciate the tight timescale, but would like your support with this process. If you have any queries please contact Elaine Hughes, Service Manager, Performance ([hughese@angus.gov.uk](mailto:hughese@angus.gov.uk)).

Yours sincerely

Margo Williamson  
Strategic Director – Children and Learning

**Angus House** | Orchardbank Business Park | Forfar | DD8 1AE | LP8 Forfar  
T: (01307) 461460 | E: [childrenandlearning@angus.gov.uk](mailto:childrenandlearning@angus.gov.uk) | [www.angus.gov.uk](http://www.angus.gov.uk)



## Suitability Assessment Procedure

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Suitability Core Fact seeks to provide a measure of the extent to which a school building and its grounds are appropriate 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.
- 1.2 The assessment is of the school as a whole, its buildings and its grounds and of the impact these have on learning and teaching, leisure and social activities and the health and well-being of all users. Within this we need to consider the different types of spaces within the school and the different activities for which they are used.
- 1.3 Where school facilities are used for other purposes by local authorities. These other uses should not be taken into account in the assessment of suitability for the school, except in circumstances in which the dual use places restrictions on time-tabling for school use during the school day. For example, school sports and leisure facilities to which the school has unrestricted access during the school day but which are available to the community outwith school hours should be assessed in exactly the same way as if they were solely for school use.
- 1.4 Due to changes in the Curriculum for Excellence and to reflect teaching practice for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century a supplementary questionnaire has been designed. This will be used to supplement the core facts return and inform future investment decisions. It has been developed in line with How Good is Our Schools (HGIOS 4). Both questionnaires will be completed at the same visit.

### 2. Methodology

- 2.1 It is generally accepted that those best placed to assess the suitability of a building are the users, and therefore for a school the Head Teacher is best placed to bring that assessment together, taking account as appropriate, of the views of others, principally pupils and staff.
- 2.2 While it is recognised that the users' input to suitability assessment is important, it is the responsibility of local authorities to ensure that ratings assigned are accurate and robust. In order to ensure appropriate challenge and consistency, a member of staff from Children & Learning will also be involved with the assessment supported by a colleague with asset management experience.

- 2.3 Questionnaires will be shared with the Head Teacher prior to the assessment visit. This will allow consideration and possibly collaboration with pupils and colleagues to be carried out to inform the assessment.
- 2.4 The ratings for each 'area' should be recorded using the suitability assessment worksheets. There are separate worksheets for assessing primary and secondary schools or departments.
- 2.5 In order that a school's suitability rating does not include any issues which should be considered under condition, the school facilities should be assessed as though they were in good condition. For example a leaking roof, however inconvenient, should not affect the suitability rating of the school but school instead be a matter to be considered in the context of the condition rating.
- 2.6 Due to demographic change, schools may be operating with a pupil roll that is either above or below their design capacity. However, this is an issue to be addressed as one of sufficiency rather than suitability and therefore school facilities should be assessed as though they were operating at design capacity. If, for example, a General Purposes room is being used as a classroom because the school was designed for a lower school roll than is currently in place, then the suitability rating should continue to be calculated on the basis that the room is a General Purposes room and not a classroom.
- 2.7 Ratings – the ratings from the core facts survey are detailed below:
- A: Good – Performing well and operating efficiently (the school buildings and grounds support the delivery of services to children and communities)
- B: Satisfactory – Performing well but with minor problems (the school buildings and grounds generally support the delivery of services to children and communities)
- C: Poor – Showing major problems and/or not operating optimally (the school buildings and grounds impede the delivery of activities that are needed for children and communities in the school)
- D: Bad – Does not support the delivery of services to children and communities (the school buildings seriously impede the delivery of activities that are needed for children and communities in the school)

## Example of illustrations for Teaching and Learning Spaces

<b>Category A:</b>
Spaces are suitable for all functions/activities that are conducted within them.
Spaces are conveniently located within the building for access to other areas and for disabled access
Spaces are comfortable for users and conditions are conducive to learning and teaching.
Spaces are safe and reasonably risk-free, with secure areas as required.
Spaces are fitted out appropriately for activities conducted within them.
<b>Category C:</b>
Many spaces are unsuitable for some of the functions/activities that are conducted with them on a regular basis.
Spaces are often located at an inconvenient distance from each other and there is not disabled access to all curriculum areas. Some areas are off-campus.
Many spaces are uncomfortable for users, with conditions which may inhibit or distract from learning and teaching.
There are significant unsafe aspects to some areas, and security is incomplete.
Many spaces lack some necessary fittings for activities conducted within them.

### 3. Moderation

- 3.1 Once the assessments have been completed by the Head Teacher, the Schools and Learning and asset management representatives, there will be a moderation process to ensure consistency across all schools assessed.
- 3.2 This process will be a desktop exercise which will involve robust challenge and cross referencing.

### Suitability Assessment – Primary

School:

Assessor:

Date of Assessment:

#### Guidance for completing assessment worksheets

1. Enter the name of the school in the cell above – this will automatically add the school name to all the worksheets. You should also enter the name of the person who carried out the assessment and the date on which it was completed.
2. The sheets must be completed in accordance with the Guidance provided in the Scottish Government publication The Suitability Core Fact. This is available from the Scottish Government website – [www.scotland.gov.uk/schoolestate](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/schoolestate). Further hard copies are available from the school estate team: email [schoolestate@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:schoolestate@scotland.gsi.gov.uk), or call 0131 244 0877.
3. The definition of each of the ratings is as follows:  
**A: Good** – Performing well and operating efficiently (the school buildings and grounds support the delivery of services to children and communities)  
**B: Satisfactory** – Performing well but with minor problems (the school buildings and grounds generally support the delivery of services to children and communities)  
**C: Poor** – Showing major problems and/or not operating optimally (the school buildings and grounds impede the delivery of activities that are needed for children and communities in the school)  
**D: Bad** – Does not support the delivery of services to children and communities (the school buildings and grounds seriously impede the delivery of activities that are needed for children and communities in the school)
4. Weightings have been applied to each of the Areas to reflect the relative importance of these e.g. in all schools the Weighting for Learning and Teaching is 50%. All calculations are carried out automatically upon completion of the relevant section.
5. Illustrations are provided on each worksheet for categories "A" and "C". Each of the illustrations, in respective order, relates specifically to the factor which are listed beneath.
6. Once the ratings for each of the factors for each of the areas have been entered into the worksheets, they are automatically collated in the final two worksheets – one which presents the results by factors, and one which presents the results in an Overall Ratings Matrix.
7. While all of the information gathered will be of interest and value to Local Authorities in terms of efficient Schools Estate Management Planning, only the overall Suitability Rating for each school will be passed on to the Scottish Government as part of the annual collection of school estate statistics.

### Suitability Assessment-Primary Schools

School:

Area: **Learning and Teaching Spaces** (e.g classrooms, areas for group work/private study, internal and external P.E / games areas)

Weighting: 50%

Method: Assess the fitness for purpose of the area by assigning a rating from A to D to each factor, taking account of the illustrations below. The ratings will be aggregated automatically by the electronic spreadsheet to give an overall suitability assessment for the area.

Illustrations:

<b>Category A:</b>
Spaces are suitable for all functions/activities that are conducted within them.
Spaces are conveniently located within the building for access to other areas and for disabled access.
Spaces are comfortable for users and conditions are conducive to learning and teaching.
Spaces are safe and reasonably risk-free, with the secure areas as required.
Spaces are fitted out appropriately for activities conducted within them.
<b>Category C:</b>
Many spaces are unsuitable for some of the functions/activities that are conducted within them on a regular basis.
Spaces are often located at an inconvenient distance from each other and there is not disabled access to all curriculum areas. Some areas are off-campus.
Many spaces are uncomfortable for users, with conditions which may inhibit or distract from learning and teaching.
There are significant unsafe aspects to some areas, and security is incomplete.
Many spaces lack some necessary fittings for activities conducted within them.

Factor:

<b>Functionality</b> e.g. shape, size, flexibility, changing facilities, lighting		
<b>Accessibility</b> e.g. ease of access for all, disabled charging facilities & equipment, on/off campus, travel time		
<b>Environmental Conditions</b> e.g. temperature, acoustics, ventilation, natural light, controllability, playing surfaces		
<b>Safety &amp; Security</b> e.g. windows, fire doors, heat source, surfaces, perimeter security		
<b>Fixed Furniture &amp; Fittings</b> e.g. IT infrastructure, storage, display boards, power points, all-weather facilities		
<b>Overall Ratings:</b> 5-7= D, 8-12=C, 13-17=B, 18-20=A		

Comments:

Please comment on any issues of particular concern including any aspect which you have rated as "D"

### Suitability Assessment-Primary Schools

School:

Area: **Internal Social Space** (e.g pupil social areas, dining, common rooms, staffrooms)

Weighting: 15%

Method: Assess the fitness for purpose of the area by assigning a rating from A to D to each factor, taking account of the illustrations below. The ratings will be aggregated automatically by the electronic spreadsheet to give an overall suitability assessment for the area.

Illustrations:

<b>Category A:</b>
There are a good range of internal social spaces allowing all to engage in individual or group activities, in out-of-class time.
Social spaces are available throughout the school and the allocation of these takes account of age, stage and disability issues.
Internal social spaces are maintained at an appropriate temperature, are well ventilated and benefit from natural light.
Social spaces are safe and reasonable risk-free, with secure areas as required.
Fixed furnishings and equipment help facilitate socialising and relaxation
<b>Category C:</b>
Internal Social Spaces exist but are limited in number and range
Internal Social Spaces are concentrated in one area of the school and tend to be crowded at break times. Disabled access is possible but difficult.
Internal social spaces would benefit from better temperature control, better ventilation and more natural light.
While generally safe and reasonably risk-free, some social areas are secluded.
The internal social areas have little appropriate fixed furniture and equipment

Factor:

<b>Functionality</b> e.g. shape, size and range, lighting		
<b>Accessibility</b> e.g. ease of access for all, age/stage appropriate space		
<b>Environmental Conditions</b> e.g. temperature, acoustics, ventilation, natural light, controllability		
<b>Safety &amp; Security</b> e.g. observed areas, age/stage separation, windows, fire doors, CCTV		
<b>Fixed Furniture &amp; Fittings</b> e.g. Fixed equipment/fittings for leisure activities/ private study, rubbish bins		
<b>Overall Ratings:</b> 5-7= D, 8-12=C, 13-17=B, 18-20=A		

Comments:

Please comment on any issues of particular concern including any aspect which you have rated as D"

### Suitability Assessment-Primary Schools

School:

Area: **Internal Facilities** (e.g. reception/administration/office/meeting/circulation space, resource/staff base, library, toilets)

Weighting: 15%

Method: Assess the fitness for purpose of the area by assigning a rating from A to D to each factor, taking account of the illustrations below. The ratings will be aggregated automatically by the electronic spreadsheet to give an overall suitability assessment for the area.

Illustrations:

<b>Category A:</b>
Reception area, administrative and office accommodation are appropriate. Toilets are user friendly, offering dignity and privacy.
The location of these facilities within the building offers easy access to all including those with disabilities.
Internal facilities are maintained at an appropriate temperature and are well ventilated. Noisy equipment e.g. photocopiers are housed separately
Areas are safe and reasonably risk-free.
Fittings in all areas are of good quality
<b>Category C:</b>
The number of toilets, while adequate, is not ideal. The number of offices, while adequate, is not ideal.
Office/administrative space is often unavailable. Toilets are in blocks and not on each level nor adjacent to the teaching area.
These facilities would benefit from better temperature control, better ventilation. A significant number have no natural light.
The design of the toilet blocks creates some insecurity among the users.
Fixed furniture and fittings are dated and would benefit from upgrading

Factor:

<b>Functionality</b> e.g. shape, size, range, privacy, lighting		
<b>Accessibility</b> e.g. Ease of access for all		
<b>Environmental Conditions</b> e.g. temperature, acoustics, ventilation, natural light, controllability		
<b>Safety &amp; Security</b> e.g. secure access control, observed areas, age/stage separation, CCTV		
<b>Fixed Furniture &amp; Fittings</b> e.g. reception window/desk, sanitary ware, fixed office equipment		
<b>Overall Ratings:</b> 5-7= D, 8-12=C, 13-17=B, 18-20=A		

Comments:

Please comment on any issues of particular concern including any aspect which you have rated as "D"



### Suitability Assessment-Primary Schools

School:

Area: **External Social Spaces** (e.g. play, covered, seated areas)

Weighting: 10%

**Method:** Assess the fitness for purpose of the area by assigning a rating from A to D to each factor, taking account of the illustrations below. The ratings will be aggregated automatically by the electronic spreadsheet to give an overall suitability assessment for the area.

Illustrations:

<b>Category A:</b>
There are good range of open and covered external social spaces allowing all to engage in individual or group games/activities, in out-of-class-time.
These spaces are adjacent to the school and offer easy access to all, There is adequate room for appropriate age/stage separation
The location of the facilities is not compromised by particular external environmental
These spaces are secure and easily observed
Appropriate fixed furniture and equipment is provided. Toilet access is adjacent.
<b>Category C:</b>
External Social Spaces exist but are limited in number and range
External Social Spaces are concentrated in one area of the school and tend to be crowded at break times. Disabled access is possible but not convenient.
The adjacency of e.g. a main road, railway, flight path affects this area.
While generally safe and reasonably risk-free, the perimeter fencing is not entirely secure. Some areas are not easily observed.
The external social areas have limited fixed furniture or equipment. Toilet access is at a distance.

Factor:

<b>Functionality</b> e.g. shape, size, number		
<b>Accessibility</b> e.g. Ease of access for all, space, age/stage appropriate		
<b>Environmental Conditions</b> e.g. reference to any external factors affecting the area		
<b>Safety &amp; Security</b> e.g. surfaces, perimeter fencing, ease of observation, CCTV		
<b>Fixed Furniture &amp; Fittings</b> e.g. benches, play equipment, toilets, rubbish bins		
<b>Overall Ratings:</b> 5-7= D, 8-12=C, 13-17=B, 18-20=A		

Comments:

Please comment on any issues of particular concern including any aspect which you have rated as "D"

## Suitability Assessment-Primary Schools

School:

Area: **External Facilities** (e.g. car parks, bike sheds, drop-off areas, storage facilities)

Weighting: 10%

**Method:** Assess the fitness for purpose of the area by assigning a rating from A to D to each factor, taking account of the illustrations below. The ratings will be aggregated automatically by the electronic spreadsheet to give an overall suitability assessment for the area.

Illustrations:

<b>Category A:</b>
Areas are suitable for all functions/activities that are conducted within them.
Areas are easily accessed by all users.
The location of these facilities is not compromised by particular external environmental factors.
Spaces are safe and reasonably risk-free, there is an effective traffic management system and there is appropriate perimeter fencing.
Spaces are fitted out appropriately for activities for activities conducted within them.
<b>Category C:</b>
Some areas are unsuitable for some of the functions/activities that are conducted within them on a regular basis.
Some areas are located at an inconvenient distance from each other. Some facilities are off-campus.
The adjacency of e.g. a main road, railway, flight path affects this area.
While generally safe and reasonably risk-free, the perimeter fencing is not entirely secure.
Spaces are lacking equipment

Factor:

<b>Functionality</b> e.g. size, layout, lighting		
<b>Accessibility</b> e.g. Ease of access for all		
<b>Environmental Conditions</b> e.g. reference to any external factors affecting the area		
<b>Safety &amp; Security</b> e.g. surfaces, perimeter fencing, ease of observation, CCTV		
<b>Fixed Furniture &amp; Fittings</b> e.g. signage, marked parking bays, bike racks, bin stores		
<b>Overall Ratings:</b> 5-7= D, 8-12=C, 13-17=B, 18-20=A		

Comments:

Please comment on any issues of particular concern including any aspect which you have rated as "D"

### Suitability Assessment - Collated Factors

This sheet is for authority use, to allow the identification of themes across the school.

School:

Overall Suitability rating:

Functionality	Rating	Number	Weighting	Total	
Learning & Teaching Spaces					
Internal Social Spaces					
Internal Facilities					
External Social Spaces					
External Facilities					
Overall rating:					

Accessibility	Rating	Number	Weighting	Total	
Learning & Teaching Spaces					
Internal Social Spaces					
Internal Facilities					
External Social Spaces					
External Facilities					
Overall rating:					

Environmental Conditions	Rating	Number	Weighting	Total	
Learning & Teaching Spaces					
Internal Social Spaces					
Internal Facilities					
External Social Spaces					
External Facilities					
Overall rating:					

Safety & Security	Rating	Number	Weighting	Total	
Learning & Teaching Spaces					
Internal Social Spaces					

Internal Facilities					
External Social Spaces					
External Facilities					
Overall rating:					

Fixed Furniture & Fittings	Rating	Number	Weighting	Total	
Learning & Teaching Spaces					
Internal Social Spaces					
Internal Facilities					
External Social Spaces					
External Facilities					
Overall rating:					

Range	Rating
1 - 1.4	D
1.5 - 2.4	C
2.5 - 3.4	B
3.5 - 4	A

### Suitability Assessment – Overall Rating Matrix

This sheet is intended to allow authorities to look at the significance of factors across the whole school, and therefore to make troubleshooting more straightforward.

#### School

Weighting            50%   15%   15%   10%   10%

Score out of 20

	General Learning & Teaching	Internal Social Areas	Internal Facilities	External Social Areas	External Facilities	Total:
<b>Functionality</b>						
<b>Accessibility</b>						
<b>Environmental Conditions</b>						
<b>Safety &amp; Security</b>						
<b>Fixed Furniture &amp; Fittings</b>						
<b>Total:</b>						

Overall Suitability Rating =

Range	Rating
5.0 – 7.5	D
7.5 – 12.5	C
12.5 – 17.5	B
17.5 – 20.0	A

10 April 2018

**From:** [Future Schools](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Plan drawings Brechin cluster schools  
**Date:** 10 April 2018 15:44:00  
**Attachments:** [IMG\\_0089.jpg](#)

---

Good Morning,

All of the plans used at the drop in events are included on the Angus Council Website. The links are below: -

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/133794030@N04/39808980124/in/album-72157693880676195> - Lethnot Floor Plan

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/133794030@N04/40453258772/in/album-72157693117565454> - Stracathro Floor Plan

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/133794030@N04/38709133110/in/album-72157664121676447> - Tarfside Floor Plan

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/133794030@N04/40188747414> - Edzell discussion document

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/133794030@N04/40188748934> - Edzell discussion site plan

The current Edzell floor plan which was used on the information boards is less detailed than the one on the website (see below). I have include a separate file with the floor plan used on the boards.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/133794030@N04/39785638684/in/album-72157690870759002> - Edzell Current Plan

Thank you once again, and I apologize for the delay in replying.

Future Schools team  
[future\\_schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:future_schools@angus.gov.uk)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 April 2018 14:20  
**To:** [REDACTED]; [Future\\_Schools](#)  
**Subject:** Plan drawings Brechin cluster schools

Hi There,

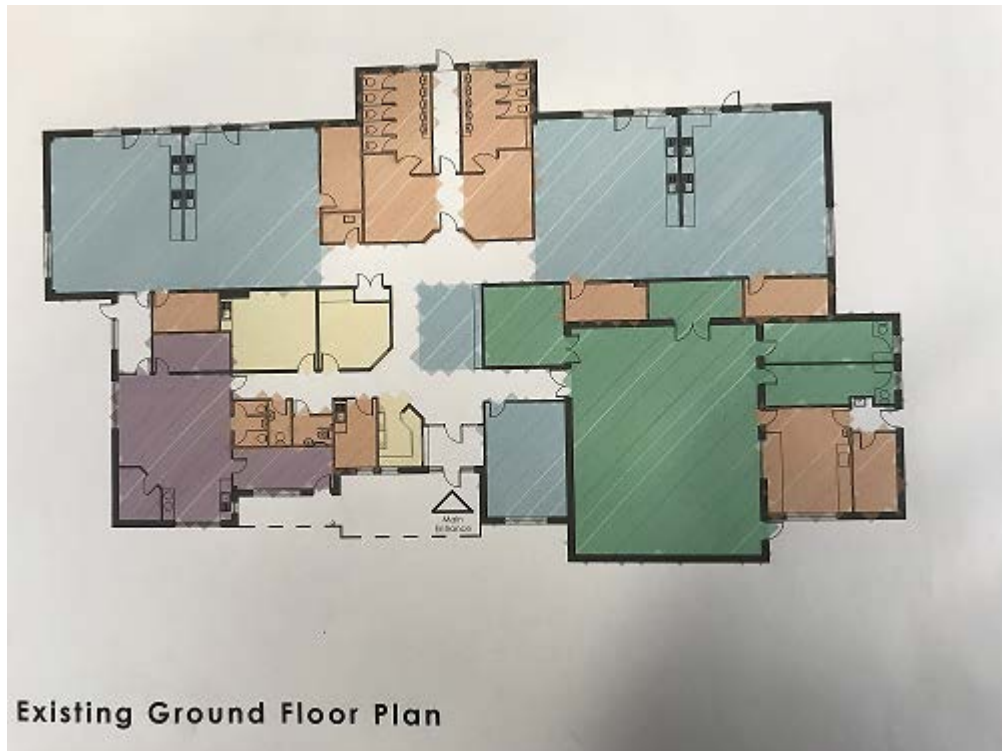
Would it be possible to get a copy of the floor plan drawings displayed at the Drop-In sessions of all of the four Brechin Cluster Schools?

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Attachement as follows:-

IMG0089.jpg



Links to Floor Plans as follows:-

Lethnot <https://www.flickr.com/photos/133794030@N04/39808980124/in/album-72157693880676195>

Stracathro <https://www.flickr.com/photos/133794030@N04/39808980124/in/album-72157693880676195>

Tarfside <https://www.flickr.com/photos/133794030@N04/39808980124/in/album-72157693880676195>

Edzell Discussion Document <https://www.flickr.com/photos/133794030@N04/39808980124/in/album-72157693880676195>

Edzell Discussion Site Plan <https://www.flickr.com/photos/133794030@N04/39808980124/in/album-72157693880676195>

Edzell Current Plan <https://www.flickr.com/photos/133794030@N04/39808980124/in/album-72157693880676195>

**From:** [Future Schools](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Information required re: Brechin School Cluster Consultation  
**Date:** 10 April 2018 16:27:00

---

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your email regarding the above. I can confirm that all of the handwritten notes that were taken during the suitability surveys were typed into a single supplementary suitability survey. The originals were then destroyed as working documents.

Thank you once again for you

Future Schools team  
[Future\\_schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Future_schools@angus.gov.uk)

Hi,

Can you please clarify the statement below:

“There are no handwritten notes from the surveys as these were all combined to form a single Angus Council supplementary suitability survey”

It states that the handwritten notes were combined to form a single supplementary survey. Does this mean that the original handwritten notes used to form the survey have been destroyed?

Regards

[REDACTED]

On 3 Apr 2018, at 14:15, [REDACTED] wrote:  
Many thanks for providing the below information.

In response 1) it states that a blank template with the formulae from the government is attached, however it wasn't included with the original e-mail. Could you please forward it.

For response number 3) the link just appears to take you to an overall tender amount for the entire contract. What was requested is the quotation breakdowns e.g cost per mile/or per day as appropriate for the provision of a 6,8,16 seater bus etc

Could you please provide either a formula for the metric used by the Scottish Futures Trust used for the calculation of a new school at Stracathro or a link to where the information has been obtained. Could you please apply the same formulation to the costing of the current proposed extension at Edzell as displayed at the Drop-in sessions.

Otherwise the outset budget provided to the architects would suffice.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]



On 20 Mar 2018, at 16:09, Future\_Schools [Future\\_Schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Future_Schools@angus.gov.uk) wrote:

Good Afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail below. We are still gathering some of the information you have requested and will get back to you as soon as possible.

1) The job titles and educational qualifications of all members of Council Staff who completed the suitability surveys for the Brechin Cluster Schools under consultation, as well as the workings used for the calculations and the handwritten notes used during the surveys and calculations.

Job titles of those carrying out the Stracathro Suitability Survey are:

Head Teacher  
Property Advisor  
Schools and Learning Support Officer

I should advise that information relative to a person's qualifications constitutes personal data in respect of which disclosure would contravene the Data Protection principles and that this constitutes a ground of absolute exemption in terms of Section 38 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

There are no handwritten notes from the surveys as these were all combined to form a single Angus Council supplementary suitability survey. The calculated grades come from the Scottish Government suitability survey and are built in to the spreadsheet provided by government.

A copy of the blank template with formulae is attached.

2) A breakdown of the financial costs across Stracathro, Tarfside, Lethnot and Edzell Primary Schools.  
See Q9 below

3) Primary School Home to School Transport Tenders and quotations for 2016/17 and 2017/18  
All contracts for transport are included on the public contracts website. The link is : -  
[https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Contracts/Contracts\\_Search.aspx?AuthID=AA00236](https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Contracts/Contracts_Search.aspx?AuthID=AA00236).  
If you select transport in the browse category it will bring back 11 records including the 2016 and 2017 school transport services.

4) The current Primary School staffing Formula

To follow

5) The new Primary School staffing formula as calculated under the newly passed adopted budget.

To follow.

6) What coatings have been made between January 1st 2016 and 15th Feb 2018 for a) improving and b) replacing Stracathro Primary School

No detailed costings for improving or replacing Stracathro have been made during that period. As at 07/06/17, there were identified planned maintenance requirements of £24,800. We know, however that from the metric used by Scottish Futures Trust, an approximate cost for building a new two classroom school and associated nursery would be in the region of £2.1mill.

7) What are the proposals/costings/plans and financing details of the extension at Edzell Primary School

At this point, there are no detailed proposals or costings for the extension at Edzell. We have an initial discussion design document and costings will be developed as the design is developed.

8) What is the proposed arrangement of classes at Edzell Primary School following the closures of the other Brechin Cluster Rural Schools.

Each year all Head teachers examine the number of children coming to their school and their age groups and using this data propose the class structure for the coming school session. There are currently no children in either Lethnot or Tarfside and all children who might have attended these schools have already been accommodated in the class configuration of other schools. This exercise will continue to be undertaken annually to accommodate the ages of the children and the physical capacity and layout of the school.

9) A breakdown of how the 'cost per pupil' advertised figure has been calculated for Stracathro, Tarfside, Lethnot and Edzell pupils for each of the financial years 2015/16 2016/17 and 2017/18.

The attached spreadsheets contain details of the costings. The cost per pupil was arrived at by dividing the Total Cost minus Income for School by the number of pupils.

10) What steps have been taken to a) identify and b) contact statutory consultees for the Brechin Cluster Rural School Proposals

- a) The relevant consultees are Parent Councils, parents of pupils attending an effected school, the pupils themselves, parents of pupils likely to attend an affected school, staff at an affected school, any trade union which appears to the education authority to be representative of those staff, and any other users. We already have details of most of the relevant consultees, and we have been in contact with NHS Tayside regarding parents of children likely to attend the school in coming years.
- b) We have advertised the consultation on the Council website, facebook page and twitter feed; we have issued press releases to local and regional papers; we have emailed Parent Council Chairs; Community Council Chairs; MSPs; MPs; and elected members. We have sent text messages to parent of children in both Stracathro and Edzell Primary Schools: we have put notices in local and regional papers; we have emailed the local playgroup, and put a poster in the Edzell Health Centre. We have consultation scheduled with the children in Stracathro and with staff and relevant trade unions.

11) A list of all schools which operate mixed age classes in Angus

The following schools all have at least one composite (mixed age) class

Aberlemno	Glamis	St Margaret's
Airlie	Hayshead	St Thomas'
Andover	Inverarity	Stracathro
Arbirlot	Inverkeilor	Strathmartine
Auchterhouse	Isla	Tannadice
Birkhill	Ladyloan	Tealing
Borrowfield	Liff	Timmergreens
Burnside	Lochside	Warddykes
Carmyllie	Mattocks	Whitehills
Colliston	Monikie	Woodlands
Cortachy	Muirfield	
Eassie	Murroes	
Edzell	Newbigging	
Ferryden	Newtyle	
Friockheim	Southmuir	

I hope this information is of assistance.

Thank you  
Future Schools team  
[Future\\_schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Future_schools@angus.gov.uk)

11 April 2018

**From:** [Future Schools](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Bcc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Finance Table issues - Stracathro Proposal Closure Document  
**Date:** 11 April 2018 17:18:00

---

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your email regarding the above. We are currently working up a narrative which we expect to publish before the end of the week.

Thank you once again for your interest

Future Schools team  
[Future\\_schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Future_schools@angus.gov.uk)

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 10 April 2018 15:08

To: [REDACTED] Future Schools

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Finance Table issues - Stracathro Proposal Closure Document

Dear Sir/Madam

I have been struggling to make head nor tail of the Finance Table in the Stracathro Closure proposal.

I am failing to understand where some figures have come from and upon looking for guidance can only find what appears to be the COSLA guidance cut and pasted into the document. This is of no use to anyone except the person populating the Finance Table for presentation.

Paragraph 55 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 Statutory Guidance states that

"It is expected that the financial information provided should include both actual costs and a narrative. The narrative should explain the costs as well as covering other relevant factors which do not have a direct cost estimate"

There has been no narrative which is of any use to the end user provided within the Proposal to Close Stracathro Primary School and to amend the Edzell Primary Catchment Area document.

The whole structure of the Act is so that the process is transparent and the omission of any finance narrative has made the Finance Table in the Proposal Paper impossible for the reader to translate which information is relevant and of any purpose.

I am therefore notifying the authority of an omission of relevant information in the Proposal Paper under section 5 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Future Schools](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Information required re: Brechin School Cluster Consultation  
**Date:** 11 April 2018 18:16:35  
**Attachments:** [Invitation to Tender 2016.doc](#)  
[Invitation to Tender 2017.doc](#)  
[Invitation to Tender July 2017.doc](#)  
[Metric for New Build.docx](#)

---

Good Morning,

Thank you for your email below and I apologise for the delay in replying.

1) it states that a blank template with the formulae from the government is attached, however it wasn't included with the original e-mail. Could you please forward it.

I am sorry that the template was not attached to the previous e-mail. It is on the Angus Council website at : -

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/media/blank\\_suitability\\_assessment](https://www.angus.gov.uk/media/blank_suitability_assessment)

For response number 3) the link just appears to take you to an overall tender amount for the entire contract. What was requested is the quotation breakdowns e.g cost per mile/or per day as appropriate for the provision of a 6,8,16 seater bus etc.

Please find attached copies of the tender documents. The price in the portal is the full contract costs. If these are taken in conjunction with the information on the portal you will be able get the daily rate by dividing the contract amount by 190 days, then again divide by 5 years.

Could you please provide either a formula for the metric used by the Scottish Futures Trust used for the calculation of a new school at Stracathro or a link to where the information has been obtained.

Please find attached file detailing the calculation used for the indicative cost of a 2 class new build plus nursery provision.

Could you please apply the same formulation to the costing of the current proposed extension at Edzell as displayed at the Drop-in sessions.

Otherwise the outset budget provided to the architects would suffice.

The extension at Edzell is planned regardless of the outcome of these consultations. The plans displayed at the recent meetings were discussion documents and not actual proposals. These are unlikely to be the final design and have therefore not been costed.

I hope this is helpful.

Thank you  
Future Schools team  
[Future\\_schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Future_schools@angus.gov.uk)

Attachments as follows: - (Brechin Cluster Only)  
 Invitation to Tender 2016

The following requirements are mandatory requirements of the service required by the Council and must be fully met in the tender

Essential or Desirable Requirement	Quality Assessment Method?
E	PS

**Contract Number:** ASP/3

**Size of Vehicle** A licensed vehicle with a minimum of 4 seats is required to operate this contract.

**Contract Start Date:** Tuesday 16 August 2016

**Contract Finish Date:** 1 July 2019(with an option to extend for a further 2 years)

**Basis of Tender:** Lowest cost

**Escort** The operator of this contract is required to provide an escort.

**Timetable**  
**Schooldays Only**

Pick-up Point	A.M.	P.M.	No of Pupils
TIGERTON, MENMUIR	08:24	16:10	1
VICTORIA PLACE, BRECHIN	08:40	15:55	1
BRECHIN HIGH SCHOOL	08:45	15:50	2

*The accuracy of end to end journey times and intermediate timing points are the sole responsibility of the contractor.*

Essential or Desirable Requirement	Quality Assessment Method?
E	PS

The following requirements are mandatory requirements of the service required by the Council and must be fully met in the tender

**Contract Number:** ASP/62

**Size of Vehicle** A wheelchair accessible licensed vehicle capable of carrying 8 passengers, one of whom travel in their wheelchair, is required to operate this contract.

**Contract Start Date:** Tuesday 16 August 2016

**Contract Finish Date:** 1 July 2018(with an option to extend for a further 2 years)

**Basis of Tender:** Lowest cost

**Timetable**  
**Schooldays Only**

Pick-up Point	A.M.	P.M.	No of Pupils
WOODSIDE, LITTLE BRECHIN	08:30	15:47	1
WARD ROAD, BRECHIN	08:40	15:37	1 W/c
MIDDLETON PARK, BRECHIN	08:50	15:27	2
HILLVIEW, BRECHIN	08:54	15:36	1
ANDOVER PRIMARY SCHOOL	08:57	15:20	5

*The accuracy of end to end journey times and intermediate timing points are the sole responsibility of the contractor.*

Essential or Desirable Requirement	Quality Assessment Method?
E	PS

The following requirements are mandatory requirements of the service required by the Council and must be fully met in the tender

**Contract Number:** B/1

**Size of Vehicle** A licensed vehicle with a minimum of 8 passenger seats is required to operate this contract.

**Contract Start Date:** Tuesday 16 August 2016

**Contract Finish Date:** 1 July 2017(with an option to extend for a further 2 years)

**Basis of Tender:** Lowest cost

**Escort:**  
The operator of this contract is required to provide an escort.

**Timetable**  
**Schooldays Only**

Pick-up Point	A.M.	P.M.	No of Pupils
A934/MUIRMILLS R/E	08:28	16:00	1
POWMILL FARMHOUSE	08:32	15:56	1
WEST LODGE, KINNAIRD ESTATE	08:35	15:53	2
GUTHRIE PARK, BRECHIN	08:41	15:47	1
ANDOVER PRIMARY SCHOOL	08:44	-	<u>3</u>
FERGUSON AVENUE, BRECHIN	08:46	15:44	1
BRECHIN HIGH SCHOOL	08:50	15:40	<u>2</u>
ANDOVER PRIMARY SCHOOL	-	15:30	

*The accuracy of end to end journey times and intermediate timing points are the sole responsibility of the contractor.*



## Invitation to Tender 2017

Essential or  
Desirable  
Requirement

Quality  
Assessment  
Method?

The following requirements are mandatory requirements of the service required by the Council and must be fully met in the tender.

If a variant timetable is proposed then a copy must be submitted with the tender bid.

E

PS

**Contract Number:** B/1

**Size of Vehicle** A licensed vehicle with a minimum of 8 passenger seats fitted with seatbelts for every passenger seat is required to operate this contract.

**Contract Start Date:** Wednesday 16 August 2017

**Contract Finish Date:** 1 July 2020 (with an option to extend for a further 2 years)

**Basis of Tender:** Most economically advantageous tender

**Escort:**

The operator of this contract is required to provide an escort.

**Timetable**

**Schooldays Only**

Pick-up Point	A.M.	P.M.	No of Pupils
A934/MUIRMILLS R/E	08:17	16:03	1
WEST LODGE, KINNAIRD ESTATE	08:23	15:57	1
B9134/STANNOCHY FARMHOUSE R/E	08:31	15:47	1
A935/CROSSHILL COTTAGE R/E	08:39	15:47	1
LEIGHTONHILL FARM R/E	08:45	15:35	2
ANDOVER PRIMARY SCHOOL	08:50	15:30	Total - 6

***The accuracy of end to end journey times and intermediate timing points are the sole responsibility of the contractor.***

This contract will operate as a dedicated school contract.

Essential or  
Desirable  
Requirement

Quality  
Assessment  
Method?

The following requirements are mandatory requirements of the service required by the Council and must be fully met in the tender.

E

PS

If a variant timetable is proposed then a copy must be submitted with the tender bid.

**Contract Number:** B/3

**Size of Vehicle** A licensed vehicle with a minimum of 33 seats fitted with seatbelts for every passenger seat is required to operate this contract.

**Contract Start Date:** Wednesday 16 August 2017

**Contract Finish Date:** 1 July 2020 (with an option to extend for a further 2 years)

**Basis of Tender:** Most economically advantageous tender

**Timetable**  
**Schooldays Only**

Pick-up Point	Friday P.M.	No of Pupils
MAISONDIEU PRIMARY SCHOOL	15:30	Total – 32
A/90/BALNABRIECH R/E	15:37	1
A90/CARESTON CASTLE R/E	15:39	1
MAINS OF CATESTON FARM R/E	15:47	1
BARRELWELL COTTAGES	15:45	2
EAST PITTENDRIECH FARM HOUSE R/E	15:49	1
EAST PITTENDRIECH COTTAGES	15:49	1
KEEPER'S COTTAGE R/E, WEST PITTENDRIECH	15:50	1
FINDOWRIE FARM R/E	15:52	3
LOCHTY HOUSES	15:54	1
LITTLE BRECHIN	16:00	5
MILL OF BALROWNIE	16:03	2
WELSDEN R/E	16:07	2
BALZEORDIE R/E	16:11	1
KNOWEHEAD COTTAGE R/E	16:15	1
BALCONNEL FARM R/E	16:16	3
BALHALL TERRACE	16:17	3
BRACKLEYBURN COTTAGE R/E	16:28	2

*The accuracy of end to end journey times and intermediate timing points are the sole responsibility of the contractor.*

This contract will operate as a dedicated school contract.

Essential or  
Desirable  
Requirement

Quality  
Assessment  
Method?

The following requirements are mandatory requirements of the service required by the Council and must be fully met in the tender.

E

PS

If a variant timetable is proposed then a copy must be submitted with the tender bid.

**Contract Number:** B/3A

**Size of Vehicle** A licensed vehicle with a minimum of 16 seats fitted with seatbelts for every passenger seat is required to operate this contract.

**Contract Start Date:** Wednesday 16 August 2017

**Contract Finish Date:** 1 July 2020 (with an option to extend for a further 2 years)

**Basis of Tender:** Most economically advantageous tender

**Timetable**  
**Schooldays Only**

Pick-up Point	Friday P.M.	No of Pupils
MAISONDIEU PRIMARY SCHOOL	15:30	Total – 11
A/90/BALNABRIECH R/E	15:37	1
A90/GATESIDE COTTAGE R/E, CARESTON	15:39	1
A90/CARESTON CASTLE R/E	15:41	1
MAINS OF CARESTON FARM R/E	15:43	1
BRACKLEYBURN COTTAGE R/E	15:45	2
BARRELWELL COTTAGES	15:49	2
EAST PITTENDRIECH FARM HOUSE R/E	15:53	1
EAST PITTENDRIECH COTTAGES	15:53	1
KEEPER'S COTTAGE R/E, WEST PITTENDRIECH	15:54	1

*The accuracy of end to end journey times and intermediate timing points are the sole responsibility of the contractor.*

This contract will operate as a dedicated school contract.

Essential or  
Desirable  
Requirement

Quality  
Assessment  
Method?

The following requirements are mandatory requirements of the service required by the Council and must be fully met in the tender.

E

PS

If a variant timetable is proposed then a copy must be submitted with the tender bid.

**Contract Number:** B/3b

**Size of Vehicle** A licensed vehicle with a minimum of 16 seats fitted with seatbelts for every passenger seat is required to operate this contract.

**Contract Start Date:** Wednesday 16 August 2017

**Contract Finish Date:** 1 July 2020 (with an option to extend for a further 2 years)

**Basis of Tender:** Most economically advantageous tender

**Timetable**  
**Schooldays Only**

Pick-up Point	Friday P.M.	No of Pupils
MAISONDIEU PRIMARY SCHOOL	15:30	Total – 12
MILL OF BALROWNIE	15:35	2
BALZEORDIE R/E	15:37	1
KNOWEHEAD COTTAGE R/E	15:41	1
BALCONNEL FARM R/E	15:42	3
BALHALL TERRACE	15:43	3
WELLSDEN R/E	15:50	2

*The accuracy of end to end journey times and intermediate timing points are the sole responsibility of the contractor.*

This contract will operate as a dedicated school contract.

Essential or Desirable Requirement	Quality Assessment Method?
--	----------------------------------

The following requirements are mandatory requirements of the service required by the Council and must be fully met in the tender.  
**If a variant timetable is proposed then a copy must be submitted with the tender bid.**

E

PS

**Contract Number:** B/7

**Size of Vehicle** A licensed vehicle with a minimum of 8 seats fitted with seatbelts for every passenger seat is required to operate this contract.

**Contract Start Date:** Wednesday 16 August 2017

**Contract Finish Date:** 1 July 2020 (with an option to extend for a further 2 years)

**Basis of Tender:** Most economically advantageous tender

**Timetable**  
**Schooldays Only**

Pick-up Point	A.M	P.M.	No of Pupils
AUCHOWRIE R/E	08:11	16:04	1
CHAPELTON/CAIRNDRUM R/E	08:31	15:44	3
DALBOG COTTAGE R/E	08:41	15:34	1
EDZELL PRIMARY SCHOOL	08:45	15:30	Total – 6

***The accuracy of end to end journey times and intermediate timing points are the sole responsibility of the contractor.***

This contract will operate as a dedicated school contract.

Essential or  
Desirable  
Requirement

Quality  
Assessment  
Method?

The following requirements are mandatory requirements of the service required by the Council and must be fully met in the tender.

E

PS

If a variant timetable is proposed then a copy must be submitted with the tender bid.

**Contract Number:** B/11

**Size of Vehicle** A licensed vehicle with a minimum of 16 seats fitted with seatbelts for every passenger seat is required to operate this contract.

**Contract Start Date:** Wednesday 16 August 2017

**Contract Finish Date:** 1 July 2020 (with an option to extend for a further 2 years)

**Basis of Tender:** Most economically advantageous tender

**Timetable**  
Schooldays Only

Pick-up Point	Mon – Fri A.M	Mon – Thu P.M	Friday P.M	No of Pupils
MAISONDIEU PRIMARY SCHOOL	-	15:30	-	
BRECHIN HIGH SCHOOL	-	16:00	13:30	
TILLYGLOOM FARM R/E	-	16:03	13:33	
LEIGHTONHILL FARM R/E	-	16:08	13:38	
A935/KINCRAIG R/E	08:02	16:15	13:45	1
LEIGHTONHILL FARM R/E	08:09	-	-	1
TILLYGLOOM FARM R/E	08:14	-	-	1
A90/BALNABRIECH R/E	08:25	16:26	13:59	3
A90/GATESIDE COTTAGE R/E, CARESTON	08:27	16:28	-	1
A90/CARESTON CASTLE R/E	08:29	16:30	-	1
MAINS OF CARESTON FARM R/E	08:31	16:32	13:58	2
CRAIGNEUK COTTAGE R/E	08:32	16:33	13:59	1
WHITESIDE OF CATESTON R/E	08:33	16:34	14:00	1
BARRELWELL COTTAGES	08:37	16:38	-	2
BRECHIN HIGH SCHOOL	08:41	-	-	Total -8
MAISONDIEU PRIMARY SCHOOL	08:45	-	-	Total - 6

*The accuracy of end to end journey times and intermediate timing points are the sole responsibility of the contractor.*

This contract will operate as a dedicated school contract.

As this contract has not been run as a Registered Local Bus service before, there are no previous fare paying passenger figures available.

Essential or  
Desirable  
Requirement

Quality  
Assessment  
Method?

The following requirements are mandatory requirements of the service required by the Council and must be fully met in the tender.

E

PS

If a variant timetable is proposed then a copy must be submitted with the tender bid.

**Contract Number:** B/11A

**Size of Vehicle** A licensed vehicle with a minimum of 16 seats fitted with seatbelts for every passenger seat is required to operate this contract.

**Contract Start Date:** Wednesday 16 August 2017

**Contract Finish Date:** 1 July 2020 (with an option to extend for a further 2 years)

**Basis of Tender:** Most economically advantageous tender

**Timetable**  
Schooldays Only

Pick-up Point	Mon – Fri A.M	Mon – Thu P.M	Friday P.M	No of Pupils
MAISONDIEU PRIMARY SCHOOL	-	15:30	-	
BRECHIN HIGH SCHOOL	-	16:00	13:30	
TILLYGLOOM FARM R/E	-	16:03	13:33	
LEIGHTONHILL FARM R/E	-	16:08	13:38	
A935/KINCRAIG R/E	08:02	16:15	13:45	1
LEIGHTONHILL FARM R/E	08:09	-	-	1
TILLYGLOOM FARM R/E	08:14	-	-	1
A90/BALNABRIECH R/E	08:25	16:26	13:56	3
A90/GATESIDE COTTAGE R/E, CARESTON	08:27	16:28	-	1
A90/CARESTON CASTLE R/E	08:29	16:30	-	1
MAINS OF CARESTON FARM R/E	08:31	16:32	13:58	2
CRAIGNEUK COTTAGE R/E	08:32	16:33	13:59	1
WHITESIDE OF CATESTON R/E	08:33	16:34	14:00	1
BARRELWELL COTTAGES	08:37	16:38	-	2
BRECHIN HIGH SCHOOL	08:41	-	-	Total -8
MAISONDIEU PRIMARY SCHOOL	08:45	-	-	Total - 6

*The accuracy of end to end journey times and intermediate timing points are the sole responsibility of the contractor.*

Essential or  
Desirable  
Requirement

Quality  
Assessment  
Method?

The following requirements are mandatory requirements of the service required by the Council and must be fully met in the tender.

E

PS

If a variant timetable is proposed then a copy must be submitted with the tender bid.

**Contract Number:** B/12

**Size of Vehicle** A licensed vehicle with a minimum of 6 seats fitted with seatbelts for every passenger seat is required to operate this contract.

**Contract Start Date:** Wednesday 16 August 2017

**Contract Finish Date:** 1 July 2020 (with an option to extend for a further 2 years)

**Basis of Tender:** Most economically advantageous tender

**Timetable**  
**Schooldays Only**

Pick-up Point	A.M	P.M	No of Pupils
INVERMARK CAR PARK	08:28	-	1
HEAD KEEPERS HOUSE R/E, MILLDEN EASTATE, GLENESK	08:45	15:52	1
MILLDEN BRIDGE (TELEPHONE BOX)	08:43	15:52	1
AUCHENTOUL R/E	08:45	15:49	1
INVERMARK CAR PARK	-	15:38	0
TARFSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL	08:50	15:30	Total - 4

*The accuracy of end to end journey times and intermediate timing points are the sole responsibility of the contractor.*

This contract will operate as a dedicated school contract.



Essential or  
Desirable  
Requirement

Quality  
Assessment  
Method?

The following requirements are mandatory requirements of the service required by the Council and must be fully met in the tender.

E

PS

If a variant timetable is proposed then a copy must be submitted with the tender bid.

**Contract Number:** B/15

**Size of Vehicle** A licensed vehicle with a minimum of 33 seats fitted with seatbelts for every passenger seat is required to operate this contract.

**Contract Start Date:** Wednesday 16 August 2017

**Contract Finish Date:** 1 July 2020 (with an option to extend for a further 2 years)

**Basis of Tender:** Most economically advantageous tender

**Timetable**  
**Schooldays Only**

Pick-up Point	Mon - Fri A.M	Mon - Thu P.M	Friday P.M	No of Pupils
BRACKLEYBURN COTTAGE R/E	08:16	16:27	-	2
BALHALL CRESCENT	08:27	16:16	13:45	6
MAINS OF BALHALL R/E	08:28	16:15	13:44	1
BALCONNEL FARM R/E	08:29	16:14	13:43	4
KNOWEHEAD COTTAGE R/E	08:30	16:13	13:42	2
BALZEORDIE R/E	08:34	16:09	-	1
BALROWNIE R/E	08:35	16:08	13:37	1
HILL TERRACE	08:36	16:07	13:36	7
MILL OF BALROWNIE	08:37	16:06	-	2
MAISONDIEU PRIMARY SCHOOL	08:43	-	-	Total -12
BRECHIN HIGH SCHOOL	08:45	16:00	13:30	Total - 14
MAISONDIEU PRIMARY SCHOOL	-	15:30	-	

***The accuracy of end to end journey times and intermediate timing points are the sole responsibility of the contractor.***

This contract will operate as a dedicated school contract.

Based on usage in February 2017, the single passenger journey on this contract are: 0 Adult, 1 Child, in addition to the entitled scholars.

Essential or  
Desirable  
Requirement

Quality  
Assessment  
Method?

The following requirements are mandatory requirements of the service required by the Council and must be fully met in the tender.

E

PS

If a variant timetable is proposed then a copy must be submitted with the tender bid.

**Contract Number:** B/15A

**Size of Vehicle** A licensed vehicle with a minimum of 33 seats fitted with seatbelts for every passenger seat is required to operate this contract.

**Contract Start Date:** Wednesday 16 August 2017

**Contract Finish Date:** 1 July 2020 (with an option to extend for a further 2 years)

**Basis of Tender:** Most economically advantageous tender

**Timetable**  
**Schooldays Only**

Pick-up Point	Mon - Fri A.M	Mon - Thu P.M	Friday P.M	No of Pupils
BRACKLEYBURN COTTAGE R/E	08:16	16:27	-	2
BALHALL CRESCENT	08:27	16:16	13:45	6
MAINS OF BALHALL R/E	08:28	16:15	13:44	1
BALCONNEL FARM R/E	08:29	16:14	13:43	4
KNOWEHEAD COTTAGE R/E	08:30	16:13	13:42	2
BALZEORDIE R/E	08:34	16:09	-	1
BALROWNIE R/E	08:35	16:08	13:37	1
HILL TERRACE	08:36	16:07	13:36	7
MILL OF BALROWNIE	08:37	16:06	-	2
MAISONDIEU PRIMARY SCHOOL	08:43	-	-	Total -12
BRECHIN HIGH SCHOOL	08:45	16:00	13:30	Total - 14
MAISONDIEU PRIMARY SCHOOL	-	15:30	-	

*The accuracy of end to end journey times and intermediate timing points are the sole responsibility of the contractor.*

This contract will operate as a dedicated school contract.

Essential or  
Desirable  
Requirement

Quality  
Assessment  
Method?

The following requirements are mandatory requirements of the service required by the Council and must be fully met in the tender.

E

PS

If a variant timetable is proposed then a copy must be submitted with the tender bid.

**Contract Number:** B/16

**Size of Vehicle** A licensed vehicle with a minimum of 16 seats fitted with seatbelts for every passenger seat is required to operate this contract.

**Contract Start Date:** Wednesday 16 August 2017

**Contract Finish Date:** 1 July 2020 (with an option to extend for a further 2 years)

**Basis of Tender:** Most economically advantageous tender

**Timetable**  
**Schooldays Only**

Pick-up Point	Mon - Fri A.M	Mon - Thu P.M	Friday P.M	No of Pupils
WEST DRUMS FARM R/E	08:20	16:25	13:55	1
CRAIGEND JUNCTION	08:21	16:24	13:54	1
BELLAHILL R/E	08:28	16:17	13:47	2
B9134/CROSSTON JUNCTION	08:31	16:14	13:44	1
BALGARROCK COTTAGE R/E	08:33	16:12	13:42	1
BALGLASSIE COTTAGES R/E	08:35	16:10	13:40	1
BALGLASSIE FARM R/E	08:36	16:09	13:39	2
B9134/NETHERTON JUNCTION	08:37	16:08	13:38	2
BRECHIN HIGH SCHOOL	08:45	16:00	13:30	Total - 11

***The accuracy of end to end journey times and intermediate timing points are the sole responsibility of the contractor.***

This contract will operate as a dedicated school contract.

Based on usage in February 2017, the single passenger journey on this contract are: 0 Adult, 1 Child, in addition to the entitled scholars.

Essential or  
Desirable  
Requirement

Quality  
Assessment  
Method?

The following requirements are mandatory requirements of the service required by the Council and must be fully met in the tender.

E

PS

If a variant timetable is proposed then a copy must be submitted with the tender bid.

**Contract Number:** B/16A

**Size of Vehicle** A licensed vehicle with a minimum of 16 seats fitted with seatbelts for every passenger seat is required to operate this contract.

**Contract Start Date:** Wednesday 16 August 2017

**Contract Finish Date:** 1 July 2020 (with an option to extend for a further 2 years)

**Basis of Tender:** Most economically advantageous tender

**Timetable**  
**Schooldays Only**

Pick-up Point	Mon - Fri A.M	Mon - Thu P.M	Friday P.M	No of Pupils
WEST DRUMS FARM R/E	08:20	16:25	13:55	1
CRAIGEND JUNCTION	08:21	16:24	13:54	1
BELLAHILL R/E	08:28	16:17	13:47	2
B9134/CROSSTON JUNCTION	08:31	16:14	13:44	1
BALGARROCK COTTAGE R/E	08:33	16:12	13:42	1
BALGLASSIE COTTAGES R/E	08:35	16:10	13:40	1
BALGLASSIE FARM R/E	08:36	16:09	13:39	2
B9134/NETHERTON JUNCTION	08:37	16:08	13:38	2
BRECHIN HIGH SCHOOL	08:45	16:00	13:30	Total - 11

*The accuracy of end to end journey times and intermediate timing points are the sole responsibility of the contractor.*

This contract will operate as a dedicated school contract.

Essential or Desirable Requirement  
Quality Assessment Method?

The following requirements are mandatory requirements of the service required by the Council and must be fully met in the tender.

E

PS

If a variant timetable is proposed then a copy must be submitted with the tender bid.

**Contract Number:** B/17

**Size of Vehicle** A licensed vehicle with a minimum of 16 seats fitted with seatbelts for every passenger seat is required to operate this contract.

**Contract Start Date:** Wednesday 16 August 2017

**Contract Finish Date:** 1 July 2020 (with an option to extend for a further 2 years)

**Basis of Tender:** Most economically advantageous tender

**Timetable**  
**Schooldays Only**

Pick-up Point	Mon - Fri A.M	Mon - Thu P.M	Friday P.M	No of Pupils
EAST GLASTERLAW FARM R/E	08:20	16:25	13:55	1
KINNEL JUNCTION	08:22	16:23	13:53	1
BOLSHAN R/E	08:25	16:20	13:50	1
RENMURE R/E (BED & BREAKFAST SIGN)	08:29	16:16	13:46	1
STRATHELLA R/E	08:31	16:14	13:44	2
SMITHY HOUSE/FARNELL CROSSROADS	08:33	16:12	13:42	3
POWMILL STEADING	08:35	16:10	13:40	1
FARNELL SCHOOL HOUSE	08:36	16:09	13:39	1
WEST LODGE, KINNAIRD ESTATE	08:38	16:07	13:37	1
BRECHIN HIGH SCHOOL	08:45	16:00	13:30	Total - 12

*The accuracy of end to end journey times and intermediate timing points are the sole responsibility of the contractor.*

This contract will operate as a dedicated school contract.

Based on usage in February 2017, the single passenger journey on this contract are: 0 Adult, 2 Child, in addition to the entitled scholars.

Essential or  
Desirable  
Requirement

Quality  
Assessment  
Method?

The following requirements are mandatory requirements of the service required by the Council and must be fully met in the tender.

E

PS

If a variant timetable is proposed then a copy must be submitted with the tender bid.

**Contract Number:** B/17A

**Size of Vehicle** A licensed vehicle with a minimum of 16 seats fitted with seatbelts for every passenger seat is required to operate this contract.

**Contract Start Date:** Wednesday 16 August 2017

**Contract Finish Date:** 1 July 2020 (with an option to extend for a further 2 years)

**Basis of Tender:** Most economically advantageous tender

**Timetable**  
**Schooldays Only**

Pick-up Point	Mon - Fri A.M	Mon - Thu P.M	Friday P.M	No of Pupils
EAST GLASTERLAW FARM R/E	08:20	16:25	13:55	1
KINNEL JUNCTION	08:22	16:23	13:53	1
BOLSHAN R/E	08:25	16:20	13:50	1
RENMURE R/E (BED & BREAKFAST SIGN)	08:29	16:16	13:46	1
STRATHELLA R/E	08:31	16:14	13:44	2
SMITHY HOUSE/FARNELL CROSSROADS	08:33	16:12	13:42	3
POWMILL STEADING	08:35	16:10	13:40	1
FARNELL SCHOOL HOUSE	08:36	16:09	13:39	1
WEST LODGE, KINNAIRD ESTATE	08:38	16:07	13:37	1
BRECHIN HIGH SCHOOL	08:45	16:00	13:30	Total - 12

*The accuracy of end to end journey times and intermediate timing points are the sole responsibility of the contractor.*

This contract will operate as a dedicated school contract.

Essential or Desirable Requirement  
Quality Assessment Method?

The following requirements are mandatory requirements of the service required by the Council and must be fully met in the tender.

E

PS

If a variant timetable is proposed then a copy must be submitted with the tender bid.

**Contract Number:** B/19

**Size of Vehicle** A licensed vehicle with a minimum of 25 seats fitted with seatbelts for every passenger seat is required to operate this contract.

**Contract Start Date:** Wednesday 16 August 2017

**Contract Finish Date:** 1 July 2020 (with an option to extend for a further 2 years)

**Basis of Tender:** Most economically advantageous tender

**Escort:**  
Escort required.

**Timetable**  
**Schooldays Only**

Pick-up Point	Mon - Fri A.M	Mon - Thu P.M	Friday P.M	No of Pupils
DALBRACK R/E	07:51	16:54	14:25	1
ST DROSTANS CHURCH/TARFSIDE	07:55	16:50	14:20	1
AUCHENTOUL R/E	07:59	16:46	14:16	5
HILLOCK R/E	08:05	16:40	14:10	1
COSY KNOWE, DALBOG	08:21	16:24	13:54	1
3 DURIEHILL ROAD, EDZELL	08:26	16:19	13:49	2
STRACATHRO PRIMARY SCHOOL	08:31	16:14	13:44	2
CROSSROADS, STRACATHRO	08:36	16:09	13:39	2
HUNTLYHILL R/E	08:38	16:07	13:37	4
BRECHIN HIGH SCHOOL	08:45	16:00	13:30	Total - 16
ANDOVER PRIMARY SCHOOL	08:50	15:30	-	Total - 1

*The accuracy of end to end journey times and intermediate timing points are the sole responsibility of the contractor.*

This contract will operate as a dedicated school contract.

As this contract has not been run as a Registered Local Bus service before, there are no previous fare paying passenger figures available.

Essential or  
Desirable  
Requirement

Quality  
Assessment  
Method?

The following requirements are mandatory requirements of the service required by the Council and must be fully met in the tender.

E

PS

If a variant timetable is proposed then a copy must be submitted with the tender bid.

**Contract Number:** B/19A

**Size of Vehicle** A licensed vehicle with a minimum of 25 seats fitted with seatbelts for every passenger seat is required to operate this contract.

**Contract Start Date:** Wednesday 16 August 2017

**Contract Finish Date:** 1 July 2020 (with an option to extend for a further 2 years)

**Basis of Tender:** Most economically advantageous tender

**Escort:**  
Escort required.

**Timetable**  
**Schooldays Only**

Pick-up Point	Mon - Fri A.M	Mon - Thu P.M	Friday P.M	No of Pupils
DALBRACK R/E	07:51	16:54	14:25	1
ST DROSTANS CHURCH/TARFSIDE	07:55	16:50	14:20	1
AUCHENTOUL R/E	07:59	16:46	14:16	5
HILLOCK R/E	08:05	16:40	14:10	1
COSY KNOWE, DALBOG	08:21	16:24	13:54	1
3 DURIEHILL ROAD, EDZELL	08:26	16:19	13:49	2
STRACATHRO PRIMARY SCHOOL	08:31	16:14	13:44	2
CROSSROADS, STRACATHRO	08:36	16:09	13:39	2
HUNTLYHILL R/E	08:38	16:07	13:37	4
BRECHIN HIGH SCHOOL	08:45	16:00	13:30	Total - 16
ANDOVER PRIMARY SCHOOL	08:50	15:30	-	Total - 1

*The accuracy of end to end journey times and intermediate timing points are the sole responsibility of the contractor.*

This contract will operate as a dedicated school contract.



Essential or  
Desirable  
Requirement

Quality  
Assessment  
Method?

The following requirements are mandatory requirements of the service required by the Council and must be fully met in the tender.

E

PS

If a variant timetable is proposed then a copy must be submitted with the tender bid.

**Contract Number:** B/21

**Size of Vehicle** A licensed vehicle with a minimum of 16 seats fitted with seatbelts for every passenger seat is required to operate this contract.

**Contract Start Date:** Wednesday 16 August 2017

**Contract Finish Date:** 1 July 2020 (with an option to extend for a further 2 years)

**Basis of Tender:** Most economically advantageous tender

**Timetable**  
**Schooldays Only**

Pick-up Point	Mon - Fri A.M	Mon - Thu P.M	Friday P.M	No of Pupils
BLAIRNO FARM R/E	08:16	16:27	13:57	3
WEST MUIRSIDE/FORTHILL JUNCTION	08:22	16:21	13:51	1
WELLSDEN R/E	08:24	16:19	13:49	3
CHAPELTON/CAIRNDRUM R/E	08:30	16:13	13:43	1
LUMMINGTON R/E	08:32	16:11	13:41	1
KEEPER'S COTTAGE, WEST PITTENDRIECH	08:40	16:03	-	1
EAST PITTENDRIECH COTTAGE R/E	08:41	16:02	13:32	2
EAST PITTENDRIECH FARM HOUSE R/E	08:41	16:02	-	2
BRECHIN HIGH SCHOOL	08:43	16:00	13:30	Total - 8
MAISONDIEU PRIMARY SCHOOL	08:45	16:00	13:30	Total - 6

*The accuracy of end to end journey times and intermediate timing points are the sole responsibility of the contractor.*

This contract will operate as a dedicated school contract.

As this contract has not been run as a Registered Local Bus service before, there are no previous fare paying passenger figures available.

Essential or  
Desirable  
Requirement

Quality  
Assessment  
Method?

The following requirements are mandatory requirements of the service required by the Council and must be fully met in the tender.

E

PS

If a variant timetable is proposed then a copy must be submitted with the tender bid.

**Contract Number:** B/21A

**Size of Vehicle** A licensed vehicle with a minimum of 16 seats fitted with seatbelts for every passenger seat is required to operate this contract.

**Contract Start Date:** Wednesday 16 August 2017

**Contract Finish Date:** 1 July 2020 (with an option to extend for a further 2 years)

**Basis of Tender:** Most economically advantageous tender

**Timetable**  
**Schooldays Only**

Pick-up Point	Mon - Fri A.M	Mon - Thu P.M	Friday P.M	No of Pupils
BLAIRNO FARM R/E	08:16	16:27	13:57	3
WEST MUIRSIDE/FORTHILL JUNCTION	08:22	16:21	13:51	1
WELLSDEN R/E	08:24	16:19	13:49	3
CHAPELTON/CAIRNDRUM R/E	08:30	16:13	13:43	1
LUMMINGTON R/E	08:32	16:11	13:41	1
KEEPER'S COTTAGE, WEST PITTENDRIECH	08:40	16:03	-	1
EAST PITTENDRIECH COTTAGE R/E	08:41	16:02	13:32	2
EAST PITTENDRIECH FARM HOUSE R/E	08:41	16:02	-	2
BRECHIN HIGH SCHOOL	08:43	16:00	13:30	Total - 8
MAISONDIEU PRIMARY SCHOOL	08:45	16:00	13:30	Total - 6

*The accuracy of end to end journey times and intermediate timing points are the sole responsibility of the contractor.*

This contract will operate as a dedicated school contract.

Invitation to Tender July 2017

None relating to Brechin Cluster

Metric for New Build

Metric Used for Estimation of Cost of New Build 2 Classroom School Plus Nursery

The Scottish Futures Trust metric formula for a new build is as follows:-

- Floor Area x £2350 = project budget cost at Quarter 2 of 2012.
- This cost then requires to be projected forward to suit the expected commencement date of the construction phase of the project.
- As there is no actual project, the cost projections is based on current prices at the start of 2018. This equates to a 38% increase from Q2 2012 to Q1 2018.

Authorities Projected Cost Uplifts:-

- The SFT cost metric is for all projects, regardless of size. As such a 2.5% uplift has been added to reflect the smaller scale and the additional costs associated with a rural location.
- An allowance is then added for statutory and professional fees, along with any decant, removals and IT requirements etc.
- There is also a small risk allowance of 2.5% for any unknowns or abnormalities.
- As this is for comparative purposes, rather than an actual proposal a nominal sum of £1.00 has been added for land purchase.

Accommodation Schedule

- The floor area / accommodation schedule is theoretical only, based on space requirements for a two classroom school.
- The list of accommodation and sizes were not discussed with HT or similar as this is theoretic only.
- A two classroom school still requires the same type of support accommodation as a larger school, for example spaces like the hall, admin areas, and office accommodation.
- The accommodation schedule also includes early years provision for 10 children.

2 Class Primary School  
Proposed Accommodation Schedule

Early Years Pupils 10  
Primary Pupils 50

Room Type	Number	Area m2	Total Area m2	Notes / Description
<b>Teaching Requirements</b>				
Classroom	2	50	100	
Classroom Stores	2	2	4	
G P Room	0	30	0	Allowance included in classroom accommodation based on projected roll
G P Room Store	0	2	0	See above
Group/Tutorial	0	15	0	Provided in Ancillary Accommodation
Booths	0	5	0	Included in activity/open areas
Activity/Open Areas (per class)	2	20	40	
Library	1	10	10	
<b>Hall Requirements</b>				
Hall	1	80	80	
Hall One Storage	1	10	10	
Chair Store/Servery	1	10	10	
Servery Kitchen	1	15	15	
Kitchen Staff/Changing Room	1	5	5	
Kitchen Staff Toilet	1	2	2	
Kitchen Cleaners Store	1	2	2	
Community Kitchen	0	6	0	Hall facilities available but no dedicated kitchen facilities provided
Community Store	0	6	0	As above
Changing (1 x Boys, 1 x Girls)	2	10	20	
Accessible Changing/Shower/Toilet	1	6	6	
<b>Ancillary Requirements</b>				
Reception Area/Lobby	1	10	10	
Admin Office	1	10	10	
Office Storage	1	4	4	
Janitorial Room/Store	1	4	4	
Management Team	1	10	10	
Meeting/Group/Tutorial Room	1	15	15	See Group/Tutorial above
Staffroom/Teacher Workbase	1	15	15	
Medical Room/Visiting Services	1	9	9	
Staff Toilets	1	6	6	
Pupils Toilets throughout School	1	20	20	
Resource Area/Reprographic	0	15	0	Included in office accommodation
Accessible Toilet (Pupils)	0	5	0	Provision included for in Accessible Changing/Shower/Toilet and toilet below
Accessible Toilet (Staff Pupils + visitas)	1	5	5	
Activity Area Storage	1	6	6	
Centralised Storage	1	5	5	

Cleaners Store	1	3	3	
I.T Hub Room (Server)	0	10	0	No requirement for extent of IT switches
<b>E.Y. Requirements</b>				
Early Years General Area	1	25	25	Based on 2.5m2/child inclusive of group area
Early Years Group Area	0	20	0	Not required for size of provision
Educational Area Food Prep	1	10	10	
Staff Toilet	1	3	3	
Cleaners Store	1	2	2	
Accessible Changing/Shower/ Toilet	1	6	6	
Pupils Toilets	1	3	3	
Nappy Change	1	5	5	
Storage/Large Equipment	1	10	10	
Entrance/Cloaks	1	10	10	
Sub-Total			500	
Circulation/Partition/Plant Areas	18%		90.0	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>590.0</b>

Base Date At Q2 2012	£2,350.00 / m2	£1,386,500.00
Inflation to Q1 2018	£0.00	£0.00
Uplift for size of School and Rural Location	2.5%	£34,662.50
Angus Council Costs (Project Management, Decant, IT, Misc)	SUM	£150,000.00
<b>Projected Sub Total</b>		<b>£1,571,162.50</b>
Project Risk	2.50%	£39,279.06
Possible Land Purchase Cost		£1.00
<b>Estimated Total Cost</b>		<b>£1, 610,442.56</b>

Link to Blank Template [https://www.angus.gov.uk/media/blank\\_suitability\\_assessment](https://www.angus.gov.uk/media/blank_suitability_assessment)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 April 2018 14:16  
**To:** Future\_Schools  
**Subject:** Re: Information required re: Brechin School Cluster Consultation

Many thanks for providing the below information.

In response 1) it states that a blank template with the formulae from the government is attached, however it wasn't included with the original e-mail. Could you please forward it.

For response number 3) the link just appears to take you to an overall tender amount for the entire contract. What was requested is the quotation breakdowns e.g cost per mile/or per day as appropriate for the provision of a 6,8,16 seater bus etc

Could you please provide either a formula for the metric used by the Scottish Futures Trust used for the calculation of a new school at Stracathro or a link to where the information has been obtained. Could you please apply the same formulation to the costing of the current proposed extension at Edzell as displayed at the Drop-in sessions.

Otherwise the outset budget provided to the architects would suffice.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

On 29 Mar 2018, at 16:09, Future\_Schools [Future\\_Schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Future_Schools@angus.gov.uk) wrote:

Good Afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail below. We are still gathering some of the information you have requested and will get back to you as soon as possible.

1) The job titles and educational qualifications of all members of Council Staff who completed the suitability surveys for the Brechin Cluster Schools under consultation, as well as the workings used for the calculations and the handwritten notes used during the surveys and calculations.

[Job titles of those carrying out the Stracathro Suitability Survey are:](#)

[Head Teacher](#)  
[Property Advisor](#)  
[Schools and Learning Support Officer](#)

[I should advise that information relative to a person's qualifications constitutes personal data in respect of which disclosure would contravene the Data Protection principles and that this constitutes a ground of absolute exemption in terms of Section 38 of the Freedom of Information \(Scotland\) Act 2002.](#)

[There are no handwritten notes from the surveys as these were all combined to form a single Angus Council supplementary suitability survey. The calculated grades come from the Scottish Government suitability survey and are built in to the spreadsheet provided by government.](#)

A copy of the blank template with formulae is attached.

2) A breakdown of the financial costs across Stracathro, Tarfside, Lethnot and Edzell Primary Schools.  
See Q9 below

3) Primary School Home to School Transport Tenders and quotations for 2016/17 and 2017/18  
All contracts for transport are included on the public contracts website. The link is : -  
[https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Contracts/Contracts\\_Search.aspx?AuthID=AA00236](https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Contracts/Contracts_Search.aspx?AuthID=AA00236).  
If you select transport in the browse category it will bring back 11 records including the 2016 and 2017 school transport services.

4) The current Primary School staffing Formula

To follow

5) The new Primary School staffing formula as calculated under the newly passed adopted budget.

To follow.

6) What coatings have been made between January 1st 2016 and 15th Feb 2018 for a) improving and b) replacing Stracathro Primary School

No detailed costings for improving or replacing Stracathro have been made during that period. As at 07/06/17, there were identified planned maintenance requirements of £24,800. We know, however that from the metric used by Scottish Futures Trust, an approximate cost for building a new two classroom school and associated nursery would be in the region of £2.1mill.

7) What are the proposals/costings/plans and financing details of the extension at Edzell Primary School

At this point, there are no detailed proposals or costings for the extension at Edzell. We have an initial discussion design document and costings will be developed as the design is developed.

8) What is the proposed arrangement of classes at Edzell Primary School following the closures of the other Brechin Cluster Rural Schools.

Each year all Head teachers examine the number of children coming to their school and their age groups and using this data propose the class structure for the coming school session. There are currently no children in either Lethnot or Tarfside and all children who might have attended these schools have already been accommodated in the class configuration of other schools. This exercise will continue to be undertaken annually to accommodate the ages of the children and the physical capacity and layout of the school.

9) A breakdown of how the 'cost per pupil' advertised figure has been calculated for Stracathro, Tarfside, Lethnot and Edzell pupils for each of the financial years 2015/16 2016/17 and 2017/18.

The attached spreadsheets contain details of the costings. The cost per pupil was arrived at by dividing the Total Cost minus Income for School by the number of pupils.

10) What steps have been taken to a) identify and b) contact statutory consultees for the Brechin Cluster Rural School Proposals

- a) The relevant consultees are Parent Councils, parents of pupils attending an effected school, the pupils themselves, parents of pupils likely to attend an affected school, staff at an affected school, any trade union which appears to the education authority to be representative of those staff, and any other users. We already have details of most of the relevant consultees, and we have been in contact with NHS Tayside regarding parents of children likely to attend the school in coming years.
- b) We have advertised the consultation on the Council website, facebook page and twitter feed; we have issued press releases to local and regional papers; we have emailed Parent Council Chairs; Community Council Chairs; MSPs; MPs; and elected members. We have sent text messages to parent of children in both Stracathro and Edzell Primary Schools: we have put notices in local and regional papers; we have emailed the local playgroup, and put a poster in the Edzell Health Centre. We have consultation scheduled with the children in Stracathro and with staff and relevant trade unions.

11) A list of all schools which operate mixed age classes in Angus

The following schools all have at least one composite (mixed age) class

Aberlemno	Glamis	St Margaret's
Airlie	Hayshead	St Thomas'
Andover	Inverarity	Stracathro
Arbirlot	Inverkeilor	Strathmartine
Auchterhouse	Isla	Tannadice
Birkhill	Ladyloan	Tealing
Borrowfield	Liff	Timmergreens
Burnside	Lochside	Warddykes
Carmyllie	Mattocks	Whitehills
Colliston	Monikie	Woodlands
Cortachy	Muirfield	
Eassie	Murroes	
Edzell	Newbigging	
Ferryden	Newtyle	
Friockheim	Southmuir	

I hope this information is of assistance.

Thank you

Future Schools team

[future\\_schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:future_schools@angus.gov.uk)

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<Copy of Copy of Stracathro - School Closure Audit Trail 160318.xlsx>

<Copy of Tarfside - School Closure Audit Trail 160318.xlsx>

<Copy of Lethnot - School Closure Audit Trail 160318.xlsx>



13 April 2018

**From:** [Future Schools](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Bcc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Finance Table issues - Stracathro Proposal Closure Document  
**Date:** 13 April 2018 16:43:07

---

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 10 April 2018 regarding the above.

After due consideration in accordance with section 5 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, we have determined that there has been an omission from our proposal document. It is our opinion that this omission does not constitute a material consideration for the reason that our proposal is based on providing the best quality learning environments for all of our children and young people, and not on financial considerations (Section 5 (2)).

However, we have decided to amend our consultation document to include a narrative explaining our costings and in order to allow consultees time to consider this additional information we have extended the consultation period to Friday 11 May 2018 at 5.00pm (Section (4)(b)).

In accordance with Section 5 (2)(c), you are invited to make representations if you disagree with our determination or decision to issue the additional information and extend the consultation period for a further period of two weeks.

Thank you

Future Schools team  
[future\\_schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:future_schools@angus.gov.uk)

16 April 2018

**From:** [Future Schools](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Bcc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Public Meeting Agenda  
**Date:** 16 April 2018 16:36:00  
**Importance:** High

---

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your email regarding the above. We are assuming you are not raising this as a formal complaint under Councils complaints procedure as the timescales for investigation and resolution would be after tomorrows public meeting.

As we have stated on a number of occasions we have already held 4 public meetings (managed as drop-ins) as part of our statutory consultation process. As well as one in each catchment, an additional meeting was held in Edzell.

It is the intention that the vast majority of tomorrow's meetings will be dedicated to hearing comments and questions from those present. It is planned that the introduction etc. will last no more than 15 minutes in total. The majority of the meeting will be dedicated to hearing from attendees. In addition, the chairperson of the meeting has indicated that he is willing to consider extending the meeting by a reasonable amount of time should that be necessary.

With regards to your request for time at the meeting, given your concerns that insufficient time has been allocated to the meeting this will clearly reduce further the time available for the Council to hear from the audience. However, the chair of the meeting has stated that as per Council Committee procedures, the parent council representative and the community representative will be allocated a maximum of 10 minutes in total to address the audience. This will be scheduled as part of the agenda dedicated to considering the Stracathro proposal.

Thank you again for your interest.

Future Schools team

[Future\\_schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Future_schools@angus.gov.uk)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 15 April 2018 21:22

To: [REDACTED]; Future\_Schools

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Public Meeting Agenda

Thank you for the Agenda for the upcoming meeting.

Stracathro Parent Council would like to make a formal complaint regarding the length of time which will be allocated at the upcoming 'Public Meeting' on April 17th, to an open public debate regarding the potential closure of Stracathro Primary School.

Each school under consultation is entitled to a Public Meeting, preferably within its own catchment area.

It is felt, taking into account the great interest which has already been shown by the parents, community and wider public that an apportioned a time slot in a meeting covering multiple consultations, squeezed in-between introductions and explanations as to how meetings will be managed, will not be sufficient to fully address any concerns which may be raised at the meeting.

The Parent Council would like to formally request floor time at the meeting, for both a School representative and a Community representative to address the public in attendance with the viewpoint of the impact a closure would have on the community of Stracathro and the Families who's Children attend the school.

Regards

[REDACTED]

On 10 Apr 2018, at 16:27, [REDACTED] wrote:

Good Afternoon,

The agenda for the meeting is as follows: -

- Purpose of meetings
- Management of the meetings
- General Introduction
- Lethnot proposal with comments and questions
- Tarfside proposal with comments and questions
- Stracathro proposal with comments and questions
- Close

Thank you

Future Schools team

[Future\\_schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Future_schools@angus.gov.uk)

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 03 April 2018 18:56

To: [REDACTED]; Future\_Schools

Subject: Public Meeting Agenda

Could you please forward an Agenda for the Brechin School Cluster Closures Public Meeting on 17th April at Inglis Hall.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

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3 May 2018

**From:** [Future Schools](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Children's questions  
**Date:** 03 May 2018 14:47:29  
**Attachments:** [Introduction school pupil consultation.doc](#)  
[Session plan.doc](#)  
[Individual activity.doc](#)

---

Hello,

I apologise, I understood these had been shared previously.

Regards

Future Schools team  
[Future\\_schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Future_schools@angus.gov.uk)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 May 2018 14:26  
**To:** [REDACTED] Future\_Schools  
**Subject:** Children's questions

Hi,

I was asked prior to the children at Stracathro being asked their views on the consultation if I had any questions by the school.

I requested a copy of the questions which were posed to the children on the day, but have not yet had anything forwarded to me.

Can you please forward a copy of the questions asked to the children of Stracathro as part of their consultation for the closure of the school.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Attachments as follows:-

Introduction school pupil consultation

### **(Introduction)**

Hello my name is Alison and this is Sylvia.

I am here from Angus Council today to talk to you about your school and what you think makes a good place to learn.

### **(Context)**

Over the past few months Angus Council have started to look at all schools in the Angus, Monifeith, Carnoustie, Arbroath, Montrose, Forfar, Kirriemuir and the Brechin area. We are here today because your school is part of the Brechin area. The council are looking to make sure all schools in Angus are the best possible places for children to learn. This might mean there will be some changes to some of our schools. This could mean some new schools might get built, some school might be extended, some schools might merge or join together or some schools might close. There has been no decisions been made about any of these possible changes to schools yet.

Children's views at all out schools are really important to us and we want to make sure your views are listened to. We are going to be talking to all children in all the schools where there might be changes happening to their school in the future. We are here today to make sure your voices are heard about what you think makes a good place to learn. *(Children have a right to have their voice heard and their opinions taking into account. (UNCRC; Article 12))*

Today we are going to ask you some questions about what you think a schools should look, feel and sound like to learn in. The questions we are going to ask you are similar to the questions in the online questionnaire we have asked whoever lives at home with you to complete. You are also allowed to complete one of these questionnaires if you want. If you want to see the questionnaire you should speak to someone at home about this.

### **(Feedback)**

At the end of today we will give all the information you tell us back to people in the council. They are collecting information from lots of different people until the 27<sup>th</sup> of April. After that date someone will come back and talk to you about what happens next with schools in the Brechin area.

## (Exceptions)

As I have already said all of your views are really important to us and we will listen to everything you have to say, and we promise to take all your suggestions seriously.

However, we cannot promise that all the suggestions you make will happen

If you have any questions about what we are doing please ask us while we are here, or ask the Head Teacher once we have gone she will make sure we answer the questions.





Session Plan

### Children's Survey Stracathro and Edzell Consultation/Session 1 hour

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017 13:30 – 14:30 Stracathro Primary School  
(15 young people in Stracathro)

1. Introduction to pupil consultation will be read out. (5 mins)
2. Show children the following clip of what schools in the future could look like  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8HkIGdHKcc> (5 mins)
3. What would your ideal school look like? (15 mins)  
Divide children into three groups, mixed ages.  
  
Flipchart paper and pens to be given to each group. In groups children to write down and or draw what they think the following should look like, sound like and feel like in a school.
  - PE provision
  - Digital
  - School building and groundsGroups to share what they have put together, then identify which is most important to them (PE/Digital/Building and Grounds) (5 mins)
4. Do you think Stracathro Primary School should remain open? (5 mins)  
Individual activity.
5. If Stracathro was to close is there anything that might worry you? (5 mins)  
Split whole group in two. Discuss and record any responses.

## Individual activity

<p>Do you think Stracathro Primary School should remain open?</p> <p>  <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Please write or draw a picture to explain your reason why.</p>
---	---

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 10 April 2018 15:08

To: [REDACTED]; Future Schools

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Finance Table issues - Stracathro Proposal Closure Document

Dear Sir/Madam

I have been struggling to make head nor tail of the Finance Table in the Stracathro Closure proposal.

I am failing to understand where some figures have come from and upon looking for guidance can only find what appears to be the COSLA guidance cut and pasted into the document. This is of no use to anyone except the person populating the Finance Table for presentation.

Paragraph 55 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 Statutory Guidance states that

“It is expected that the financial information provided should include both actual costs and a narrative. The narrative should explain the costs as well as covering other relevant factors which do not have a direct cost estimate”

There has been no narrative which is of any use to the end user provided within the Proposal to Close Stracathro Primary School and to amend the Edzell Primary Catchment Area document.

The whole structure of the Act is so that the process is transparent and the omission of any finance narrative has made the Finance Table in the Proposal Paper impossible for the reader to translate which information is relevant and of any purpose.

I am therefore notifying the authority of an omission of relevant information in the Proposal Paper under section 5 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

Kind Regards

██████████



8 May 2018

MW/EW/BAK 07 01 00/2018

8 May 2018



CHIEF EXECUTIVE:  
Margo Williamson

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### Brechin Rural Schools

I refer to your letter of 30 April 2018 and note your concern regarding a statement made by Councillor Salmond at the outset of the public meeting on 17 April. Councillor Salmond has confirmed that he made this statement in good faith and thought that this would fall into the category of a quasi-judicial matter. Whilst the statement is not correct, as this is a policy matter, it does not affect the transparency of the process.

Elected members take their duties in terms of the Councillor's Code seriously and are very aware that they must act in accordance with the code. As a result they are very careful to ensure that they are open and transparent in dealing with this type of issue. One of the key principles in the code is that members have a duty to act in the interests of the Council as a whole and all the communities served by it and a duty to be accessible to all the people for the area for which they have been elected to serve and to represent their interest conscientiously. Councillor Salmond in his role as Convenor of Children & Learning was seeking to ensure that all views were heard before a decision was made.

It should also be pointed out that whilst members can have discussions with organisations and individuals when considering this type of issue, there is no obligation on members to choose to be an advocate for or against a particular view. This would be a decision for each elected member. The Council's monitoring officer will remind members that the matter of school closures is a policy matter and is not a quasi-judicial matter.

Yours sincerely

Margo Williamson  
Chief Executive

**Angus House** Orchardbank Business Park Forfar DD8 1AN LP8 Forfar  
T: (01307) 461460 E: [chiefexec@angus.gov.uk](mailto:chiefexec@angus.gov.uk) [www.angus.gov.uk](http://www.angus.gov.uk)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
30<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
[REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

CC: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I have had great concerns regarding the ongoing silence and apparent neutrality regarding the Stracathro School closure from our elected members, until a statement by the Chairman of the Children and Learning Committee at the additional public meeting held at the Inglis Hall, Edzell on the 17<sup>th</sup> April to discuss the proposed closures of Lethnot, Stracathro and Tarfside Primary schools, brought to light the reason why.

At the outset of the meeting [REDACTED] outlined the role of the councillors during the consultation. He stated:

"On the 18<sup>th</sup> September, officers will present a report with the details of the consultation and recommendations, this is where a decision will be made. Until then all councillors are in listening mode and should not be giving a view as it may debar them from voting in September under the councillors code of conduct"

This statement implies a gagging order has been imposed upon them by the administration which is in direct conflict with the The Standards Commission Code Of Conduct which applies to Angus Councillors:

### Section 6.3

'You may be lobbied by a wide range of people including individuals, organisations, companies and developers. As a general rule, it is an essential element of the democratic system that any individual should be able to lobby the Council or a councillor. However, particular considerations apply when you are dealing with applications under regulatory powers such as planning and with matters of a quasi-judicial nature such as the determination of certain licence applications. If you are lobbied on such matters you should make it clear that you are not in a position to lend support for or against any such application that you will have a responsibility for making a decision on in due course. Representations to councillors on such applications should be directed, by the councillor, to the appropriate department of the Council. This does not prevent you from seeking factual information about the progress of the case.

To be clear, the closure of Stracathro Primary School is NOT a "quasi-judicial" or judicial matter, and therefore the Councillors should be able to express their opinion openly on the consultation.

The administration are deliberately confusing situations where councillors are taking "quasi-judicial" decisions such as planning and licensing with the normal process of decisions about the provision of council services.

To impose such a gagging order is an infringement on freedom of speech and is making a mockery of the word 'consultation'

Communities need to be able to converse with their elected members, and to know what views they hold before any decision is taken in the council chamber.

This silencing of councillors during School Closure consultations was put to bed in 2005, when Moray Council claimed that councillors could not express an opinion on the consultation on Moray's school estate, 'to ensure a fair and unbiased debate' when it was presented to the committee by council officers for a vote.

MP [REDACTED] at the time released the following advice from the House of Commons library and the Standards Commission which he said undermined the guidance given to Moray's elected members during their school estate consultation.

From the House of Commons library on "duties of councillors in public consultation":

'An appearance of bias is a concern which must be considered. However, other considerations may also be relevant in these instances such as the need to act as a representative for constituents.

The evidence shows debating restrictions in the code of conduct for councillors cover planning and not policy matters.

No judicial review has been used to date in Scotland, or England, to overturn decisions by councillors who have expressed opinions'

The evidence from the Standards commission came from when Dumfries council tried a similar gagging order in 2004. The Standards Commission were very clear with their response to the claim that councillors had broken the code of conduct in the case of St. Teresa's Primary School.

"The issues being decided by the Council were ones of major policy that would have a very significant effect on local communities and difficult decisions had to be taken. It must be noted, however, that these decisions were policy and administrative in nature and not judicial or quasi-judicial. The Council did have to decide which schools should be proposed for closure and judgement had to be exercised by elected members. Thereafter, the proposed closures were subject to a statutory consultation exercise which would afford the Council an opportunity of reflecting on their proposed closures in light of representations received. No evidence was adduced that any elected member had failed to have regard to any of these representations.

18. Essentially, the actions taken by the respondents to oppose the closure of St. Teresa's Primary School (and others) were reasonably and properly taken, consistent with the key principles of general conduct set out in the Code.

In light of this evidence of no conflict with the Councillors Code of Conduct I request that this gagging order is removed immediately, and it is made clear to the elected members that as representatives of their constituents that it is their duty to be open, accessible and responsive to the needs of the public.

We need councillors who will listen, who will interact with constituents and who will truly consult and represent the public, and do so without fear of repercussion for simply doing their job.

Yours  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Future\_Schools

**Sent:** 08 May 2018 17:08

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Proposal to Close Stracathro Primary and to amend the Edzell Primary Catchment Area

Good Afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email and attached letter.

I can confirm that the contents will be added to the Stracathro consultation section of the Council's website and Councillors will be notified accordingly.

Thank you for your interest and comments.

Future Schools team

[Future\\_schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Future_schools@angus.gov.uk)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

8<sup>th</sup> May 2018

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

**Proposal to Close Stracathro Primary School and to amend the Edzell Primary School Catchment Area**

I am aware that matters have moved on since the public consultation meeting in Edzell on the 17<sup>th</sup> April and that a proposal to withdraw the plan to close Stracathro Primary School will be put to Councillors on Thursday this week. Never-the-less, we are still within the formal consultation process at the moment and while I did speak at the public meeting I wish to add my written representations in support of retaining the school and investing in its future. I would be grateful if you could add this letter to the file of public representations and draw it to the attention of the Councillors who will be debating the matter.

I live at Newtonmill, which is in the Stracathro Primary School catchment area, and have been here for thirty five years. All three of my children went to the school, which was often single teacher at that time. Incidentally, its now perceived lack of facilities then was never any bar to their academic and educational successes in later life, nor the children who have followed. I was the first Chairman of the then Parent Board for the school in the 80's & 90's. I have followed educational matters with interest since. Consequently, I feel strongly about the proposed closure, based on constructive experience and not from an emotional perspective.

This is not the first time that the Council has actively sought to close the school. The last time was when the new Edzell Primary School was proposed. The arguments for and against retaining Stracathro was well rehearsed then. The plan was to merge both schools as there would be no anticipated demand for Stracathro. It didn't work out like that because all these years later there is still a demand for what Stracharo has to offer. What is now proposed is as if the Council learned nothing from that previous experience.

I have read the Closure Proposal document, which I don't think is sufficiently objective. It steers the argument towards closure, as if that was the desired outcome. This could be self for filling if it spreads doubt and suppresses the school role. And it misses the central point. Namely, that the school currently meets compelling local needs. It meets those needs on many levels as very well expressed by others already. But, I would like to focus on two points. Educational Opportunity and Community.

Big, or bigger, does not always equal better when it comes to education. Not every child prospers in a bigger school, so there has to be provision of alternatives since primary school is so formative to a child's future education. I have seen children from Brechin who have struggled in its larger schools. They came to Stracathro, got a fresh start, and prospered in its environment. Angus Council has a duty to ensure that it provides schools with a diversity of educational opportunity and not to suppress that choice for children and parents were the demand exists. This obligation transcends purely financial considerations.

But, Stracathro doesn't just provide for alternative needs, it serves its Community. It may be three miles to Brechin and three miles to Edzell, but this is a Community in its own right and it deserves to have its own school. It is neither Brechin, nor Edzell, but is close enough to service both while providing for its own catchment area. Remember that the school might just be needed in the future to provide for some elasticity in the Brechin Cluster catchment areas. And beware of extrapolating the current school role. I have seen it as low as 10 and as high as 35 over the last thirty five years and yet the demand for the school stays strong over time.

My message is clear. Please don't undermine, or underestimate, the value that Stracathro Primary Schools adds to Angus Council's school stock, and please don't think about closing it, because it is a valuable asset to be nurtured, not run down and closed. If the Council can see the benefits of retaining the school, then could I suggest that the way to address is perceived physical shortcomings is to invest in it with an eye to a long and useful future. This will be socially and educationally more beneficial, and cost effective, than further capital expenditure required to enlarge other primary schools in the Brechin Cluster.

*Suzie Fairbairn*  


## Common Questions or Statements Raised through Consultation

As far as possible, responses to common questions raised through the consultation were uploaded to the Council website. That information is reproduced below.

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/schools\\_and\\_young\\_people/angus\\_schools\\_for\\_the\\_future/brechin\\_rural\\_cluster\\_proposals/lethnot\\_2\\_2](https://www.angus.gov.uk/schools_and_young_people/angus_schools_for_the_future/brechin_rural_cluster_proposals/lethnot_2_2).

### Brechin cluster proposals: questions and feedback

These pages reflect the questions that have been raised in the consultation process by stakeholders.

#### 1. Question

Could you keep me informed on the current situation of Stracathro possibly closing & the effects it will have on Edzell, e.g. Staff/will there have to be an extension to the building, all aspects of the plans please? I understand this is at the very start of planning, but I know this is going to have an effect on our school if the closure of Stracathro Primary does go ahead.

#### Answer

Depending upon the decision of the Children and Learning Committee on 20 February 2018, we will commence formal consultation on the future of Lethnot, Tarfside and Stracathro Primary School. These consultations will also look at the possible impact on Edzell Primary School. Notwithstanding the above, it is our intention to begin working with Edzell Primary about the possibility of an extension based on the projected school roll including the impact of new housing in the current catchment. As part of our standard approach to consultation we will advise the Parent Council of this in due course. We hope this is helpful and we will keep the Parent Council informed as matters progress.

#### 2. Question

I am just wondering after our meeting with Mr Armstrong when plans of the extension on Edzell Primary will start? As from the info he could give us at the meeting, it would take around 18 months & be hoping to complete by August 2020.

#### Answer

As our thinking develops, we will add more information to the website. We will provide the same information at our consultation event on Wednesday 21 March 2017 from 3:45 – 7pm in Edzell Church Hall. That will be an opportunity for people to make comments and suggestions. We will then take forward the plans, with an anticipated completion of Summer 2020.

#### 3. Question

We were told that as Edzell parent council we will have a say in the planning stages of the extension of our school building. We don't have all the facts & we can't see any information before the public meeting. I have read all of the information regarding constitution and we need more than this. Once we get a Portakabin in our playground the children are going to have nowhere to play.

## **Answer**

### **Consulting on Lethnot, Tarfside and Stracathro Primary School**

The main consultation we are undertaking at the moment is in relation to the proposed closures of Lethnot, Tarfside and Stracathro. We are consulting with the Edzell school community as the proposals would change the catchment area.

### **Consulting on the extension at Edzell Primary School**

We are also starting to consult about the extension for Edzell Primary School. We need to extend Edzell Primary anyway.

The meeting on 21 March 2018 is the first of a number of opportunities to engage in the planning for the school extension. This would include any temporary arrangements needed to allow the building work to be undertaken safely.

#### **4. Question**

In light of Section 7 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act, can you please advise if Angus Council intends holding a public meeting in addition to the 'drop-in' events that will allow all relevant consultees and Education Scotland the opportunity to attend?

If not can you explain the rationale behind choosing to instead hold 'drop-in' events?

## **Answer**

Below is an extract from the Statutory Guidance which accompanies the School Consultation (Scotland) (Act) 2019. Section 85 is specific that details of how the public meeting is conducted is up to the authority. We have taken the decision to hold the meeting as drop in sessions as this will allow people to come when it is most convenient for them so we can be available to as many people as possible. This approach will also allow those who may not feel able to contribute in a large formal setting the opportunity to have their opinions heard.

We have complied with the provisions in the guidance below and think that the drop in style of event gives as many people as possible the opportunity to be actively involved in having their views heard.

### **The public meeting – section 7 of the 2010 Act**

84. A public meeting at which the authority is represented must be held during the consultation period and advance notice given of its date, time and location to the relevant consultees and to HM Inspectors within Education Scotland. Maximum advance notice of the details of the public meeting is desirable. It is most efficient to give this information in the notice issued just prior to the start of the consultation period advising consultees of the proposal. A separate notice can be issued and would be necessary if the details changed or additional meetings were scheduled after the consultation had started.

85. The 2010 Act leaves the details of how the public meeting is conducted to authorities. In deciding when to hold the public meeting, authorities will wish to balance the need to give interested parties enough time to read and digest the proposal paper, in order to inform discussion and questions at the meeting, with the need to allow sufficient time after the meeting for those consulted to reflect and consider what response to make to the consultation. Unless there are good reasons to do otherwise it would be appropriate to avoid holding the public meeting during the first week of the consultation period and instead to arrange for it take place around halfway through the period.



86. For the convenience of consultees and other interested parties, the public meeting should take place out with normal/office working hours and at a convenient location.

87. If an authority considers it appropriate to hold more than one public meeting, for example, in each school that is affected by a proposal, the requirement in section 7(2) and this guidance applies in relation to each public meeting.

5. **Question**

The job titles and educational qualifications of all members of Council Staff who completed the suitability surveys for the Brechin Cluster Schools under consultation, as well as the workings used for the calculations and the handwritten notes used during the surveys and calculations.

**Answer**

Job titles of those carrying out the Stracathro Suitability Survey are: Head Teacher, Property Advisor & Schools and Learning Support Officer.

I should advise that information relative to a person's qualifications constitutes personal data in respect of which disclosure would contravene the Data Protection principles and that this constitutes a ground of absolute exemption in terms of Section 38 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

There are no handwritten notes from the survey as these were all combined to form a single Angus Council supplementary suitability survey.

For information, a copy of the procedure for carrying out assessments is included in the [Suitability Assessment Procedure](#).

The calculated grades come from the Scottish Government suitability survey and are built in to the spreadsheet provided by government.

[View a copy of the blank template with formulae](#).

6. **Question**

A breakdown of the financial costs across Stracathro, Tarfside, Lethnot and Edzell Primary Schools.

**Answer**

Please view:

- [the Stracathro School Closure Audit](#) (see appendix 5)
- [the Tarfside School Closure Audit](#)
- [the Lethnot School Closure Audit](#)

7. **Question**

Primary School Home to School Transport Tenders and quotations for 2016/17 and 2017/18.

**Answer**

All contracts for transport are included on the [public contracts website](#).

If you select transport in the browser category it will bring back 11 records including the 2016 and 2017 school transport services.

8. **Question**

The current Primary School staffing Formula

**Answer**

Please view the [Primary Teacher Entitlement document](#).

**9. Question**

What costings have been made between January 1st 2016 and 15th Feb 2018 for a) improving and b) replacing Stracathro Primary School?

**Answer**

No detailed costings for improving or replacing Stracathro have been made during that period. As at 07/06/17, there were identified planned maintenance requirements of £24,800. We know, however that from the metric used by Scottish Futures Trust, an approximate cost for building a new two classroom school and associated nursery would be in the region of £2.1million.

**10. Question**

What are the proposals/costings/plans and financing details of the extension at Edzell Primary School

**Answer**

At this point, there are no detailed proposals or costings for the extension at Edzell. We have an initial discussion design document and costings will be developed as the design is developed.

**11. Question**

What is the proposed arrangement of classes at Edzell Primary School following the closures of the other Brechin Cluster Rural Schools?

**Answer**

Each year all Head teachers examine the number of children coming to their school and their age group and using this data propose the class structure for the coming school session. There are currently no children in either Lethnot or Tarfside and all children who might have attended these schools have already been accommodated in the class configuration of other schools.

This exercise will continue to be undertaken annually to accommodate the ages of the children and the physical capacity and layout of the school.

**12. Question**

A breakdown of how the 'cost per pupil' advertised figure has been calculated for Stracathro, Tarfside, Lethnot and Edzell pupils for each of the financial years 2015/16 2016/17 and 2017/18.

**Answer**

The cost per pupils was arrived at by dividing the total cost minus Income for School by the number of pupils. Please see spreadsheets at question 6 above.

**13. Question**

What steps have been taken to a) identify and b) contact statutory consultees for the Brechin Cluster Rural School Proposals?

**Answer**

a) The relevant consultees are Parent Councils, parents of pupils attending an affected school, the pupils themselves, parents of pupils likely to attend an affected school, staff at an affected school, any trade union which appears to the education authority to be representative of those staff, and any other users. We already have details of most of the relevant consultees, and we have been in contact with NHS Tayside regarding parents of children likely to attend the school in coming years.

b) We have advertised the consultation on the Council website, Facebook page and twitter feed; we have issued press releases to local and regional papers; we have emailed Parent Council Chairs; Community Council Chairs; MSPs, MPs; and elected members. We have sent text messages to parent of children in both Stracathro and Edzell Primary Schools; we have put notices in local and regional papers; we have emailed the local playgroup, and put a poster in the Edzell Health Centre. We have consultation scheduled with the children in Stracathro and with staff and relevant trade unions.

We have also put posters in Brechin Library, Brechin Community Campus and Adventure Kids Castle, Brechin. Health visitors have been asked to inform parents with young children.

**14. Question**

A list of all schools which operate mixed age classes in Angus.

**Answer**

Aberlemno; Airlie; Andover; Arbirlot; Auchterhouse; Birkhill; Borrowfield; Burnside; Carmyllie; Colliston ; Cortachy; Eassie; Edzell; Ferryden; Friockheim; Glamis; Hayshead; Inverarity; Inverkeilor; Isla; Ladyloan; Liff; Lochside; Mattocks; Monikie; Muirfield; Murroes; Newbigging; Newtyle; Southmuir; St Margaret's; St Thomas'; Stracathro; Strathmartine; Tannadice; Tealing; Timmergreens; Warddykes; Whitehills and Woodlands.

**15. Question**

I attended your drop in meeting on Wednesday at Edzell Church & on one of the boards there was a time line. Is there any chance we could get a copy of the document? Keep us up to date on what is happening & when.

**Answer**

The timeline is available on our [Consultation Process Timeline: Brechin Rural Cluster Proposals \(Revised\)](#) page.

**16. Question**

I would like to highlight an inaccuracy in the Stracathro Closure document. It states on Page 19, Section 8.3 that "The building at Stracathro is less suited to these activities as it is in a very rural location with NO PAVEMENTS, parking for up to 4 cars, no gym hall and the toilets are upstairs" The council themselves extended the pavement at the school (see attached picture) to allow for parking on the road.

The wording of the toilets being 'upstairs' also gives the impression of a flight of stairs, to a second floor level - not the 4 shallow steps up to the slightly raised level of the toilet block.

The statements are very misleading regarding the accessibility of the school and should be corrected.

**Answer**

Agree that there is an inaccuracy in the document regarding the existence of a pavement. There is a short pavement which allows additional vehicle parking on the road, In terms of the toilets, there are four steps that require to be climbed to reach the toilets. Whilst agreed that there is an inaccuracy in the document it does not materially change the points being raised. I will however correct the inaccuracy by way of a formal "erratum" to read as follows:

The building at Stracathro is less suited to these activities as it is in a very rural location, with limited car parking, no gym hall and toilets that require four steps to be climbed in order to be accessed. In the immediate locality, the Inchbare Hall would provide more parking and more accessible toilets than Stracathro primary school.

## Report by Education Scotland

As part of the statutory consultation process, Education Scotland prepared a report on the consultation undertaken by Angus Council. A copy of this report is included below, and can also be found on the Education Scotland and Angus Council website.

### **Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Angus Council to close Stracathro Primary School and to amend the Edzell Primary School catchment area.**

#### **1. Introduction**

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of Angus Council's proposal to close Stracathro Primary School and to amend the Edzell Primary School catchment area. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include a copy of this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision. Where a council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all statutory obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers, and the special provisions that apply to proposals to close a rural school.

#### 1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children of the schools; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

#### 1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and

**2**

□ attendance at the drop-in sessions for members of the public at Lethnot Hall, St. Drostan's Hall Tarfside, Stracathro Hall and Edzell Church Hall during March 2018 and public meeting in Inglis Memorial Hall on 17 April 2018.

1.4 As the proposal will lead to the closure of a rural school, HM Inspectors also took account of the council's consideration of any reasonable alternatives to closure of Stracathro Primary School, the likely effect on the local community and the likely effect of any different travelling arrangements of the proposed closure.

## **2. Consultation Process**

2.1 Angus Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*.

2.2 The council undertook the consultation between 26 February 2018 and 20 April 2018. Notices were placed on the council's website and in local newspapers. A formal public meeting was held in Inglis Memorial Hall on 17 April 2018.

2.3 The council received 45 responses to its consultation questionnaire and a few additional written responses. Almost all respondents wanted to keep Stracathro open with only two being in favour of closure.

2.4 HM Inspectors were informed during the consultation period that the council had been made aware of omissions within the original proposal paper and had taken the decision to correct and re-issue the paper and extend the consultation deadline until 11 May 2018. However, at a council meeting on 10 May, Angus Council took the decision to stop the consultation to close Stracathro Primary School.

## **3. Educational Aspects of Proposal**

3.1 The council has stated that the upgraded school building at Edzell will be a significant improvement on the current facilities at Stracathro. The council considers that the upgraded school would provide the opportunity to make available to pupils the most modern standards of school facilities and resources to support the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence, including flexible learning spaces in a fully accessible building. However, insufficient detail is provided to outline how the Stracathro building could be improved as an alternative to closure.

3.2 Overall, HM Inspectors note that stakeholders do not feel they have enough financial information to make an informed choice. Almost all stakeholders are opposed to closing Stracathro Primary School. All children attending Stracathro Primary School wanted the school to remain open.

3.3 Education Scotland received three formal written representations raising concerns about the Stracathro proposal, including one from the local Member of the Scottish Parliament.

**3**

#### **4. Summary**

Stracathro Primary School is valued highly by the local community. There may be potential educational benefits for learners from a modern, purpose designed learning environment with appropriate facilities, including improved accessibility. However, based on the information available, the council fails to make a compelling case as to the educational benefits of closing Stracathro Primary School and moving children to Edzell Primary School. The financial case is insufficiently clear to provide assurance to the public that closure would make a significant contribution to Best Value. HM Inspectors note that Angus Council made a decision at their council meeting on 10 May 2018 to stop the current consultation on the closure of Stracathro. In these circumstances, having been notified during the consultation period of omissions and within the context of significant local opposition to the proposal, Angus Council should consider carefully its options in how it frames its final report to elected members and the community in light of its obligations under the 2010 Act.

**HM Inspectors  
Education Scotland  
June 2018**

## Further Review of Proposal and Special Considerations

As this proposal relates to a rural school, the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 requires that the authority carries out assessment of the likely educational benefits, the likely effect on the local community, and the likely effect of any different travelling arrangements for the proposal. All of these factors were considered within the Proposal document. Alongside this the Authority must complete an assessment of these factors for any other reasonable alternative suggested in representations made during the consultation.

### *Review of Proposal*

As Angus Council agreed that the consultation on the proposed closure of Stracathro Primary School should cease, it is not appropriate carry out a further assessment or any reasonable alternatives to closure.

### **Next Steps**

This report will be published and submitted to Angus Council before onward submission to Scottish Ministers. This will include a minimum period of three weeks to lapse before confirming the decision on the closure in accordance with section 11 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The decision on this consultation is due to be taken by Angus Council on Tuesday 8 January 2019.

Any further comments on the proposal should be sent to:

Mark Armstrong  
Strategic Director  
People  
Angus Council  
Angus House  
Orchardbank Business Park  
FORFAR  
DD8 1AX

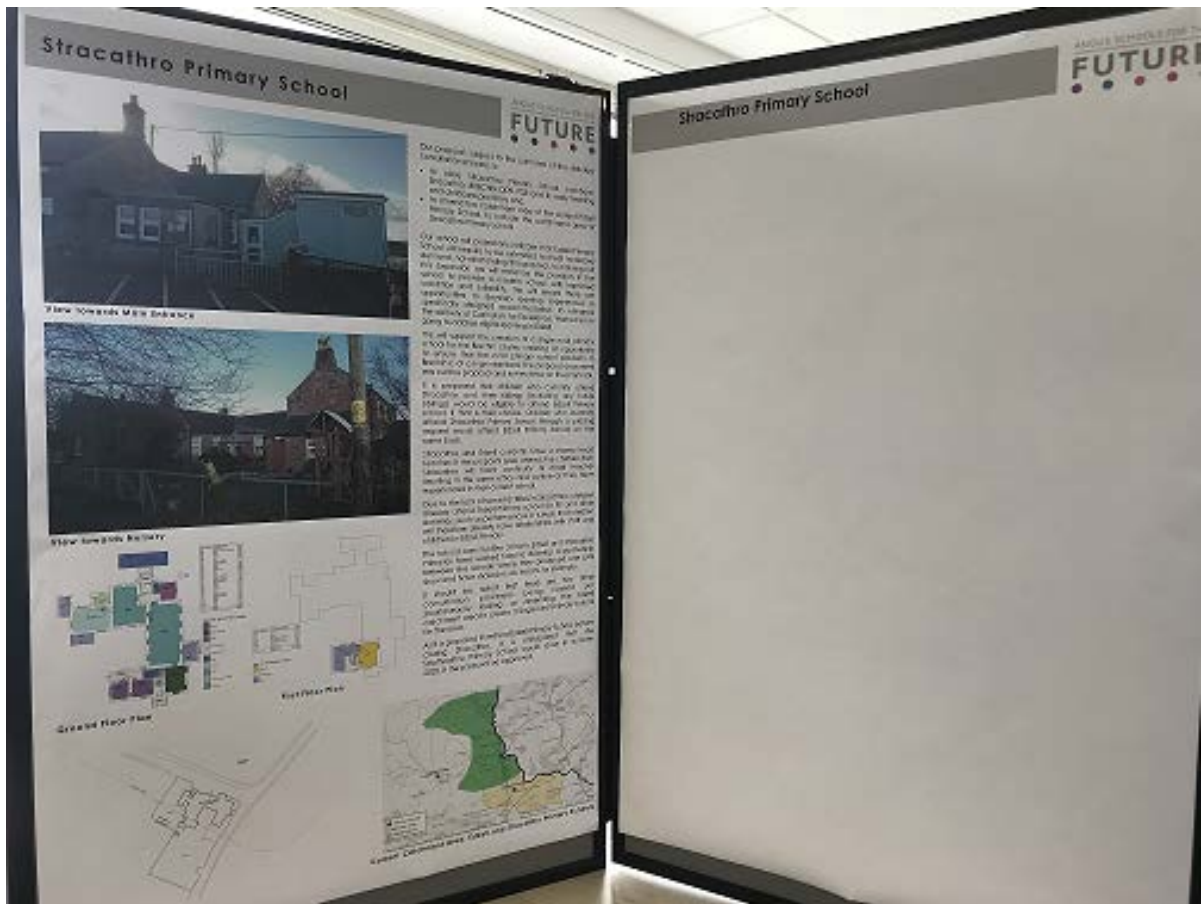
E-mail: [Future\\_Schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Future_Schools@angus.gov.uk)

All written responses must be received by Wednesday 19 November 2018.

### **Procedures for Call-in by the Scottish Ministers**

As set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, Angus Council is required to notify the Scottish Ministers of its decision and provide them with a copy of the Proposal Paper and the Consultation Report within 6 days of making the final decision. Anyone wishing to make a representation to Scottish Ministers is asked to email [schoolclosures@gov.scot](mailto:schoolclosures@gov.scot) or to write to **Scottish Government, School Infrastructure Unit, Area 2B North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ** by midnight on 28 January 2019 .







## Brechin Rural Schools Consultations

Email address: - [Future\\_Schools@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Future_Schools@angus.gov.uk)

### Purpose

- This meeting builds on the consultations at the drop-in meetings held earlier this month.
- The purpose of the meeting is for the Council to hear comments and answer questions on the proposed closures.
- Understand that feelings may run high, however we expect that there will be respectful behaviour e.g. one person speaking at a time.

### Structure of the Meeting Management of the Meeting

- One question per person and then move on to allow all voices to be heard

### General Introduction

- Angus Schools for the Future Vision
- Guiding Principles
- 10 Reasons for Change
- Consultation Timeline

### 3 Separate Meetings

1. Lethnot Proposal with Comments and Questions – 15 mins
2. Tarfside Proposal with Comments and Questions – 15 mins
3. Stracathro Proposal with Comments and Questions – 45 mins

Close scheduled for 19:30

### Angus Schools for the Future Vision

Our children and young people have the best quality learning environments  
We make best use of the resources available

### Our Guiding Principles

#### Equity of access, nurture and inclusion

*All children and young people have opportunities to experience different types of learning and teaching in an environment that feels safe and welcoming*

#### Sustainability and value for money

*We have a learning estate that we can afford and which makes the most effective use of natural resources*

## **Communities**

*Where possible, and as relevant, schools are an integral part of the community they serve. This will depend upon the needs and circumstances of the individual community and the school.*

### **Well-maintained, flexible spaces**

*We will make the best of the buildings we have, including natural light, green spaces, flexible and responsive.*

### **Transparency and fairness in decision making**

*Our decisions will be made taking a long-term strategic view and supported by good quality information.*

## **10 Reasons for Change**

1. We need to give all of our children and young people the same access to opportunities
2. Some of our schools can't provide the best learning environment
3. Some are too full and some are too empty
4. Overall we have too many places for the number of children and young people in the county
5. Some schools don't offer opportunities to learn with children of similar age or stage
6. Some can't access good quality digital learning
7. Some buildings aren't environmentally sustainable
8. Overall our current school estate does not provide best value
9. We need the right spaces in the right places to deliver learning for all of our 2-18 year olds
10. Angus Council is taking significant steps to be a better, more sustainable and smaller organisation and that applies to our school estate just as it does to all of our services

## **Consultation Timeline**

### **Week commencing**

26/02/18 to 11/05/18	Formal consultation period
14/05/18 to 25/05/18	Angus Council collates responses to send to Education Scotland
28/05/18 to 15/06/18	Education Scotland assesses submission and produces reports
18/06/18 to 27/07/18	Angus Council prepares consultation reports
27/07/18	Angus Council publish consultation reports
18/09/18	Angus Council Committee decision
24/09/18	Angus Council notifies Scottish Ministers of decision
01/10/18 to 19/10/18	Public representations can be made to Scottish Ministers
01/10/18 to 09/11/18	Scottish Ministers consider call-in
19/11/18	If call-in, closure panel convened
19/11/18 to 11/01/19	Deliberation by closure panel
14/01/19	Decision by closure panel, unless notification received of time extension
14/01/19 to 08/03/19	Further eight week deliberation by closure panel
11/03/19	Decision by closure panel if notification received of time extension

11/03/19 to 29/03/19

Appeal against decision of closure panel within 14 days  
by Angus Council or relevant consultee

## **Consultation**

### **Lethnot Primary School**

#### **Lethnot Primary School**

- Lethnot was mothballed in 2016 and has had no pupils since 2015/16.
- Based on the number of children within catchment who are currently under 3 years of age, it is unlikely there will be sufficient numbers of children in each age group to support collaborative working and peer to peer learning and assessment.
- The very small numbers of children that are anticipated are likely to limit opportunities to develop the positive mental, social, physical and emotional skills they need at school and throughout life.
- There is no hall in Lethnot or any space specifically designed for Physical Education. There is a general purpose room which is also used for dining. Flexibility is restricted due to size of the GP room. This is compensated by the larger than average classroom.
- The Energy Performance Certificate for Lethnot is an E. Our target is for all schools to be rated C or better. The school supports no form of renewable energy.
- The school has been mothballed for almost two years and has had no community use during that time.
- Lethnot is currently rated B for condition, which is in line with our target of all schools being at B or above. £67,100 of outstanding planned maintenance has been identified for Lethnot.
- There is no current suitability survey available as Lethnot is mothballed. It was last assessed as B for suitability in May 2014. It was noted that the classroom is an excellent learning and teaching space with plenty of flexibility and natural light.

Lethnot Primary School Questions & Comments.

## **Consultation**

### **Tarfside Primary School**

#### **Tarfside Primary School**

- Tarfside currently has no pupils. Based on the number of children within catchment who are currently under three years of age, it is unlikely there will be sufficient numbers of children in each age group to support collaborative working and peer to peer learning and assessment.
- The very small numbers of children that are anticipated are likely to limit opportunities to develop the positive mental, social, physical and emotional skills they need at school and throughout life.
- The classroom acts as a circulation route between the school office/staffroom and toilets which inhibits how furniture can be laid out and flexible use.
- The door from the accessible parking bay leads directly into the classroom which is not ideal.
- There is no hall in Tarfside or any space specifically designed for Physical Education. Children were transported to Edzell Primary fortnightly where they had their PE class with children from Stracathro and Lethnot Primary schools

- The Energy Performance Certificate for Tarfside is an E. Our target is for all schools to be rated C or better. The school supports no form of renewable energy.
- Circulation within the school is difficult for all and particularly not suitable for wheelchair users. There are no ramped entrances or accessible toilets.
- The school has had no pupils since June 2017 and has had no community use during that time. There were no school lets during 2014/15, 2015/16 or 2016/17 that were not for the school itself or the parent council.
- Tarfside is currently rated B for condition, which is in line with our target of all schools being at B or above
- £54,500 of outstanding planned maintenance has been identified for Tarfside.
- Tarfside has been assessed as B for suitability which is in line with our agreed standard.
- The building does not lend itself to flexible learning spaces.

Tarfside Primary School Questions & Comments.

## **Consultation**

### **Stracathro Primary School**

#### **Stracathro Primary School**

- At census in September 2017 there were 19 children enrolled in Stracathro Primary School. There were three year groups that had two children; three that had three children; and one that had four children. The overall number of children in the school means that it is possible for all age groups to work together. However, the small number in each age group limits opportunities for collaborative working. This is impacted by the number of children of a similar age or stage of development in the current school.
- Stracathro has been assessed as having excellent outdoor learning facilities that challenge and stimulate the children
- There is a lack of breakout, flexible, alternative learning spaces in the building.
- Toilets in Stracathro are only accessible by stairs so not suitable for children with mobility issues.
- Stracathro is currently rated B for condition, which is in line with our target of all schools being at B or above.
- The school roll of Stracathro has fallen from 30 in 2007, and is projected to fall to 15 by 2023.
- The Energy Performance Certificate for Stracathro is an F our target is for all schools to be rated C or better. The school supports no form of renewable energy.
- There is no suitable space within the school that can be used for community use other than the dining hall. Community groups would have to walk through the classroom in order to access this space.
- The school grounds are not accessible for community groups during school hours but could potentially be used outwith school hours. The grounds are very limited in terms of providing a suitable space for sporting activities but could provide a space for a gardening project.
- As at 07/06/17, there were planned maintenance projects identified with a value of £24,800 for Stracathro.
- The accommodation in Stracathro does not currently provide a range of flexible spaces and it would not be viable to adapt the accommodation accordingly. It is a stone building including the former school house which is presently used by

the early learning and childcare class. There is also a pre-fabricated extension building which houses the main pupil toilets. The school was built in circa 1855 and extended in 1873 and 1914. The Elliot toilet unit was added in 1974.

- The school has no indoor sports facilities and has an unsuitable outdoor space for sporting activities due to the placement of trees and uneven ground. This is detrimental to the schools ability to deliver a full sports programme. Children use the facilities at Edzell primary school for Physical Education. There are no changing facilities within the school building or the grounds.
- Many of the internal social spaces are small, are inappropriately placed and are difficult to access without disturbing teaching and learning for example dining and breakout spaces.
- Stracathro is assessed as C for suitability whilst our agreed standard is B or above. It would not be financially viable to bring the Stracathro building up to the agreed standard for suitability.

Stracathro Primary School Questions & Comments.

Poster displayed at Edzell Health Centre, Brechin Community Campus, Brechin Library, and Adventure Kids Castle, Brechin.



ANGUS SCHOOLS FOR THE  
**FUTURE**

Angus Council

Angus Schools for the Future is the most ambitious plan we've ever had for the development of our school buildings. We want schools that are great places to learn and well-used community spaces.

**From 26 February  
until 27 April 2018**

we are formally consulting on  
Brechin school proposals.

Find out more and have your say on the  
consultation [www.angus.gov.uk/futureschools](http://www.angus.gov.uk/futureschools)

The poster features three students in school uniforms (two boys and one girl) standing in front of a blue background with various educational icons: a globe, a checklist, a clock, a speech bubble with a key, and a laptop. The Angus Council logo is in the top right corner.

**Angus Schools for the Future  
Proposal to close Lethnot, Stracathro and Tarfside Primary Schools**

1. In what capacity are you commenting?

- Parent/Carer
- Learner
- Community User
- Other (please specify)

2. What is your main interest in relation to the proposal?

- Lethnot Primary School
- Stracathro Primary School
- Tarfside Primary School
- Other (please specify)

3. What is your preferred outcome of the consultation?

- The school will remain open
- The school will close
- No preference

4. What has influenced your response to Question 3?

5. Do you have any further comments on the proposal?



**STRACATHRO SCHOOL CLOSURE PRO FORMA AUDIT TRAIL****Assumptions**

Please note that the starting point was the 2017/18 DSM Budget.

	<u>DEVOLVED SCHOOL BUDGET 2017/18 £</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL RUNNING COSTS 2017/18 £</u>	<u>OTHER APPLICABLE COSTS £</u>	<u>TOTAL COST OF RUNNING SCHOOL 2017/18 £</u>	
<b><u>School - Stracathro PS</u></b>					
<b><u>Staff Costs</u></b>					
Teachers	131,664			131,664	Based on Teachers formula
Teachers Apr - Jul Entitlement	2.8 FTE				
Teachers Aug - Mar Entitlement	2.8 FTE				
Visiting Teachers		3,570		3,570	Per visiting timetables
Music Instructors	0.223%	1,918		1,918	% of Music Instructors Time
Learning Support		3,754		3,754	% FTE of Learning Support
Sub -Total Teachers	131,664	9,242	0	140,906	
Additional Teacher April- June	0			0	
Additional Teacher Aug - Mar	0			0	
Total Teachers	131,664	9,242	0	140,906	
Absence Cover	2,742			2,742	
Central Absence Cover		1,442		1,442	Allocated on Total Teaching Costs
	2,742	1,442	0	4,184	
LG - School Support	7,654			7,654	
LG - EYP's	36,999			36,999	
LG - SFLA		7,888		7,888	
Central SFLA		604		604	% FTE of Learning Support
LG - Janitorial	0			0	
Total LG Costs	44,653	8,492	0	53,145	
CPD	701			701	
Other Staff Costs		79		79	Allocated on Total Teaching Costs
	701	79	0	780	
<b>Total Staff Costs</b>	<b>179,760</b>	<b>19,255</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>199,015</b>	

<u>School - Stracathro PS</u>	<u>DEVOLVED SCHOOL BUDGET 2017/18 £</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL RUNNING COSTS 2017/18 £</u>	<u>OTHER APPLICABLE COSTS £</u>	<u>TOTAL COST OF RUNNING SCHOOL 2017/18 £</u>	
<b><u>Property Costs</u></b>					
Rates - Buildings	0			0	
Rates - Sewerage	566			566	Per Property
Rates - Water	0			0	
Repairs & Maintenance	1,447			1,447	Per Property
	589			589	Per Communities (Ground Maintenance)
Ground Maintenance					
Furnishing & Improvements	0			0	
Electricity	7,028			7,028	Per Property
Gas	0			0	
Oil	0			0	
Biomass	0			0	
Cleaning Contract	7,770			7,770	Per Tayside Contracts
Janitorial Supplies	185			185	Based on DSM formula
Property Insurance	0	996		996	Apportioned based Property Valuation
<b>Total Property Costs</b>	<b>17,585</b>	<b>996</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,581</b>	
<b><u>Supplies &amp; Services</u></b>					
Mainstream	581			581	
Nursery	120			120	
Small School Allowance	205			205	
Moderation	0			0	
Per Capita Total	906	0	0	906	
General	499			499	
Technician Services	0			0	
ICT SLA Charge	2,523			2,523	
Replacement & Maint of Equipment	3,022	0	0	3,022	
Calls & Postage	110			110	
Remote School Allowance	0			0	
Telephone & Postage	110	0	0	110	
Other Equipment		125		125	Allocated on Total

	<u>DEVOLVED</u> <u>SCHOOL</u> <u>BUDGET</u> <u>2017/18</u> £	<u>ADDITIONAL</u> <u>RUNNING</u> <u>COSTS</u> <u>2017/18</u> £	<u>OTHER</u> <u>APPLICABLE</u> <u>COSTS</u> £	<u>TOTAL COST</u> <u>OF</u> <u>RUNNING</u> <u>SCHOOL</u> <u>2017/18</u> £	
<b>School - Stracathro PS</b>					
Employers Insurance		311		311	Teaching Costs
Other Supplies & Services		346		346	Allocated on Total Teaching Costs
Parent Council		420		420	Allocated on Total Teaching Costs
School Catering		3,925	1,096	5,021	Actual 16/17
<b>Total Supplies &amp; Services</b>	4,038	5,127	1,096	<b>10,261</b>	
<b><u>Transport Costs</u></b>					
School Transport			0	0	Per Transport Manager – Edzell Bus
Teacher Car Allowances		147		147	Allocated on Total Teaching Costs
<b>Total Transport Costs</b>	0	147	0	<b>147</b>	
<b><u>Central Support Services</u></b>					
Property	145			145	Based on DSM formula
Finance	2,681			2,681	Based on DSM formula
EDS	0			0	
<b>Total Central Support Costs</b>	2,826	0	0	<b>2,826</b>	
<b><u>Income</u></b>					
Sale of Meals			-1,211	-1,211	Actual 16/17
<b>Total Income</b>	0	0	-1,211	<b>-1,211</b>	
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>204,209</b>	<b>25,525</b>	<b>-115</b>	<b>229,619</b>	

Please Note: - School Running Costs spreadsheet (detailed in Additional Running Costs column) uses a net budgeted figure for School Meals. This figure has been amended to 2016/17 actuals for expenditure/income which ties in with requirements of pro forma.