



THE MORAY COUNCIL EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE

ESTABLISHING A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR SOUTH-EAST ELGIN

Proposal Paper

To establish a new primary school, with nursery, for south-east Elgin, initially in temporary accommodation.

Statutory Consultation Period:

Monday 14th December 2015 – Thursday 4th February 2016 inclusive (30 school days)

All submissions expressing views on the proposals detailed in this document must be submitted **by 5.00pm on 4th February 2016** for them to be taken into account as part of the consultation.

It is intended to respond to issues raised during the consultation within a consultation report that will be published before the meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Committee on **27th April 2016**.

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

1. THE PROPOSALS

- 1.1 It is proposed to establish a new primary school, with nursery provision, to serve the agreed catchment area for the delineated geographical zone in south-east Elgin with the school located in the area identified within **Appendix 2**.
- 1.2 It is further proposed that the new school be established initially at a temporary site at East End Primary School Annexe until the new school building is complete. (The temporary accommodation will initially accommodate P1 children and will accommodate P1-3 in future years.)
- 1.3 It is intended that the implementation date for these proposals will be 15th August 2016, for the temporary accommodation, except that the nursery will only commence once the new school building opens.
- 1.4 It is proposed that the new school will relocate to its permanent site on the completion of the new school building. The target date for this is August 2018.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Moray Council, at its meeting on 11 November 2015, agreed to establish revised catchment areas for Elgin Primary Schools, to be effective from 5th January 2016 for existing schools, and agreed to bring forward details of the next steps in establishing a new school for south-east Elgin, including any temporary arrangements.
- 2.2 There were thirty six responses to the consultation proposal to establish a catchment area for a new school to serve an area of south-east Elgin which is shown as a delineated area on the map attached in **Appendix 1**. Of those responses thirty two agreed with the proposal.
- 2.3 A location plan showing the area within which the new school will be built is attached as **Appendix 2**.
- 2.4 The new school will not be ready for occupation until August 2018 at the earliest. The original proposal was for pupils resident in the new catchment area to enrol for the new school from January 2016 but to continue to attend their current zoned school until the new school opened. This would have seen pupils enrolling for the new school attending New Elgin or East End Primary School (depending on place of residence) until the new school opened.
- 2.5 During the consultation on the school rezoning, there were concerns expressed by pupils, Parent Councils, staff and at public meetings that as a new school would not be available until at least 2018 there would be continued pressure on existing school accommodation. There were also queries regarding contingency plans if a new school is delayed beyond the proposed timescale.

- 2.6 The roll forecast for August 2016 for New Elgin Primary School is 617. This would take it almost 10% above its physical capacity. The current school roll is 552. Even with this number of pupils, there is a lack of dining room and PE accommodation, which is causing particular problems.
- 2.7 During the re-zoning consultation, the Council received suggestions for erecting temporary accommodation or an extension to New Elgin Primary. Officers previously considered this option when drawing up the original rezoning proposals and rejected it on the grounds that it is not considered a realistic option for a number of reasons including loss of recreational space for pupils, increased pressure on dining room accommodation, increased traffic problems around the school and significant capital outlay for accommodation which in the longer term would be unlikely to be required.
- 2.8 In light of the above, officers believe that an immediate solution to the school capacity pressures, in the period prior to the new school being built, is required. Solutions could involve creating additional accommodation within the existing school, creating additional accommodation within other schools or early establishment of the new south-east Elgin primary school. For this option whilst the new school could not occupy its permanent site at this time it is feasible to open the new school, initially for P1 only and ultimately catering for P1-3, based in temporary accommodation. A new head teacher and necessary staff would be employed. The 'school' would relocate to its permanent site once the new school building was ready for occupation.

3. EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

3.1 Overall educational benefits

- 3.1.1 Pupils who are resident within the delineated zone for the new school will be able to attend their zoned school and be taught with peers from their community.
- 3.1.2 The establishment of a new primary school will have a positive impact on the balance between the numbers of pupils in the Elgin primary school communities. It will alleviate projected pupil roll pressures across Elgin from potential housing developments identified in the adopted Local Development Plan.
- 3.1.3 Establishing the new school from August 2016, in temporary accommodation, will enable the children from the new catchment area for south-east Elgin to enrol in Primary 1 at the new school. They would therefore be part of the school from day one and should enjoy continuity in their learning through primary school, with their peer group. The following year a new P1 would enrol and children will begin to move up the school.
- 3.1.4 Children will be able to make seamless progress through primary school and not experience any discontinuity in their learning which could happen if those

from the new catchment area were to move to a new school during their time at primary school.

- 3.1.5 Appointing a head teacher and school staff for August 2016 will enable them to develop a curriculum rationale pertinent to the new school. They will also have a major influence over school building design and resource provision.
- 3.1.6 The children and staff will have a major role in establishing the vision, values and ethos for the new school.
- 3.1.7 The suitability of the new school building, for delivering a high quality educational experience, will be at the heart of the design process. It should be an attractive place to learn that inspires pupils to engage with the curriculum. The children, staff and parents will also be able to play a key role in influencing the design and layout of the new school.
- 3.1.8 The temporary accommodation would be resourced to the same high standard as any new school building including high quality ICT provision.
- 3.1.9 Children will be provided with a broad range of opportunities for personal achievement and interdisciplinary learning across all curriculum areas by building on best practice in curriculum design in Moray schools.

3.2 Likely effects for children currently attending the affected primary schools (New Elgin and East End Primary Schools).

- 3.2.1 By alleviating current and future capacity pressures on the existing schools, the ability to create flexible learning spaces in all schools will improve the range of learning environments across existing schools and the new school. This will allow aspirations, attainment and achievement to continue to improve across Moray primary schools.
- 3.2.2 The proposal will bring a better balance between the numbers of pupils in the Elgin primary school communities and the capacities of these schools, ensuring the schools will have sustainable rolls which will deliver the full breadth of Curriculum for Excellence.
- 3.2.3 The alleviated roll pressures will enhance the opportunity to create more adaptable environments for learning, in which to facilitate co-operative and interdisciplinary learning, reduce pressure on technology and practical teaching spaces, and improve the social environment.
- 3.2.4 The curriculum in all schools will provide the opportunity for learners to achieve across all curricular areas and develop skills, attributes and capabilities through courses aligned with the design principles of Curriculum for Excellence: challenge and enjoyment, breadth, progression, depth, personalisation and choice, coherence and relevance.

3.3 Likely effects for children who become pupils of the affected schools in the next two years.

- 3.3.1 Families who live in the new catchment area will have clear information on their zoned primary school, thereby providing a degree of certainty which may be lacking at the present time. This will have the benefit of removing the anxieties which children and parents have experienced in recent years over the availability of places in their zoned school.
- 3.3.2 The proposals will ensure that all Elgin primary schools will have clear and distinct associations with their local communities.
- 3.3.3 The new school will benefit from design practices which support the varied range of teaching environments that best deliver learning. Spaces for learning will be designed in such a way as to allow a range of teaching styles and approaches including: active learning, interdisciplinary learning and outdoor learning.
- 3.3.4 Experience in other new school buildings has demonstrated that a new and flexible learning environment has inspired pupils and has a positive impact on the general health and wellbeing of learners and increases aspirations, attainment and achievement.
- 3.3.5 In the new school, the provision of high quality technology for learning will provide the potential to transform ways of learning and teaching by giving young people and staff flexible access to a digital learning environment.
- 3.3.6 The proposed new school will provide excellent facilities for children, families and other users outwith core school hours. The new school will provide accessible facilities that could be used to meet the learning, leisure and social needs of the community.

3.4 Likely effects on other users of the schools' facilities

- 3.4.1 There would be no detriment to other users of the schools' facilities. The new school will build on current, and facilitate new, opportunities for effective integrated working with other services and partner agencies and will provide necessary support to children and families in the new school catchment area.

3.5 Likely effects on children and young people in other Moray Council schools

- 3.5.1 This proposal will have no significant adverse impact on children attending other schools in Moray. This proposal has the potential to bring financial benefits to the Moray Council and therefore allow for a more equitable distribution of resources.

3.6 Other likely effects of the proposal

- 3.6.1 The additional learning and teaching community at any new school will provide increased opportunities for collegiate working to share good practice, to improve curriculum development, to share thinking and materials across Elgin schools and to secure ongoing improvements in achievement. This will also result in greater scope for delivery of continued lifelong professional learning for all staff.
- 3.6.2 The new school building will have nursery provision to meet the increasing demand for nursery places in south-east Elgin.
- 3.6.3 The new school building will be designed in such a way as to promote accessible, inclusive learning which will meet the needs of all learners including those with Additional Support Needs. The new school will provide additional specialist provision to enhance the local authority's capacity to meet the needs of young people with Additional Support Needs to remain in mainstream education.

3.7 How the Council intends to minimise or avoid potential adverse effects

- 3.7.1 An equality impact assessment has been carried out on this proposal and consultation process. This concludes that introducing this proposal will not have an adverse impact on any of the groups considered.
- 3.7.2 Teaching and support staff at the new school will work closely with all children and families to ensure that the learning, pastoral and social needs of children are fully supported during any transition process, including enhanced arrangements for children and young people with Additional Support Needs.

3.8 Summary of benefits resulting from implementation of this proposal

- 3.8.1 The benefits are all highlighted in the preceding paragraphs, but they can be summarised as follows:
 - the proposal will enable children to attend their zoned school and have a significant influence in the development of the new school's aims, values and ethos;
 - the proposal will help address the current and future over-crowding problems in Elgin primary schools;
 - the new school will provide greatly improved accommodation for the nursery children and school pupils, including those with Additional Support Needs, and staff; and
 - there is an opportunity here for the Council to make best use of the finances available, and make the most effective use of resources at a time when the need for these is acute.
- 3.8.2 The Council has arrived at these conclusions, initially, from a comprehensive analysis of historical placing requests within Elgin and a detailed study of future housing developments to determine the catchment area for the new school.

- 3.8.3 A detailed options appraisal was also undertaken to consider the best interim arrangement. The conclusions were that remodelling the former Heritage Centre at East End Primary School provided the best interim solution. This is viewed as maximising educational benefits and is the best value option considering the continued use that the education authority will be able to make of the accommodation after the new school has moved to its permanent site. This option will achieve the goal of reducing pupil roll pressure, can be achieved within the required time frame, and will establish an interim school and the investment will also provide a longer term benefit to the existing school. Further to this, the estimated timescale for building works is comparatively shorter when looking at the other options available, allowing for the primary 1 class to move in at the start of their school career in August 2016.
- 3.8.4 In delivering these broad benefits, the authority is confident that it is discharging its duty to secure best value by continuous improvement in the performance of its functions, as required under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

4. TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1 In order to ensure the safety of pupils, whilst the new school is located at its initial site, it will be necessary to offer to provide transport for all children to temporary school accommodation from agreed pick up points in the catchment area.
- 4.2 Safe walking and cycling routes will be identified well in advance of the new school building opening on its permanent site. These will include new pedestrian and cycle paths leading from existing catchment area streets, including the Barlink Road area.
- 4.3 Any concerns regarding access to the site of the new school, crossing facilities, speed limits on the road and noise issues will be addressed. There will be appropriate signage and crossing patrollers at the new school as required, and parents will be kept updated through future stakeholder meetings.

5. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 5.1 Formal consultation will run from 14th December 2015 – 4th February 2016 inclusive (30 school days).
- 5.2 As required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, formal consultation will include:
- the preparation of this proposal paper;
 - a letter to the parents/carers of children at New Elgin and East End Primary Schools

- a letter to the parents/carers of children aged 3-4 who live in the designated catchment area and will be due to enrol at school for August 2016 and August 2017;
- information for parents of younger children will be communicated via Facebook and other social media;
- information, including the proposal paper, placed on the Council's website;
- information on the proposal communicated through social media;
- an announcement of the proposal in the local press, inviting any person to make written representation to the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care);
- public meetings as shown below;
- a meetings with the parent councils of the affected schools;
- consultation with the staff of the affected establishments;
- consultation with the pupil councils of the affected schools;
- consultation with Elgin Community Council and the Elgin South Area Forum; and
- consultation with representatives of the teacher and support staff trade unions.

5.3 Formal Consultation Meetings are arranged as follows:

Date	Venue	Time
Wednesday 6 th January 2016	Elgin Town Hall (Supper Room)	14.00 – 15.30
Wednesday 6 th January 2016	Elgin Town Hall (Supper Room)	18.30 – 20.00

5.4 It is hoped that the Children and Young People's Services Committee of the Moray Council will be able to take a final decision on the proposals at its meeting on 27th April 2016.

6. INVOLVEMENT OF EDUCATION SCOTLAND

6.1 A copy of this proposal document has been sent to Education Scotland. Education Scotland will also receive a copy of any written representations that are received by Moray Council from any person during the consultation period. Education Scotland will also receive a summary of any oral representation made to the Moray Council at the public meetings and a copy of any other relevant documentation.

6.2 After the Moray Council has sent Education Scotland all representations and documents mentioned above, Education Scotland will prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal. In preparing their report, Education Scotland may visit the affected establishments and make such reasonable enquiries of such people there, or such other people as they consider appropriate.

- 6.3 On receipt of the Education Scotland report, it will be necessary to review the proposal, and thereafter, the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care), on behalf of the education authority, will prepare and publish a consultation report, containing the views of Education Scotland and including an explanation of how the Moray Council proposes to deal with any issues raised. After a period of no less than three weeks, the Moray Council will consider the consultation report and decide whether or not to approve the proposals.

7. NOTE ON CORRECTIONS

- 7.1 If any apparent inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this proposal document either by the Moray Council or any person, the Moray Council will determine if relevant information has been omitted or if there has been an inaccuracy. If it is determined that there has been an inaccuracy or omission the Moray Council will then take appropriate action which may include the issue of a correction or the reissuing of the proposal paper or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period as appropriate. In that event, any person highlighting the inaccuracy to the Moray Council, relevant consultees and Education Scotland will be advised.

8. EQUALITY STATEMENT

- 8.1 An equality impact assessment has been carried out on these proposals and consultation process to assess the proposal's relevance to the public sector equality duties on the basis of:
- Sex
 - Religion
 - Racial group
 - Disability
 - Sexual orientation
 - Gender reassignment
 - Pregnancy and maternity
- 8.2 The equality impact assessment concluded that introducing these proposals will not have an adverse impact on any of the groups listed. Any impacts identified through the consultation process will be investigated prior to the final consultation report being issued and a decision being made.

9. SUBMISSION OF VIEWS

- 9.1 Responses to the consultation should be made by writing to:
South-East Elgin Primary School Consultation

The Moray Council
Community Support Unit
High Street
Elgin
IV30 1BX

or by e-mail to: futureschools@moray.gov.uk
or by completing the attached consultation response form
or by completing the on-line consultation form by following the links at
www.moray.gov.uk

All responses **must** be submitted by **5pm on Thursday 4th February 2016** for them to be taken into account as part of the consultation.

10. OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

- 10.1 It is intended that a consultation report including a summary of the submissions will be published on the council website. This will be available by following the links at: www.moray.gov.uk
- 10.2 It is intended that a report on the consultation will be presented to the Children and Young Peoples Services Committee on 27th April 2016. This will provide information for Elected Members to make a final decision on the proposal.