



## Appendix A1

# Inveravon Primary School Options Appraisal

## 1. Introduction

Moray Council strives to allocate its resources in a way that ensures the quality of all its services. It attaches particular importance to providing the best possible educational experience for all pupils within its schools.

The Strategic Approach to the Learning Estate was agreed at a Special Meeting of the Moray Council on 9 October 2020 in accordance with Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy (Connecting People, Places and Learning). The Council's strategy sets out the council's aspirations for our schools using a holistic place-based approach, which will ensure that services can be delivered in an optimum way, making best use of available assets.

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 requires that educational benefits should be at the heart of any proposal to make a significant change to schools, for current and future pupils in the area.

At its meeting on 24 November 2021, the Education, Children's and Leisure Services Committee agreed to the preparation of an options appraisal regarding the future of Inveravon Primary School and supported community engagement as part of the options appraisal process to identify alternative options to consider.

## 2. Background / Discussion

During the 2016/2017 school session the school roll at Inveravon Primary School dropped due to a number of families moving schools for several reasons. As the school session drew to a close it was clear that there was a risk that at the start of the 2017/2018 session that the school roll would be significantly lower than the total catchment of 13. In fact, as of August 2017 the school roll was zero as all catchment children were enrolled at either Knockando or Aberlour Primary.

Due to no children attending the school for the start of the new 2017/18 session, the Education Service was left with no alternative but to mothball Inveravon Primary School. Mothballing is a temporary closure of a school which does not in itself lead to

statutory consultation. Reference is made to the report considered by the Children and Young People's Committee on 23 August 2017 where this decision was ratified.

The Primary 1 admission period for all Moray Schools takes place in January each year. No applications to Inveravon Primary School have been received since the school was mothballed.

The deadline for submitting out of zone placing requests is March each year. There have been no applications received for pupils wishing to attend Inveravon Primary School through the placing requests process over the last three years.

As there continues to be no expectation of pupils enrolling at Inveravon Primary School, the school remains mothballed.

### **3. Community Engagement**

The Learning Estates Team conducted the following engagements with the wider Inveravon community to keep them fully informed and to explore potential options for the future of Inveravon Primary School.

- Wednesday 9 February 2022 – A virtual community engagement session facilitated by MS Teams.
- Tuesday 8 March 2022 - A virtual community engagement session facilitated by MS Teams.
- Tuesday 8 March 2022 - Community engagement session at Speyside High School
- February to June – A comments form was provided – both online and mailed to parents within catchment – to allow community stakeholders to provide informal comments and suggestions on the future of Inveravon Primary School. This has been available since 16 February 2022 to 28 June 2022.

A summary of all comments gathered during and following the meetings and the online survey is at Appendix A to this report.

### **4. Options Appraisal**

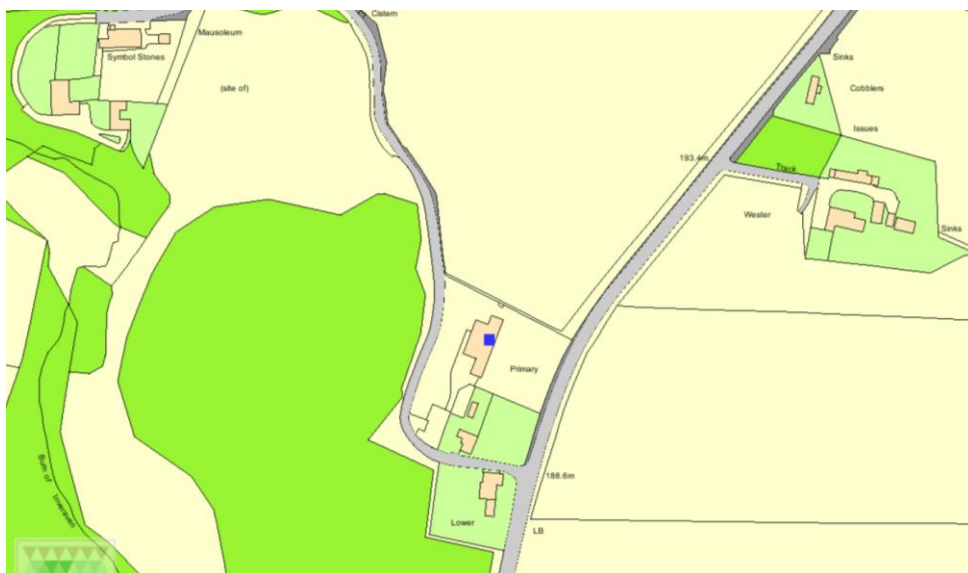
An options appraisal has been undertaken to consider the future of Inveravon Primary School to ensure the best educational and wellbeing benefits for Inveravon children. The appraisal considered the current mothballing and the schools the families had chosen to attend prior to and during mothballing.

## 4.1 Inveravon Primary School

The majority of the Inveravon Primary School was 'gifted' to the Council by the Ballindalloch Estate in 1910 as a site for a school. A further area of land was purchased by the Council in 1926 to increase the available land for outdoor play. In the event of a school closure the land, and by implication the school building would be returned to the Ballindalloch Estate. The plot of land purchased is deemed of having no value in isolation and it is proposed that this is gifted to Ballindalloch Estate at no cost in the event of school closure.

Inveravon Primary School was built in the early 20th century. The school is non-denominational and serves properties within the rural area of the Ballindalloch Estate. It is located by the A95 just north of the Bridge of Inveravon 6.5 miles from Aberlour.

Inveravon Primary School has a functional capacity of 50 pupils. It is a single storey building with two classrooms, kitchen, hall, resources room, library reception/staff room. The hall doubles as both a dining room and indoor PE area. The school floorplan is attached as Appendix B and a map of the school ground and its surrounding amenities is shown in Map 1 below.



Map 1 – Inveravon Primary School

The school has a servery kitchen which served meals that were prepared at Aberlour Primary and delivered to Inveravon Primary School on a daily basis.

The outside areas consists of a small concrete play area on the north aspect of the building which extends to adjacent grassed area

Inveravon Primary School delivered primary education from P1 to P7. There was no nursery on site and local children often attended nursery at other nearby schools.

Condition is an assessment of the physical condition of the school building and its grounds. Inveravon Primary School was assessed **C** for condition a number of years

prior to mothballing. A more recent condition survey in June 2022 has assessed that the overall condition remains at **C** (Poor - Showing major problems and/or not operating adequately - the school buildings require continuous repair and shows signs of age), although a number of elements are now at condition **D** (Bad – Economic life expired and/or risk of Failure (the school buildings and grounds do not support the delivery of services to children and communities). A breakdown of the condition elements is shown in the table below.

Roofs	Floors and Stairs	Ceilings	Ext Walls, Windows and Doors	Int Walls and Doors	Sanitary Services	Mechanical	Electrical	Decoration	Fixed Int Fixtures, Furniture and Fittings	External Areas	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Overall Score	Condition Category
C	D	C	C	B	C	D	D	C	B	D	N/A	42.27%	C

Table 1. Core Condition Assessment (Overall and Individual Elements)

Suitability is an assessment of the school as a whole, the buildings, the grounds and the impact they have on teaching and learning, leisure and social activities, as well as the health and wellbeing of users. The Suitability assessment of Inveravon Primary School was carried out in 2013 the school was graded as **B**, satisfactory – performing well but with minor problems (school buildings and grounds generally support the delivery of services).

#### 4.2 Inveravon and Local Area

The Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification defines Inveravon Primary School as “remote rural”, meaning that is it serves a population of less than 3,000 and is more than 30 minutes’ drive from a settlement of 10,000 or more.

The Inveravon Primary School catchment is bordered by Aberlour, Glenlivet, Knockando and Tomintoul schools within the Moray Learning Estate. It is also bordered to the west by Grantown Primary School in the Highlands Council area. Map 2 below shows the catchment area for Inveravon Primary School and the neighbouring schools.

Distances between Inveravon School and surrounding schools sourced from Google Maps are listed below:

Knockando Primary School	6.6 miles
Aberlour Primary School	6.6 miles
Glenlivet Primary School	5.5 miles

In addition, the distance to the Speyside High School, in Aberlour is 6.7miles

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a measure of deprivation across 6,976 data zones. SIMD ranks data zones from most deprived (ranked as 1) to least deprived (ranked as 6,976) and the Inveravon data zone (South Speyside and Cabrach) is ranked at 3696. Within this ranking geographical access is the biggest level of deprivation, followed by Education/Skills. Income and Employment are relatively good while Crime and Health are ranked as the least deprived. A graphical breakdown of this information is below.



Table 2. SIMD 2020 Ranking - South Speyside and Cabrach

### 4.3 Rural Sustainability and Housing Development

Inveravon is within a community located within the Ballindalloch Estate area with basic services including a combined rural shop and post office. The community straddles a fast-flowing section of the main Elgin to Grantown-on-Spey trunk road (A95).

Information received from The Council's Community Economic Development Team indicates that there are no significant new business activities in the Inveravon area.

There is no significant housing development for the Inveravon catchment within the current Local Development Plan.

### 4.4 Demographics and Pupil Numbers

In the 5 years up to the mothballing of Inveravon Primary School in Aug 2017 the school roll remained steady at between 14-15 pupils with few placing requests to and from the catchment.

The school roll had been low for a number of years. The P1 intake had ranged from zero to four pupils in each of these years. The position is shown in the table below:

Census data	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
P1-P7	15	15	13	0	0	0	0	0

Table 3 - School Roll Data 2014-2021

There are currently 15 children of P1-P7 age residing within the catchment area of Inveravon School (Census data extract September 2021). These children all attend other schools in the area, all by parental choice. The majority attend Knockando Primary School with a smaller number at Aberlour School.

School roll forecasts show a very small number of families living in the catchment area with children that are under school age. SEEMIS data indicates there were 2 children within the Inveravon catchment that could have enrolled for P1 in August 2022 but no requests were made. A similar number of children can enrol in 2023 and 2024 but if they did the school roll numbers would remain below 10.

### 4.5 Occupancy

In line with the Learning Estates Strategy an ideal school occupancy level would be approximately 80%, aspiring to the occupancy band of between 60% and 80%.

At its peak the school roll had 15 pupils in the 2014-2015 session – an occupancy of just 30%. Such a low occupancy level is unsustainable, unaffordable and does not offer best value.

#### 4.6 Pupil Enrolments

No families have approached Moray Council to enrol their children at Inveravon School, either as a new P1 start or as a placing request. Additionally, no families have approached officers to indicate that if there were sufficient other families in a similar position that they would consider moving their children back to the school.

#### 4.7 Inveravon Community

While in operation, the school did not operate a breakfast or after school club and there were no formal lets of the school. The children and the community did have free access to the school garden and the hall for badminton.

Speyside Community Centre is adjacent to Speyside High school and is approximately 6.7 miles away. The Community centre has a swimming pool, fitness suite, climbing wall and outdoor pitches with a regular programme of activities. Both the School and Community centre has a range of rooms and facilities for hire for activities such as exercise classes, courses, committee meetings, sports and hobbies, counselling sessions, training sessions and rehearsals.

Glenlivet Public Hall is approximately 6.1 miles away, the hall is used by a number of groups for regular weekly meetings involving sports, music, dancing and more. Beside these regular user the hall aims to provide a venue for other public events. Behind the hall there is a football pitch. The football pitch is used regularly by the football and archery clubs and can be booked for private events.

#### 4.8 Options for Consideration

Some comments proposed that the school reopen. However, this requires families wishing to send their children to the school. As no new pupil enrolments had been received for the 2022-23 session, reopening of the school was not possible. On this basis the school continues to be mothballed.

Alternative suggestions for the school building were received with the focus on community use and economic development. Due to the land ownership situation these options would require commitment from other agents. These options cannot be implemented without the formal closure of the school.

A full list of suggestions and comments with an overview of the requirements for them to be implemented can be found in the below table.

No.	Comment/Suggestion	Requirement for implementation
1	Community space for activities	School closure process - private provider commitment
2	Outdoor activity centre	School closure process - involvement of private provider

3	Community cafe	School closure process - private provider commitment
4	Rural business centre	School closure process - private provider commitment
5	Residential property	School closure process - private land owner commitment

Table 4 – Alternative use suggestions

The following options were considered for the future of Inveravon Primary School as part of the options appraisal:

1 Reopen the school – No pupils have enrolled at the school and no families have indicated that they would wish to attend the school. This option has been discounted.

2 Continue Status Quo – School remains mothballed for a further session and potentially beyond. The school has been mothballed since August 2017, such prolonged time has already caused uncertainty for families and the community. Therefore, this option has been discounted.

3 Consider closing Inveravon Primary School and rezoning pupils to attend another school in the Speyside Associated Schools Group.

## 5. Conclusion

One of the options identified as part of the appraisal is to close Inveravon School. This is currently considered to be the only viable option for the school; therefore, Moray Council must undertake a statutory consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. As a rural school there is a presumption against closure and Moray Council must ensure all other alternatives have been identified and robustly considered prior to undertaking any statutory consultation on this matter.

Appendix A - Community Engagement Comments and Suggestions

Appendix B - Inveravon School Floorplan



## Appendix A – Community Engagement Comments and Suggestions

*(Received during informal engagement)*

The Learning Estate team engaged with the community over 4 sessions in order to fully inform and explore the potential options on the future for Inveravon Primary School.

- 7 December 2021 – online Public meeting with the community and parents to outline future engagement.
- 2 February 2022 – online public meeting to discuss future options for the school.
- 8 March 2022 – community engagement session at Speyside High School, Aberlour to further explore options.
- 10 March 2022 – meeting with parents at Knockando Primary School.
- 16 February 2022 to present – comment boxes available, and opportunity to send comments via email to the Learning Estate Team.

Residents in the catchment area were notified of the meetings by two mail drops. Details of the meetings were also published on the Moray Council website, social media channels and distributed to the local media.

Secure comment boxes were situated at Aberlour Library, Knockando Primary School and Glenlivet Medical Practice from February to June 2022. 6 parent and 19 resident comment were received during this period.

The table below provides an overview of the Comments and Suggestions from community engagements (February 2022 - June 2022)

Ref No.	Comment/Suggestion	Wants	Requirements for implementation
1	<p><b>Email – Parent (Inveravon Catchment)</b></p> <p>Whilst it would be lovely for our son to attend school much closer to home than Knockando, I strongly feel that the quality of his social and academic education should come first. Unless the school roll can be reliably and consistently at a level to facilitate age appropriate group learning and play activities then I would not support the reopening of Inveravon Primary. By this, I'm not an expert, but I would be thinking in the order of 25+ pupils. There is so much to be gained in the social interactions and the things that are possible with the increased numbers at the combined provision, but</p>	School closure	School closure Process

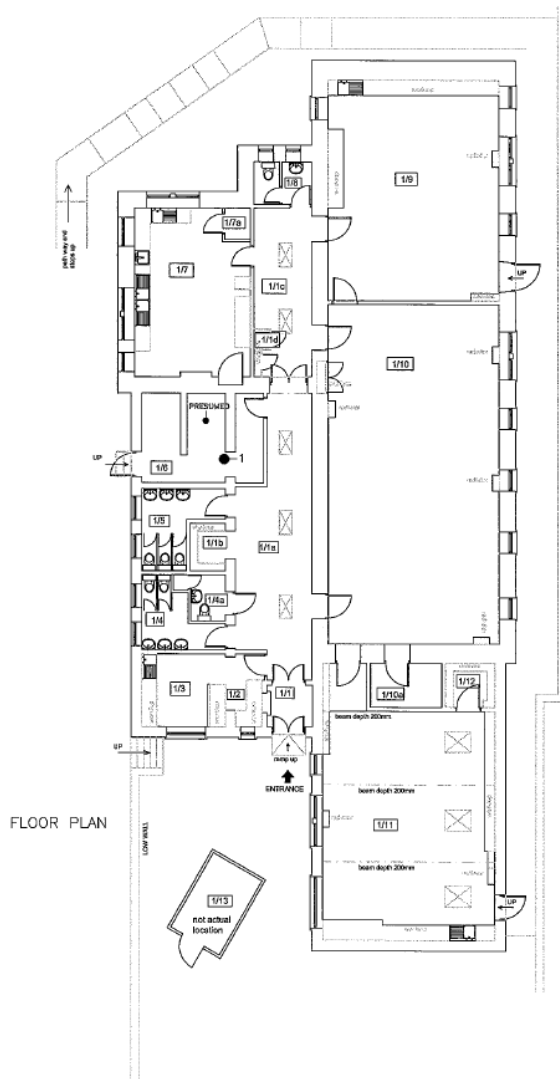
	<p>for current skills development and in preparation for high school and beyond.</p> <p>A number of years ago there was suggestion of a new build combined school for Knockando, Inveravon and Glenlivet at a site in Marypark. This would have been excellent.</p> <p>I am very happy with the calibre of teaching and support at Knockando, but modern facilities (and space!) would really benefit all the pupils.</p> <p>Whatever decision is made it must be one that is in the best interests of current and future pupils.</p> <p>I am well aware personally and professionally of the implications in regard to transport etc., but do not find these unresolvable.</p> <p>There are of course wider community benefits that come from having a school facility in a rural community, but these should not overshadow the main function of the building.</p>		
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</b></p> <p>Any local parent looking for options for schools would not see the school on any part of the council website.</p>	School closure	School closure Process
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Survey – Parent (Inveravon Catchment)</b></p> <p>Children at Knockando their whole school life. Another starting in August. If they went to Inveravon they would be in class by themselves which would be unsettling for the child.</p>	School closure	School Closure Process
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</b></p> <p>Would love to make use of the school if possible for community-based activities.</p>	Community Space	School closure Process – Community Commitment
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</b></p> <p>Just looks like closing by stealth, take the teachers away, head hunted, supply teachers, no wonder the pupils were taken elsewhere, a calculated move to close it.</p>		Addressed at meeting
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Tomintoul and Glenlivet Trust</b></p> <p>The trust conducted some consultation with community in April 2021 about</p>		

	<p>general community priorities. Included community assets within the survey.</p> <p>3 main views around the school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ (1) Reinstated as school,</li> <li>○ (2) Community space for activities</li> <li>○ (3) Outdoor activity centre</li> </ul>	<p>School re-opened</p> <p>Community Space</p>	<p>School closure Process – Community Commitment</p>
7	<p><b>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</b></p> <p>How irritating it is when you keep saying that there has been no-one interested in joining the school, it was taken off the website and people told on the phone that school was closed, no wonder there has been no interest, teacher head hunted</p>		<p>Addressed at meeting</p>
8	<p><b>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</b></p> <p>How many schools have been mothballed in the last 10 years?</p>		<p>Addressed at meeting</p>
12	<p><b>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</b></p> <p>Problem with getting roll over 10, unless you get 10 sets of parents, it's a catch-22</p>		<p>Addressed at meeting</p>
13	<p><b>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</b></p> <p>If and when council decide it is to be closed, does council make it habitable?</p>		<p>Addressed at meeting</p>
14	<p><b>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</b></p> <p>Why did it take so long from mothballing in 2017 until now to progress the future of Inveravon PS?</p>		<p>Addressed at meeting</p>
15	<p><b>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</b></p> <p>Have we had any formal response from parents of primary school children in Inveravon catchment?</p>		<p>Addressed at meeting</p>
16	<p><b>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</b></p> <p>Has and will the building be kept wind and water tight and repair and maintenance be undertaken while school remains moth balled?</p>		<p>Addressed at meeting</p>
17	<p><b>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</b></p> <p>Will this repair and maintenance activity include the garden and grounds?</p>		<p>Addressed at meeting</p>

18	Is there anything of any value within the school that could be reused – or donated (e.g. Ukrainian appeal)?		Followed up post meeting
19	<b>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</b> Can you confirm who would be responsible for the building in the event of its closure?		Addressed at meeting
20	<b>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</b> Having attended Inveravon Primary myself as a child and now seeing my children currently attend Knockando Primary I feel the resources are/can be better used by directing them fully to Knockando. I feel the school at Knockando is very well run (in our experience) and being part of a slightly larger school community with access to better resources is far more beneficial for our children. Families have the option of applying to Aberlour & Glenlivet also which again fields resources/funding to established learning communities. Rural schools are very important but in this case our family feels there are better opportunities at other schools which would be further enhanced if funding was not re-directed to re-opening Inveravon and rather put towards the other 'rural' schools still open in the area. I have very fond memories of my time at Inveravon but in this current age, this school is no longer sustainable in my opinion.	School Closure	School Closure Process
22	<b>Survey – Parent (Inveravon Catchment)</b> Close it, sell it!	School Closure	School Closure Process
22	<b>Survey – Parent (Inveravon Catchment)</b> As a parent of 2 school aged children, I feel Inveravon needs closed completely, ASAP. My children are very happy attending Knockando Primary School and I would not be moving then under any circumstances. It also seems unfair that Knockando Primary cannot have a permanent Heat Teacher until this is resolved.	School Closure	School Closure Process

23	<p><b>Survey – Parent (Inveravon Catchment)</b>  We feel Inveravon Primary should be closed and financial &amp; staff resources should be consolidated to provide a modern equipped resource for the wider area.</p>	School Closure	School Closure Process
24	<p><b>Survey – Parent (Inveravon Catchment)</b>  I think Moray Council needs to fully close Inveravon as it is just wasting money which could be used to improve education elsewhere in the area. There will never be enough children to deem the school fit to be open so it needs to be closed not mothballed.</p>	School Closure	School Closure Process
25	<p><b>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</b>  This was a lovely primary school which was very outgoing in the community. Even though I live in Aberlour I attended the PTA quiz nights, etc.</p> <p>It is so sad not to see the building in use for it's intended purpose – as it is one of the basics of a community.</p> <p>I really hope that it will be re-opened.</p>	School re-opened	

# Appendix B: Inveravon School Floorplan



Room Number	Room Usage	Net Floor Area	Ceiling Height approx.	Floor Area Minus Fixed Furniture etc.	Max. Capacity (No. of Ch44sq)
1/1	Entrance Porch	3sq.m.	2400mm		
1/1a	Access Corridor	29sq.m.	2400mm		
1/1b	Lobby	2,86sq.m.	2400mm		
1/1c	Access Corridor	14sq.m.	4000mm		
1/1d	Electric	0,8sq.m.			
1/2 & 1/3	Reception / Staff Room	13,5sq.m.	2400mm		
1/4	Boys Toilet	6,4sq.m.	2400mm		
1/5a	Directed Persons Toilet	2,4sq.m.	2400mm		
1/5	Girls Toilet	7,0sq.m.	2400mm		
1/6	Boiler Room	19sq.m.			
1/7	Kitchen	4,00sq.m.			
1/7a	Store	1,2sq.m.	2200mm		
1/7b	Staff Toilet	0,7sq.m.	2000mm		
1/8	Classroom	59sq.m.	3000mm	51,2sq.m.	54 (33)
1/9	Hall	80,5sq.m.	4000mm	88,9sq.m.	89
1/9a	Store	4,8sq.m.			
1/11	Classroom	84sq.m.	3000mm	83,8sq.m.	86 (33)
1/12	Store	3,3sq.m.	3000mm		
1/13	Staff	7,3sq.m.			

TOTAL NET INTERNAL FLOOR AREA = Approx. 355,4sq.m.

**ASBESTOS (BORND)**

- 1 = AREA (NUMBERED)
- = ASBESTOS SAMPLES TAKEN / SAMPLE REFERENCE NUMBER
- = NON ASBESTOS SAMPLES TAKEN / SAMPLE REFERENCE NUMBER

BUILDING REFERENCE No. 527428

LEGEND

TOTAL GROSS INTERNAL FLOOR AREA OF SCHOOL = Approx. 380 sq.m.

SINGLE STOREY BUILDING

DRAWING UPDATES		
DATE	DRAWN	CONTRACT No.
MARCH 2006	VB	NEW FORMAT

Project : <b>INVERAVON PRIMARY SCHOOL</b>		Drawing Title : <b>PLANS AS EXISTING</b>	
Scale : 1:150		Date : 07/01/04	
Drawn : VB		Environmental Services Department Property Manager	
Drawing Number : SCHOOLS/INVER/VB/01		The Moray Council Council Office, High Street, Elgin, W30 1BX Telephone 01343 543451 Telefax 01343 551929	