



**Online Public Consultation Meeting  
Closure of Inveravon Primary School  
28 September 2022 at 7pm**

**Moray Council Officers present:**

Andy Hall, Programme Manager (Learning Estate)

One member of the public (a local resident) attended the meeting

**Apologies:**

No apologies were received.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Andy Hall introduced himself and welcome the attendee to the meeting and laid out the agenda for the meeting. He informed the attendee that written minutes would be taken of the meeting and made public as part of the consultation.

**2. Consultation Overview**

Andy Hall informed the attendee that the proposal currently under statutory consultation is the closure of Inveravon Primary School. The consultation proposes to discontinue education at Inveravon School, which is currently mothballed and re-assign its catchment area to other school(s) within the Speyside High School Associated Support Group.

The consultation is in line with the School (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The 2010 Act's principal purpose is to provide strong, accountable statutory consultation practices and procedures that local authorities must apply to their handling of all proposals for school closures and other major changes to schools.

The consultation will take into account:

- Any reasonable alternatives to the proposal;
- Specific requirements to be reviewed for a rural school;
- the likely educational benefits;
- the likely community impact; and,
- the likely effect of any different travelling arrangements.

These consultation processes are expected to be robust, open, transparent and fair, and seen to be so. The process runs Monday 29 August 2022 to Friday 7 October 2022.



### **3. Background**

The decision to mothball Inveravon Primary School was taken as no pupils were enrolled from August 2017. No children have attended Inveravon Primary School since the end of session 2016/17, when the school was mothballed. There have been no parents chosen to enrol their children at Inveravon Primary School up to and including the 2022/23 sessions. The number of primary school children in the Inveravon Primary School catchment totals 15 for the 2022/23 session and these are attending either Knockando or Aberlour Primary School.

A series of community engagements on the school took place in February and March 2022 with online public meetings. Comments boxes were left in key locations in the Inveravon catchment area between February to August for the general public to make comments.

The outcome of the Options Appraisal was presented to the Education, Childcare and Leisure Services Committee on 24 August 2022. After deliberation a vote to approve consultation on the closure of Inveravon School was taken.

### **4. Options Considered**

Andy Hall report that a number of alternatives to closure and a number of options that involved closure were considered and the following were outlined at the meeting:

#### **Alternatives to Closure:**

- to re-open Inveravon Primary School with its current catchment area
- to continue with the current “mothballing” arrangement

#### **Proposed Options:**

- Option 1 - Close Inveravon Primary School and rezone to Knockando Primary School. As per current mothball arrangement. Transportation will be provided by the council. Parental option to out of school catchment, transportation will not be funded
- Option 2 - Close Inveravon Primary School and split catchment between Knockando and Aberlour Primary School. Considers Maryhill catchment shifting to Aberlour School. Council funded transportation provided to Knockando and Aberlour schools within respective catchments. Parental option to request school out of catchment, transportation will not be provided.
- Option 3 - Close Inveravon Primary School and split catchment between Knockando, Aberlour and Glenlivet primary schools. Considers Maryhill catchment shifting to Aberlour School and small area to Glenlivet, determined by postcode. Council funded transportation provided to Knockando, Aberlour and Glenlivet within respective catchments. Parental option for request school out of catchment, transportation will not be funded.

#### **Discounted Options:**



- Option 4 - Close Inveravon Primary School and rezone with Aberlour Primary School
- Option 5 - Close Inveravon Primary School and rezone with Glenlivet Primary School

Andy Hall stressed that it is important in considering the proposed options that they did not have adversely impact any children currently attending the schools affected by this proposal and continuity in their education was paramount. He stated that whichever decision is taken, all existing pupils will not be required to change their school. This will also apply to any younger siblings of those pupils, provided they remain at the same primary school.

## **5. Questions from the floor**

Andy Hall opened the session for questions:

**Resident:** In the event of closure could the school be considered for use as an outward-bound centre similar to Nethy Bridge?

**Andy Hall:** If the school were to closure the land and the buildings on it would be handed back to the Ballindalloch who had gifted the land in early 19<sup>th</sup> century to the then community council as per the land deed agreement so the Council are not in a position to change use; however, community ideas on how the building and land could be used would be forward to the Ballindalloch Estate for their considerations. This idea would be added to this list.

**Resident:** Could the building be kept open by the Council turned into a local nursery?

**Andy Hall:** The idea had been discussed with ELC colleagues but the focus on their investment was in the current ELC facilities within Aberlour.

**Resident:** Could the building be kept open and refurbished as an Additional Support Needs (ASN) centre?

**Andy Hall:** Moray Council policy is that we endeavour that Additional Support Needs for children and young people should be delivered in a mainstream school. Aberlour Primary School has the Primary Enhanced Provision base for children with Additional Support Needs for the Speyside Associated Schools Group. Most children attend for part of the time, also attending mainstream classes. Knockando and Glenlivet Primary School class teachers support all children where required with support assistant input for targeted need. There is no identified requirement for additional capacity and therefore no justified investment.

Further general discussions on the Moray Learning Estate strategy took place for the remainder of the session.

## **6. Next Steps**

On conclusion of questions Andy Hall outlined the next steps in the process:

- Phase 2 - Consultation (concludes 7 October 2022)



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Education, Communities & Organisational Development

- Phase 3 – on submission of consultation and other documentation Education Scotland will prepare report on the educational aspects of the proposal (3 weeks)
  - HMI visit 25/26 October
  - Meetings at schools/parental sessions
- Phase 4 – Preparation and publication of consultation report
- Phase 5 – Decision process
  - 25 January 2023 - Recommendation to Education, Childcare and Leisure Services Committee
  - 1 March 2023 - Recommendation to and decision at Full Council
  - If closure decision:  
Authority must notify Scottish Ministers with 6 working days  
Publish notice on website

## **7. Close**

Andy Hall closed the meeting by emphasising that it is important the Council gain feedback regarding the meeting and the proposal and encouraged further comment and/or feedback via the online survey or direct email to the Learning Estates Team.

Andy Hall closed the meeting at 7:40pm



**If a Closure Decision**

- Phase 6 – Ministerial call in
  - Initial 3 weeks from notification of decision anyone can make representation to Ministers
  - Further 5 weeks for Ministers to decide whether or not to issue a call-in notice
  - During 8 week period the Authority cannot proceed to implement proposed closure
- Phase 7 – School Closure Review Panel
  - If Ministers call in
  - Max 9 to 17 weeks

**If a Non-closure Decision**

- Phase 8 – Restriction on school closure for 5 years

**8. Close**

Andrew Hall thanked everyone for attending the meeting and the importance of officers gaining feedback. He encouraged everyone to participate fully in the consultation and promoted the online survey, the Speyside High School meeting in the evening and the online meeting the next day, 28th September, an invite to which can be obtained by emailing the learning estate team.