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**Report to: Education, Sport and Leisure Committee**

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**Date of Meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

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**Subject: School Estate Proposal**

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**Report by: Head of Education**

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## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 This report seeks approval from the Education Committee to undertake a formal consultation on the changing of the catchment areas encompassing the Forestmill development area (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 That the Education Committee provides approval to accept the offer of phase four Scottish Government's 'Schools for the Future Programme' funding for a new Abercromby Primary School in Tullibody (subject to a positive result from statutory consultation).

## **2.0 Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Education, Sport and Leisure Committee agrees to:

- 2.1 instruct the Education Service to undertake a statutory consultation process in relation to the inclusion of the new Forestmill Primary School in the proposed Forestmill development in the Alva Academy catchment area.
- 2.2 accept the offer of Scottish Government's 'Schools for the Future Programme' funding for the refurbishment or replacement of Abercromby Primary School and thereafter refer to the Council for formal acceptance.
- 2.3 the Education Service to carrying out a full option appraisal on the proposal to refurbish or replace Abercromby Primary School.
- 2.4 note that the Education Service is currently in negotiations with the Scottish Government's 'Schools for the Future Programme' to ensure that allocated phase three funding secured for a new school in Sauchie West is retained for use in Clackmannanshire.

### **3.0 Considerations**

- 3.1. The proposed new Forestmill development would sit initially within the catchment areas of Clackmannan Primary School and Lornshill Academy. The building of a large scale development in the Lornshill catchment would potentially mean that an expensive extension to Lornshill Academy will be required in order to meet demand. The alternative of including Forestmill in the Alloa Academy catchment area would similarly impact upon Alloa Academy as it does not have the available capacity to include a further large scale development without further extension.
- 3.1.1 Of the three Secondary schools within Clackmannanshire Alva Academy has the potential to accommodate an increased number of students on campus. It should be noted that if in the future an extension in capacity to our Secondary estate is required Alva Academy would be able to provide extended capacity in the most efficient and cost effective way.
- 3.2. Since Tillicoultry Primary School has considerable spare capacity it is envisaged that initially Primary aged pupils from the Forestmill development would be transported to Tillicoultry until a Primary School is built within the Forestmill development. Appendix 1 provides an overview of the proposed change.
- 3.3 The Scottish Government's 'Schools for the Future Programme' has an ongoing programme of funding to improve the school estate in Scotland. Clackmannanshire Council has been allocated funding in each phase, the most recent being the capital funding of the new Redwell Primary School. Phase four of this process is focussed on raising the condition of the school estate across Scotland.
- 3.3.1 The Scottish Government's 'Schools for the Future Programme' has identified that Abercromby Primary School is the school in Clackmannanshire that is eligible to receive capital funding for a new school and has made an offer on this basis. The Scottish Government's 'Schools for the Future Programme' funding is up to 50% of the cost and that there would be an expectation that the Council will fund the balance of this project. This offer by the Scottish Government's 'Schools for the Future Programme' is based on the condition of Abercromby Primary School, being assessed by the Scottish Government as the school in Clackmannanshire in the poorest condition.
- 3.4 The offer of the Scottish Government's 'Schools for the Future Programme' funding contains the expectation of a completion of a new or refurbished Abercromby Primary School by 2020.
- 3.5 In addition to the concerns regarding the condition of Abercromby there are also issues arising from capacity pressures and the suitability of Abercromby to provide an effective teaching and learning environment. These issues and concerns are outlined in the Abercromby Summary Report (Appendix 2).

- 3.6 Last year as part of the Budget consultation, communities indicated the priority they place on school buildings and the services delivered from them. As part of the ongoing Making Clackmannanshire Better programme of activity, the Education Service will, therefore, carry out a full option appraisal on the refurbishment or replacement of Abercromby Primary School including a range of services within a community hub or service point model.
- 3.6.1 The results of the option appraisal carried out by the Education Service will be brought to the Education, Sport and Leisure Committee for consideration at a later date.
- 3.7 The proposed housing development with an associated school at Sauchie West has not made the anticipated progress up to this point. The Scottish Government's 'Schools for the Future Programme' is aware that there is a delay in progressing this development. The Education Service is currently in negotiation to change the timeline for the 2018 completion of a phase three project to ensure allocated funding remains in Clackmannanshire.

#### **4.0 Sustainability Implications**

- 4.1 In the short term the adoption of this programme will require the provision of transport from the Forestmill area to Tillicoultry Primary School and Alva Academy respectively, replacing the requirement for transport to Clackmannan Primary School and Lornshill Academy (see Appendix 1). Journey distances are as follows:

Forestmill to Clackmannan Primary School 3.9 miles.  
Forestmill to Lornshill Academy 6.3 miles

Forestmill to Tillicoultry Primary School 6.9 miles  
Forestmill to Alva Academy 9.1 miles.

Once the proposed Forestmill Primary School is built then there will be no requirement for transport to the Primary School.

#### **5.0 Resource Implications**

- 5.1 The cost of transportation of pupils to Tillicoultry Primary School and Alva Academy in years 1-3 of the development is approximately £19,000 per annum. It should be borne in mind however, that this cost would be roughly similar to the transport costs required to transport children to Clackmannan Primary School and Lornshill Academy.
- 5.2 The cost of replacing Abercromby Primary School will depend on the outcome of the option appraisal, but based on similar sized schools is likely to be around £8m (at 2014 prices), with funding of up to 50% being received from the Scottish Government's 'Schools for the Future Programme' and the balance being met from the Council's capital programme.

#### **6.0 Exempt Reports**

- 6.1 Is this report exempt? No

## 7.0 Declarations

### (1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box )

The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive	<input type="checkbox"/>
People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Our communities are safer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vulnerable people and families are supported	<input type="checkbox"/>
Substance misuse and its effects are reduced	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing	<input type="checkbox"/>
The environment is protected and enhanced for all	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### (2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

Making Clackmannanshire Better  
Clackmannanshire Alliance Single Outcome Agreement

## 8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 None

## 9.0 Legality

9.1 There are no legal issues

## 10.0 Appendices

Appendix 1:- Maps showing existing catchment areas and proposed catchment area changes to the Forestmill area.

Appendix 2:- Abercromby Primary School Summary Report.

## 11.0 Background Papers


11.1 Condition Survey

11.1 Suitability Survey

**Author(s)**

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**Approved by**

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