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**Report to Council**

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**Date: 4th June 2009**

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**Subject: Closure of Clackmannan Nursery School and establishment  
of a nursery class of Clackmannan Primary School**

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**Report by: Head of Education and Community Services**

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**1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to seek approval for a proposal by Education and Community Services to close Clackmannan Nursery School and to re-establish the service in the same location, with the same staff and under the management arrangements which have applied for the last eighteen months, as the nursery class of Clackmannan Primary School.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1. It is recommended that Council approve the proposal by Education and Community Services to close Clackmannan Nursery School and to re-establish the service in the same location, with the same staff and under the management arrangements which have applied for the last eighteen months, as the nursery class of Clackmannan Primary School.

**3.0 Considerations**

- 3.1. Clackmannan Nursery School currently provides education services to children aged 3-5 years old, mainly resident in the catchment area of Clackmannan Primary School. The nursery school is located in the same building as the primary school. The nursery and primary schools are separated by a door.
- 3.2. Since the retiral of its Headteacher in October 2007, the nursery school has operated as a de facto nursery class of Clackmannan PS and been managed by the Headteacher of the primary school, supported by an increase in the allocation of Early Years Workers. This arrangement has worked well. There has been no reduction in the quality of service delivery. It is proposed that this arrangement should now be confirmed. This requires the formal closure of Clackmannan Nursery School.
- 3.3. The closure of any school requires that a formal, consultation process be carried out. A consultation meeting was held on Tuesday 12th May, 2009;

letters advertising the meeting and setting out the proposal that the nursery school should be merged with the primary school were sent out to all parents and staff. Some parents and staff attended the meeting; the proposal was well-received. There have been no representations from staff or their representatives in respect of the proposal. No representations have been made by email or letters. The proposal can be seen as being supported by stakeholders affected by it.

- 3.4. The services available to parents and pupils will suffer no detriment as a result of the proposed closure and revised management arrangements, as these will continue to be delivered as the nursery class of Clackmannan Primary School. The nursery class will be in the same location as it has currently and will have the same staff as work currently with pupils.
- 3.5. The management arrangements which operate currently will continue to support improved transition arrangements for pupils moving from nursery to primary education. As indicated previously to Council, the movement to a single management arrangement is wholly consistent with the principles of the Early Years Framework, published recently by the Scottish Government and CoSLA; this change in arrangements would be consistent also with the Council's Single Outcome Agreement and its Corporate Priorities
- 3.6. The changes in management arrangements are expected to be broadly cost neutral overall at worst: there may be a small net savings in any future, financial year. It is proposed that any such savings should be retained for use within the Education and Community Services budget.

#### **4.0 Sustainability Implications**

- 4.1. There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

#### **5.0 Resource Implications**

##### *5.1. Financial Details*

- 5.2. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes ☒

##### *5.3. Staffing*

There no staffing implications in relation to the arrangements which exist currently for the management of nursery provision in Clackmannan Primary School. The merger of the nursery school and the primary school, if approved, will allow the abandonment of the post of Headteacher, Clackmannan Nursery School.

#### **6.0 Exempt Reports**

- 6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes ☐ (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No ☒

## 7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

### (1) Our Priorities 2008 - 2011 (Please tick ☒)

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

## 8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes ☒ No ☐

## 9.0 Legality

9.1 In adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes ☒

## 10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

None.

## 11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes ☐ (please list the documents below) No ☒

**Author(s)**

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**Approved by**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>
Jim Goodall	Head of Education & Community Services	J Goodall (signed)
Grahame Blair	Director of Services to People	G Blair (signed)