

**CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL**

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**Report to Council**

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**Date: 27 January 2011**

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**Subject: St John's and Claremont Primary Schools - Consultation**

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**Report by: Interim Head of Education**

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**1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. This report seeks approval from Council to undertake a new, formal consultation regarding proposals to deal with issues relating to the buildings of St John's and Claremont Primary Schools.
- 1.2. The proposals include an option to merge the schools into a single new school on a site known locally as the 'Redwell Site'.
- 1.3. The 'proposal document' required by statute is appended to this report. The document provides the full details of the proposals to merge St John's and Claremont Primary Schools as well as 3 other options for consultation. The document takes account of the motion by Councillor Womersley put to Council on 8 July 2010, which was approved unanimously. The motion stated that:

" Council undertakes the latest tranche of consultation regarding the provision of primary education in Alloa West in a full and open manner and not restricted to one option only, i.e. a new school for a merged St John's and Claremont Primaries to be erected at the current Redwell playing fields in Alloa."

and

"that such consultation seeks to pursue the community's view on all options stated in the original business case presented to Council and reports such views and any other views/preferences back to Council at a future date to allow Council, at that time, to make a decision, fully informed as to the expressed preferences of the community.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Council :-
  - a) approves the "Proposal Document", which includes an educational benefits statement, to allow the formal public consultation exercise on the four options to be established and
  - b) authorises officers to undertake the public consultation beginning in February 2011 such that a report on the outcome of the exercise is presented to the Council no later than 18 August 2011.

### **3.0 Considerations**

- 3.1. The closure of any school requires that a formal consultation process be carried out which is consistent with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010
- 3.2. At its September 2010 meeting, the Council approved the Property Asset Management Plan (PAMP). This document contains a number of recommendations connected with a review of the whole school estate.
- 3.3. The Council established a 3-12 Working Group to review its current arrangements for the provision of primary education in Clackmannanshire and to bring forward proposals for developing that provision in ways which would make it more universally fit for purpose in the 21st century. The Working Group's remit was to develop further the work undertaken by the Independent Commission on Education Provision (3-12) which was approved by the Council in 2007.
- 3.4. The 3 -12 Working Group, and other forums, identified the best options for the future delivery of early years and primary education in Clackmannanshire. All discussions were conducted within the context of the need to deliver an educational experience fit for the 21st century and took cognisance of the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence. The Working Group's discussions were wide-ranging and consultation exercises in respect of other establishments are also proposed.
- 3.5. Claremont and St John's Primary Schools share adjoining catchment areas and there is less than 800 metres between the current buildings.
- 3.6. Arising from the consultation, any agreement to merge the schools in a new school would result in one head teacher post becoming redundant.
- 3.7. Eight options were considered and four have been appraised prior to the consultation exercise. These are -:
  - (1) Refurbishment of St John's Primary School on the existing site.
  - (2) New build of St John's on a different site.
  - (3) Refurbish and extend Claremont Primary School to accommodate all of St John's pupils.
  - (4) Build a new school to serve the combined catchment areas of St John's and Claremont on the Redwell site.
- 3.8. A bid was submitted to the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) to build a single new school to replace St John's and Claremont Primary Schools in November 2009. In their subsequent letter of 2 June 2010 the SFT confirmed that on the basis of the proposed merger/new-build project the Council would receive an indexed funding contribution of £4,053,750.
- 3.9. The amount is offered only to build a single new school. The sum offered was calculated on a proposed capacity of 400 pupils, a space allocation of 7.5 square metres per pupil and an all in base cost of £2 350 per square metre.

- 3.10. The letter made clear that the level of funding received by the Council would be adjusted to take account of any movements in inflation after April 2009 and the mid point of construction based on the tender price index used by the Scottish Futures Trust.
- 3.11. The letter also set out several strategic objectives which underpinned the Schools for the Future Programme, namely :-
- effective and efficient procurement
  - cost efficiency
  - sustainable lifecycle solutions
  - improved environmental performance and reduced carbon footprint
  - implementation of the nine principles included in the School Estate Strategy: Building Better Schools : Investing in Scotland's Future
- 3.12 The government document Building Better Schools: Investing in Our Future (2009) describes the national vision for schools. It states that the aim is to 'signal the high value we place on learning; which people and communities can enjoy using and can be proud; which are well designed, maintained and managed and which encourage continuous engagement with learning; which are far more than just 'educational establishments' whose quality of environment supports an accessible range of services and opportunities and which enrich the communities they serve and the lives of learners and families'.
- 3.13 Whilst the expected educational benefits of a new school for St John's and Claremont Primary Schools are consistent with this vision and are detailed in the proposal document, the following educational advantages have been identified from case studies of recently completed Scottish projects. A number of such case studies exist in Building Better Schools: Investing in Our Future which describe the benefits to pupils who now learn in newly designed buildings.
- 3.14 For the pupils of Blairdardie Primary School in Glasgow the school grounds are now used extensively for outdoor learning, with enhanced opportunities for physical activity and seating areas which encourage social interaction and emotional health, whilst the bog garden and woodland area give the children the chance to interact, and develop a connection, with the natural world." The design of the new Dalry Primary School in North Ayrshire is described as an innovative project which involved the close collaboration of artists, architects, pupils and teachers in the design and realisation of a new concept in primary school architecture. The school has been designed as a learning prototype, offering users multiple opportunities to engage with different organisational and teaching methods and to use or modify the facilities and spaces. The aim was to create a new language of learning projects...where routes tell stories, layout suggests systems of measurement, and specific spatial relationships inform about the local and global environment... and these help to prompt pupils to engage with their environment, to ask questions and encourage them to take responsibility for their learning.' And a case study of Newark Primary School in Inverclyde describes the benefits of

purpose built early years accommodation. "The nursery has its own entrance and safe and secure access to separate outdoor play areas. There are 3 separate play areas off each side of the nursery; the minibeast zoo adjacent to the quiet area; a playground area adjacent to the wet area and decking area adjacent to the eating area. The large open plan space is top lit with domed roof lights creating an exciting and stimulating teaching space"

3.15 All of the options presented have been costed at this stage. It should not be assumed at this stage that there is funding available to realise all of them.

### 3.16 **Conclusions**

The proposal document (Appendix 1) contains details about the consultation process as well as the options which have been appraised. Because funding is available for it, officers consider that the preferred option is to build a new merged school on the Redwell site with funding identified from the Scottish Futures Trust as indicated in the paper.

## 4.0 **Sustainability Implications**

4.1 One of the guiding principles of the School Estate Strategy is that schools are 'greener', more sustainable and environmentally efficient. School buildings will contribute to the statutory framework of annual targets and lead by example in environmental performance.

## 5.0 **Resource Implications**

5.1. Financial Details

5.2. The full financial implications will be evaluated following identification and approval by the Council of the preferred option. Yes

5.3. Costs of the public consultation proposed in this paper are likely to be in the region of £1000. This includes the hire of facilities for meetings, the publication of related materials etc.

5.4. Staffing

5.5. Again, the full staffing implications will be assessed once the Council has approved the preferred option.

## 6.0 **Exempt Reports**

Is this report exempt? Yes  (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

## 7.0 **Declarations**

7.1. 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
- Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive
- People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment
- Our communities are safer
- Vulnerable people and families are supported
- Substance misuse and its effects are reduced
- Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing
- The environment is protected and enhanced for all
- The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence

(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".

Appendix 1: Proposal document.

**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

Independent surveys of the buildings.

**Author(s)**

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**Approved by**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>
Lesley Robertson	Interim Head of Education	(Signed: L Robertson)
Garry Dallas	Director of Services to Communities	(Signed: G Dallas)



Services to People: Education Service

PROPOSAL DOCUMENT: January 2011

### **Review of Education Provision**

The following schools are affected by this proposal document

ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

CLAREMONT PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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Proposal for the merger of St John's and Claremont Primary Schools on one campus.

St John's Claremont Oct 2010



## **Summary Proposal**

It is proposed that:

education provision at St John's Primary School and at Claremont Primary school should be discontinued on completion of a new school for Alloa West or as soon as possible thereafter

### ***Distribution***

A copy of this document is available on the Clackmannanshire Council web-site

[www.clacksweb.org.uk](http://www.clacksweb.org.uk)

A copy of the document will be provided for:

The Parent Council of each school  
The parents of pupils on the roll of each school  
Parents of children expected to attend the affected schools within 2 years of the date of publication of this proposal document  
The pupils at the affected schools  
The staff of the affected schools  
Trade Union representatives of the staff at the affected schools  
Alloa Central Community Council  
Alloa West Community Council  
Relevant users of the affected schools  
The constituency MSP  
Chief Superintendent Alloa Police  
Chief Executive NHS Forth Valley  
Area Commander Alloa Fire Station  
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A copy of this document is available from Council Headquarters, Greenfield Alloa  
Alloa Library Drysdale St Alloa  
St John's Primary School  
Claremont Primary School

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## **This is a proposal document**

### **Proposal**

That subject to the outcome of this consultation exercise:

Education provision at St John's Primary School and Claremont Primary school should be discontinued on completion of a new school for Alloa West or as soon as possible thereafter.

#### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Clackmannanshire Council aims to provide the best possible educational experience for all pupils.
- 1.2 Aspirations for education are contained within the Single Outcome Agreement and the Council's Priorities contained within the Corporate Plan. Key priorities for education are :

Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive  
Our people are better skilled and ready for learning and employment  
Vulnerable people and families are supported  
Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing  
The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence.

- 1.3 The vision for education is contained within the document Learning to Succeed in Clackmannanshire in the 21st century. The skills and knowledge that young people will require in the future are consistent with the Council's aspirations to enable all learners to become :

Successful learners  
Confident individuals  
Responsible citizens  
Effective contributors

#### **2.0 Reason for the proposal**

- 2.1 As part of the Government's School Estate Strategy, Clackmannanshire Council, in common with all Scottish local authorities, is required to assess the condition and suitability of its schools and report these 'core facts' to the Scottish Government. It is required to produce a School Estate Management Plan (SEMP) also.

The major aims of the Council's Schools Estate Management Plan for the period to 2015 are to:

- bring the condition of all schools in the 3-12 estate to condition B or better and to maintain it

- address issues of sufficiency as they arise
- increase the number of 3-12 campus arrangements
- improve the suitability of external learning, teaching and social spaces
- improve dining facilities in those schools with the smallest dining space

2.2 At the Council Meeting of December 2009, Elected Members were advised that the condition of St John's Primary School was rated as 'D', the poorest category. For suitability, it was rated C/D. Suitability is the category used to assess the capacity of the building for effective service delivery.

2.3 On the basis of these assessments, the unanimous view of an officer - member working group convened to take forward the recommendations of the independent review of education 3-12 in Clackmannanshire, was that the current building which houses St John's Primary School was the highest priority for the SEMP to address. It was further agreed that this was a matter of urgency.

2.4 St John's Primary school roll is currently 245 pupils.

2.5 An independent survey of the St John's building which includes a structural report was carried out on 1 November 2010 and stated that defective stonework was observed on the original building. An issue with the northwest chimney was also highlighted which could necessitate its removal and/ or reconstruction. Extensive work on the roof is required and internal downpipes which are hidden behind finishes are likely to continue to be problematic. Issues with corrosion of ground floor support beams mean that steel work treatment to these is required. In the gym area, the most significant issues are repairs which are required to the eaves' coursing damage and the poor roof condition. There are issues around accessibility to the whole building for the disabled. There is a restriction on the number of occupants using the first floor of the 1908 building for fire safety reasons. The conclusion is that the building appears to be at the end of its serviceable life and that considerable investment would be required to refurbish the school for the medium term. This will not address inherent suitability difficulties.

2.6 Claremont Primary School and St John's Primary School share adjoining catchment areas and there is less than 800 metres between the current buildings. Given the geographical proximity of Claremont with St John's Primary School, the member – officer working group also examined the condition and suitability of Claremont Primary School. Claremont Primary school is assessed as C for condition and C for suitability. However, Claremont Primary School is difficult to adapt to make it fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act and it is likely that the building will require attention to bring it to the desired B standard for condition and suitability.

2.7 The roll of Claremont Primary School is currently 181 pupils.

2.8 An independent survey of the condition of the building and structure of Claremont

Primary School was conducted on 5 November 2010. The report identified minor repairs which are required to fill cracking in a number of areas and UPVC damage to fascia. Overall the building was described as being borderline between satisfactory and poor condition and it is likely that the roof coverings will need to be replaced in the short to medium term. The building was identified as 'not fully accessible' and it is not possible to pass from the lower ground floor to the main assembly hall without using stairs or going outside the building.

2.9 The conclusion is that neither school is fit for the purpose of delivering education for the 21st century. Full detail is provided in the background papers which will be available on clacksweb - the specific link will be notified by the commencement of the consultation period.

2.10 School roll projections show that there is likely to be little change in primary schools' rolls across Clackmannanshire in the period 2010 -11 to 2023 - 24 (3813 - 3725). The current and maximum projected rolls for each of the schools concerned are shown below :

	Current (2010 -11)	Max Projected (2010 - 24)	Projected at 2024
St John's	245	196 (18-19)	196
Claremont	181	190 (17-18)	186

2.11 Figures are based on the roll at the September census in 2010. Based on these figures, one class configuration in August 2012 could be as follows.

Year group	16 classes		
P1	17	17	18
P2	24	24	
P3	24	24	
P4	30	31	
P5	26	29	
P6	27	28	
P7	25	25	25

2.12 If St John's and Claremont primary schools were to be merged, to address current and future need a new building would require to have ;

- 16 classrooms (based on a projected roll of approximately 400 in the period 2012 -24 and assuming class sizes of 25 or fewer in P1 to P3)
- 4 other rooms for small group teaching etc.
- early years accommodation 60:60
- out of school care /community accommodation
- access to the best available computer hardware and technology to support personal laptop use by all pupils
- a library

- a dining hall / social space
- games hall
- PE storage
- PE changing facilities
- support staff work base, with sink
- meeting room for 12 people
- two low stimulus rooms
- hygiene suite / medical room/ disabled WC
- toilets
- reception area and admin. office
- Headteacher's office
- staff room and toilets

2.13 The decision of the member - officer working group convened to take forward the recommendations of the independent review of education 3-12 in Clackmannanshire was to consult on the proposal to build a new school on the Redwell site for pupils at St John's and Claremont Primary Schools. On the basis of all of these assessments, a wide range of options has been assessed. The preferred option of officers remains the new build on the Redwell site and, subject to the outcome of a consultation exercise, funding has been secured for this through the Scottish Futures Trust. (SFT)

2.14 A bid was submitted to the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) to build a single new school to replace St John's and Claremont Primary Schools in November 2009. In their subsequent letter of 2 June 2010 the SFT confirmed that on the basis of the proposed merger/new-build project the Council would receive an indexed funding contribution of £4,053,750.

2.15 The amount offered was calculated on a proposed capacity of 400 pupils, a space allocation of 7.5 square meters per pupil and an all in base cost of £2 350 per square meter at a base date of April 2009. The letter made clear that the level of funding received by the Council would be adjusted to take account of any movements in inflation after April 2009 and the mid point of construction based on the tender price index used by the Scottish Futures Trust.

2.16 The letter made clear that the offer was underpinned by several strategic objectives which were as follows:

effective and efficient procurement

cost efficiency

sustainable lifecycle solutions

improved environmental performance and reduced carbon footprint

implementation of the nine principles included in the School Estate Strategy:  
Building Better Schools: Investing in Scotland's Future

- 2.17 The current economic situation also means that all of the school estate will need to be managed to ensure maximum efficiency. Council approved plans for review of this as part of the Property Asset Management Plan approved in October 2010. The Council's firm intention is to minimise the impact of any financial savings on the quality of service provided and to continue to strive to 'grow in excellence'. Every effort will be made to avoid large reductions in key areas of expenditure such as staffing and educational supplies. To achieve this, savings will have to be made in unnecessary property related expenditure.
- 2.18 In September 2010, the Council conducted a series of budget engagement events which sought views on how to address the issues that would emerge from the public spending review of November 2010. A wide range of suggestions was received. However, a significant number of respondents (75%) saw advantages in reducing the school estate rather than reducing the overall funding to schools.

### **3.0 The Options for Consultation**

#### **3.1 Option 1: Refurbishment of St John's Primary School on the Existing Site**

This option would maintain the status quo by retaining the existing building and refurbishing it and replacing the 1939 extension. There would be no betterment of existing facilities. Included in the refurbishment works is the renewal of the original internal cast iron down pipes and drains. A lift would also require to be installed and the top floor of the building would be made compliant with current health and safety regulations and Building Standards subject to listed building consent. The addition of external fire escape stairs are also required.

- 3.2 This option would not incorporate all of the required facilities within the site, nor would it result in sufficiently improved facilities to deliver a Curriculum for Excellence- especially in the areas of active learning or learning out of doors. In addition, it might be necessary to reduce the pupil capacity of the school to include the provision of disabled facilities and full access as well as creating a dedicated library. Traffic management around the school would continue to be problematic as would access to car parking for staff and visitors. There would be no enhancement of facilities such as sports fields for community use and pupils' space for outdoor play would continue to be restricted. The school would have to be decanted into temporary classrooms set up in the West End Park or in the playground. Leasing arrangements and servicing temporary classrooms would have costs of around £220,000 per annum assuming that half the school can remain in the building whilst the refurbishment is done. The refurbishment process is likely to be protracted and could be disruptive to pupils education.

- 3.3 Initial cost estimates for refurbishment of St John's are in excess of £2 868 376. There are no capital receipts associated with this option.

#### **3.4 Option 2 New build of St John's on a Different Site**

A new school for St John's could be built on the Redwell site. A school development on this site would incorporate facilities for the community use of the playing fields. The construction of a new school here would not disrupt learning and there should

be no need for a decant facility to be found. Considerable joint planning with partners and interested parties would need to take place to ensure concerns about the safety of pupils travelling to and from school can be addressed.

3.5 The cost of a new building for St John's PS on the Redwell site is estimated at £8,441,334. A small capital receipt of £350 000 would be expected. Funding from the SFT has been offered.

3.6 **Option 3: Refurbish and Extend Claremont Primary School to Accommodate all of St John's Pupils**

3.7 The school has limited grounds which would be reduced further by the extension of the school to provide a gym hall and additional classrooms and other accommodation. The current library is housed in temporary accommodation and would be required to be integrated to within the school. Road access to the school is poor as is the current disabled access around the school. Car parking is very limited, refurbishment is likely to be protracted and there would be a need for a decant facility. An initial cost for refurbishing Claremont would be £4,253,620. The costs of borrowing on this option would be £160 000 per annum which itself totals £8 300 000 over 5 years.

3.8 **Option 4 Build a New School to Serve the Combined Catchment Areas of St John's and Claremont**

3.9 The only site available and suitable for a new build to accommodate a combined St John's Claremont is Redwell. The same challenges apply to this option as were described in Option 2. The land could comfortably accommodate a new school and the site would be close to the current schools. Building here would not disrupt the work of either school and there would be no need for pupils to be decanted. The projected roll for a new school would be 420 pupils. The costs for this proposal £ 8,197,200 are similar to Option 2. At the time of the application to the Scottish Futures Trust for funding, Capital receipts for the Claremont site were expected to be in the region of £750 000.

This is the preferred option.

**4.0 Educational Benefits Statement**

4.1 The reduction of the school estate should have significant educational as well as financial benefits. Continuing to offer high quality education is largely dependent on long term financial sustainability. This section of the proposal document deals with considerations of an educational nature.

4.2 ***Educational Benefits***

The pupils would benefit from access to learning spaces and classrooms designed to facilitate active learning. A new building would also be fitted out with new furniture and equipment. This would include ergonomic and age sensitive furniture to support flexible approaches to learning.

- 4.3 Pupils would have access to specially designated areas for play both indoors and out.
- 4.4 A dedicated library and state of the art technology would be essential. The school would be 'hardwired' to ensure that every pupil could access a networked PC. This would enhance learning and teaching and should result in better outcomes for young people.
- 4.5 There would be a music room, a modern well equipped gym designed to sportsScotland specifications. These would enhance the pupils' experiences of creativity.
- 4.6 Any new design could include secure, enclosed garden areas for pupils to apply their learning independently in the eco schools programme or to study scientific or cross curricular topics expected in the delivery of curriculum for excellence.
- 4.7 Pupils would have well designed and varied areas during breaks.
- 4.8 The school would be fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act and with the Equalities Act. This would mean that all pupils and staff who have any form of disability would be able to access every aspect of the building with their peers. Personal care facilities would be of a high standard and will mean improved conditions for pupils who need to use them.
- 4.9 The location of the nursery would be central to the life of the school and as such, would be central in ensuring the best possible learning transition for all pupils.
- 4.10 Staff will benefit from working together and learning with a wider range of teaching colleagues. The authority has embarked on a nationally recognised development of 'teacher learning communities' which constitutes groups of 6-8 teachers sharing best practice and agreeing programmes of CPD based on developing their individual and collective skills which will, in time, impact on the classroom experiences of pupils.
- 4.11 Parental involvement could be enhanced through the provision of facilities which could also be used for the community. Pupils would benefit from the use of a full sized grass pitch and a full size all weather pitch, an outdoor, multi use games area and specially designed changing facilities.
- 4.12 The pupils of both primary schools are in the catchment for the same secondary school so there would be no additional issues with transition to secondary.
- 4.13 The likely effects of the proposals would be to create teaching groups which would sit well within Government class size guidelines.
- 4.14 Pupils and parents would have access to a state of the art building which is fully equipped and designed to meet pupils' needs and to deliver Curriculum for Excellence. It would be an opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents, and partners to benefit from working together in an outstanding physical environment to ensure the highest possible quality of education is available to the greatest number of pupils

irrespective of their needs or abilities

## **5.0 Other Considerations**

- 5.1 If there was to be a merger of the two current schools into one new school, the following would need to be agreed:
- 5.2 Pupils, parents, staff and the community should be consulted about the design of any new building
- 5.3 Sufficient lead in time so that pupils and staff had time to get to know each other
- 5.4 Robust consultation with all interested parties including pupils about the name and identity of the new school
- 5.5 The formation of teaching groups would take account of the views of the previous / current class teacher (whichever is most relevant at the time) The prime consideration would be to minimise any adverse impact on the learning and teaching of all pupils.
- 5.6 Every effort would be made to continue the range and extend the type of extra curricular activity offered by each school.
- 5.7 Out of School Care is provided in St John's Primary School. This should be planned for in any design.
- 5.8 In addition to the benefits detailed above, there has been a systematic approach to staff development in Clackmannanshire over many years through the introduction of a number of innovative initiatives designed to improve learning and teaching. These include Cooperative Learning, Thinking Through Philosophy, Teacher Learning Communities, Health Promoting Schools, Rights Respecting Schools and Grounds for Learning. Opportunities to learn collaboratively and independently would be enhanced with the provision of specially designed spaces.

## **5.9 Other Options**

Three other options were considered and rejected:

- new build on the current St John's site
- closing St John's completely and redefining Alloa catchment areas
- merging both schools with another primary school and refurbishing and extending it

These were all considered and rejected. Demolition of the current building would require permission from Historic Scotland and this is not likely to be forthcoming. During demolition and building there would be significant disruption to neighbours and the existing playground is not big enough to build a new school which would mean pupils decanted to elsewhere for the duration of the construction. The second option was rejected because current capacity levels in other schools would make this difficult to achieve without the need to split siblings. In the third option, whilst a

3 way merger could be possible. It would be a challenge to manage appropriate pre-5 education in this setting.

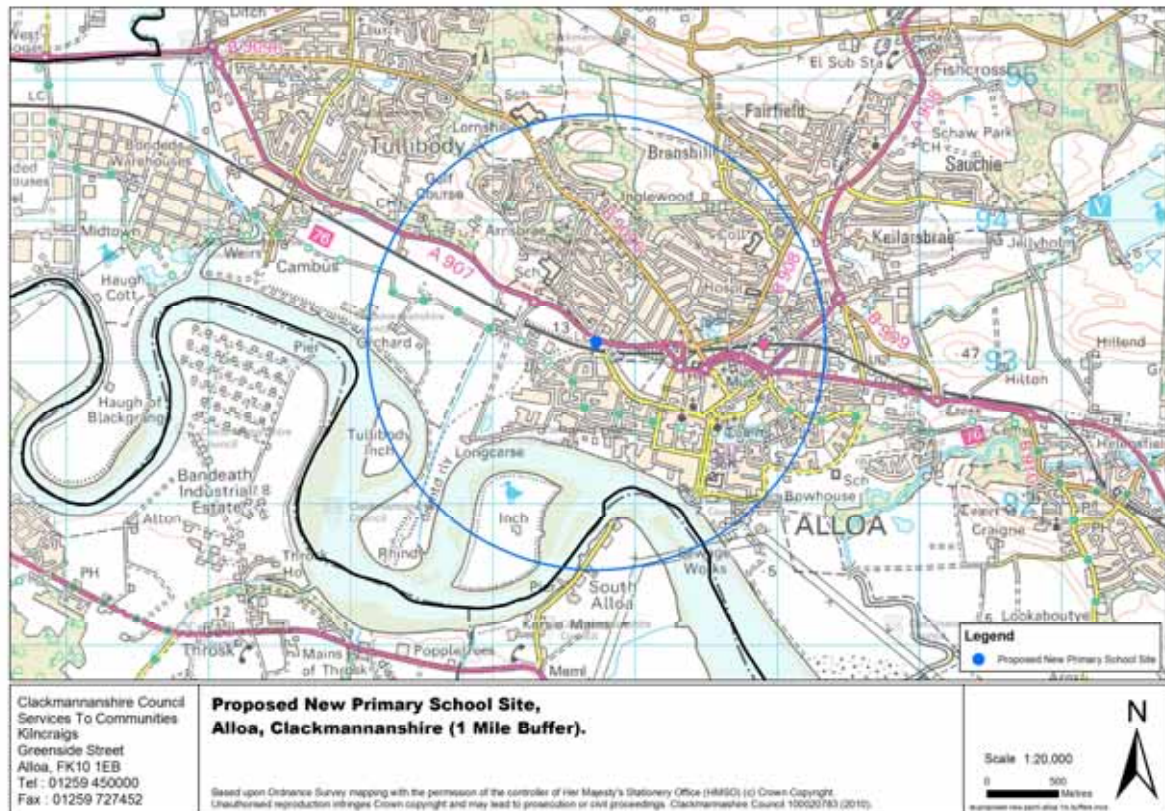
## 6.0 Feasibility

6.1 There is a finite sum of money with which to work. Costs of borrowing over an extended period (30 - 50 years) have to be examined in each of the options where borrowing would be required. It is essential that the best balance between providing the best, modern accommodation and resources to ensure that teaching and learning reflect the principles necessary to implement a Curriculum for Excellence.

<b>School</b>	<b>Occupancy</b>	<b>Cost/Pupil</b>	<b>Sufficiency</b>	<b>Energy Use</b>	<b>Condition</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>£/Pupil</b>	<b>m<sup>2</sup>/Pupil</b>	<b>Kwh/Pupil/Yr</b>	<b>Grade</b>
St John's	75	3,500	4.3	2060	D
Claremont	82	4,200	8.6	1024	C
New school	380 + nursery (2024) 95	N/A	8.3	1500	A

6.2 As well as regard being given to the accommodation requirements of a new, merged school, consideration was given to whether there were travel time or safety issues that would preclude the proposed changes taking place.

6.3 The distance between the two schools is 0.43 miles. A one mile radius from a new school on the Redwell site would include all of the catchment area currently zoned for both schools.



## 7.0 Safety

- The Council has considered the impact on pupil safety. Parents have raised issues of the safety of the new site. Central Scotland Police have no record of any serious traffic accidents in the last 5 years on the stretch of the A907 which would pass the school. Adaptations would be made (subject to the final design of any new building) as follows:
- 20mph limit for Claremont area (residential streets)
- The school crossing patrol should be retained on Claremont at Gean Road and on the puffin crossing at the foot of Alexandra Drive
- The look and layout of the road should be altered to provide a drivers' environment that will encourage low speeds. This would include widening of footways (on south side if required), signed/marked parent drop off bays on road, improved street lighting, school signing, part time 20mph on A907 in school frontage.
- The location of the pedestrian entrance should ensure pupils are encouraged to use the existing Puffin Crossing. The pedestrian entrance should be as close to the footbridge and Puffin as possible with the 'staff' entrance further west.
- The school car park entrance should be located away from the pedestrian entrance.
- Cycle shelters and cycle access to the playground should be provided.

- The school travel plan to be implemented before the move to the new site. This to include promotion of walking/cycling routes through parent evenings/leaflets with maps, including walking times

## **8.0 Service Users**

8.1 The proposal will result in pupils in a merged primary school attending a school building which is better designed for the delivery of education. The proposal will not affect the rights of parents to request that their child attends the school of their choice in an area outwith the designated catchment for their home address as determined by the Education (Scotland) Act 1980. The staff, pupils and Parent Councils of both schools will be consulted fully about the development of plans for the integration of pupils into the school on the chosen site.

## **8.2 Staff**

The proposal would mean that one headteacher post would become redundant. If both of the current post holders expressed an interest in the post of headteacher of a merged school, appointment would be made by competitive interview. Almost all other staff would transfer to the new merged establishment. Any surplus staff would be redeployed wherever possible. All staff transfers would be completed in accordance with the Council procedures relevant to the posts. It is anticipated that any impact on staff travel would be minimal given the distances between the two schools. The proposed new school is within walking distance of available public transport. Staffing of the school will be in accordance with Council staffing standards. The staffing allocation for support assistants may vary because these posts are allocated to schools on a needs led basis and are managed by the Access to Educational Resources Group.

## **8.3 Trade Unions and Professional Associations**

Representatives of all staff will be included as part of the consultation exercise.

## **8.4 Other pupils in the Authority**

All pupils will benefit from an education service that is efficient and makes best use of available resources which can be focussed on front-line delivery.

## **8.5 Other Users of the Buildings**

Current levels of community use do not indicate that either school fulfils a particular need in the community. There would continue to be access to other facilities within both communities should the proposed merger take place. The enhancement of the playing fields on the Redwell site to include access to changing facilities for outdoor sports would improve facilities for leisure and recreation in the west side of the town. The out of school care facility would be planned for.

## **9.0 Financial impact**

9.1 Within the present net value, calculations are capital costs associated with the initial

construction associated with each option, on going maintenance, and additional revenue costs or resulting savings for each option.

- 9.2 If the existing buildings at St John's Primary School and Claremont Primary Schools are demolished, security costs will be minimal and the capital receipts would be expected to be in the region of £750,000.

	<b>Total Pre Merger</b>	<b>Post Merger (est.)</b>	<b>Saving</b>
School costs	£1 475 000	£820 000	£655 000
Property costs	£ 225 000	£100 000	£125 000
Catering	£ 63 000	£ 40 000	£ 23 000

### 9.3 *Environmental Impact*

	<b>Pre Merger</b>	<b>Post Merger</b>	<b>C02 Reduction</b>
	<b>Kg CO2</b>	<b>KG CO2</b>	<b>Kg and %</b>
St John's	111 586	0	59%
Claremont	76 522	77 000	41%
Total	188 108	77 000	59%

## 10.0 Equal opportunities

- 10.1 As part of the consultation, the Council will consult with a wide range of stakeholders including staff, parents, pupils, trade unions, elected members and members of the community. Comments about equality will be addressed. The target groups are :

Disability  
 Gender  
 Sexual Orientation  
 Belief  
 Age  
 Black and Ethnic Minorities

- 10.2 Under the Disability Discrimination Act, (DDA) education providers must not treat disabled pupils less favourably and should take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage. This is the reasonable adjustments duty. The Council is committed to providing a fully accessible service to all pupils.
- 10.3 Subject to a more detailed Equalities Impact Assessment, the Council considers that there will be no negative impact on any of the target groups. If, in a subsequent EIA issues are identified then these will be addressed by the Council.

## 11.0 Consultation Arrangements for this Proposal Document

The full consultation timeline is attached at the end of this document :

1. Consideration by the Council's 3-12 Working Group, by Council at its

December 2009 meeting and at a special Council meeting held on 8 July 2010.

2. Proposal Document issued to consultees and published on Clacksweb  
A copy will also be issued free of charge to the consultees listed on the previous page.
3. An advertisement will be placed in relevant local newspapers. The proposal process may be announced on Central FM.
4. Length of Consultation

An advertisement will be placed in local newspapers on 2nd of February 2011. The consultation will run thereafter until close of business on 22 March. This covers a period of at least 30 school days.

5. A public meeting will be held on 10th February further details are included on the next page.
6. Involvement of HMIE

When the proposal document is published, a copy will be sent to HMIE. HMIE will also receive a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Council from any person during the consultation period. HMIE will receive a copy of oral representation made at the public meeting and, as available (and so far as is otherwise practicable), a copy of any other relevant documentation. HMIE will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal not later than 3 weeks after the Council has sent them all representations and documents mentioned above. The 3 week period of HMIE work will not begin until after the consultation period has ended. In preparing their report HMIE may enter the affected schools and make such reasonable enquiries of such people they consider appropriate and may make such reasonable enquiries of such other people as they consider appropriate.

7. Preparation of consultation report

The Council will review the proposal having regard to the HMIE report, written representation that it has received and oral representations made to it by any person at the public meeting. It will then prepare a consultation report. This report will be published in electronic and printed formats and will be advertised in local newspapers. It will be available on clacks web and from Council headquarters, Alloa library and the affected schools, free of charge. Anyone who made written representation during the consultation period will be informed about the report. The report will include a record of the total number of written representations, a summary of the written representations, a summary of the oral representations made at the public meeting, the Authority's response to the HMIE report, a copy of the HMIE report, and any other relevant information, including alleged inaccuracies and how those have been handled. The report will also contain the proposal in light of the

HMIe report and representations (both written and oral) that it received. The consultation report will be published and available for further consideration for a period of 3 weeks.

## 8. Decision

This report together with any other relevant documentation will be considered by the Council which will come to a decision.

Scottish Ministers' Call-in. The Council is required to notify the Scottish Ministers of the council decision and provide them with a copy of the proposal document and the consultation report within 6 days of the decision being made. The Scottish Ministers have a 6 week period from the date of that final decision to decide whether they will call in the proposal. Within the first 3 weeks of that 6 week period, the Scottish Ministers will take account of all relevant representations made to them by any person. Until the outcome of the 6 week call in process has been notified to the Council, they will not proceed to implement the proposal approved at step 8 above. If the Scottish Ministers call in the proposal, they may refuse to consent to the proposal or grant their consent to the proposal subject to conditions or unconditionally. Until the outcome of the call in has been notified to the Council, it is unable to proceed to implement the proposal.

Note on corrections – If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this proposal document, either by the Council or any other person, the Council will determine whether relevant information has been omitted or whether there has been an inaccuracy. It 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 if appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and HMIe will be advised.

## 9. Public Meeting

A public meeting will be held to discuss the proposals. Anyone wishing attend the public meeting is invited to do so, The meeting, which will be convened by Clackmannanshire Council in consultation with the parent councils of St John's Primary School and Claremont Primary School will be addressed by the Chief Executive of Clackmannanshire Council or any other senior officer of the Council.

The meeting will provide an opportunity to :

- hear more about the proposals
- ask questions about the proposals
- have your views recorded so that they can be taken into account as part of the proposal process

The meeting will be held on **the 10th of February in the Town Hall**

**A note will be taken at the meeting of questions and views. This note**

**will be published on the Council website and a copy will be made available on request.**

## **12.0 Responding to the Proposal**

- 12.1 Interested parties are invited to respond to the proposal by making written or electronic submissions to the Interim Head of Education, Clackmannanshire Council, Lime Tree House Alloa FK10 1EX. Email [servicestopeople@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:servicestopeople@clacks.gov.uk).
- 12.2 A form is provided at appendix 1 for the convenience of those wishing to respond. Its use is not compulsory. However, those wishing to respond are invited to state their relationship with the school – for example, ‘pupil’, parent, carer, grandparent, teacher in school, member of the community, etc. Responses from the parent councils staff and pupil council are especially welcome.
- 12.3 Those sending a response whether by letter or electronically should be aware that their response will be open to public scrutiny and may be supplied to anyone making a reasonable request to see it. If they do not wish their response to be made publicly available, they should clearly write on the document ‘I wish my response to be considered as confidential with access restricted to elected members and officials of Clackmannanshire Council’. Otherwise it will be assumed that the person making the response agrees to it being made publicly available.
- 12.4 Responses should be made to the proposal no later than close of business on Wednesday the 22nd of March 2011
- 12.5 It is recommended that the Head of Education prepares a report on the results of the proposal process for consideration at a future meeting of the Council.

## **13.0 Conclusion**

- 13.1 The Council has difficult decisions to make in the course of the next financial year and beyond. It is difficult to justify spending resources on property that could draw funding away from spending which would be of direct benefit to pupils.

The Council is of the view that the measures proposed in this document will improve the educational provision for a significant number of pupils in Alloa and in the wider Council area. In this way, the reputation for educational provision can be maintained and improved.

**December 2010**  
**Lesley Robertson**  
**Interim Head of Education.**

## NB Consultation Report must Contain

- The number of written representations received.
- Summary of representations made at public meeting
- Summary of all written and oral representations made and the authority's response to these
- The authority response to the HMIE report
- The full text of the HMIE report
- A statement of how the authority reviewed the proposal in the light of the representations and the HMIE report
- Details of any omissions or inaccuracies and actions taken to correct these
- Explanation of how people can make representations to Ministers
- The report must be available in electronic and paper format at Greenfield on the website and at both schools as a minimum
- All persons who make written representations must be informed of the publication of the consultation report

### *Proposed timeline for consultation*

DATE	EVENT
27th January 2011	Council Meeting
31st January 2011	Consultation Starts
22nd February 2011	Parent Council - Alloa Academy
10th February 2011	Public Meeting - Alloa Town Hall
22nd March 2011	Consultation Ends
1st April 2011	Report to HMIE
16th May 2011	HMIE Report Consultancy Period Ends
18th August 2011	Council Meeting
23rd August 2011	Scottish Minister's Notification