

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 13 JANUARY 2010

CROSSROADS PRIMARY SCHOOL – PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to issue the Proposal Document on the future of education provision at Crossroads Primary School for public consultation.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** At its meeting of 16 December 2009 Cabinet agreed to the recommendation that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services prepare a Proposal Document which considered the future of education provision at Crossroads Primary School. The document is intended to seek views on each of the five options which were considered as part of the Options Appraisal exercise.

3. PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

- 3.1** The Proposal Document which will be issued to stakeholders is attached as Annex A.
- 3.2** The Cabinet meeting of 16 December 2009, discussion focussed on the option appraisal for the school buildings. The attached proposal document also takes the opportunity to raise the matter of the catchment area of Crossroads Primary School which substantially overlaps the local authority boundary into South Ayrshire. For this reason, views are also being sought on the concept of the boundary of this part of the catchment area being made coincide with the local authority boundary in this part of the area. This exercise is being undertaken as part of good house-keeping in terms of simplification of service delivery arrangements. As the proposal document makes clear, if there were to be any change made to the present delineated area for Crossroads Primary School, whether the school was retained or not, present children within the rationalised area would continue to be guaranteed a place alongside their present peer group. Further, siblings of children presently attending the school would also be guaranteed a place in the same establishment as their brothers and sisters. In this way, the impact of any catchment area change would be limited for individual families, where children currently attend the school. South Ayrshire Council, clearly, has therefore a key role in the consultation process and consequently have been alerted to this element of the consultative exercise.

- 3.3** This Council currently has no fixed view on this particular issue but considers it appropriate to include it within the consultation exercise to enable both relevant views to be expressed and, thereafter, an informed decision to be taken in respect of the current arrangements, which have been in place without any previous review since 1996.

4 LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** The public consultation exercise will ensure compliance with the Education (Publications and Consultation etc) (Scotland) Regulation 1981 and Amendment Regulation 1987, 1988, 1989 and 2007. The consultation will also take into consideration, as far as is reasonably practical, of the forthcoming Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** There are no financial implications.

6 HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** At this stage there are no Human Resource issues.

7 COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** Conducting this exercise supports the Council's general approach of seeking views on all major issues that affect service delivery.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1** Nil.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1** Cabinet is asked to adopt for the purposes of consultation, the proposal that :-
- (i) Approve the Proposal Document as attached at Annex A;
 - (ii) Remit the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to issue the Proposal Document for consultation in accordance with the statutory regulations; and
 - (iii) Otherwise note the contents of this report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Cabinet Report – Project 2 Crossroads Primary School – 19 March 2008 (Agenda Item 2.2E)

Cabinet Report - Crossroads Primary School – 3 December 2008 (Agenda Item 2E)

Building Better Schools : Investing in Scotland's Future (Scottish Government Publication)

Cabinet Report – Options Appraisal Exercise : Crossroads Primary School – 16 December 2009 (Agenda Item 2E)

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER EUAN COUPERWHITE, HEAD OF RESOURCES



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL SERVICES

A PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

The following schools are affected by this Proposal Document:

- **Crossroads Primary School**
- **Galston Primary School**

This document has been issued by East Ayrshire Council for Proposal in terms of the Education (Publications and Consultation etc) (Scotland) Regulation 1981 and Amendment Regulation 1987, 1988, 1989 and 2007.

Any Ordnance Survey map data included within this document is provided by East Ayrshire Council under licence from Ordnance Survey in order to fulfil its public function in relation to this public Proposal. Persons viewing this mapping should contact Ordnance Survey Copyright for advice where they wish to licence Ordnance Survey mapping data for their own use.

DISTRIBUTION

A copy of this document is available on the East Ayrshire Council web-site:

www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk

A copy of this document will be provided to:

- The Parent Council of the affected schools
- The parents of the pupils and children at the affected schools
- Parents of children expected to attend an affected school within 2 years of the date of publication of this Proposal Document
- The pupils at the affected schools
- The teaching and ancillary staff, at the affected schools
- The Community Councils
- South Ayrshire Council
- Relevant users of the affected schools
- Community Association
- The constituency MSP
- List MSPs for the area
- The Constituency MP
- Sub-Divisional Commander, Strathclyde Police
- Chief Executive, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
- Chief Executive Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)
- Area Commander, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue
- Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services, East Ayrshire Council
- Executive Director of Corporate Support, East Ayrshire Council

A copy of this document is also available from:

Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 7BU

Public libraries in the vicinity of the schools affected

Local area offices in the vicinity of the schools affected

The schools affected by the proposal

This document is available in alternative formats or in translated form for readers whose first language is not English. Please apply to the Department of Educational and Social Services, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 7BU, telephone 01563-576109
e-mail: **education.Proposal@east-ayrshire.gov.uk**

SUMMARY OF PROCESS FOR THIS PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

1. Consideration by the Cabinet (Education)

This Proposal Document has been issued as a result of a decision by the Cabinet (Education) of East Ayrshire Council. This is to seek views on the proposals in this paper. Once the Proposal period has passed the Cabinet (Education) will take a decision on whether, or not to implement the proposals.

2. Proposal Document issued to consultees and published on Council Web-site

A copy of this document will then be issued free of charge to the consultees listed on the preceding page, and it will also be published on the Council website : www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk.

3. Publication of advertisement in local newspapers

An advertisement will be placed in the relevant local newspapers and if necessary any national newspaper. In addition, there may be announcements related to the Proposal process on the local radio station, West Sound / West FM.

4. Length of Consultation period

An advertisement will be placed in local newspapers on 29 January 2010. The consultation will thereafter run until 12 March 2010, which represents 42 calendar days.

5. Public meeting

A public meeting will be held, the details of which are given on the following page.

6. Preparation of Proposal report

The authority will prepare a Proposal report taking account of all of the representations it has received. This will be published in electronic and printed formats. It will be available on the Council web-site and from Council Headquarters, free of charge. The report will include the Authority's response to any comments it has received, together with any other relevant information, including details of any alleged inaccuracies and how these have been handled.

7. Decision

This report is considered by the Cabinet (Education) who will come to a decision. This decision is then subject to the Council's call-in procedures.

Note on Corrections

If any inaccuracy is discovered in this Proposal Document the authority will inform the person who has notified the inaccuracy of any appropriate action that is being taken, such as issuing a correction or reissuing the paper or revising the Proposal period if appropriate.

Special Note

This consultation is being conducted under the regulations that apply at the time of the exercise – the Education (Publications and Consultation etc_ (Scotland) Regulations 1981 and Amended Regulation 1987, 1988, 1989 and 2007. However, account has also been taken of the new legislation approved by the Scottish Parliament, the School (Consultation) (Scotland) Bill and wherever practically possible the terms of this new legislation have been incorporated into this proposal document.

PUBLIC MEETING

A Public Meeting will be held to discuss these proposals. Anyone wishing to attend the public meeting is invited to do so. The meeting, which will be convened by East Ayrshire Council in consultation with the Parent Council of Crossroads Primary School and will be addressed by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services, or other senior officers of the Council.

The meeting will be an opportunity to:

- Hear more about the proposal
- Ask questions about the proposal
- Have your views recorded so that they can be taken into account as part of the Proposal process.

The meeting will be held on:

Venue – Galston Primary School

Date – Thursday 18 February 2010

Time – 7pm – 9pm

A note will be taken at the meeting of questions and views. This note will be published on the Council web-site, and a copy will be made available on request.

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL SERVICES

THIS IS A PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

Proposal :

That subject to the outcome of this Proposal exercise :

- Education provision at Crossroads Primary School be discontinued with effect from 30 June 2010, or as soon as possible thereafter;
- That the pupils of Crossroads Primary School continue their education at Galston Primary School, from 16 August 2010 or as soon as possible thereafter, as detailed in option 5 of this document; and
- Further, that consideration be given to the delineated area of Galston Primary School being extended to subsume the whole delineated area of Crossroads Primary School, or subsume the catchment area of Crossroads Primary School which lies within the boundary of East Ayrshire Council.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** At 16 December 2009, there were 52 pupils attending Crossroads Primary School, with 29 children attending by way of placing request. The catchment area schools for this group of pupils are as follows :

Darvel Primary	2 pupils
Newmilns Primary	6 pupils
Galston Primary	12 pupils
Hurlford Primary	5 pupils
Mauchline Primary	4 pupils

Of the 23 catchment area children, 10 are residents of South Ayrshire.

- 1.2** At the Cabinet meeting of 16 December 2009, Elected Members were advised that timber repairs were undertaken to an individual support post and the lower level timber panelling in May 2009. Following this, a series of surveys were conducted in July 2009 which raised concerns about the structural integrity of the building and it became apparent that it was necessary to temporarily relocate the school into alternative accommodation for the start of the 2009/10 academic session. A number of establishments were considered and it was decided that Bellfield Primary was the favoured temporary option

as it allowed the visiting Crossroads class structure to be accommodated intact, best met the space criterion and offered a convenient local solution.

- 1.3** Without this full and intrusive investigative survey it would not have been possible to previously determine the full extent of timber decay within the property. Since July 2009 work has been undertaken to identify the full extent of the timber decay along with the required repair works and associated cost. Independent consultants have reported that all structural posts and the external timber cladding need to be replaced and that the estimated cost of this work is £399,000. A subsequent exercise by officers from Educational and Social Services and Asset Improvement Services has considered courses of action to determine which represents best value for the Council.
- 1.4** At its meeting of 16 December 2009 the Education Cabinet agreed to initiate a full public Proposal exercise considering the future of Crossroads Primary School. This followed the presentation to Cabinet of an options appraisal exercise which assessed the condition of the current school building and determined, against a range of five different options, which option represented best value in financial and non financial terms for the continuation of education provision at Crossroads Primary School. A copy of this report can be found on the Council's website at :

<http://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/crpadmmin/2007%20agendas/cabinet/16%20december%202009/OPTION%20APPRAISAL%20CROSSROADS%20PRIMARY%20%2016%20DECEMBER%202009.pdf>

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1** It is therefore proposed that:

Proposal :

That subject to the outcome of this Proposal exercise :

- Education provision at Crossroads Primary School be discontinued with effect from 30 June 2010, or as soon as possible thereafter;
- That the pupils of Crossroads Primary School continue their education at Galston Primary School, from 16 August 2010 or as soon as possible thereafter as detailed in option 5 of this document; and
- Further, that consideration be given to the delineated area of Galston Primary School being extended to subsume the whole delineated area of Crossroads Primary School, or subsume the catchment area of Crossroads Primary School which lies within the boundary of East Ayrshire Council

3. VISION

3.1 East Ayrshire Council has an established vision for its school estate which will ensure the delivery of a modern curriculum in school buildings which are suitable for purpose. This vision further states :

“East Ayrshire Council’s Department of Educational and Social Services : committed to providing choice, maximising opportunity for all, developing the potential of individuals and meeting needs through inclusion”

3.2 This statement covers every aspect of the Department’s work including the management and development of educational establishments. The Council’s School Estate Management Plan states that development and improvement in the fabric of school buildings is a key component in the facilitation of the learning and teaching process.

3.3 The Council has also approved the Department’s objectives for achieving its aims. These are detailed below:

- reducing surplus capacity
- addressing maintenance issues
- meeting statutory requirements of DDA legislation
- improving property flexibility

3.4 The Scottish Government issued its Building Better Schools : Investing in Scotland’s Future in September 2009. The documents sets out the Government’s aspirations for the school estate and states :

- “All children and young people will be educated in, and community users will use, schools that are 'fit for purpose' in terms of condition, suitability and sufficiency;
- Schools are well-designed, accessible, inclusive learning environments that inspire and drive new thinking and change and which support the delivery of high quality educational experiences through *Curriculum for Excellence*;
- Schools are integral parts of the communities they serve, with pupils making use of community facilities and communities accessing school facilities;
- Schools accommodate and provide a range of services, activities and facilities that make a difference to people's health and well being, to sustaining economic growth and to the strength and vibrancy of communities;
- A sustainable school estate whose design, construction and operation is environmentally and energy efficient; contributes directly to delivering the year-on-year reductions in greenhouse gas emissions introduced by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, which is resilient to the impact of climate change and which leads by example in matters of environmental performance;

- A school estate that is efficiently run and that delivers maximum value for money;
- A school estate which is flexible and responsive - both to changes in demand for school places and to learners' and teachers' requirements and wishes, and where the beneficial impact of change is maximised by thorough Proposal and engagement with users and stakeholders”.

3.5 This document has been framed taking account of the Scottish Government’s aspirations.

4. PRESENT POSITION

4.1 Crossroads Primary School

4.1.1 Crossroads Primary School provides non denominational primary education to pupils from rural communities south and south east of the town of Hurlford. Annex A (attached) shows the present school delineated areas for both Crossroads Primary School and Galston Primary School. The school sites for Crossroads Primary and Galston Primary are attached as Appendix 2.

4.1.2 The planning capacity of a school is calculated by dividing the total area of teaching rooms by the space allocation per child (1.7m²). The working capacity takes account of maximum class sizes, for example, composite classes which are limited to 25 pupils. Based on the Council’s space allocation the classrooms could accommodate 95 pupils; however, due to maximum class sizes for composite classes the capacity of these rooms is limited to 25 each. Therefore, the planning capacity of the school is 95, with a working capacity of 75. There are currently 52 pupils enrolled and therefore the school has an occupancy rate of 54.7%.

The school structure presently has 3 composite classes made up as follows :

Primary 1, 2, Primary 3/4, and Primary 5/6/7.

Historical and projected pupil roll data for Crossroads Primary School and Galston Primary School is attached at Appendix 3. This data shows that the roll of Crossroads Primary School has been falling over the last decade, with pupil numbers unlikely to increase above their present level. As highlighted in paragraph 1.1 a substantial proportion of the pupils are enrolled by way of placing request.

4.1.3 The Crossroads Primary School building is a single storey building with a timber supporting frame. Additional steel framework was added to the building in the early 1970s to provide further stability to the structure. Paragraph 1.2 (above) details that there is now significant timber decay to the structural posts and that the school has temporarily been re-located to Bellfield Primary School.

4.1.4 Within the existing Crosshouse Primary School, prior to the temporary school re-location, the following facilities and accommodation were offered:

- 3 classrooms for primary education
- 1 supplementary teaching area in the corridor entrance to the school , which also serves as an ICT suite
- 1 gymnasium, which also serves as a dining hall and storage facility
- Administrative accommodation
- A reception area

4.1.5 The present accommodation within the Crossroads Primary School building presents a number of issues:

- The overall design of the school is for a school of 1960s vintage and does not incorporate the design principles of a modern primary school such as open areas or in-built information technology.
- The accommodation does not comply with the Disability Discrimination Act as there is no suitable access for children and adults with mobility problems.
- Previous work undertaken has identified that the timber structural elements of the building are in need of replacement.
- The building is energy-inefficient with a high ratio of thin external panelling and glazing combined with poor insulation.

4.1.6 Full details of the options that are available to address the future provision of education at Crossroads Primary School were detailed in a report to the Cabinet on 16 December 2009. These options are also outlined in section 5 of this document.

5. THE OPTIONS FOR PROPOSAL

5.1 OPTION 1 : REFURBISHMENT OF EXISTING BUILDING TO EXISTING STANDARDS

5.1.1 This option would maintain the status quo by retaining the existing internal layout of the current school building and providing a refurbishment with no betterment of the existing facilities. Included within the refurbishment works is the renewal of structural supports and replacement cladding. The net present value cost of this option has been calculated to be £1.180 m.

5.1.2 This option would not incorporate all of the desired facilities within the building nor would it result in improved traffic management within the curtilage of the school grounds.

5.2 OPTION 2 : REFURBISHMENT AND UPGRADE OF EXISTING BUILDING

5.2.1 The refurbishment would result in an upgrade to the internal layout of the existing building to meet the requirements of 21st Century curriculum delivery. This would include the inclusion of disabled facilities and full access, the

creation of a dedicated library and ICT area. Works would also improve traffic management arrangements within the school site. The net present value cost of this option has been calculated to be £1.868 m.

- 5.2.2 As result of this proposal it may be necessary to reduce the pupil capacity of the school as classroom space may be required to incorporate additional facilities.

5.3 OPTION 3 : NEW BUILD PRIMARY SCHOOL ON THE EXISTING SCHOOL SITE

- 5.3.1 This proposal would create a new build school on the existing site. The resultant school would create a modern facility which is designed to meet future pupil numbers from the school's catchment area. A new building would meet current and future learning and teaching requirements, incorporating the use of ICT. The building would ensure full compliance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and would also be energy efficient, thereby reducing the Council's carbon footprint. The net present value cost of this option has been calculated to be £2.487 m.

5.4 OPTION 4 : CLOSURE OF THE EXISTING BUILDING AND RELOCATION OF THE SCHOOL AS A SEPARATE EDUCATIONAL FACILITY TO ACCOMMODATION WITHIN GALSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 5.4.1 Option 4 would result in the existing building being demolished and the school re-located, as a separate educational establishment, to alternative accommodation within Galston Primary School. Sufficient space capacity can be configured to accommodate the school as a distinct establishment, encompassing 3 classrooms and accommodated 75 pupils, although this will require reconfiguration of the present school layout. The net present value cost of this option has been calculated to be £2.384 m.

- 5.4.2 There are elements of the accommodation at Galston Primary School which will be shared by both establishments. This would include the ICT suite, the library, the gym, the dining hall and outdoor learning areas.

5.5 OPTION 5 : CESSATION OF EDUCATION PROVISION AT CROSSROADS PRIMARY SCHOOL WITH THE SCHOOL BEING INCORPORATED WITHIN GALSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 5.5.1 This option would result in the closure of Crossroads Primary School as a separate establishment and the pupils being incorporated within Galston Primary School. This would result in pupils being educated in a facility which has been designed for the needs of a 21st Century curriculum. The net present value cost of this option has been calculated to be £0.202 m.

- 5.5.2 The existing building of Crossroads Primary School would subsequently be demolished and the land declared surplus to the requirements of the Department of Educational and Social Services.

5.5.3 Within this option consideration requires to be given to the delineated area of Galston Primary School subsuming the whole delineated area of Crossroads Primary School or subsuming the delineated area of Crossroads Primary School which is within the boundary of East Ayrshire Council.

5.6 FACTORS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION DURING THE OPTIONS APPRAISAL

5.6.1 The temporary relocation of Crossroads Primary School into modular accommodation was considered as part of Options 1 – 3. This was rejected because of access concerns, on health and safety issues regarding pupils and staff being in close proximity to a building site and cost grounds. The costs of modular accommodation for Options 1 – 3 are detailed below:

OPTION	ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION PERIOD	MODULAR ACCOMMODATION COSTS
1.	16 months	£426,000
2.	20 months	£453,000
3.	20 months	£453,000

5.6.2 The Cabinet of East Ayrshire Council had previously considered a development proposal which included the school being provided with heat generated by a local bio-digester. At a meeting of 3 December 2008, the Cabinet agreed that, having taking account of all of the known factors, any refurbishment of the school should be considered within the confines of the Council's known school estate and capital investment strategies.

5.7 PREFERRED OPTION AND EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

5.7.1 Preferred Option

The Cabinet of East Ayrshire Council agreed at its meeting of 16 December 2009 to adopt Option 5 as its preferred option. The educational benefits for this decision are set out below.

5.7.2 Educational Benefits Statement

- (i) The pupils of Crossroads Primary School would benefit from access to classrooms designed to facilitate 'active learning' approaches. Galston Primary and Nursery School is constructed around a 'four pod system' based on maximising resources for each age and stage. Facilities in each pod include ergonomic and age sensitive furniture to support flexible approaches to learning and teaching. Pupils are able to access a large infant structured play area as well as an outdoor learning classroom and dedicated library, music room and modern equipped gym hall. Pupils also benefit from a large multi-use stage facility for assemblies, shows and concerts. There is a carefully crafted outdoor garden and games and sports facilities in the well designed play areas to facilitate eco-learning and promote health and well being through play and games. In addition to the above there are 3 secure

enclosed play areas for children to learn and play together during curricular and play time. Pupils have access to nearby fully grassed pitches for games and competitive sports. Pupils from Crossroads primary school will be able to benefit from all of these facilities and the enhanced opportunities they bring to their teachers who are aiming to deliver the key elements of the Curriculum for Excellence.

- (ii) The pupils of Crossroads Primary School would have access to an extensive range of resources in the proposed move to Galston Primary School. These include the most modern and up to date ICT facilities for learning and teaching. Each classroom in Galston Primary and Nursery School has a Promethean board in use as well as a number of PCs. In addition to classroom ICT resources, there is available to all pupils a fully equipped ICT suite which hosts the most up to date hardware and software. The school and nursery is also fully 'hardwired' to facilitate the possibility of extending the number of computers to allow every single young person in the school, even after inclusion of Crossroads Primary school pupils, being able to individually access a networked PC. These resources already enhance the learning and teaching opportunities for pupils of Galston Primary and Nursery School and the pupils from Crossroads Primary School would also benefit from this process.
- (iii) Galston Primary and Nursery School is fully DDA compliant and has the facilities to cater for the needs of all children, including those with a full range of additional support needs. There are, for example, two fully equipped personal care facilities in the primary school and nursery school. Pupils will also have access to a dedicated medical suite designed for use by a doctor/nurse. These additional facilities will also help to enhance learning and teaching for children of Crossroads Primary School, at present or in the future, who have such a range of additional support needs.
- (iv) The co-location of Galston Nursery School within the same building as the Galston Primary School improves the transition process for the children moving from nursery to primary education. In addition there is an opportunity for joint educational programmes to be delivered between the two establishments.
- (v) The present users of Galston Primary and Nursery School's facilities will not be disadvantaged in any way by the addition of children from Crossroads primary school given that there is more than adequate capacity to cater for the needs of both pupil cohorts. Staff from Crossroads Primary School will benefit from additional CPD opportunities to be gained by working and learning with a larger range of teaching colleagues. The authority is promoting the development of teacher 'professional learning communities' which constitutes groups of teachers, normally 6-8, sharing best practice and agreeing programmes of CPD based on developing their skills as defined in the Standard for Full Registration. Crossroads Primary School staff will, for the first time, be able to make full use of such a model of training and development which should impact on their effectiveness in the classroom. Parents of both schools will be able to access the school facilities, such as the

parents' room. There is sufficient space in these facilities for parents of both establishments to make full use of. The school has been designed to cater for a large expansion in its present role so there would be no impact on the proposal if new pupils moved into the community. The proposal would also have no impact on pupils of any other schools in the area. The pupils of both establishments will link to the same secondary school, so at the point of P7 transition, for example, there would not be an impact on the rolls of any other secondary school and the local secondary school has already factored pupils from both schools into their roll predictions.

- (vi) The likely effects of the proposal would be to create effective teaching sets at all stages which would sit well within the Government class size guidelines.
- (vii) If implemented, the Council would minimise disruption by establishing a comprehensive transition programme for all pupils and parents. Crossroads Primary School is presently decanted to Bellfield Primary School and there is therefore already experience of this process. If there was to be a move to Galston Primary School and Nursery, careful consideration would be given to 'lead in' time and to ensure that all stakeholders were fully consulted and understood all of the steps of the transition programme. The prime consideration would be to minimise any adverse impact on the learning and teaching of children from Crossroads Primary School.
- (viii) Pupils and parents of Crossroads Primary School would have access to a 'state of the art' 21st century educational establishment, which is fully equipped and designed to meet the needs of pupils and fully deliver a Curriculum for Excellence. Galston Primary and Nursery School is also designed to meet the needs of all pupils, including those with additional support needs and has more than enough capacity to meet the needs of all pupils of Crossroads primary school without disrupting the learning of pupils presently resident in the Galston Primary School. There is an opportunity for the pupils, staff and parents of both schools to benefit from working together in an outstanding physical environment to ensure that the very best quality of learning and teaching is available to all pupils, irrespective of their needs or abilities.
- (ix) Pupils would also benefit from the improved access to community facilities which are in close proximity to Galston Primary School. Such facilities include the availability of full sized grass football pitches which are adjacent to the school and the swimming pool at Loudoun Academy. Galston Primary School is also in close proximity to the town centre and the amenities which can be found there, such as shops and community facilities.
- (x) In terms of extra curricular activities Galston Primary runs the following out of school clubs :
 - Fitness club (P2 and P3)
 - ICT (P4 – P7)
 - Cheerleading (P5 – P7)

- Drama (P5)
- Football (P2 and P3)
- Cycling Proficiency (P1 – P7)

In addition to these clubs P5 and P6 pupils participated in golf lessons, P6 pupils participated in a Scottish Country Dancing competition and P7 pupils have attended a Basketball Tournament.

In academic session 2008/09 the Crossroads Primary School pupils undertook the following activities :

- Gardening;
- Football;
- Art and craft;
- Badminton;
- Drama;
- Recorder;
- Orienteering;
- Cycling Proficiency; and
- Cookery

Every effort would be made to encourage the continuation of these programmes, married to the provision presently offered at Galston primary School

6. SCHOOLS (PROPOSAL) (SCOTLAND) ACT

6.1 Designation of Rural Schools

6.1.1 Under Section 12 of the forthcoming Schools (Proposal) (Scotland) Act it has been assumed that Crossroads primary School is an accessible rural school. This means that although based in a rural setting, the school is within close proximity to the towns of Kilmarnock, Galston and Hurlford and the amenities which are located within these conurbations.

6.2 Alternatives to the Closure Proposal

6.2.1 The alternatives to closure have been detailed in sections 5.1 to 5.4 (above). The options appraisal exercise has demonstrated that Option 5 (cessation of Education provision at Crossroads Primary School) represents best value using a combination of financial and non-financial scores.

6.3 Impact on the Local Community

6.3.1 The school is mainly utilised by parents for events linked to the school such as Parent Council meetings. The number of lets since 2004 is listed below.

Year	No of Lets
2004	22 lets

2005	16 lets
2006	16 lets
2007	26 lets
2008	9 lets
2009	4 lets

6.3.2 There are no recorded events of the school being used for any non-parental community event since November 2007. As the distance to Galston Primary is 2.4 miles it is believed that there will be no significant impact for the wider community to access the full range of facilities which are located within Galston Primary School.

6.4 Travelling Arrangements

6.4.1 Under normal circumstances there are two contracts in place which bring 25 of the catchment area pupils to Crossroads Primary School, costing £15,145 per annum. During academic session 2009/10 contracts are in place to transport up to 39 pupils from Crossroads to Bellfield Primary. The cost of this additional arrangement is £33,930 per academic year, based on a cost of £174 per day for 195 school days.

6.4.2 The travelling distance from Crossroads Primary to Galston Primary is 2.4 miles and is estimated to take 10 minutes. The Council has previously estimated that the cost of this additional travelling distance will be £15,000 per annum.

6.4.3 The environmental impact of the preferred option is likely to be reduced from its present impact as there are 20 pupils attending Crossroads Primary from the Irvine Valley who will have a reduced travelling time to arrive at Galston Primary. Vehicular and pedestrian segregation, and therefore pedestrian safety, has been incorporated within the design of the Galston Primary School site.

7. CONSEQUENCES OF THE PREFERRED OPTION

7.1 The proposal will result in pupils of Crossroads Primary attending a school building which is modern and designed for the delivery of a 21st Century curriculum. The staff, Parent Councils and community will be consulted fully on the development of plans for the integration of pupils from Crossroads Primary into Galston Primary.

7.2 Where necessary, any aspect of the implementation of these proposals that impacts on staff will result in consultation with the relevant trade unions and the individuals concerned.

7.3 The proposal will result in the demolition of the present building occupied by Crossroads Primary School and the site declared surplus to the requirements of the Education Service.

- 7.4** Consideration requires to be given to the delineated area of Galston Primary School subsuming the whole delineated area of Crossroads Primary School, or subsuming the delineated area of Crossroads Primary School which is within the boundary of East Ayrshire Council. If there were to be any change made to the present delineated area for Crossroads Primary School, whether the school was retained or not, present children within the rationalised area would continue to be guaranteed a place alongside their present peer group. Further, siblings of children presently attending the school would also be guaranteed a place in the same establishment as their brothers and sisters. In this way, the impact of any catchment area change would be limited for individual families, where children currently attend the school. South Ayrshire Council, clearly, has therefore a key role in the consultation process and consequently have been alerted to this element of the consultative exercise.
- 7.5** Following from the previous Cabinet decision in March 2008 to retain Crossroads Primary School a sum of £650,000 was allocated in future year's capital programmes to refurbish Crossroads Primary School. Subject to the outcome of this consultation exercise this funding will remain within the Loudoun Academy Learning Community and will be utilised to improve the PE facilities at Loudoun Academy.

8. OTHER ISSUES

8.1 Management of Proposals

It is intended that pupils from Crossroads Primary will be integrated within Galston Primary School from the start of the 2010/11 academic session, which commences on Tuesday 17 August 2010, or as soon as possible thereafter. This will allow the Council to conduct the necessary consultation in accordance with the relevant statutory frameworks.

It is acknowledged that should the proposal be approved and implemented, forward planning will be required from the Department of Educational and social Services and school senior staff, as a matter of good management practice. This planning is necessary in respect of curriculum delivery, staff management and associated issues.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1** The financial implications of this proposal were contained within the Option Appraisal report which was presented to Cabinet on 16 December 2009. In summary, as stated in para 4.1.3 of this report the net present costs of the 5 options are detailed below.

OPTION	NET PRESENT VALUE
1 – Refurbishment to existing standards	£1,180,253
2 – Refurbish and upgrade facilities	£1,868,034
3 – New build on existing site	£2,487,044
4 – Close existing building and locate as a separate	£2,384,122

educational establishment in accommodation at Galston primary School	
5 – Cease education provision at Crossroads primary and integrate within Galston Primary	£202,107

9.2 Within the Net Present Value (NPV) calculations are capital costs associated with the initial construction works of each option, on-going maintenance and additional revenue costs or resulting savings accruing from each option.

9.3 It is envisaged that the existing building on the Crossroads Primary site will be demolished. This will minimise security costs and also minimise the risks associated with vacant buildings.

10. RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSAL

10.1 Interested parties are invited to respond to the Proposal by making written or electronic submissions on the proposal to the Executive Director of Educational & Social Services, East Ayrshire Council, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7BU, and E-mail: education.Proposal@east-ayrshire.gov.uk.

10.2 A form is provided at Appendix 4 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”, “grandparent”, “former pupil”, “teacher in school”, “member of the Community” etc. Responses from the Parent Councils, staff, and Pupil Council are particularly welcome.

10.3 Those sending in a response, whether by letter or electronically should know that their response will be open to public scrutiny and may have to be supplied to anyone making a reasonable request to see it. If they do not wish their response to be 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 council officers of East Ayrshire Council.” Otherwise, it will be assumed that the person making the response agrees to it being made publicly available.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 On 13 January 2010 the Cabinet of East Ayrshire Council agreed to adopt, for the purpose of consultation, the proposal that:

- (i) Education provision at Crossroads Primary School be discontinued with effect from 30 June 2010, or as soon as possible thereafter;
- (ii) Further that the pupils of Crossroads Primary School continue their primary school education at Galston Primary School, from 16 August 2010 or as soon as possible thereafter as detailed in option 5 of this document; and

- (iii) Consideration be given to the delineated area of Galston Primary School subsuming the whole delineated area of Crossroads Primary School or subsuming the delineated area of Crossroads primary Scholl which is within the boundary of East Ayrshire Council.

11.2 It is also recommended that:

- i) interested parties be invited to make written submissions on the proposal to :

The Executive Director of Educational & Social Services, East Ayrshire Council, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7BU

or by e-mail to:

education.consultation@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

no later than **Friday 12 March 2010**.

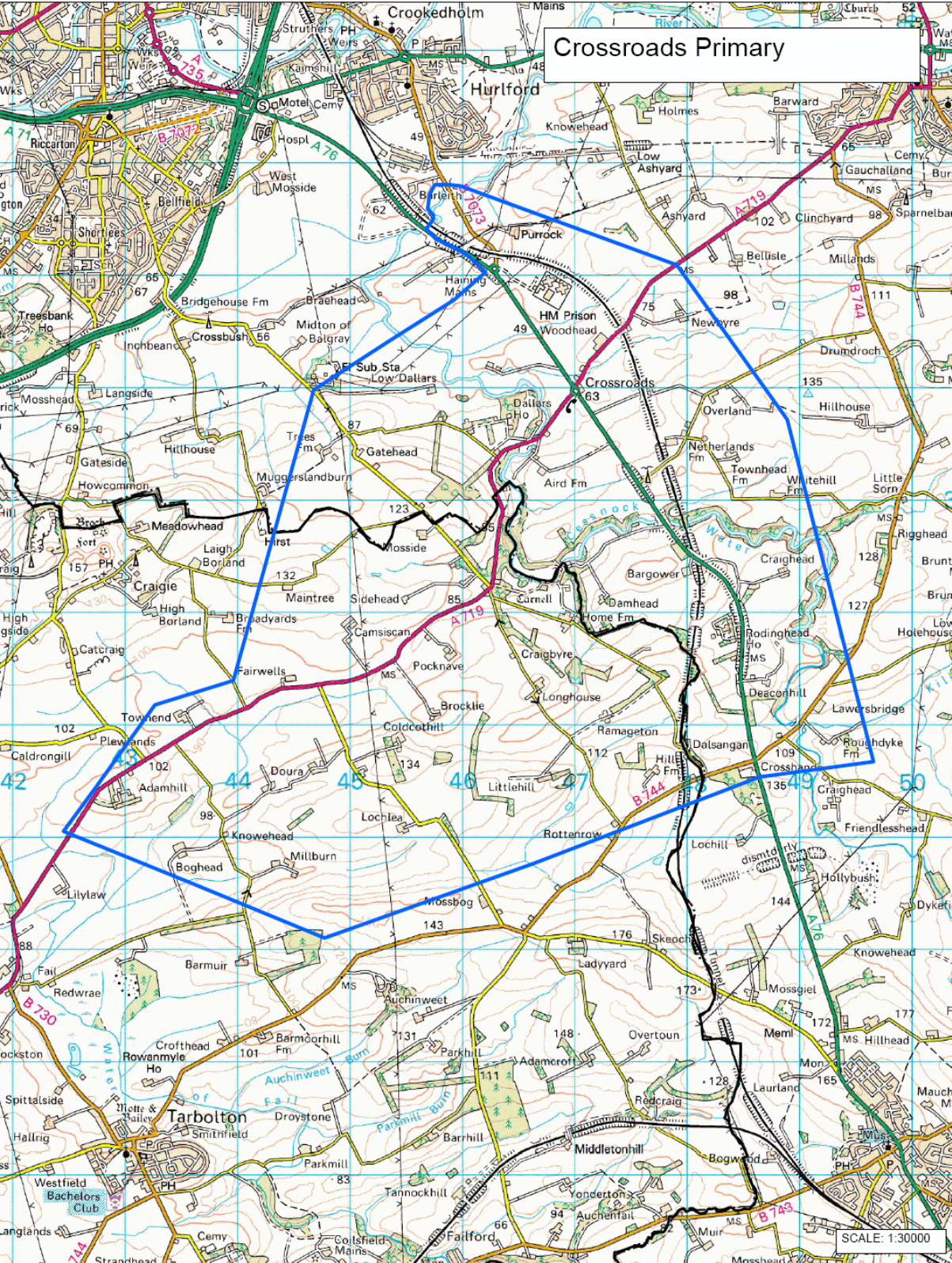
- ii) the Executive Director of Educational & Social Services prepares a report on the results of the Proposal process for consideration at a future meeting of the Cabinet.

5 January 2010

Graham Short

Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

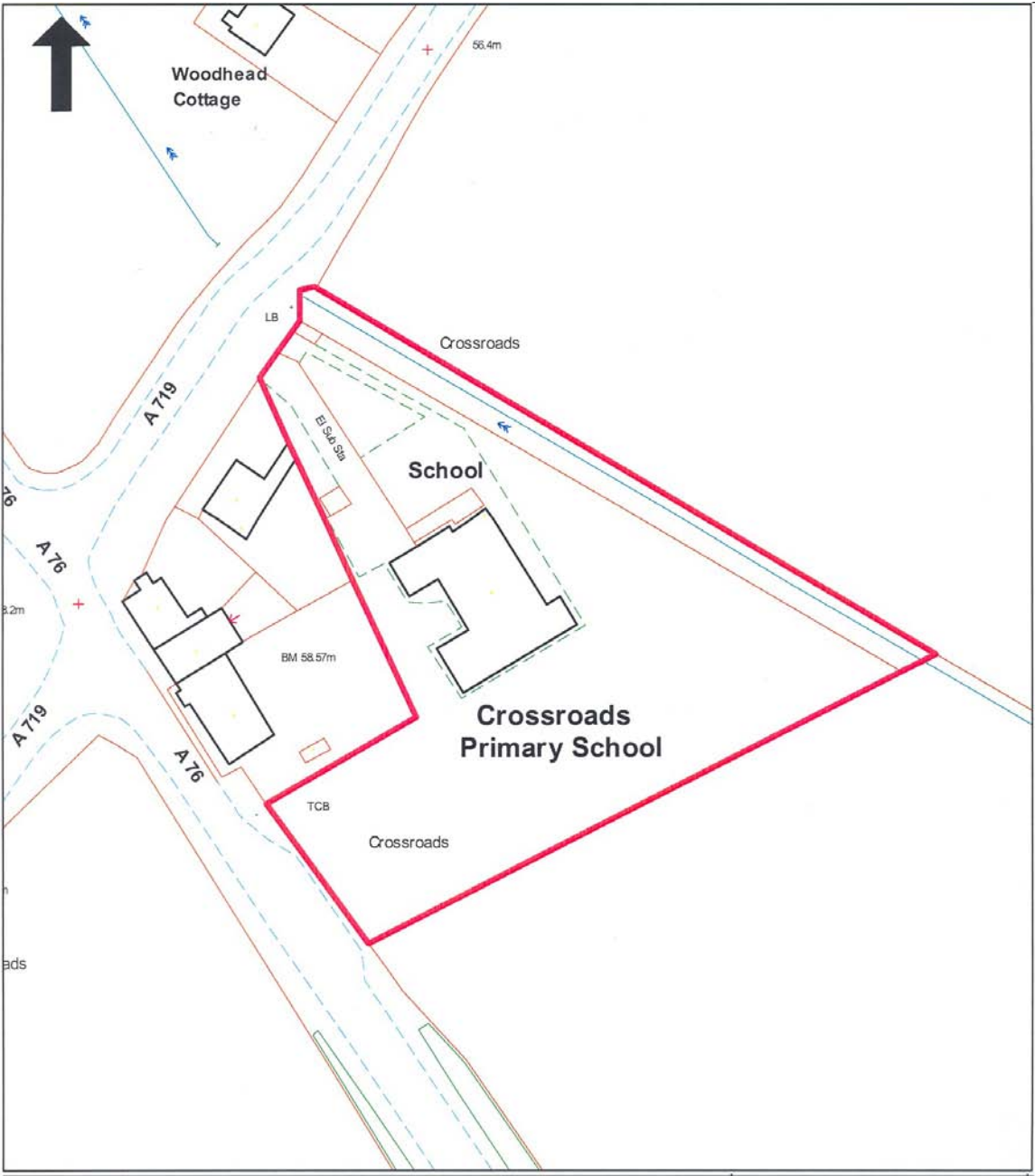
DELINEATED AREA OF CROSSROADS PRIMARY SCHOOL



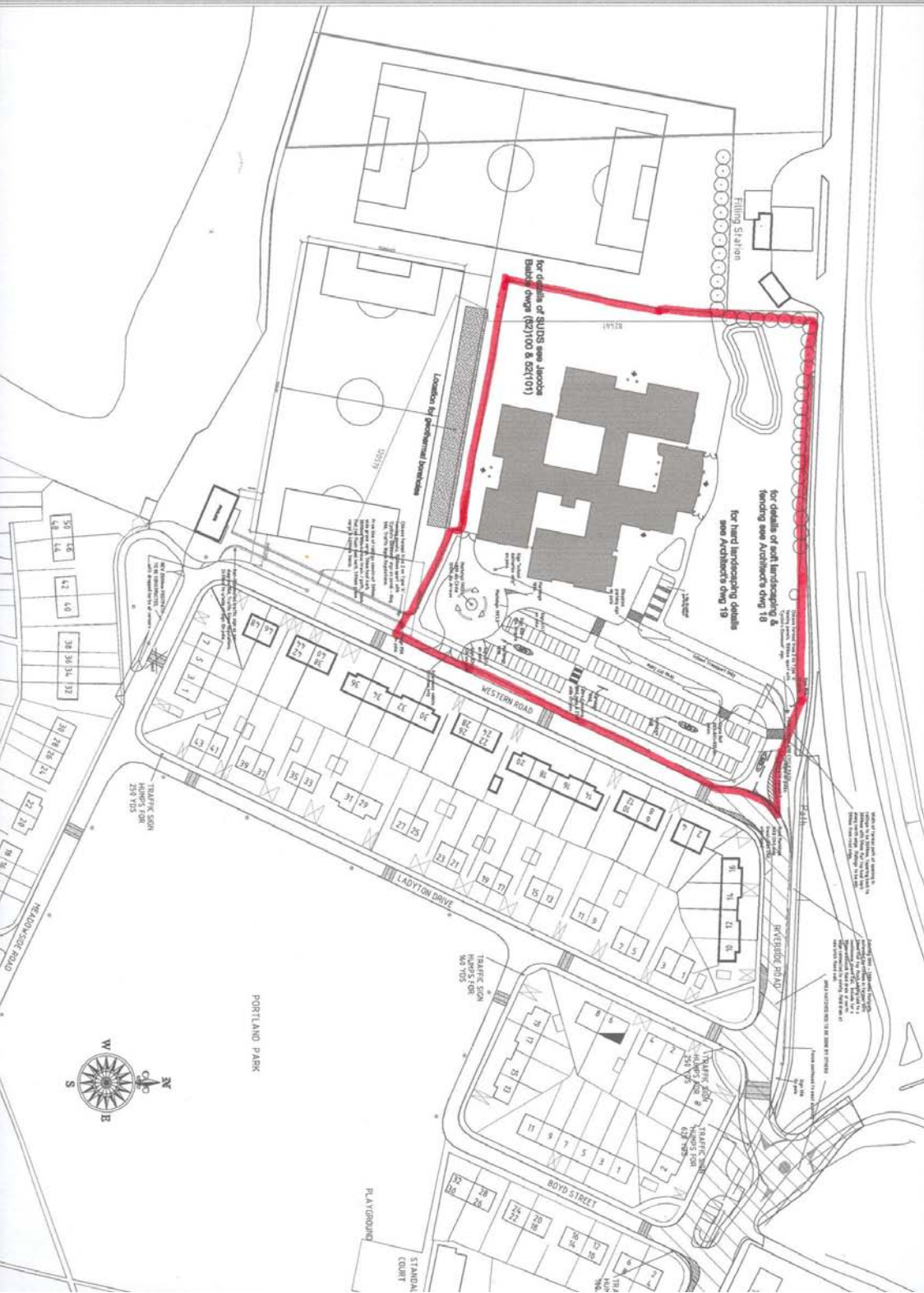
DELINEATED AREA OF GALSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



OUTLINE OF CROSSROADS PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING AND THE SCHOOL GROUNDS



OUTLINE OF GALSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING AND THE SCHOOL GROUNDS



APPENDIX 3

PUPIL ROLL FOR CROSSROADS PRIMARY SCHOOL AS AT THE ANNUAL PUPIL CENSUS DATE

	TOTAL ROLL
SESSION	P1-7
2000/01	69
2001/02	73
2002/03	70
2003/04	67
2004/05	60
2005/06	59
2006/07	52
2007/08	55
2008/09	56
2009/10	52
2010/11	52
2011/12	55
2012/13	55
2013/14	55
2014/15	53
2015/16	48

PUPIL ROLL FOR GALSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL AS AT THE ANNUAL PUPIL CENSUS DATE

	TOTAL ROLL
SESSION	P1-7
2000/01	407
2001/02	396
2002/03	379
2003/04	367
2004/05	342
2005/06	335
2006/07	323
2007/08	306
2008/09	285
2009/10	277
2010/11	263
2011/12	270
2012/13	270
2013/14	274
2014/15	280
2015/16	282

Note: These roll projections should be treated as a best estimate based on population trends, known housing developments and placing requests. The Council acknowledges that it is difficult to accurately predict school rolls over a long timespan.

APPENDIX 3

COMBINED PUPIL ROLL OF CROSSROADS AND GALSTON PRIMARY SCHOOLS AS AT THE ANNUAL PUPIL CENSUS DATE

	TOTAL ROLL
SESSION	P1-7
2000/01	476
2001/02	469
2002/03	449
2003/04	434
2004/05	402
2005/06	394
2006/07	375
2007/08	361
2008/09	341
2009/10	329
2010/11	315
2011/12	325
2012/13	325
2013/14	329
2014/15	333
2015/16	330

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES

RESPONSE FORM

I wish my response to be considered as confidential with access restricted to Elected Members and Council Officers of East Ayrshire Council.

<u>Proposal</u>
Education provision at Crossroads Primary School be discontinued with effect from 30 June, or as soon as possible thereafter; and
Further that the pupils of Crossroads Primary School continue their education at Galston Primary School as detailed in Option 5 of the Proposal Document and that the delineated area of Galston Primary School be extended to incorporate the delineated area of Crossroads Primary School.

This part of the form must be completed for a valid response:

Name: (please print)	Address:
	Post Code:
I agree/do not agree (delete which does not apply) that my response can be made publicly available	
Signature:	Date:

YOUR INTEREST: (please tick)

Parent <input type="checkbox"/>	Child / Young Person <input type="checkbox"/>	Staff <input type="checkbox"/>	Other * <input type="checkbox"/>
Elected Member / MSP / MP <input type="checkbox"/>		Member of Community Council <input type="checkbox"/>	

*Other: (please specify)

Please state your views on the proposal (continue overleaf if necessary)

Office Use: