

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 24 FEBRUARY 2010

**IMPLICATIONS OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
ON THE CROSSROADS PRIMARY SCHOOL CONSULTATION**

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet of the implications of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and its consequences for the current consultation exercise which is being conducted on the future of education provision at Crossroads Primary School.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Cabinet agreed on 16 December 2009 that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services should prepare a Proposal Document which would seek views on the five options which had been considered for the future of Crossroads Primary School. At its meeting of 13 January 2010 Cabinet agreed that the consultation document in its then form should be issued for consultation

3. SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) SCOTLAND ACT 2010

- 3.1** The Act received Royal Assent on 5 January 2010 but is not yet fully in force. It places specific requirements on local authorities when conducting a formal consultation exercise on the future of education provision. These requirements are set out in the remainder of this section.
- 3.2** Under previous legislation, authorities were required to consult for a minimum period of 28 calendar days, however the new Act places an obligation to consult for a minimum period of 6 weeks, which must include 30 school days.
- 3.3** HMIE are now to be consulted on a formal basis, and as part of any consultation exercise they may visit the establishment(s) concerned to ascertain the views of staff, parents and pupils. Following the close of the consultation period copies of all written responses are to be sent to HMIE, who then have a 3 week period to provide a formal response to the consultation proposals.
- 3.4** The new Act also places an obligation on local authorities to prepare an educational benefits statement. This statement sets out the effects of the proposal on the pupils and staff of the affected school, community users of the school facilities, children who would be likely to attend the school in future but for the implementation of proposals and the pupils of any other schools in the authority's area. The benefits statement must also include the assessment of

any likely effect of the proposals, how any disruption arising from the implementation of proposals would be minimised and the benefits which will result from the implementation of the proposals.

- 3.5** If notified of any omission or inaccuracy an authority must review the points in question and, if necessary and having advised the party raising the matter, take the following steps :-
- Publish a corrected proposal paper;
 - Provide any omitted or corrected information; and
 - Advise consultees accordingly
- 3.6** Education authorities will be required to hold a public meeting, having provided notice of the meeting to all consultees.
- 3.7** Upon receiving the HMIE report the authority is required to review the preferred proposal, taking all the information received during the consultation period and the HMIE report into consideration. A consultation report is then to be prepared which provides detail of all relevant feedback received, including a copy of the HMIE response. The document is also to be made publicly available.
- 3.8** The authority can only proceed with relevant proposals 3 weeks after it has made the consultation report publicly available. In effect this means that the report cannot be presented at a Cabinet meeting until the document has been in the public domain for a period of 3 weeks.
- 3.9** The proposed closure of a rural school requires further consideration in that authorities must set out any viable alternatives to school closure, the likely impact on the community if the proposal is implemented and the likely travelling implications for pupils and staff.
- 3.10** Should Cabinet agree, at a future date, to agree a closure proposal, the authority has 6 working days to notify Scottish Ministers, starting on the day any decision is taken. Scottish Ministers must be provided with a copy of the proposal document and the consultation report.
- 3.11** It should be noted that Ministers have a 6 week period to decide whether they will issue a call in notice, which effectively remits the closure proposal to Scottish Ministers. During this 6 week period the authority cannot proceed with the implementation of any proposal.

4. CROSSROADS PRIMARY SCHOOL CONSULTATION EXERCISE

- 4.1** When Cabinet considered the Proposal Document at its meeting of 13 January 2010 there was no indication of when the Act would fully come into force. Subsequently advice has been received that this process will take place on 5 April 2010, and since this is before the end of the Council decision making process it has been determined that the consultation exercise will require to fully comply not only existing legislation but, also the Schools

(Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The consequences of this are set out in the remainder of this section, and a revised timetable for the decision making process is set out in Annex A of this report.

- 4.2 The first impact of the need to comply with the new Act is that the consultation period has required to be extended to Friday 19 March 2010. This ensures that there are a minimum 30 school days in the consultation period.
- 4.3 HMIE will be provided with a copy of all written responses and records of any formal discussions on the proposals. At the close of the consultation exercise HMIE will then have a period of 3 weeks to submit their formal report which will be considered with all other consultation responses when reviewing the preferred proposal prior to the preparation of the Consultation Document.
- 4.4 Since the Cabinet meeting of 13 January 2010 minor additions been incorporated into the educational benefits statement to expand the impact of the proposal in terms of the wider community and travelling times and distances for staff and pupils in order to comply with the new Act when it fully comes into force. A full copy of the updated Proposal Document, which has been issued for consultation, is attached at Annex B

5. LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The amendments to the Proposal Document, as listed in section 4 ,and the revised timetable will ensure that the Council fully complies with existing legislation as well as the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 thus minimising any potential challenge to the consultation process on the future of Crossroads primary School.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications of complying with the new Act.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no human resource implications associated with complying with the new Act.

8. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 This report will assist the Council in meeting the promoting lifelong learning aspects of the Community Plan.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Compliance with the new legislation will minimise the potential for any legal challenge on the consultations process for the future of Crossroads primary School.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Cabinet is asked to :-

- (i) note the implications for the Consultation process for Crossroads Primary School arising from the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010;
- (ii) note the additional information which has been incorporated into the Proposal Document including the educational benefits statement to comply with existing legislation as well as the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010;
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

EC/JW
11 February 2010

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Cabinet Report – 16 December 2009 (Agenda Item 2E)
Cabinet Report – 13 January 2010 (Agenda Item 1E)
Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Members wishing further information should contact Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resources, Tel: (01563) 576090.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : EUAN COUPERWHITE

CROSSROADS PRIMARY SCHOOL CONSULTATION

INDICATIVE TIMELINE

| | |
|--|---|
| Consultation Period starts | Friday 29 th January 2010 |
| Public Meeting | Thursday 18 th February 2010 |
| Consultation Period ends | Close of business Friday 19 th March 2010 |
| All written and oral representations submitted to HMIE by | Tuesday 23 rd March 2010 |
| Report from HMIE due | Tuesday 13 th April 2010 |
| Review of proposal in light of HMIE report and other written and oral representations by | Friday 16 th April 2010 |
| Consultation Report published | Friday 23 rd April 2010 |
| Further consideration on Consultation Report ends | Friday 14 th May 2010 |
| Provisional date of Cabinet | Wednesday 2 nd June 2010 |
| Provisional date of Governance and Scrutiny Committee* | Friday 18 th June 2010 |
| Provisional date of Cabinet* | TBA |

*Subject to call-in by the Governance and Scrutiny Committee

N.B This timeline is indicative only. The dates for events and committees after the consultation period has expired may be the subject of change.



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 primarily 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. However, the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010 received Royal Assent on 5th January 2010. While the provisions of this Act are not yet fully in force, it is anticipated that they will be prior to determination of the proposal by East Ayrshire Council. This document has therefore also been issued by East Ayrshire Council having regard to the terms of the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010.

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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 trade unions representatives of the above staff
- 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, by telephone on 01563-576109; or by e-mail: **education.consultation@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.

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 close of business on 19 March 2010, which includes a period of 31 school days.

5. Public meeting

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

6. Involvement of HMIE

When the Proposal Document is published, a copy will also be sent to HMIE by East Ayrshire Council. HMIE will also receive a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Council from any person during the consultation period or, if HMIE agree, a summary of them. HMIE will further receive a summary of any oral representation made to the Council at the public meeting that will be held and, as available (and so far as 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. However, for the avoidance of doubt, the 3 week period will not start until after the consultation period has ended. In preparing their report, HMIE may enter the affected school and make such reasonable enquiries of such people there as 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 representations 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 and, if necessary, any national newspaper. It will be available on the Council web-site and from Council Headquarters, public libraries in the vicinity of the affected schools, local offices in the vicinity of the affected schools as well as the affected schools, free of charge. Anyone who made written representations during the consultation period will also be informed about the report. The report will include a record of the total number of written representations made during the consultation period, 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 as well as any written or oral representations it has received, together with a copy of the HMIE Report and any other relevant information, including details of any alleged inaccuracies and how these have been handled. The Report will also contain a statement explaining how it complied with the requirement to review 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 Cabinet (Education) who will come to a decision. This decision is then subject to the Council's call-in procedures.

9. Scottish Ministers Call-in

In the event that the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010 is fully in force by the time the Council has made a final decision on the proposal, it will require to notify the Scottish Ministers of that decision and provide them with a copy of the Proposal Document and Consultation Report. The Scottish Ministers have a 6 week period from the date of that final decision to decide if they will call-in the proposal. Within the first 3 weeks of that 6 week period, the Scottish Ministers will take account of any 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 stage 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, they are 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 person, the Council will determine if relevant information has been omitted or, 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.

Special Note

This consultation is primarily 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, the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010 received Royal Assent on 5th January 2010. While the provisions of this Act are not yet fully in force, it is anticipated that they will be prior to determination of the proposal by East Ayrshire Council. This document has therefore also been issued by East Ayrshire Council having regard to the terms of the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010.

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.eastayrshire.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 Crossroads 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. However, the full version of the options can be viewed in the Options Appraisal Document which is attached to the Cabinet Report referred to within paragraph 1.4 above.

5. THE OPTIONS FOR CONSULTATION

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

- (xi) Out of school hours the Crossroads Primary School has mainly been utilised by parents for events linked to the school such as Parent Council meetings. The number of lets since 2004 are listed below.

| Year | No of Lets |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 2004 | 22 lets |
| 2005 | 16 lets |
| 2006 | 16 lets |
| 2007 | 26 lets |
| 2008 | 9 lets |
| 2009 | 4 lets |

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 wider range of facilities which are located within Galston Primary School. As stated in (x) above every effort will be made to accommodate existing Crossroads Primary School activities within Galston Primary School.

Since the new Galston primary and Nursery Schools building opened in August 2008 the number of lets is as follows :-

| Year | No of Lets |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 2008 | 10 lets |
| 2009 | 23 lets |

The majority of lets (29) have been for parental activities such as school shows, Parent Council meetings, and parents evenings. In addition there have

been 2 lets for the Galston Windpower group,1 meeting for the Galston Community Council and 1 meeting organised for the Council in relation to the Crossroads Primary School structural issues.

The range of modern facilities within the Galston Primary School building have been designed to promote community use outside of school hours.

- (xii) Under Section 12 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 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.

(a) Alternatives to the Closure Proposal

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.

(b) Likely effect on the Local Community

As there is no recognised village or built up community in the vicinity of Crossroads Primary it is believed that the proposal will not impact on local social or economic activities. In addition The school has 29 pupils who attend from other communities within East Ayrshire and the proposal will not have any impact on these communities.

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 |

During the 6 years there were 22 lets by the Hopkins Crossroads SWRI, and 14 by East Ayrshire staff for staff training and development, with the remainder for school and parental activities. 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 from the Crossroads Primary School catchment area to access the full range of facilities which are located within Galston Primary School. As such, the likely effect of the closure proposal would be on the Parent Council of Crossroads Primary School which would require to be wound up in the event of the said proposal being implemented.

(c) Likely effect caused by different travelling arrangements

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.

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.

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.

Staff who reside outwith the Irvine Valley area and who transfer to Galston Primary School, should the proposal be accepted by the Council following the Consultation period, will require to travel an additional distance of 2.4 miles to school. If staff are redeployed to another educational establishment other than Galston Primary School this will be conducted under existing Council terms and conditions with attempts being made, where possible to minimise any additional distance that they may require to travel..

6. CONSEQUENCES OF THE PREFERRED OPTION

- 6.1** 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.
- 6.2** 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.
- 6.3** 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.
- 6.4** 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.

- 6.5** 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.

7. OTHER ISSUES

7.1 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.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1** 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 educational establishment in accommodation at Galston primary School | £2,384,122 |
| 5 – Cease education provision at Crossroads primary and integrate within Galston Primary | £202,107 |

8.2 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.

8.3 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.

9. RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSAL

9.1 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.consultation@east-ayrshire.gov.uk.

9.2 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.

9.3 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.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 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.

10.2 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 close of business on **Friday 19 March 2010**.

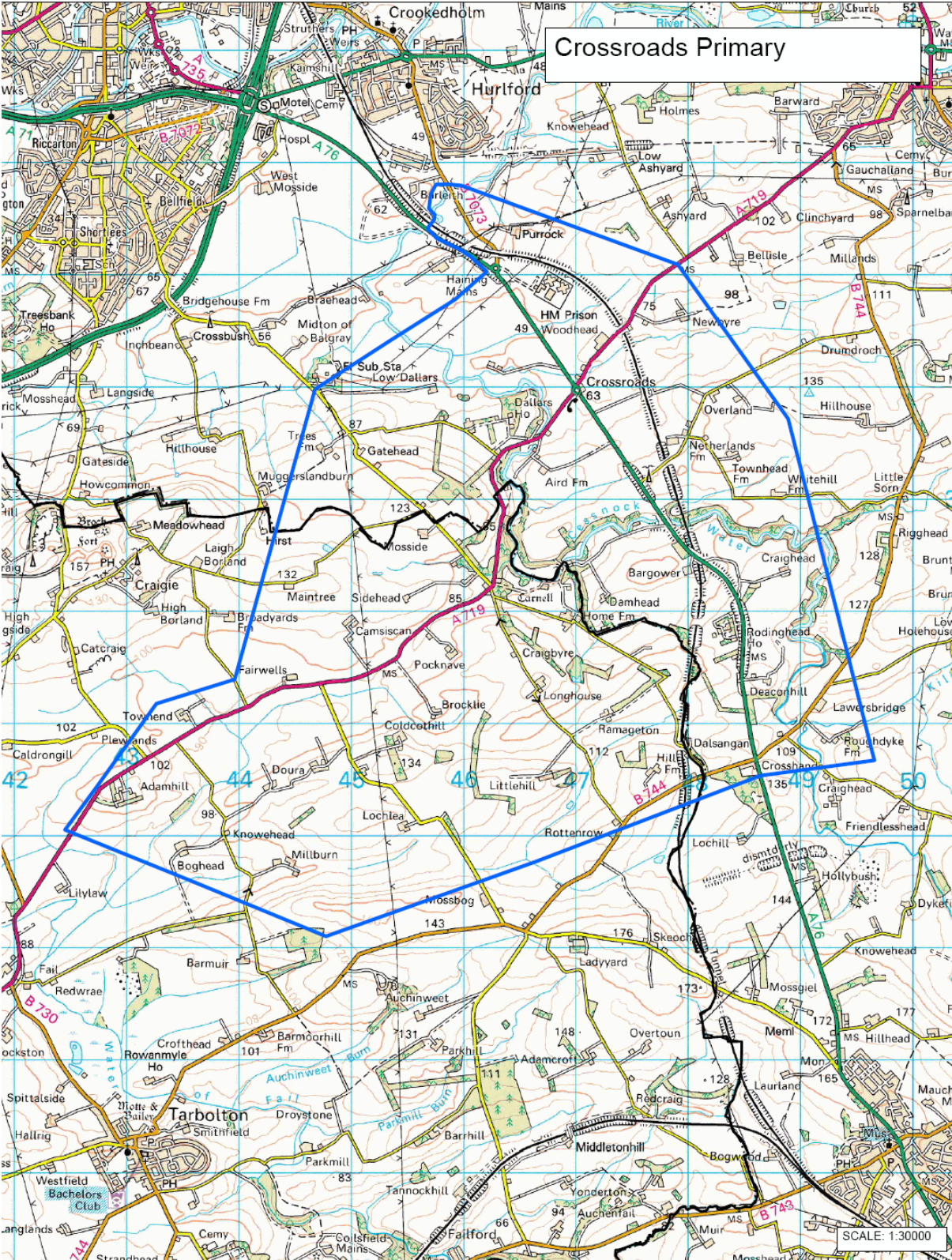
- ii) the Executive Director of Educational & Social Services prepares a report on the results of the Proposal process for consideration at a future meeting of the Cabinet.

28 January 2010

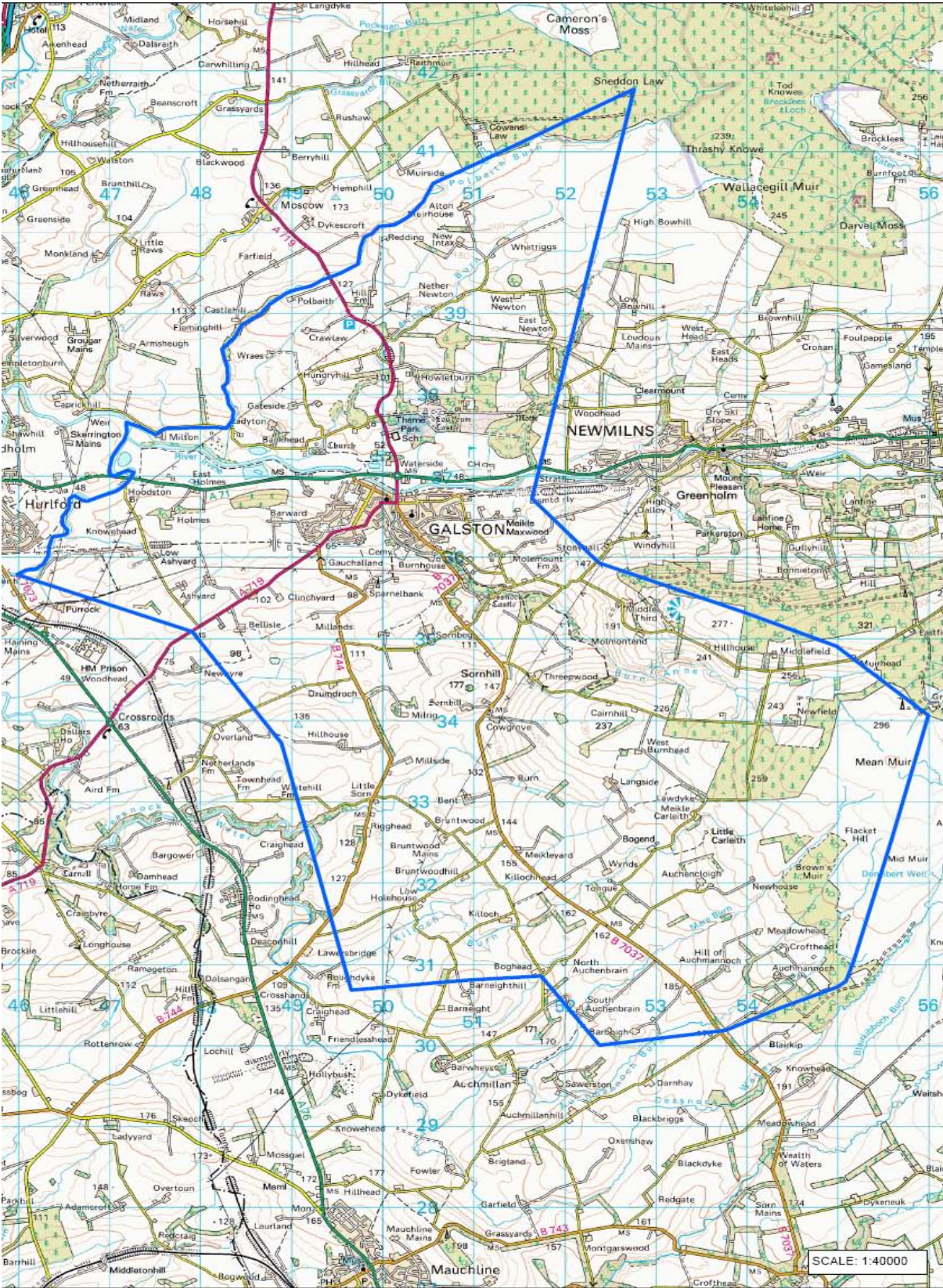
Graham Short

Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

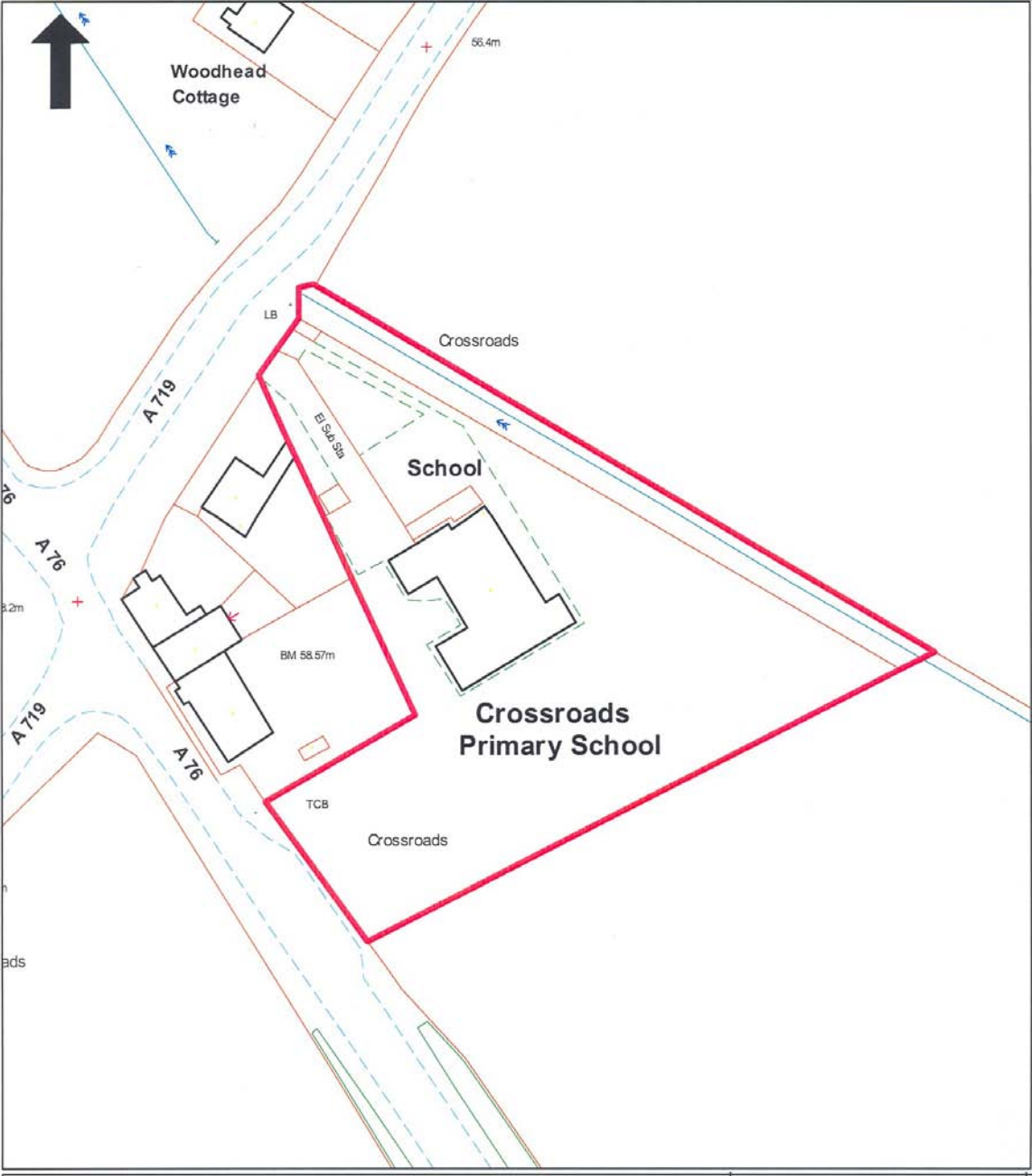
DELINEATED AREA OF CROSSROADS PRIMARY SCHOOL



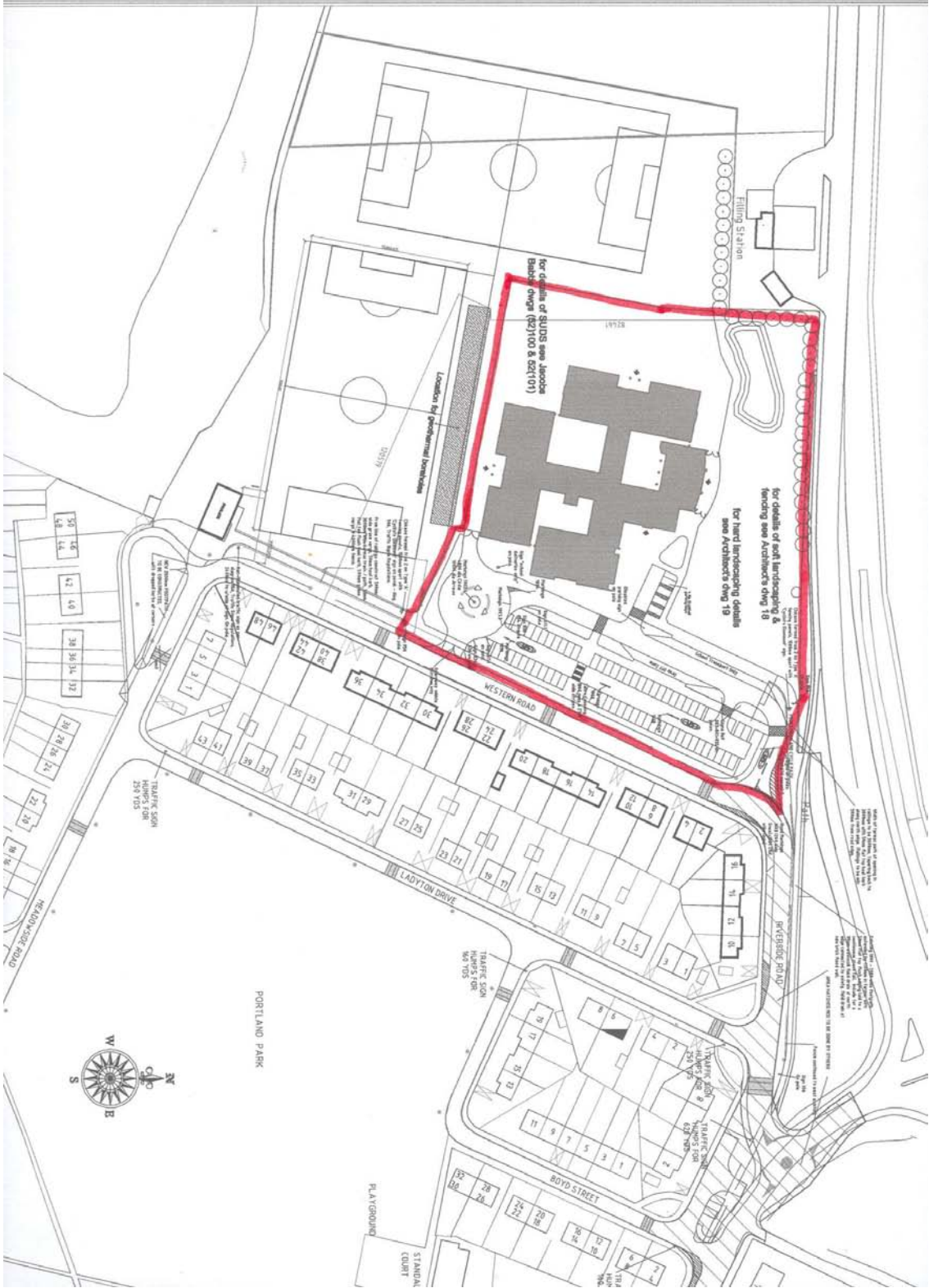
DELINEATED AREA OF GALSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



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

| SESSION | TOTAL ROLL 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

| SESSION | TOTAL ROLL 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**

| SESSION | TOTAL ROLL 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> | | | |
| <p>Education provision at Crossroads Primary School be discontinued with effect from 30 June, or as soon as possible thereafter; and</p> <p>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.</p> | | | |
| 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: