

East Ayrshire
COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL SERVICES

BUILDING LEARNING COMMUNITIES

A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT

The proposals in this consultation document have implications for:

- **Bellfield Primary School**
- **Shortlees Primary School**
- **Pre School Provision**
- **Community Learning**
- **Integrated Services**

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

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL SERVICES
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Report by Director of Educational & Social Services

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** East Ayrshire Council has a vision for its schools estate into the 21st century. The Council wishes to ensure that all pupils are given every opportunity to develop their potential to the full. A key factor for the Council is to ensure that the best possible educational environment is available through the provision of a safe, secure and up-to-date environment.
- 1.2** The vision for the schools estate gives priority to these key features:
- Ensuring that all aspects of the modern curriculum can be delivered to children of all abilities.
 - Providing the most up to date Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in all schools.
 - Providing maximum access for pupils, staff and parents.
 - The development of the Arts, Culture and Sports and Health education and the creation of Centres of Excellence to deliver an agenda of continuous improvement.
 - Providing a secure environment for all who are educated and work in the school.
 - Providing access to the community having regards to those with particular need.
 - Providing catering and dining facilities of the highest standard in a modern environment.
 - Providing appropriate social area provision for parents and pupils.
 - A commitment to the environment and environmental issues.
 - Developing Learning Partnerships through the New Community Schools model and forming strong partnerships with local/national organisations committed to offering support.
- 1.3** Within its financial allocations, the Council has taken positive steps to achieve the desired vision for the schools estate. The need for a significant investment in the estate is recognised. If existing funding arrangements were to continue it is estimated that it would take more than 40 years to bring the

schools estate to a minimum level of provision not allowing for upgrading, major maintenance and new builds driven by need.

- 1.4** Recognising that this is a national issue, the Scottish Executive has taken a strategic approach to supporting individual Councils to improve the standard of school buildings. East Ayrshire Council submitted an outline business case for a schools Public Private Partnership (PPP) to put in place significant resources to improve the quality of educational facilities in East Ayrshire.
- 1.5** The proposals in the outline business case were formulated in accordance with a set of guiding principles, which are:-
- (i) Rationalisation of school provision
 - (ii) A commitment to social inclusion and a presumption in favour of mainstream education
 - (iii) Provision of early education and childcare for all
 - (iv) Access to lifelong learning through an integrated community learning provision
 - (v) Partnership with other agencies supporting community development and better neighbourhoods
 - (vi) Development of Centres of Excellence in secondary school to provide enhanced and specialist support in a range of academic, sporting and cultural pursuits
- 1.6** In 2001 a comprehensive review of the current schools estate and future school needs in East Ayrshire was carried out. This review formed the basis of the bid for funding to the Scottish Executive. In response the Scottish Executive advised that funding would be made available to finance a series of proposals for the improvement of educational facilities across East Ayrshire Council. The future provision of Bellfield School, Shortlees Primary School and Shortlees Nursery School is one of the proposals upon which the Council now wishes to consult formally through this document.
- 1.7** The Education Committee at the meeting held on 21 November 2002 agreed to consult on a number of proposals it proposes to be included in the first phase of its schools PPP project. This consultation document deals with one of those proposals, which is to replace the existing Bellfield Primary School, Shortlees Primary School buildings with a new build on the same campus that will provide high quality accommodation for both primary schools, including Early Education and Childcare provision and there will be enhanced community learning facilities and integrated services.

2. PRESENT POSITION

2.1 The communities of Bellfield and Shortlees in Kilmarnock are marked by high unemployment and significant social and economic deprivation.

2.2 Bellfield Primary School

2.2.1 Bellfield Primary School, built in 1964, is located on the south-side of Kilmarnock. The school is a self-contained block comprising a single storey entrance flanked by two-storey wings, with another single-storey wing projecting from the east-side of the gym hall. The school has a roll of 217 and a capacity of 461.

2.2.2 The area served by Bellfield Primary School is shown as Appendix 1.

2.2.3 A roll projection is shown as Appendix 2.

2.2.4 The projected future maintenance costs for the building is considered to be around £1,094,000. Such costs coupled with severe under occupancy of the building do not reflect efficient use of the Council's scarce capital resources.

2.3 Shortlees Primary School

2.3.1 Shortlees Primary School was built in 1959, originally as a junior secondary school. The building currently incorporates a nursery school and local community centre. Located on the south-side of Kilmarnock, this 'modernist' style building comprises three 2 & 3 storey wings, positioned on a 'C' formation around a central area of landscaping. The school has a roll of 273 and a capacity of 594.

2.3.2 The area served by Shortlees Primary School is shown as Appendix 3.

2.3.3 A roll projection is shown as Appendix 4.

2.3.4 The projected future maintenance costs for the building is estimated to be £2,589,000. Such costs coupled with severe under occupancy of the building do not reflect efficient use of the Council's scarce capital resources.

2.4 Pre-School Provision

2.4.1 At Bellfield Primary School there are Out of School care services provided as well as a partner provider for pre-school education for children aged 3 to 5 years.

2.4.2 Located within the Shortlees Primary School buildings is the Shortlees Nursery School. It has a capacity for 50 places in both the morning and afternoon sessions with a further 16 places in each session funded under the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund.

The Nursery also provides full day care and wrap-around care 52 weeks per year.

2.5 Community Learning Provision and Integrated Services

- 2.5.1** A local community centre is currently located within the Shortlees Primary School buildings and makes a significant contribution in the area to the development of approaches to Lifelong Learning.

3. PROPOSAL

3.1 Bellfield Primary School

- 3.1.1** It is proposed that Bellfield Primary School be closed with effect from the end of the school session June 2006. Pupils will transfer to a new build non denominational primary school on the site of Shortlees Primary School by August 2006 or as soon as possible thereafter.

3.2 Shortlees Primary School

- 3.2.1** It is proposed that Shortlees Primary School be closed with effect from the end of the school session June 2006. Pupils will transfer to a new build non denominational primary school on the site of Shortlees Primary School by August 2006 or as soon as possible thereafter.

3.3 Shortlees Nursery School

- 3.3.1** It is proposed that Shortlees Nursery School be closed with effect from the end of the school session June 2006. Pupils will transfer to premises within the new build non denominational campus on the site of Shortlees Primary School by August 2006 or as soon as possible thereafter.

- 3.4** The proposed delineation for the new school is given in Appendix 5.

- 3.5** A roll projection and capacity for the new amalgamated school is given in Appendix 6.

- 3.6** Dedicated Pre-school provision will be incorporated within the new building. It will have a head teacher and staffing complement as well as clearly identifiable accommodation including a separate play area. The centre will provide early education and childcare as well as meeting the needs of vulnerable children and parents. It will also address the childcare needs of parents who are in employment, further education or training. The pre-school centre will further benefit from being able to share certain facilities within the primary school, such as staff and visiting services, and other areas on a programmed basis. It is proposed that the Pre-school provision be opened in August 2006 or as soon as possible thereafter. The feasibility of providing facilities for children from 0-3 will be considered.

3.7 It is proposed to incorporate within this purpose built new community school dedicated provision to meet East Ayrshire's vision and approach to integrated community services with full independent access. This provision would include areas for health, social work, Better Neighbourhood and a substantial community learning facility designed to meet the modern digital requirements of the early 21st Century. Each area would have its own designated and trained staff.

3.8 Out of School Care

Out of School Care provision will continue as funding opportunities arise. The Council will work with the Childcare Partnership to consider further developing services.

4. IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

4.1 It is proposed to construct a new non denominational school on ground within the present campus of Shortlees Primary School.

4.2 The fabric of the Bellfield and Shortlees buildings are poor. The costs of maintenance are high and only cover known defects. Additional sums would also be needed to ensure that the sites could comply with new legislative requirements such as the Disability Discrimination Act.

4.3 The current rolls of both establishments are well below the operating capacity of the two sites. Currently there are 565 surplus spaces within the current buildings which represents 53.5% of the available capacity. The cost of operating at this capacity indicates a significant and unnecessary cost to the Council.

4.4 The opportunity exists to better meet the vision for the school estate as detailed in section 1.2 of this paper.

4.5 The proposal will strengthen the education of the children who will attend the new school. The learning environment in the new school will be better able to meet the requirements of the modern curriculum, including the provision of information and communication technology. The Early Education and Childcare provision will benefit from being able to share certain facilities within the primary school such as staff and visiting services, and other areas on a programmed basis. The community learning facilities will build community capacity and contribute to the regeneration of the area. The new school will in effect be a digital age new community school, with an emphasis on integrated service delivery.

4.6 Integrated Working

4.6.1 The proposals will result in the creation of a New Community School, which will have at its core the ethos of integrated working. This will result in enhanced opportunities and support for both young people who attend the

establishments and the wider community through closer working relationships between educational, social work and health care professionals.

5. CONSEQUENCES OF THE AMALGAMATION

5.1 The proposals as outlined in Section 3 will have implications for teaching and support staff at Bellfield Primary School and Shortlees Primary School. All members of staff will be fully consulted about their future, at the appropriate time, as will the appropriate trade unions. The particular wishes of each member of staff will be taken into consideration.

5.2 The amalgamation of the two primary schools will create a new primary school with a new staffing complement.

5.3 Implication for other stakeholders who currently benefit from the existing facilities or who deliver services in the existing facilities will be considered.

5.4 Travel to School

Although travelling distance will be increased for some pupils, most will still live within one mile of the new build school. In accordance with East Ayrshire Council policy, free transport will be provided for all children living more than one mile away from the proposed joint campus by the shortest safe walking route. The Council's policy for travel to school at the time of the opening of the proposed new build will be implemented.

5.5 Pre-School Provision

Pre-school provision will take place in a dedicated area incorporating a separate play zone. Enhanced benefits will arise from the new build and from the opportunity of shared facilities with the primary school.

5.6 Community Facilities

The local Community Centre within Shortlees Primary will be replaced by a modern, purpose built facility designed and equipped to meet the demands of the computer age of the early 21st Century. Current accessibility legislation will also be incorporated into the building.

Further areas will be purpose built and equipped to incorporate additional services which will include health and social work.

5.7 Secondary Education

There would be no alteration to current arrangements for secondary education as a result of this proposal.

5.8 Future Use of the Building

The Department of Educational and Social Services has no plans for the future use of the existing buildings occupied by Bellfield or Shortlees Primary Schools and would intend to declare them surplus to requirements, and would be demolished.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The school budget will be calculated using the roll related formulae operating within the education service.

6.2 The Council is currently unable to compare running costs of the existing buildings and the proposed new buildings. The PPP partner will be responsible for the running costs of the building, such as heating and lighting, and the life cycle maintenance costs such as boiler or window replacement. The costs of this will be included in the final contract with the partner organisation.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee agree to adopt the proposal that:

- i) Bellfield Primary School will be closed with effect from the end of the school session June 2006. The pupils will transfer to the new build non-denominational primary school to be constructed on the campus of the present Shortlees Primary School in August 2006, or as soon as possible thereafter.
- ii) Shortlees Primary School will be closed with effect from the end of the school session June 2006. The pupils will transfer to the new build non-denominational primary school to be constructed on the campus of the present Shortlees Primary School in August 2006, or as soon as possible thereafter.
- iii) Shortlees Nursery School will be closed with effect from the end of the school session June 2006. The pupils will transfer to a new facility within the campus of the new build non-denominational primary school to be constructed on the campus of the present Shortlees Primary School in August 2006, or as soon as possible thereafter.
- iv) Included within the development proposals be:
 - a) provision for the delivery of integrated services
 - b) enhanced community services
 - c) enhanced community learning

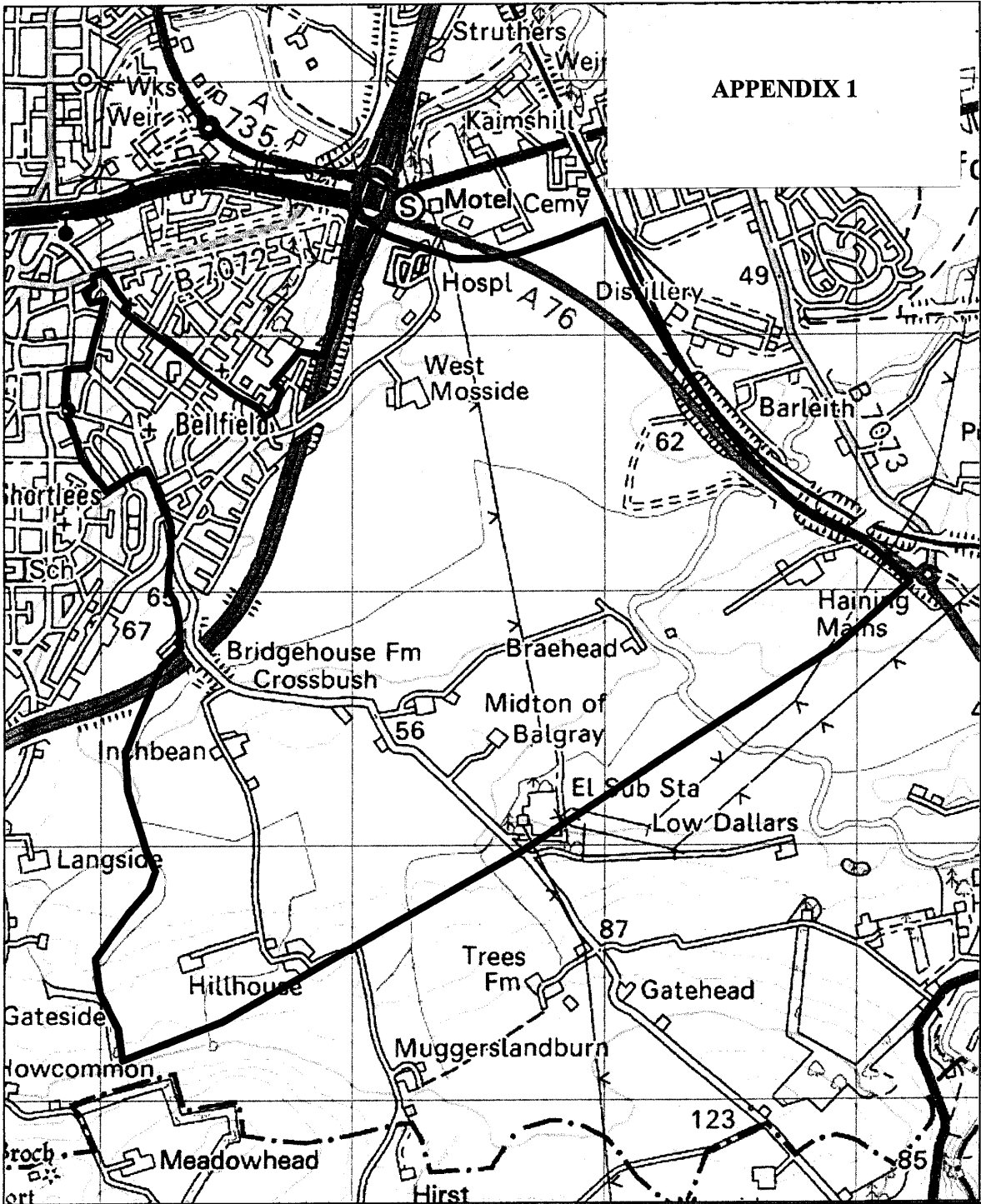
7.2 It is also recommended that:

- i) all interested parties be invited to make written or electronic submissions on the proposal to the Director of Educational & Social Services, East Ayrshire Council, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7BU, E-mail: john.mulgrew@east-ayrshire.gov.uk no later than **Monday 13 January 2003**.
- ii) the Director of Educational & Social Services prepares a report on the results of the consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.


14 November 2002

APPENDICES

Appendix 1	Delineated Area – Bellfield Primary School
Appendix 2	Current Capacity and Detailed Roll Projection – Bellfield Primary School
Appendix 3	Delineated Area – Shortlees Primary School
Appendix 4	Current Capacity and Roll Projection – Shortlees Primary School
Appendix 5	Location and Revised Delineated Area of the New School
Appendix 6	Capacity and Roll Projection for the New Amalgamated Primary School



APPENDIX 1

<p>Title/Location Bellfield Primary School Catchment Area NS4434</p>	<p>East Ayrshire Council Educational & Social Services London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7JB Tel: (01563) 576003 Fax: (01563) 576123 SCALE:1:20000 Date: 13/11/2002</p> 
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APPENDIX 2

ROLL PROJECTIONS – BELLFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

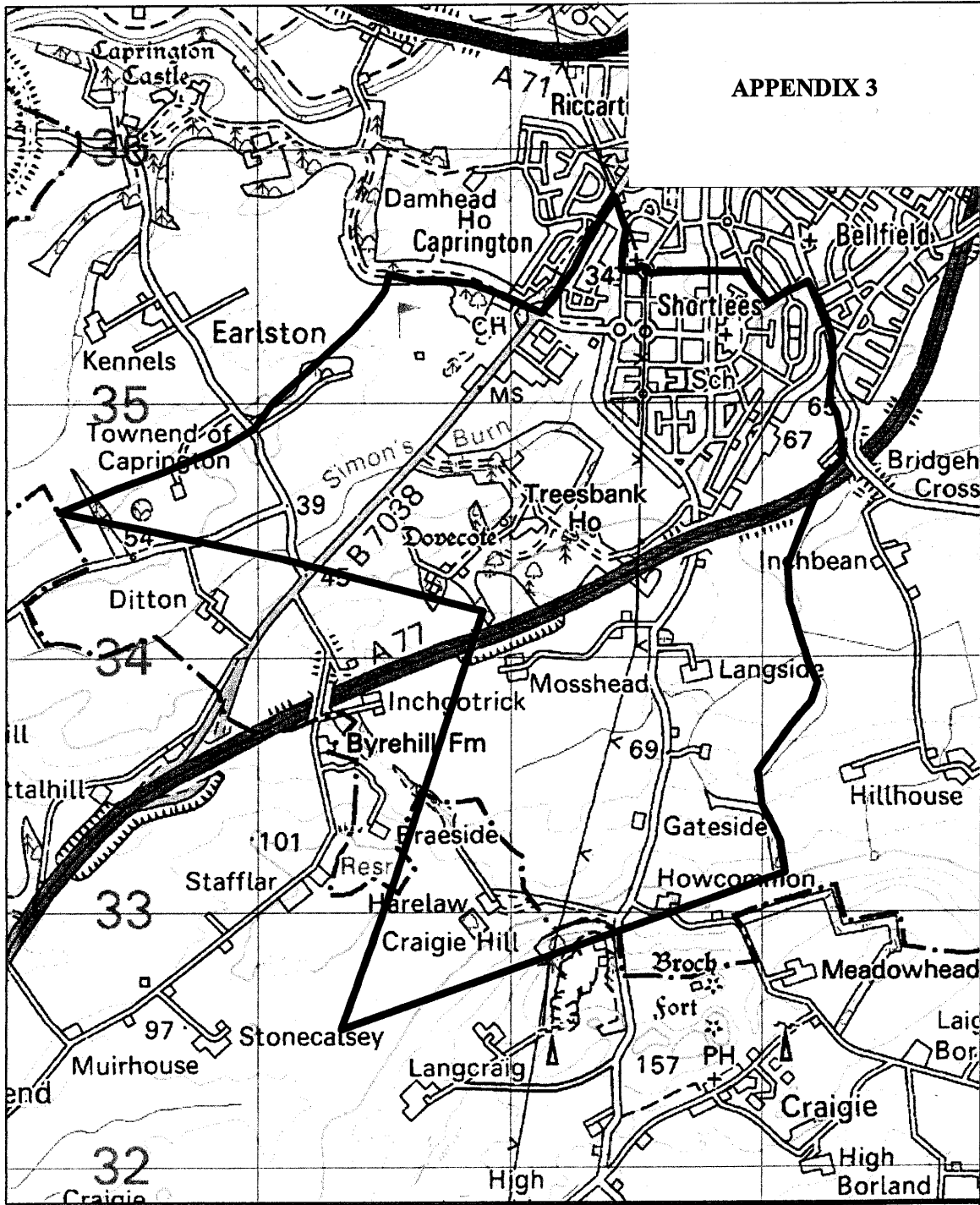
BELLFIELD PRIMARY : ROLL PROJECTION

SESSION	ROLLS BY STAGE							TOTAL ROLL P1-P7	PLACING REQS OUT	PUPILS FROM NEW HOUSING	TOTAL ROLL P1-P7
	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7				
2002	27	21	24	29	35	37	43	216	12	0	228
2003	24	27	21	24	29	35	37	197	23	0	220
2004	24	24	27	21	24	29	35	184	34	0	218
2005	25	24	24	27	21	24	29	174	45	0	219
2006	24	25	24	24	27	21	24	169	56	1	226
2007	24	24	25	24	24	27	21	169	67	1	237
2008	24	24	24	25	24	24	27	172	78	1	251

THE PRESENT SCHOOL CAPACITY IS 461 PUPILS.

THE PROPOSED SCHOOL CAPACITY IS 720 PUPILS.

APPENDIX 3



<p>Title/Location Shortlees Primary School Catchment Area NS4134</p>	<p>East Ayrshire Council Educational & Social Services London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7JB</p>
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APPENDIX 4

ROLL PROJECTIONS – SHORTLEES PRIMARY SCHOOL

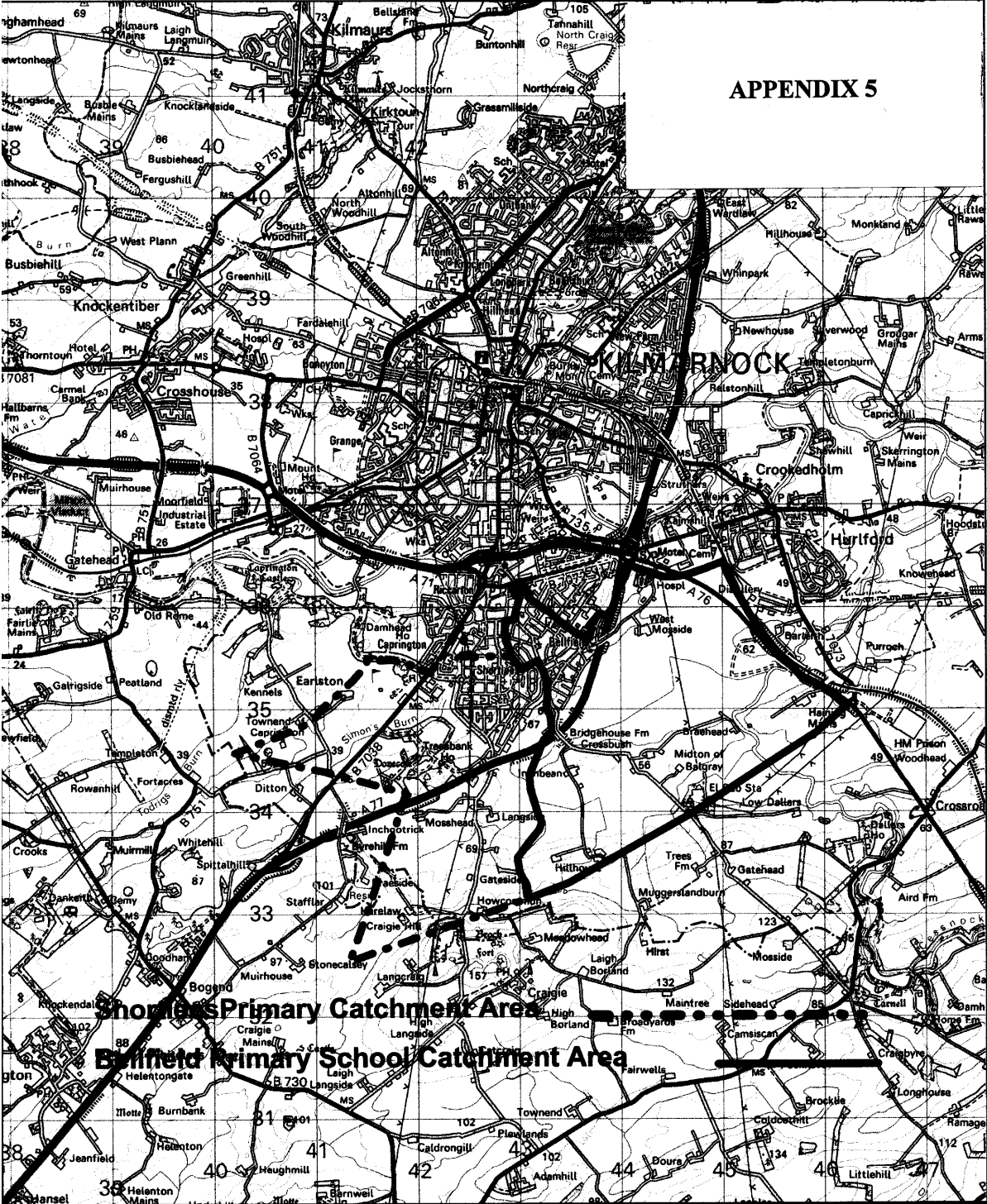
SHORTLEES PRIMARY : ROLL PROJECTION

SESSION	ROLLS BY STAGE							TOTAL ROLL P1-P7	PLACING REQS OUT	PUPILS FROM NEW HOUSING	TOTAL ROLL P1-P7
	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7				
2002	34	33	41	31	42	46	41	268	21	0	289
2003	36	34	33	41	31	42	46	263	43	0	306
2004	34	36	34	33	41	31	42	251	64	0	315
2005	34	34	36	34	33	41	31	243	85	0	328
2006	35	34	34	36	34	33	41	247	107	0	354
2007	34	35	34	34	36	34	33	240	128	0	368
2008	34	34	35	34	34	36	34	241	149	0	390

THE CURRENT SCHOOL CAPACITY IS 594 PUPILS.

THE PROPOSED SCHOOL CAPACITY IS 720 PUPILS.

APPENDIX 5




Title/Location **Shortlees Primary/Bellfield Primary Catchment Areas**
NS4236

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SCALE:1:50000 Date: 14/11/2002



APPENDIX 6

**ROLL PROJECTIONS – AMALGAMATION OF BELLFIELD AND SHORTLEES
PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

BELLFIELD/SHORTLEES PRIMARY : ROLL PROJECTION

SESSION	ROLLS BY STAGE							TOTAL ROLL P1-P7	PLACING REQS OUT	PUPILS FROM NEW HOUSING	TOTAL ROLL P1-P7
	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7				
2002	61	54	65	60	77	83	84	484	33	0	517
2003	60	61	54	65	60	77	83	460	66	0	526
2004	58	60	61	54	65	60	77	435	98	0	533
2005	59	58	60	61	54	65	60	417	130	0	547
2006	59	59	58	60	61	54	65	416	163	1	580
2007	58	59	59	58	60	61	54	409	195	1	605
2008	58	58	59	59	58	60	61	413	227	1	641

THE PROPOSED CAPACITY OF THE NEW BUILD PRIMARY SCHOOL IS 720.

AGENDA