



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE (EDUCATION)

Proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school with Early Learning and Childcare provision and catchment area for the Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill areas of Irvine East and, to amend the catchment area for Annick Primary School

REPORT BY HEAD OF SERVICE (EDUCATION) COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE

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

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درخواست پر یہ دستاویز دیگر زبانوں میں، بڑے حروف کی چھپائی اور سننے والے ذرائع پر بھی میسر ہے۔

Na życzenie klienta, informacje te mogą być udostępnione w innych językach oraz formatach.

**North Ayrshire Council
Communities Directorate (Education)**

**Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill Areas
Irvine East
Establish a New Non-Denominational Primary School
With Early Learning and Childcare Provision**

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 New housing developments within the Irvine East area, have resulted in an increase in the local population. One result of this population movement is education accommodation pressures at Annick Primary School, the catchment primary school for non-denominational pupils residing in the Montgomerie Park area. On 27 February 2019, North Ayrshire Council approved funding for a new 12-class non-denominational primary school for the Montgomerie Park area of Irvine within the Council's capital plan.
- 1.2 In March 2020, the COVID-19 virus impacted the UK and the country was forced into lockdown. This meant that this project was placed on hold, until a clear strategy out of lockdown and the restrictions which existed as a result, could be planned. This delay has resulted in the proposed opening date for the new school being revised from August 2022 to August 2023. It is important for any totally new school to open at the start of the educational year, otherwise it would not be an attractive educational option for families.
- 1.3 It is now proposed that the new school would open in August 2023, but the changes to the catchment area of Annick Primary School would be implemented from January 2023, or such other date as may be necessary, to meet the registration requirements for pupils wishing to attend the new school to allow registration for the new provision to be undertaken appropriately.
- 1.4 There will be no mandatory transfer for pupils already attending another school; however, pupils in P2-P7 within the catchment of the new primary school will be given the opportunity to transfer to the new school, should they wish to do so.
- 1.5 A pre-consultation engagement meeting took place on 15 January 2020 with Parent Council representatives from Annick Primary School, Lawthorn Primary School and Irvine Royal Academy (the catchment secondary school). This positive interaction resulted in the collective views of the schools impacted by the proposal being considered in order to shape the best way forward. This will ensure that the proposed development meets the needs of young people and the wider community.

2. Strategic Context

2.1 Council Vision

North Ayrshire Council's Plan, 'North Ayrshire: A Council that is Fair for All,' sets out our key aims and ambitions over the five-year period 2019-2024. Our mission is *"working together to improve well-being, prosperity and equity in North Ayrshire"*.

Our Council:

- recognises there is strength in doing things together;
- engages with, listens to and supports communities to be active partners in what we do;
- believes in fairness, tackles inequality and bases its decisions on these values;
- is ambitious, determined and committed to improving North Ayrshire;
- acts early taking a preventative approach;
- focuses resources towards our priority outcomes;
- innovates and drives positive change, embracing technology, to provide valued and cost-effective services for our communities; and
- makes sure its voice is heard – locally, regionally and nationally – to influence decision making and to attract investment.

Our priorities are centred on our people and places:

Aspiring Communities

- active and strong communities
- children and young people experience the best start in life
- inclusive, growing and enterprising local economy
- people enjoy good life-long health and well-being
- people and communities are safe

Inspiring Places

- effective infrastructure and digital connectivity
- affordable, modern and well-designed homes that meet residents' needs
- vibrant, welcoming and attractive places
- a sustainable environment

2.2 Education Vision

Aspiring Communities means creating a society where everyone has the same life chances to grow, prosper and have fulfilling and healthy lives.

In order to ensure our children and young people experience the best start in life, we will create the conditions for them to access the highest quality learning experiences.

North Ayrshire Council's Communities Directorate (Education) shares the Scottish Government's ambition of excellence and equity for all, underpinning the approach to delivering Scottish education. As stated in the recently launched 'Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy: Connecting People, Places and Learning:'

"Improving the education and life chances of children and young people are key priorities for both local and Scottish Government. Providing our children and young people with the best possible start in life and ensuring that all learners reach their full potential is critical."

The Learning Estate Strategy was published in the context of the refreshed National Performance Framework (updated in June 2018), which at its heart focuses on creating a more successful country with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish through increased well-being, and sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

Quality education and the accompanying infrastructure are at the heart of many of the national outcomes and their indicators and development goals. The specific national outcomes to which this strategy relates most closely are:

- we grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential;
- we are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society;
- we are healthy and active;
- we live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe;
- we have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone; and
- we have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy.

The vision is to develop an innovative and motivation learning environment that supports the delivery of positive educational outcomes for the children of this part of Irvine.

2.3 Equality

Promoting equality is one of North Ayrshire Council's core values. The principles of equality and fairness are central to all council activities. Equality means everyone has the right to be treated fairly and the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Under equality legislation, the general equality duty requires public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

The main method the council uses to ensure it is meeting its requirements under the legislation is through the Equality Impact Assessment process, which is used to assess policies, procedures and proposals. Following an Equality and Children's Rights Impact Assessment (ECRIA), no adverse effects on any protected characteristic have been identified as a result of the proposal. This document is live and will evolve with the consultation and throughout the project, if approved.

2.4 Asset Management Strategy

The Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 places a duty on Local Authorities to demonstrate best value in delivering their services and managing any assets they hold.

Typically, individual councils hold assets worth many millions of pounds and it is in the interest of councils and their residents that the most effective use of these assets is being made. The high-level direction of travel and ambition for the wider property estate is captured in the Council's Estates Strategy.

The delivery of this strategy is achieved through a Property Asset Management Plan (PAMP), which has been developed by North Ayrshire Council.

North Ayrshire Council's PAMP clearly outlines the priorities for the physical care and improvement of the Council's property portfolio and is intended to assist the Council in contributing to its key priorities.

The purpose of the PAMP is to support the delivery of our vision for North Ayrshire properties, providing a strategic framework to facilitate fit for purpose properties to ensure these assets continue to play an active role in the delivery of our services. The PAMP sets out the Council's approach to the management of its property assets.

A key theme of both the Estates Strategy and PAMP is a locality approach to service delivery, brought about by property rationalisation and co-location of Council services and other partners.

The locality approach to service delivery means providing the right services in the right areas, addressing the requirements of the communities they serve. The learning estate is the Council's most extensive asset and is therefore key to ensuring the success of this approach.

The overarching objective of the Property Asset Management Plan is to align the Council's land and property assets with the organisation's corporate objectives. By taking a strategic view in relation to the management of property assets, it is envisaged the Council will ensure the operational cost of property is as efficient as possible and that capital receipts are generated from the release of surplus assets.

2.5 Irvine Vision

The children and young people of North Ayrshire should understand, feel part of and be able to contribute to their community. The "Irvine Vision" place plan, co-produced with local residents, recognises the potential of Irvine as a destination and a place to live, and the importance of the quality of its schools and early years provision. We also recognise that the current COVID-19 pandemic has initiated change across the education sector and requires our buildings to be more flexible, functional and futureproof, in ways which previously were not envisaged.

3. Background and Rationale

- 3.1 This section sets out the background and rationale for the proposal, the main aims of which are to ensure that there are sufficient school places for the Irvine East area and to address capacity issues at Annick Primary School.
- 3.2 The site for the new school, shown at Appendix 1, was identified as part of the original masterplan for Montgomerie Park.
- 3.3 In the last few years, the number of completed housing units within Montgomerie Park has reached 481 units and the number of primary school aged pupils living here and attending non-denominational schools has reached 176.
- 3.4 There are a further 483 units planned for Montgomerie Park, scheduled to commence building within the next year. Appendix 2 illustrates the likely numbers of pupils residing there in the future and demonstrates the need for the new provision.
- 3.5 The table below shows the increase in roll at Annick Primary School since 2011. A significant proportion of this increase is as a direct result of new housing built at Montgomerie Park. The school now operates with a 16-class structure and temporary modular accommodation was installed at the school in August 2018 to provide sufficient capacity. The longer-term plan to ease the high occupancy level at Annick Primary School relies on a new primary school being established for the Montgomerie Park area.

Year	2011/ 12	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17	2017/ 18	2018/ 19	2019/ 20
Roll	251	277	278	285	306	340	359	371	386

- 3.6 The current catchment area for Annick Primary School is shown at Appendix 3. The proposed catchment area for the new school is shown at Appendix 1 and a list of streets included to create the new catchment area is at Appendix 4.
- 3.7 The location of school buildings, existing pupil flows, obvious geographical boundaries, public transport links and distances to and from a school are all factors considered when establishing new catchment boundaries. However, the principal driver is to ensure that the catchment populations for each of the schools affected are appropriate to their proposed capacity.
- 3.8 In this regard, the proposal also includes the Knadgerhill area of Irvine. Currently, 28 non-denominational pupils live in the area and there is a good network of paths from there to Montgomerie Park. The Knadgerhill area was previously within the John Galt Primary School catchment area and was rezoned to Annick Primary School catchment in the 2010 consultation that resulted in the closure of the former school. According to statistical data, the maximum number of P1-7 pupils we would expect to come from this area at any

one time would be around 40. It therefore makes sense, geographically and practically, to include this area within the new school catchment.

- 3.9 As part of ongoing work to assess the impact of COVID-19 on children and families, an assessment of capacity across the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) estate has been undertaken. This takes account of proposed legislative changes which will likely see an increase in demand for two year old places and for three to five year old places due to parental choice around deferring entry to primary education.
- 3.10 As a result of this recent assessment, it is proposed that ELC provision is included in the plans for the new school to accommodate 32 three to five-year olds and 15 two-year olds in their local area.

4 Pre-Consultation Stakeholder Engagement

- 4.1 The Council recognises both the importance of seeking the views of learners and their school communities, and the valuable contribution that this collaborative approach has in establishing a comprehensive proposal. Working together from this early stage builds the foundation for positive joint working throughout the life of this project.
- 4.2 As outlined above, one of the guiding principles of 'Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy' states that *'good consultation about learning environments, direct engagement with learners and communities about their needs and experiences, and an involvement in decision making processes should lead to better outcomes for all'*.
- 4.3 In this regard, a pre-consultation engagement meeting took place on 15 January 2020 with Parent Council representatives from Annick Primary School. Also in attendance were the Parent Council representatives from Lawthorn Primary School and Irvine Royal Academy (the catchment secondary school). Lawthorn Primary School is equidistant from Montgomerie Park to Annick Primary School and takes in a significant number of children by placing request from the area.
- 4.4 The purpose of the meeting was to offer information on the initial proposals and to gather the views of the school communities in preparation for the formal statutory public consultation.
- 4.5 Feedback obtained at this meeting indicates that there is widespread support in the Montgomerie Park area to establish a new primary school, as outlined in the previous masterplan. Considerations were raised regarding; transition to secondary school, sibling placing requests, composite classes and transport to Irvine Royal Academy, and these are addressed within this proposal document.
- 4.6 This positive interaction resulted in the collective views of the schools impacted by the proposal being considered in order to shape the best way forward. This

will ensure that the proposed development meets the needs of young people and the wider community.

5 Proposal

- 5.1 In March 2020, the COVID-19 virus impacted the UK and the country was forced into lockdown. This meant that this project was placed on hold until a clear strategy out of lockdown and the restrictions which existed as a result, could be planned. This delay has resulted in the proposed opening date for the new school being revised from August 2022 to August 2023. It is important for any totally new school to open at the start of the educational year, otherwise it would not be an attractive educational option for families.
- 5.2 In line with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, and as a result of engagement with relevant interested parties, North Ayrshire Council, proposes:
- (i) to establish a new non-denominational primary school with Early Learning and Childcare provision and catchment area for the Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill areas of Irvine from August 2023, and
 - (ii) to amend the catchment area for Annick Primary School from January 2023, or such other date as may be necessary, to meet the registration requirements for pupils wishing to attend the new school.
- 5.3 The new facility would be established on North Ayrshire Council-owned land reserved for this purpose at Montgomerie Park. Appendix 1 shows the site, along with the proposed catchment area and Appendix 4 shows the list of streets proposed for inclusion in the new catchment area. These streets would be removed from Annick Primary School's catchment to create a new catchment for the proposed school.
- 5.4 On the assumption that the proposal for a new school is approved and opened by August 2023, the catchment area for the new primary school would apply from the start of the registration process in January 2023. Please note that a later date of opening would change these dates. All interested parties would be informed of any change to the dates contained in the timeline at Appendix 5.
- 5.5 Pupils eligible to start school in August 2023, residing within the Montgomerie Park or Knadgerhill areas should present for registration on the notified date in January 2023. Detailed registration arrangements will be published in Winter 2022.
- 5.6 In Autumn 2022, the Council will contact the parents/carers of all P1-6 pupils (who will be P2-P7 from August 2023), living in the Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill areas, attending a North Ayrshire school. The purpose of this will be to offer the opportunity to apply for a place at the new school for August

2023. Parents/carers may choose to refuse this offer of a place. All pupils will be entitled to remain in their current primary schools – there will be no mandatory transfer to the new school, for existing school pupils.

- 5.7 Parents and carers of children residing in the Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill areas should note that, where they have a child attending Annick Primary School and choose to continue that arrangement, as detailed in 5.5 (above), that in respect of any younger siblings registering for P1 from August 2023, a placing request will require to be submitted should they also wish the younger child to attend Annick Primary School with their older sibling. All decisions taken will be in accordance with the prevailing council policy in respect of the management of placing requests.
- 5.8 The experience of other local authorities who have opened an entirely new school would suggest that transfer on a voluntary basis is likely to result in an uneven distribution of pupils between year groups with a risk that some stages, especially from P4-7, are very small, or empty. Accordingly, it should be anticipated that the new school will not operate at its class capacity in the short to medium term and composite classes may be necessary. Composite classes occur where children from two or more year stages are grouped together to form one class.
- 5.9 Research on practices adopted in other authorities leading up to the opening of an entirely new school has highlighted the value of appointing the Head Teacher a few months before the new school opens. This would allow the Head Teacher to take time to appoint staff, oversee the completion and occupation of the building and take a lead role in establishing relationships within the new school community, including the establishment of the new Parent Council. Subsequent to the appointment of the new Head Teacher, work will commence to establish a school uniform, badge, school handbook and develop the values and aims of the new establishment.
- 5.10 The school will be staffed to meet the requirements of the pupil roll. This will include both teaching and non-teaching staff, support admin/clerical, dining and janitorial staff.
- 5.11 Whilst no changes are anticipated in the short term to the existing staff structures at any other primary schools as a direct result of this proposal, the longer term effects on the school rolls, particularly at Annick and Lawthorn Primary Schools will require regular monitoring and review of staffing requirements.
- 5.12 Both the Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill areas are currently within the catchment for Irvine Royal Academy and this will continue. Therefore, any pupil residing in these two areas and wishing to attend any other secondary school will require to make a placing request to that school.
- 5.13 The Council provides free school transport to those secondary school pupils who reside more than 3 miles suitable walking distance from their catchment secondary school. The distance from Montgomerie Park to Irvine Royal

Academy is less than 3 miles, therefore the Council will not provide school transport.

- 5.14 There are no catchment areas for early years provision, however this proposal is to include a 32 capacity (3-5 year olds) and a 15 capacity (2 year olds) provision at Montgomerie Park.

The inclusion of an Early Years provision responds to a number of pressures:

- (i) A forthcoming change to the law, which will allow parents of all children born between August and March, to have a guaranteed additional year of Early Years education, should they wish to defer their child attending primary school. This change is likely to see greater numbers of deferred places across all ELC establishments, and whilst the predicted numbers are manageable in many localities, within Irvine East, there is likely to be a shortfall in available places at the establishments which are currently attended by children from the Montgomerie Park area.
- (ii) A rise in the number of eligible 2-year old children in the area, as a result of the economic downturn caused by the global pandemic.
- (iii) Feedback obtained through the pre-engagement exercise from parents

6 Educational Benefits Statement

- 6.1 A new non-denominational Primary school for Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill will ensure sufficient primary school capacity to meet projected demand, providing catchment school places for catchment children.
- 6.2 The proposal will mean that the existing primary school rolls at Annick and Lawthorn Primary Schools will decrease over time, reducing pressure on school facilities.
- 6.3 Despite the catchment areas of the existing primary schools being reduced, the proposal will ensure that all schools in the area have a viable and sustainable school roll with flexibility to support a variety of learning and teaching approaches, aligned to the Curriculum for Excellence. The proposed catchment will allow teacher staffing levels and year group arrangements to be effective, and children will be able to learn within a variety of peer group opportunities, in a very local context, the importance of which has been reinforced by the pandemic.
- 6.4 The new primary school will be part of the Irvine Royal Academy cluster of schools, comprising Annick, Castlepark, Loudoun Montgomery and Woodlands Primary Schools. As such, it will benefit from strong relationships with the associated secondary school. Children will be involved in a full transition programme in P7, which is designed to make the move to secondary school a successful experience for all. Currently, pupils transitioning to their catchment secondary school meet and work with their peers from other local schools several times prior to beginning their secondary schooling.

- 6.5 The inclusion of an early learning and childcare class will support effective transition into primary school and enable staff to better share information to ensure progression in children's learning.
- 6.6 The school will provide community space in a new and growing local area, enabling social capital and participatory approaches. This will strengthen community and school capacity to promote health, wellbeing and resilience. Emphasis will be placed on creating new opportunities for local community groups. Local residents are already working together and North Ayrshire's emphasis on participation will be developed at Montgomerie Park through relationships with the school. As a result, not only will a high-quality educational environment for our young people be created but significant positive outcomes for the entire community will be realised.

7 The Proposed New Provision

- 7.1 On 27 February 2019, North Ayrshire Council approved funding for a new 12-class non-denominational primary school for the Montgomerie Park area of Irvine within the Council's capital plan.
- 7.2 In October 2020, the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) invited bids for innovative new educational and community facilities as part of their Phase 2 Learning Estate programme. On 18 December 2020, the Scottish Government announced the inclusion of the new school proposal in the second phase of investment in Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy.
- 7.3 Revenue costs of £945,976 are projected, by the time the school is operating at its full capacity. The establishment of a fully operating school will take time and these costs will be partly offset by resource transfer from the other primary schools, as their rolls reduce over time.
- 7.4 The new facility of high quality, modern learning and teaching spaces, including the early years provision, will be flexible, functional and future proof. In terms of sustainability and environmental impact, the proposed new facility will meet the guiding principles set out in 'Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy':
- learning environments should support and facilitate excellent joined up learning and teaching to meet the needs of all learners;
 - learning environments should support the wellbeing of all learners, meet varying needs to support inclusion and support transitions for all learners;
 - the learning estate should be well-managed and maintained, making the best of existing resources, maximising occupancy and representing and delivering best value;
 - the condition and suitability of learning environments should support and enhance their function;
 - learning environments should serve the wider community and where appropriate be integrated with the delivery of other public services in line with the place principle;

- learning environments should be greener, more sustainable, allow safe and accessible routes and be digitally enabled;
- outdoor learning and the use of outdoor learning environments should be maximised;
- good consultation about learning environments, direct engagement with learners and communities about their needs and experiences, and an involvement in decision making processes should lead to better outcomes for all;
- collaboration across the learning estate, and collaboration with partners in localities, should support maximising its full potential; and
- investment in Scotland's learning estate should contribute towards improving learning outcomes and support sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

7.5 North Ayrshire Council has declared a Climate Emergency, and in this respect sustainability will be a key objective in both the construction of the new school and in reducing unnecessary journeys within the town, thereby contributing to the Council's target of reducing our carbon footprint and the Scottish Government's ambitious policy target to achieve a near zero carbon estate by 2050.

The building will be designed in line with the Council's Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, which includes workstreams relating to the following aspects of the strategy:

- Affordable Warmth
- Green Economy
- Transport and Travel
- Natural and Built Environment
- Sustainable Operations

7.6 Experiences over the last 6 months have highlighted the key role that outdoor learning has in terms of educational experiences. The proposed school site is adjacent to Eglinton Country Park and the children will benefit greatly from having this and associated Countryside Ranger staff on their doorstep. With access to woodland areas, walks, ponds and local historic monuments, strong links and relationships will be fostered to develop innovative outdoor learning experiences, enhancing emotional, social and physical well-being and providing freedom to learn. There is also an extensive open space and path network within the Montgomerie Park area, which includes a sustainable urban drainage system. The space and sheltered learning and teaching facilities required to maximise the outdoor experience for children, will be at the forefront of this exciting project. This project offers exciting opportunities for the children to experience outdoor adventures beyond those possible within the school grounds.

7.7 The design will signal to all users (children, parents and staff) that learning is a valued activity, and that the learning environment is a priority. It will be inspiring and invite exploration of the use of the environment and space in different and imaginative ways.

8. Statutory Public Consultation Process

8.1 This document has been issued by North Ayrshire Council for consultation in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

8.2 What is a Statutory Public Consultation?

In Scotland, local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure the adequate and efficient provision of education in their area. If a local authority proposes to change any part of the existing education provision in its area, then it must engage in a formal consultation process under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The act aims to ensure that all major changes which affect schools are subject to clear consultation with parents, children, young people and communities.

8.3 When does the Statutory Public Consultation start?

The consultation will start on Monday 11 January and close on Tuesday 2 March 2021, which includes a period of 35 school days.

8.4 Who will have access to this proposal document?

This proposal document has been made available to all interested parties, including Parent Councils, Education Scotland, parents and carers of children attending the establishments affected, Staff, Trade Unions and any other users of the establishments as detailed in the distribution list.

This proposal document is published on the Council website at -
<http://www.northayrshire.community/consultationsevents/consultations/>

Copies are also available from the Communities Directorate (Education) HQ, Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE (tel: 01294 324442). The document will be displayed for the public at Bridgegate House, Irvine KA12 8BD.

Copies can be also be made available in alternative formats or in translated form for readers whose first language is not English.

8.5 What if I notice an error in the document?

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 if there has been an inaccuracy.

The Council may then take appropriate action, which may include the issue of a correction notice, the reissuing of the proposal document or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period, if appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and Education Scotland will be advised.

8.6 How will I get a chance to give my opinion?

You will be able to give your opinion on the proposal:

- Online at 'Shaping North Ayrshire' www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/mpschool
- By completing an online response form at <https://tinyurl.com/y5l2mn2d>
- By submitting a paper copy of the response form, attached at Appendix 6
- By emailing educ_consultation@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
- In writing to the Head of Service (Education), Communities Directorate, North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE

There is also a consultation helpline available on 01294 324442. Staff will be available on this number from 9am until 4.45pm Monday to Friday to answer any questions and provide further information.

All responses must be submitted by no later than close of business on **Tuesday 2 March 2021**.

8.7 Will there be any meetings for the public?

North Ayrshire Council has made the decision to hold information sessions for the public online via Zoom. These sessions will provide an opportunity for interested parties to hear about the proposal from council officers, ask questions and have their views recorded so that these can be taken into account as part of the consultation process.

The Council has a duty of care to both the public and its staff to ensure their health and safety. The best way to eliminate the risk of COVID-19 virus transmission and, to allow as many people to hear the views of others at the same meetings, is to hold these online.

Advance notice of specific questions or issues to be raised at the online meetings will be accepted up to Monday 25 January 2021. This will allow all issues to be covered and give those who may not be comfortable speaking publicly their opportunity to be heard.

Please contact the Education Infrastructure team on 01294 324442 or via email at educ_consultation@north-ayrshire.gov.uk to receive the Zoom meeting link.

Information sessions will be held as follows:

Platform	Date	Time
Zoom	Tuesday 26 January 2021	6.30pm (use contact details above, before 5.30pm on 26 January for meeting link)
Zoom	Thursday 28 January 2021	6.30pm (use contact details above, before 5.30pm on 28 January for meeting link)

Anyone wishing to attend either meeting online, will be made very welcome.

A note will be taken of comments, questions and officer responses at each session. The notes will be published on the Council website and a copy will be made available on request. The notes will also be forwarded to Education Scotland along with all other submissions and comments that are received by the Council during the consultation process.

8.8 Will any other agencies be involved in the process?

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 requires that a report on the proposal is prepared by Education Scotland. Education Scotland may attend the public meetings.

Once the statutory public consultation period comes to an end, Education Scotland have three weeks to consider the educational aspects of the proposal and submit a report to the council.

Education Scotland receives copies of relevant papers from the council, including:

- a copy of the proposal paper;
- copies of the written representations or a summary of them (if Education Scotland agree);
- a note of oral representations made at the public meeting sessions; and
- any other related documentation.

Education Scotland may visit schools as part of their consideration of the proposal and meet with children, staff and parents who may be affected by the proposal.

Upon receipt of the proposal document and other relevant documentation, Education Scotland will consider the educational aspects of the proposal. They will ensure that their report takes account of:

- the educational benefits statement;
- the representations received by the council; and
- any further written representations made directly to Education Scotland on any educational aspect of the proposal which is considered relevant.

The consultation report that the Council publishes following the statutory public consultation must include the report from Education Scotland in full.

8.9 Will the outcome of the consultation be made public?

The Head of Service (Education) will prepare a report on the results of the consultation process. The report will take account of all Education Scotland recommendations. This report will be published in electronic and printed formats and will be advertised in local newspapers. It will be available on the Council website and from Council Headquarters. The report will include a

record of the total number of written representations made during the consultation period, a summary of the written and oral representations, and the Council's response to recommendations made by Education Scotland. A copy of the Education Scotland report will be an appendix to the consultation report which will be published and available for further consideration for a period of more than 3 weeks ahead of presentation to Elected Members in Spring 2021.

8.10 When will the Council make a decision on the outcome of the consultation?

The consultation report, together with any other relevant documentation, will be considered by Cabinet, who will make a decision on the proposal in Spring 2021. Thereafter, the timeline at Appendix 5 will be followed.

DISTRIBUTION

A copy of this document is available on the Community Planning Partnership pages within the North Ayrshire Council website:

<http://www.northayrshire.community/consultationsevents/consultations/>

A copy of this document will be made available to all stakeholders associated with the schools affected by the proposal, including:

- Parents/Carers
- Parent Councils
- Headteachers
- Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff, including facilities management
- Local Elected Members for Irvine East
- Member of Parliament
- Member of Scottish Parliament
- Education Scotland
- Chief Executive, North Ayrshire Council
- Director (Growth and Investment) – North Ayrshire Council
- Director (Health and Social Care Partnership) – North Ayrshire Council
- Executive Director (Place) – North Ayrshire Council
- All NAC Heads of Service
- Community Planning Partnership Board
- Sub Division Commander, Police Scotland
- Area Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Chief Executive, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
- Community Councils (Irvine)
- Local Community Groups
- Trade Unions
 - Unison
 - EIS, Education Institute of Scotland
 - NASUWT
 - GMB
 - UNITE
 - VOICE

A copy of this Proposal Document is available to view at Bridgegate House, Irvine KA12 8BD.

Public notices have been placed in the Irvine Herald and Irvine Times.