



**APPENDIX A**

**CONSULTATION REPORT REGARDING  
THE REPLACEMENT AND RELOCATION OF  
PETERHEAD ACADEMY**

**2020**

**This Consultation Report has been issued by Education & Children's Services of Aberdeenshire Council in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010**

– Contents –

- 1 THE PROPOSAL
- 2 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
- 3 WRITTEN RESPONSES
- 4 EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT
- 5 EDUCATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO WRITTEN AND ORAL REPRESENTATIONS
- 6 COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 9(1) OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 AND CONCLUSIONS

– Appendices –

- Appendix 1 Proposal Document Peterhead Academy Relocation
- Appendix 2 Survey Monkey Responses
- Appendix 3 Survey Monkey Summary
- Appendix 4 Pupil Engagement Responses Summary
- Appendix 5 Letter from Peterhead Community Council
- Appendix 6 Education Scotland Consultation Final Report
- Appendix 7 Peterhead Business Town Centre Survey (August 2017)
- Appendix 8 Town Centre and Socio-Economic Impact (August 2020)

## 1. THE PROPOSAL

- 1.1 At its meeting on 10 October 2019, Aberdeenshire Council's Education, Learning & Leisure Committee authorised the launch of a statutory consultation regarding the replacement and relocation of Peterhead Academy to Kinmundy, Peterhead.

The Proposal Document included as Appendix 1 to this report, was issued to those individuals and bodies listed under Distribution within the proposal document. The Proposal Document was also published on the Council website: <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/education-consultations/>

The Proposal Document made clear to consultees that the consultation period would run from Monday 14 October 2019 to Friday 13 December 2019. This covered the required minimum of 30 days term time consultation.

The proposal on which the consultation took place was that:

*Education provision at the existing Peterhead Academy should be discontinued with effect from July 2025;*

*Pupils of the existing Peterhead Academy and future pupils from the Peterhead Academy catchment areas should continue their education at a new Peterhead Community Campus located at Kinmundy Road, Peterhead from August 2025.*

- 1.1.1 The Proposal Document stated that the catchment area for Peterhead Academy would not change with the new location. All pupils currently zoned to the school would continue to be zoned to the school and would attend the new Peterhead Community Campus.

### 1.2 Educational Benefits Statement

The Proposal Document contained within it an educational benefits statement. That statement drew upon concerns about the condition and suitability, scored C under both, of the existing Peterhead Academy building. The condition of the new building will be a significant improvement on the current school, and as the suitability of the new school building is at the heart of the design process, the new campus will be an attractive environment to learn that inspires pupils to engage with the curriculum.

The educational benefits statement noted the new building will adapt to future learning requirements and the design process will ensure that all spaces support the learning and teaching styles of the 21st Century.

In addition, the new Peterhead Community Campus will be built with community and sport facilities (subject to separate statutory consultations), which will significantly enhance opportunities for PE, and related activities, and will improve pupil safety. The new sports facility will enable pupils to receive all of their educational entitlement at the same location and allow greater coherence of educational programmes.

Aberdeenshire Council is committed to delivering entitlements to learners in the 21st century according to Curriculum for Excellence.

## **2. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

### **2.1 Engagement with Public**

A public meeting was held on Tuesday 12 November 2019 at Peterhead Academy. The meeting was attended by approximately 50 people, including parents, pupils, staff, elected members and members of the community. A full note of the meeting is available on our website (at the link provided in 1.1). There were several comments and questions raised and there was a feeling of overall support for the replacement school. A summary of the questions raised can be found below:

- Taking the school away from the town centre and an impact on local businesses
- School transport and distance to the new site for pupils from the most deprived areas
- Distance to the new building for pupils from the most deprived areas and as a result, possible reduced attendance rate
- Capacity of the proposed new building and outdoor areas
- Traffic congestion, roads and parking infrastructure and safe routes to the campus
- Access, drop off and pick up points
- Site location
- Campus design
- Dining provision and insufficient number of shops in the area
- Mixing different age groups and mixing mainstream pupils with pupils with ASN or other vulnerable groups
- Maintenance of existing building
- Other sport and community facilities located on the campus site
- Transition arrangements and impact on pupils and staff
- Disposal of the current building
- Taking the site away from the existing users: sport teams, families, dog walkers

### **2.2 Online Survey**

Survey monkey was made available to identified stakeholders and community members. 139 people completed the survey and 88 open ended responses have been received. The survey questions and all responses have been provided (Appendix 2). A summary of the survey comments is appended (Appendix 3).

### **2.3 Discussions with Pupils**

As part of the consultation process, all head teachers from Peterhead Cluster Schools presented a short set of questions to pupils about the proposal to relocate Peterhead Academy to the new campus. The feedback has been received from Peterhead Academy, St Fergus, Clerkhill and Meethill Schools pupils. A summary note of responses is appended (Appendix 4).

#### 2.4 Staff engagement

Staff within the school have been given the opportunity to discuss the proposals. As the proposals for a Peterhead Academy replacement have been discussed for a number of years, staff involvement has been ongoing. No further staff feedback has been received during the consultation period.

### 3. **WRITTEN RESPONSES**

A letter with questions and comments from Peterhead Community Council was received on 3 December 2019. The full version can be found in Appendix 5. There was a meeting held on 15 January 2020 during which the Learning Estate Manager provided extensive responses to the questions and comments raised.

There were six written comments, via email and comment card, submitted to the consultation. An overview of this correspondence is provided below.

#### Emails received on 14 October 2019:

- Parent - advised that she was totally on board with all proposals and it could not come quick enough.
- Parent – stated that she supports the move and is in favour of a new academy building. As a parent of children who will possibly attend, she was concerned about how pupils would be supported through the move whilst in the middle of their exams. How would this affect pupils who are trying to study hard during the exam time? Would the teachers be under more stress and possibly their minds elsewhere, away from exams?

#### Comment Cards from the public meeting 12th November 2019:

- Parent – expressed concerns about access of all the pupils, users of the new facilities, as of right now only one road from Clerkhill School up past Co-op shop. All other surrounding areas already built up with housing, to which no new access roads could be constructed.
- Kinmundy Resident – was questioning if the town centre shops were asked how they felt about the removal of the academy pupil business? With one shop (Co-op) how will they cope with the surge of pupils? How do we protect our vulnerable and impressionable from the older kids-open to bullying and intimidation?
- Parent – asked about reasons for mixing vulnerable groups with Peterhead Academy pupils with bad behaviour and police being on the site. Why vulnerable groups (Anna Ritchie, care homes, primary age) are being put together? The parent mentioned about a case of bullying from the special

- school based in Inverurie. Traffic management plan has not been considered (3 years into the project) and this is a fundamental part of the plan.
- Resident – as there is a vast amount of green space currently used by football teams, families, dog walkers, other sport teams etc. and with all the proposed schools, care homes etc on site it would leave little or no green space as there is currently no other green space of that size in Peterhead.

#### **4. EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT**

- 4.1 The Education Scotland report is reproduced in full (Appendix 6).
- 4.2 Education Scotland acknowledge that the proposal to replace and relocate Peterhead Academy has the potential to provide clear educational benefits, given the current standard of the building. They recognise that a new building would provide improved learning, social and outdoor space, would better support staff in delivering modern learning and teaching and should better meet modern teaching and learning requirements. The proposal should improve accessibility for learners with disabilities, improve digital technology and create a more pleasant learning environment.
- 4.3 Education Scotland recognise that the main areas of concern raised by stakeholders were related to the proposed location, whether the Kinmundy site had sufficient space for all the facilities, an effect on local road traffic and the reduction in local, green space. A minority were concerned about the potential negative impact on the town centre and about loss of the existing community facilities attached to the current building.
- 4.4 Education Scotland agree that the proposal will improve social, general purpose and outdoor spaces. They agree that this proposal provides potential educational benefits by increasing space for young people to socialise, to undertake collaborative work and take part in outdoor learning and sports.
- 4.5 Education Scotland recognise that almost all stakeholders were positive about incorporating leisure and community facilities into the new site. A minority were concerned that moving facilities from the current site to the campus could be a reduction in what is available, less accessible to those without private transport and could reduce the viability of the town centre.
- 4.6 Education Scotland noted that a minority of stakeholders were concerned about traffic management around the new site. They assessed that the Council need to consider how to best ensure good transport access to the proposed site including safe walking, cycling and vehicle access routes. A few stakeholders were concerned about the potential to move other establishments to the proposed site and how this could increase pressure on the site and surrounding area.
- 4.7 Education Scotland recognise that most stakeholders, including pupils currently at the Academy and in its associated primary schools, were positive about the

development. There will be educational benefits in having a new building with modern facilities and resources.

- 4.8 Education Scotland identify that there will be merit in involving stakeholders where appropriate, including pupils, in design, planning and influencing transition arrangements for the new site; transport and access concerns around the new site will need to be addressed; how best to mitigate against any negative consequences from moving all or part of the community facilities sited in the town centre Academy campus.

## **5. EDUCATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO WRITTEN AND ORAL REPRESENTATIONS**

All comments have been categorised and the Council response is provided below.

### Taking the school away from the town centre and an impact on local businesses

The Peterhead Business Town Centre Survey carried out in August 2017 by Economic Development Officers reported that there was not a significant change in footfall numbers in the town centre when term time and holiday figures were compared. A full analysis and the footfall studies can be found in Appendix 7.

A new Town Centre and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment carried out between April 2020 and July 2020 by an independent consultant of 4Consulting Limited revealed that if credible mitigation actions can be set out then this suggests the preferred option would represent the best option to deliver the community campus vision and take into account the Town Centre First Principle.

It was identified that around £400,000 per annum is spent in the town centre arising from direct spend from staff and pupils; however, a significant proportion of this can be attributed to a national supermarket. It was also noted that a large proportion of staff spending in Peterhead is across the town and not specific to the town centre. Retention of community facilities in the town centre and further redevelopment of the existing academy site would reduce the lost town centre spending further. In addition, with the presence of pupils in the town centre no longer a deterrent for some visitors, additional town centre spending may offset this further. Household spending across the town was unlikely to reduce, indeed spending was projected to increase as result of the rising town population.

A clear prevalence of deprivation was identified in and around Peterhead Town Centre and whilst it was noted that pupils living in these areas would have a marginally longer travel to school, the distances were noted not to have a significant impact.

Attendance and attainment were noted to likely increase in new and improved educational facilities. Currently around 70% of those who attended Peterhead Academy are working in the greater Aberdeen region, of which nearly half stated they were still based in or around Peterhead. There is therefore an opportunity for further improvement in the local labour market realising further economic benefits for the town as a result of new educational facilities.

The following mitigation actions were identified from the town centre study which would address any negative economic and social impacts on the town centre.

Redevelopment of the current academy site to be fully considered as part of the development of the campus, including the retention of community-based facilities and services which complement the town centre rather than compete with.

- Reshaping the town centre, in line with current proposals to attract new and diverse investment into the town through the Invest in Peterhead campaign, including the repurposing of existing vacant buildings and sites.
- Supporting communities in deprived areas and equipping them with skills and knowledge to adapt to new routes including implementing new initiatives such as cycle schemes to encourage timely and healthy commuting to school.
- To develop further the current good working relationship between the Peterhead Business Improvement District, Aberdeenshire Council and other stakeholders to react to the changing demands of town centre users.
- Provision of good quality flats, loft apartments and town houses in the town centre as recognised by the Regeneration Plan would help to promote a mixed tenure community, increasing economic activity.

The full assessment is attached in Appendix 8.

#### School transport and distance to the new site for pupils from the most deprived areas

School transport will be provided for secondary pupils who are in zone and reside more than three miles from the community campus.

Travel assistance may be provided, if the walk route to the campus is deemed unsafe and there is no safe travel alternative available, such as a fare-paying local bus service (subject to existing school transport and spare seating capacity).

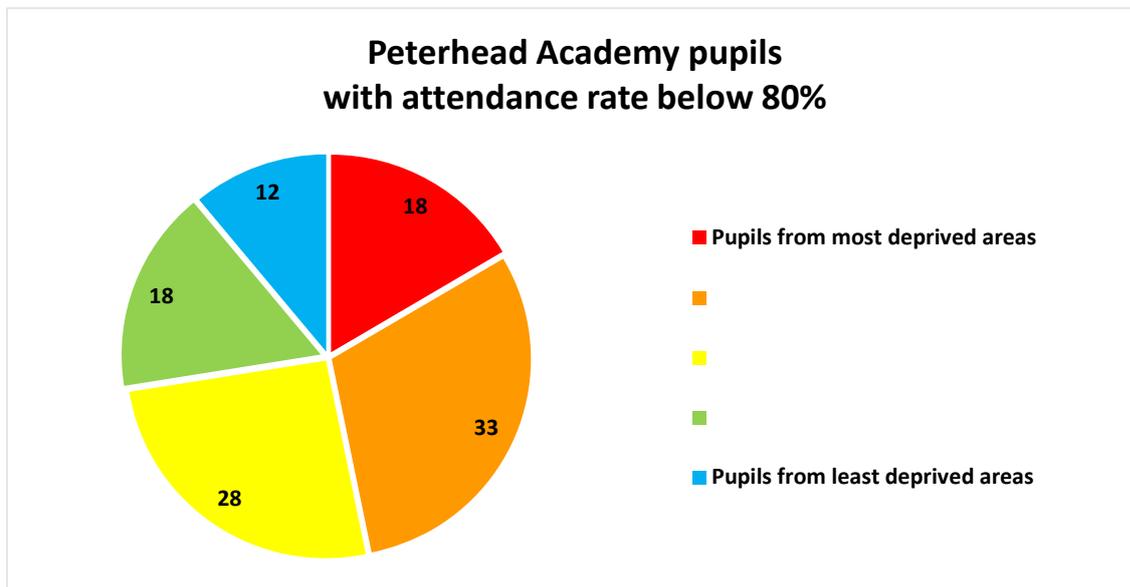
It is anticipated that with regards to transport, only a small number of pupils will be affected by the replacement school being built on a different site. The Council will work closely with the school and parents regarding safe walking/cycling routes to the campus.

#### Distance to the new building for pupils from the most deprived areas and as a result, possible reduced attendance rate

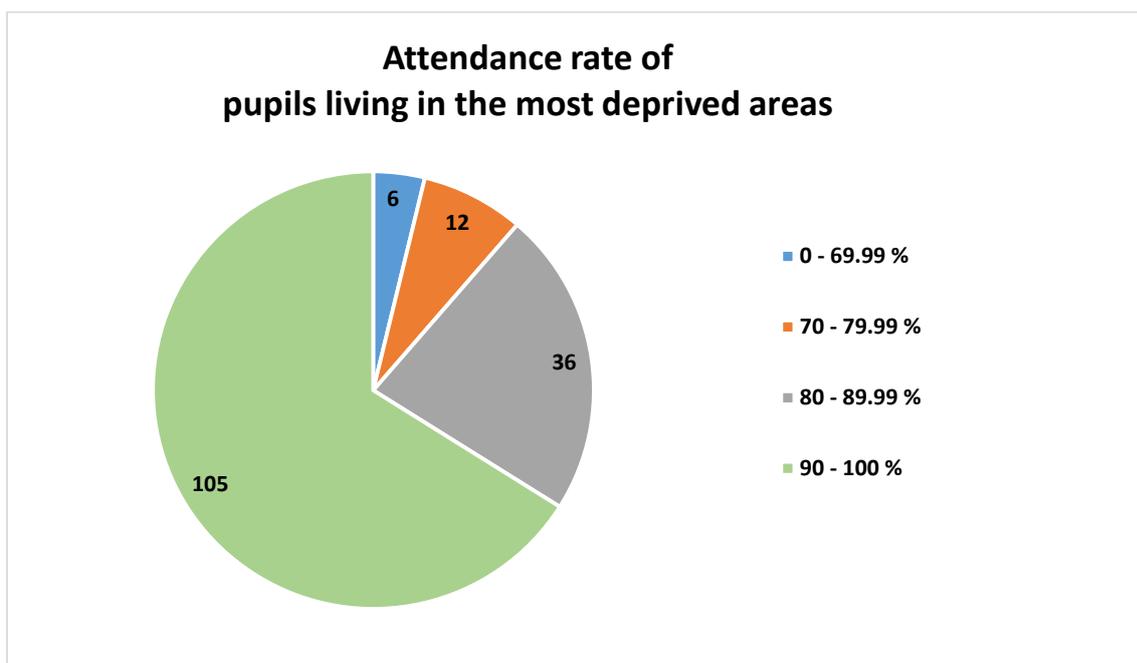
The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a measure of deprivation across 6,976 data zones. SIMD ranks data zones from most deprived (ranked as 1) to least deprived (ranked as 6,976) and the most deprived quintile covers the 20% most deprived areas across Scotland.

As of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Peterhead Academy attendance figures showed a whole school attendance rate of 92.1%.

The study looked at pupils' attendance rate below 80%, which reflects 109 pupils out of all 1138 Peterhead Academy pupils. Out of 18 pupils living in the most deprived areas of Peterhead, 41% absences were unauthorised while 59% authorised.



Another study looked at the attendance rate of pupils living in the most deprived areas. Across the school, 159 pupils reside in the most deprived areas. Out of those 159 pupils, 105 pupils (66%) maintained attendance rate of 90% or above, 36 pupils (23%) managed to maintain attendance rate between 80% to 89.99%, 12 pupils (8%) had attendance rate between 70% to 79.99% and only 6 pupils (4%) retained attendance rate of 69.99% and below.



### Capacity of the proposed new building and outdoor areas

Concerns were raised regarding the size of the proposed Kinmundy site and the community campus whether there would be enough space to accommodate the Academy, two Primary Schools, a Special School, a Nursery, pitches and other community facilities.

The Kinmundy site is 30 acres. An indicative campus layout has been created which ensures that all facilities, pitches, road layouts and parking can be accommodated whilst ensuring that green space is maintained.

The new Peterhead Community Campus will be built with sufficient capacity for secondary pupils based upon school roll forecasts, with shared facilities and with sufficient core areas that additional accommodation could be provided for future roll increase should this be required.

Referring to the Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy Guiding Principle no 7 "outdoor learning and the use of outdoor learning environments should be maximised" which is the Council's objective in terms of delivering new solutions for education provision.

### Traffic congestion, roads and parking infrastructure and safe routes to the campus

New roads and parking infrastructure, off-road walking and cycling routes to the campus will be designed and built, following best practice guidelines and Aberdeenshire Council standards. All new infrastructure will be determined through the planning process including consultation with the Roads Department team to ensure the provision is appropriate. Involvement from the Transport Strategy Team and Public Transport Unit will also take place to ensure safe routes to school and the wider community campus are planned and identified.

The Aberdeenshire Council Car Parking Standards will be applied in carrying out a Transport Assessment which should be developed in order to meet the parking requirements to a new development for all travel modes.

The community and relevant stakeholders will be involved in the roads and traffic assessment.

### Access, drop off and pick up points

There will be several access points and routes into the campus, all of which will be fully managed through an approved access strategy.

The campus will have sufficient drop off and pick up space for pupils. The Council will work closely with parents and pupils in assessing the appropriate points.

### Site location

A range of sites for replacing Peterhead Academy have been explored and this options appraisal process resulted in two viable options. These being to rebuild the academy on the current site over a number of years, or relocation of the whole academy to Kinmundy. Following many public engagement sessions, the community voted for the Kinmundy site as a preferred location. The Kinmundy site was subsequently approved by Full Council in June 2019 as the location for the campus.

### Campus design

In designing the new community campus, the Council will follow the current Aberdeenshire Council policy and practice and the School Estate Strategy which outlines 10 guiding principles, objectives and a set of aspirations for future planning and action. The aim is to raise the quality of learning estates ensuring no schools are in poor condition or otherwise unsuitable for 21<sup>st</sup> century education.

A range of factors will be taken into consideration when embarking on the new campus design and project. It will provide excellent educational facilities to support new or different ways of learning and teaching, provide more DYW opportunities, as well as it will open up the campus to the community as a whole with an emphasis on the inclusion and access to education for all.

The campus will serve the community for many years, so it is crucial that they are of high quality, attractive, flexible, fit for purpose, sustainable and value for money.

Aberdeenshire Council have built 3 new secondary schools in the past 5 years and the most recent one, Inverurie Community Campus, will be fully operational from October 2020. The design and standards will be derived from our operational experience, best practice, post occupancy evaluation of other Aberdeenshire builds and a review of comparable sites across Scotland and the UK.

Pupils, parents and staff will be involved in some aspects of the project design.

### Dining provision and insufficient number of shops in the area

Concerns were raised regarding insufficient dining options on the site. Social and general purpose spaces such as dining facilities will be distributed across the campus for use by secondary pupils. Pupils will have access to a more modern cafeteria style option with a variety of different furniture options, for example circular tables and booths.

It is anticipated that the site will develop and more retail points will be created in the future, in order to meet the needs of the rising population residing in the area and the surrounding neighbourhood.

### Mixing different age groups and mixing mainstream pupils with pupils with ASN or other vulnerable groups

It is proposed the new community campus will have an open plan shared reception area for visitors. Primary and secondary pupils will have separate entrances. Internal

facilities such as PE will be shared facilities but used separately. Other facilities such as cloakrooms, classrooms and outdoor play areas will be kept separate.

There is an opportunity to relocate Anna Ritchie School to the campus (subject to a separate statutory consultation); however, into a purpose-built facility, to provide a co-located Community Resource Hub (Special School). Anna Ritchie School would retain its identity in a purpose-built area of the campus, should this be approved.

A standalone nursery will also be built on the same site albeit as a separate project with expected completion in 2021.

The Kinmundy site is a part of a wider approach and it is factored in the Peterhead Masterplan. Other site facilities, such as Care Homes, will form separate projects with their own community engagement and consultation as appropriate.

#### Maintenance of existing building

The current Peterhead Academy building will be maintained to ensure that the space and environment inside supports service delivery and is a suitable place to deliver education to pupils, until the new community campus has been completed.

#### Other sport and community facilities located on the campus site

The new campus will require to have sports facilities that will enable the PE curriculum to be delivered. These facilities would require to be co-located on the same site as the school to improve timetabling and increase safety for pupils. Facilities will be aligned with recommendations set out by Sports Scotland but would be expected to include a 4-court games hall, two gymnasiums, dance studio, fitness suite, grass pitches and all-weather facilities.

These facilities will also be available for use by the wider community to complement other sports and community provision within Peterhead. The exact location of all community and leisure facilities have yet to be fully determined; however, engagement on this is being coordinated by Live Life Aberdeenshire officers.

#### Transition arrangements and impact on pupils and staff

As detailed above, Aberdeenshire Council has built several replacement secondary schools in recent years. The timing of the move is carefully planned to minimise disruption for pupils and staff. A Campus Management Board will be created, which will identify priorities for smooth transition, and ensure that required mitigation for the move is put in place.

Staff, pupils and parents will be able to visit the new campus before the replacement school opens and they will be fully involved with the move to the new building.

#### Disposal of the current building

Asset Disposal Policy must be followed by the Council when assets become surplus to requirements. After Peterhead Academy have joined the community campus there

will be no requirement for the Peterhead Academy building to continue as a school. It would be the intention of Education and Children's Services to declare the building surplus to requirement, other council services will be approached to express an interest in the site. This would have to be fully assessed through the asset disposal procedure. Thereafter any surplus council sites can be subject to a Community Asset Transfer Application.

#### Taking the site away from the existing users: sport teams, families, dog walkers

There would continue to be a number of pitches at Kinmundy which will be available for community use. Aberdeenshire Council's pitch strategy will also determine whether additional pitches are required at different locations across Peterhead. The campus will not cover the whole of the Kinmundy site, and therefore will still allow space for dog walkers and families to exercise.

## **6 COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 9(1) OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 AND CONCLUSIONS**

6.1 Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 states that:

*After the Education Authority has received HMle's report, the Authority is to review the relevant proposal having regard (in particular) to*

- (i) written representations received by the Authority (from any person) during the consultation period,*
- (ii) oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting,*
- (iii) HMle's report.*

Officers of the Education Authority have listened carefully to the points made at the public meeting and have considered equally carefully the written representations. The Education Authority's position is set out in this document.

### **6.2 Conclusions and Recommendation**

The Council now has 3 broad options, namely:

- (a) Adopt the proposal; or
- (b) Amend the proposal in a minor way and adopt; or
- (c) Abandon the proposal and maintain the status quo.

If the Council adopts the proposal it would be on the basis that the educational benefits set out in the proposal document would materialise. There would be a requirement that the Council continues to work closely with stakeholders including community groups and parents to ensure that any concerns raised are addressed.

There are no obvious ways of amending the proposal. Selecting a different site is not recommended, as the Council have completed an option appraisal of available sites in the town, and the Kinmundy site has been approved by Full Council as the preferred location.

Stakeholders, parents and the wider community recognise the need for the replacement academy and are supportive of the proposal. There have been no reasons identified through the consultation process to abandon the proposals at this stage.

- 6.2.1 The recommendation of officers is that the Council should adopt the proposal for a replacement of Peterhead Academy and that education provision should be discontinued from August 2025, on completion of the new Peterhead Community Campus located at Kinmundy, Peterhead.**