

Appendix C

**Public Consultation Meeting  
Closure of Longhaven School  
Microsoft Teams  
24 January 2022 6.30pm**

**Aberdeenshire Council Officers present:** Anne-Marie Davies Macleod (Interim Head of Service), Maxine Booth (Quality Improvement Manager), Rachael Goldring (Learning Estates Team Leader), Anna Zadka-Labus (Learning Estates Officer, minutes), Kelly Tennant (Learning Estates Officer), Wendy Dempster (Learning Estates Administrator, minutes), Amanda Roe (Buchan Area Manager)

**Elected Members present:** Cllr Gillian Owen (Chair), Cllr Rosemary Bruce, Cllr Norman Smith, Cllr Stephen Calder, Cllr Alison Evison

**HMI Inspectors present:** Barbara Daly, Victoria Morgan, David McKellar

Two members of the public attended the meeting.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Cllr Owen introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced the Aberdeenshire Council Officers and Elected Members present and laid out the format of the meeting.

In consultation with the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland which includes representation of every authority within Scotland along with our own Risk Assessment a decision was made to hold both public meetings online to remove the risk element to both members of the public and officers of the Council.

If at any point anyone having difficulty hearing or having technical difficulties preventing them from participating in the meeting, should contact the Learning Estate Team to arrange an individual appointment.

Cllr Owen remained that the meeting will be recorded for minute purposes and the minutes will be made public as part of the consultation.

**2. Consultation Overview**

Anne-Marie Davies Macleod gave an overview of the consultation proposal.

In October 2018 the Director of Education & Children's Services made a decision to mothball Longhaven school. As no pupils have enrolled at Longhaven School since the end of the 2017/18 school session, either in zone or through out of zone placing requests, it was necessary for the school to remain mothballed.

Officers have completed options appraisal for the future of the school. The Longhaven community have been given the opportunity to present alternatives to closure and to present their views for the authority to consider. Those have been thoroughly analysed. The majority of potential uses identified by the community would require the building to be discontinued as a primary school, which requires a statutory consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

Officers took into account many factors when carrying out the options appraisal and preparing this proposal. A number of alternatives and 8 options in total have been taken into consideration.

This consultation proposes to discontinue education at Longhaven School and re-assigning its catchment area to either Boddam School or Port Erroll School or a combination of the two. This proposal would apply to the primary school stages (P1-P7) of education in Longhaven. The proposed changes, if approved, will take place immediately after the conclusion of the statutory process relating to school closures.

Cllr Owen handed over to Maxine Booth who presented a PowerPoint Presentation and outlined the identified options:

Maxine outlined the proposal consisting of three options for stakeholders to consider.

Option 1 – merging Longhaven School with Boddam School,

Option 2 – merging Longhaven School with Port Erroll School,

Option 3 – creating a dual zone between Boddam School and Port Erroll School.

Maxine Booth stressed that it is important that the proposal does not have a negative impact upon any children currently attending schools affected by this proposal and that they have continuity in their education. Whichever decision is taken, all existing pupils will not be required to change their school. This will also apply to any younger siblings of those pupils, provided they remain at the same primary school.

### **3. Questions from the floor**

Cllr Owen welcomed questions from the floor and asked participants to state their name and interest in the meeting to aid the minute taking process. Attendees were reminded to use 'Raise Hand' and 'Unmute' buttons when asking their questions.

**Cllr Norman Smith** said that this is the only way forward. The Council have been through the same process with other schools and it's a shame it takes so long. but hopefully it will move on after the consultation and the property will be disposed off.

**Amanda Roe** asked about the next steps of the process.

**Cllr Owen** identified the next steps. The consultation period will run until 24 February and any comments can be submitted in writing by email to [learningestates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:learningestates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) or by post to Learning Estates, Gordon House, Blackhall Road, Inverurie AB51 3WA.

Cllr Owen encouraged consultees to take part in the consultation and give their opinions via the online survey. The link to this questionnaire is on the Education consultation page on the Aberdeenshire Council website or in the comments bar.

Pupils will be involved in discussions and head teachers will be asked to work with pupils to gain their views on the proposal.

Once the consultation period is over, all written submissions, minutes of this meeting and pupil discussions will be provided to Education Scotland for their consideration. Education Scotland will produce a report on the consultation. A final report on the consultation will be presented at Buchan Area Committee, Education & Children's Services Committee and Full Council for a decision.

**Maxine Booth** invited the two members of public attending the meeting to express their views.

No comments were made.

#### **4. Close**

Cllr Owen thanked everyone for attending and emphasised that it is important that the Council gain feedback regarding this meeting. Anyone unable to participate fully in this online forum are welcome to get in touch with the Learning Estate Team and an alternative meeting with individuals will be provided. Any meetings will be held before the end of this consultation on 24 February 2022.

Cllr Owen closed the meeting.