



EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

DECEMBER 2022

PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

**MERGER OF FRASERBURGH NORTH SCHOOL
AND ST ANDREWS SCHOOL
WITHIN A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL IN FRASERBURGH**

**Consultation open between
12 December 2022 – 24 February 2023**

**If you have difficulty reading this document please contact
the Learning Estates Team on 01771 676600 or
LearningEstates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk**

SUMMARY PROPOSAL

It is proposed that:

Existing Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School will close on completion of the new school building, and education provision will begin as a merged primary school at the new site.

All existing Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School pupils enrolled at the point of closure would continue their education within the new Primary School located at the Fraserburgh Academy site once the building is completed.

This document has been issued by Aberdeenshire Council in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The Act requires that changes to the school estates, including the proposed relocation and merger of schools are subject to rigorous statutory consultation.

The schools affected by this proposal are:

**Fraserburgh North School
St Andrews School**

DISTRIBUTION

A copy of this document is available on the Aberdeenshire Council website:
<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/education-consultations/>
or by emailing learningstates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

This document will be provided to:

- Parent Councils of Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Schools
- Parent Council of Fraserburgh Academy
- Parents of nursery/primary pupils of Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Schools
- Parents of pupils of Fraserburgh Academy
- Parents of preschool age children living within the Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Schools catchments
- Pupils at Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Schools
- Pupils at Fraserburgh Academy
- Staff at Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Schools
- Staff at Fraserburgh Academy
- Relevant users of Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Schools
- Relevant users of Fraserburgh Academy
- Local Early Years Partner Providers in Fraserburgh
- Fraserburgh and District Community Council
- Trade Union representatives of Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Schools staff
- Education Scotland

A copy of this document is also available from:

- Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School
- Fraserburgh Library, King Edward Street, Fraserburgh AB43 9PN
- Fraserburgh Community and Sports Centre, Maconochie Place, Fraserburgh AB43 9TH
- Learning Estates Team. Call 01771 676600 or email LearningEstates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk to request a copy

1. Legislative Background

- 1.1 The proposal is advanced within the context of all applicable legislation. Amongst other duties, education authorities are required to secure adequate and efficient provision of school education (Section 1 of the Education Act 1980); and to endeavour to secure improvement in the quality of school education in schools that are managed by them (Section 3 of The Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000).
- 1.2 Under the Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification both Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Schools are "other urban areas", settlement with a population of 10,000 to 125,000 people.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 Aberdeenshire Council strives to allocate its resources in a way that ensures the quality of all its services. It attaches particular importance to providing the best possible educational experience for all pupils in its schools.
- 2.2 A series of stakeholder events regarding primary provision in Fraserburgh have taken place since 2014.
- 2.3 At the full meeting of Aberdeenshire Council on 18 November 2021, the new school provision project in Fraserburgh was agreed for the Aberdeenshire Council's Capital Plan; subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation regarding the merger of Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School.
- 2.4 On 8 December 2022, Education & Children's Services Committee were asked to agree to the commencement of a statutory consultation. No decision will be taken by the Council on the proposal contained within the document until after the end of the consultation period. The Council will then receive a report on the consultation and will make a decision on the proposal.
- 2.5 In October 2022 the Council submitted a funding bid to the Scottish Government for phase three of the Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP).
- 2.6 The Fraserburgh Cluster consists of eleven primary schools, Crimond, Fraserburgh North, Fraserburgh South Park, Inverallochy, Lochpots, Rathen, Rosehearty, Sandhaven, St Andrews, St Combs and Tyrie, and one secondary school, Fraserburgh Academy.
- 2.7 All schools, besides Crimond and St Combs, are located within the Banff & Buchan area of Aberdeenshire; Crimond and St Combs Schools lie within the Buchan area.
- 2.8 The town of Fraserburgh has four main primary schools, Fraserburgh North, Fraserburgh South Park, Lochpots and St Andrews. The two most central are Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Schools and the proposal document focuses upon these primary schools.
- 2.9 This consultation focuses upon the closure of the current Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School and the merger together into a singular primary school at the Fraserburgh Academy site. If the proposal is approved then further work will be carried out on the rezoning of Fraserburgh town schools catchment areas.

- 2.10 This proposal does not impact upon secondary provision at Fraserburgh Academy.
- 2.11 This proposal document contains maps. Pdf copies of all maps will be available on the Aberdeenshire Council website at the address given on page 2 of this document. Printed copies of the maps will also be available on request at Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School.
- 2.12 The consultation will run from 12 December 2022 until 24 February 2023. A public meeting will be held to discuss the proposal on 1 February 2023 at 6.30pm in Assembly Hall at Fraserburgh Academy, Dennyduff Road, AB43 9NA.
- 2.13 The consultation process for this proposal is set out in detail within Section 12.

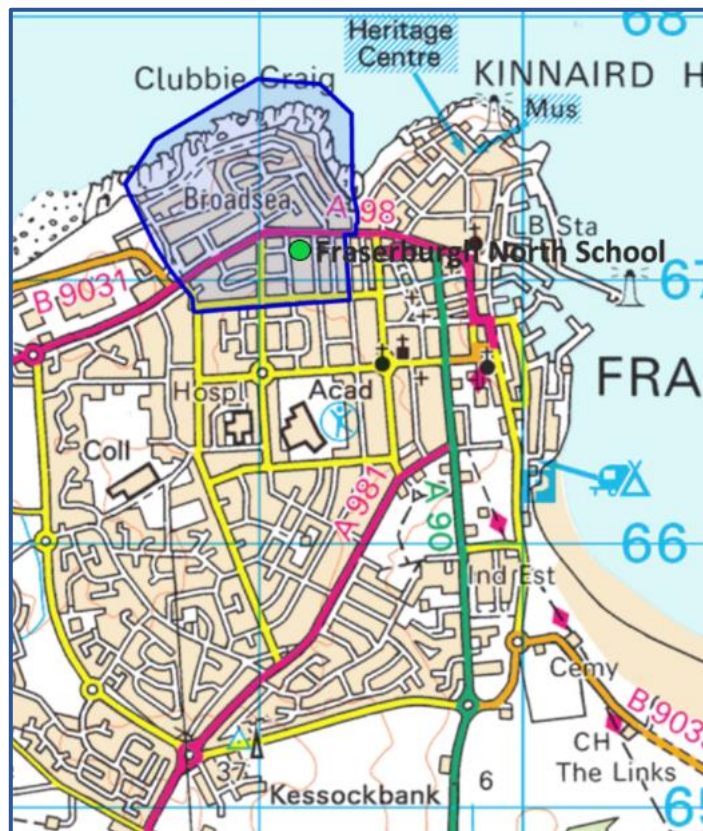
3. Reason for Proposal

- 3.1 The proposal follows informal discussions between Aberdeenshire Council officials, local Elected Members and community members.
- 3.2 Extensive engagement with the public regarding options for primary school provision in Fraserburgh took place between 2014 and 2018. This considered reducing the number of schools in Fraserburgh from four to three. During this period there was continued engagement and options refinement, which resulted by 2018 in a proposal for the merger of St Andrews and Fraserburgh North.
- 3.3 An announcement was made to go ahead with new primary schools at Fraserburgh and Stonehaven by the Council Leader at a Full Council meeting on 17 March 2021.
- 3.4 A site identification and evaluation exercise indicated that the preferred location to deliver the new primary build project in Fraserburgh would be on the Fraserburgh Academy site.
- 3.5 Further engagement sessions with the public, including parents, pupils, staff, Elected Members and wider community stakeholder groups, were undertaken between February and June 2022. An online survey was available during the informal engagement period.
- 3.6 Feedback from the stakeholders showed broad support for the merger of Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School at the Fraserburgh Academy site.
- 3.7 A summary report from the public informal engagement period can be found at Appendix A1. The questions raised during the informal engagement sessions and online survey were addressed within the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document attached as Appendix A2. Both documents were distributed to parents/carers and schools communities in November 2022.
- 3.8 The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 requires that when two schools are to relocate to a new joint site then a consultation must be undertaken with all relevant stakeholders. This is because in practice both old schools must close in order for the new school to open.

Fraserburgh North School

- 3.9 Fraserburgh North School is situated on Finlayson Street, Fraserburgh, in the North of Fraserburgh. The school is non-denominational and is classed as “other urban areas” according to Scottish Government classification.
- 3.10 Fraserburgh North School along with St Andrews School and Sandhaven School accommodates enhanced provision pupils from across the Fraserburgh Cluster.
- 3.11 The original building is a two-storey facility constructed in the late 1800s and the single-storey extension constructed in 1974. The school comprises of two blocks, the original building and extension. The layout consists of a number of classrooms, including nursery facilities and educational areas such as a library and general purpose hall. There are also various ancillary spaces such as a kitchen, reception, staff room, Head Teacher office and toilets facilities. Outside areas are all concrete. Both blocks are heated by a gas fired system.
- 3.12 The catchment area for Fraserburgh North School is shown in the Map 1 below.

Map 1 – Fraserburgh North School catchment area



- 3.13 The school offers both primary education from P1-P7 and Early Years education.
- 3.14 Fraserburgh North School has capacity of 217 pupils and a current roll of 101 P1-P7 pupils (SEEMIS extract as of 26 September 2022). This represents a 46% use of capacity. Pupils are distributed across five composite classes. 2021 based School Roll Forecast suggests pupil number decrease to 70 pupils in 2027. This represents a 32% use of capacity.

- 3.15 Fraserburgh North School Nursery has a capacity of 20 and there are currently 16 children attending the setting. Children are entitled to 1140 hours across the year. The setting is open from 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday term-time.
- 3.16 Every local authority in Scotland is required to grade their schools for condition and suitability. The gradings range from A to D for each category with the following values:
- A: Good – Performing well and operating efficiently (85-100%)
 - B: Satisfactory – Performing adequately but with minor problems (60-85%)
 - C: Poor – Showing major problems and/or not operating optimally (40- 60%)
 - D: Bad – Does not support the delivery of services to children and communities (0-40%)
- 3.17 The existing Fraserburgh North School building is graded as B for overall condition (2021). Its percentage score is 68.5%, there are a number of elements showing signs of deterioration requiring significant investment to maintain the condition. Window frames are graded D and the following aspects are at C: floor finishes, external walls and windows, redecoration. A minimum estimate for the required works is £176,110, equating to £102.45/m².
- 3.18 Fraserburgh North School is graded as B for overall suitability. However, a significant part of the facility is graded D for accessibility due to the dual-floor design, narrow corridors and many steps across the school building. For these reasons, safety and security of learning and teaching spaces is graded as C. Games Hall used also as Dining Hall is graded C due to poor lightening, acoustics and ventilation. The majority of the outdoor play space is hard surface, with some wooden benches, planters and limited play equipment. There are bicycle and scooter racks, but no designated parking area nor drop-off and pick-up points. Thereby, safety and security of the drop-offs and pick-ups is graded as C.
- 3.19 Due to the age and design of the building, site size and condition, the school cannot achieve a grade A in suitability.

St Andrews School

- 3.20 St Andrews School is situated across two sites on Charlotte Street and Albert Street, Fraserburgh, in the North of Fraserburgh. The school is non-denominational and is classed as “other urban areas” according to Scottish Government classification.
- 3.21 St Andrews School comprises of three blocks: the Main Building, Infant Annexe and Kitchen/Nursery Building.

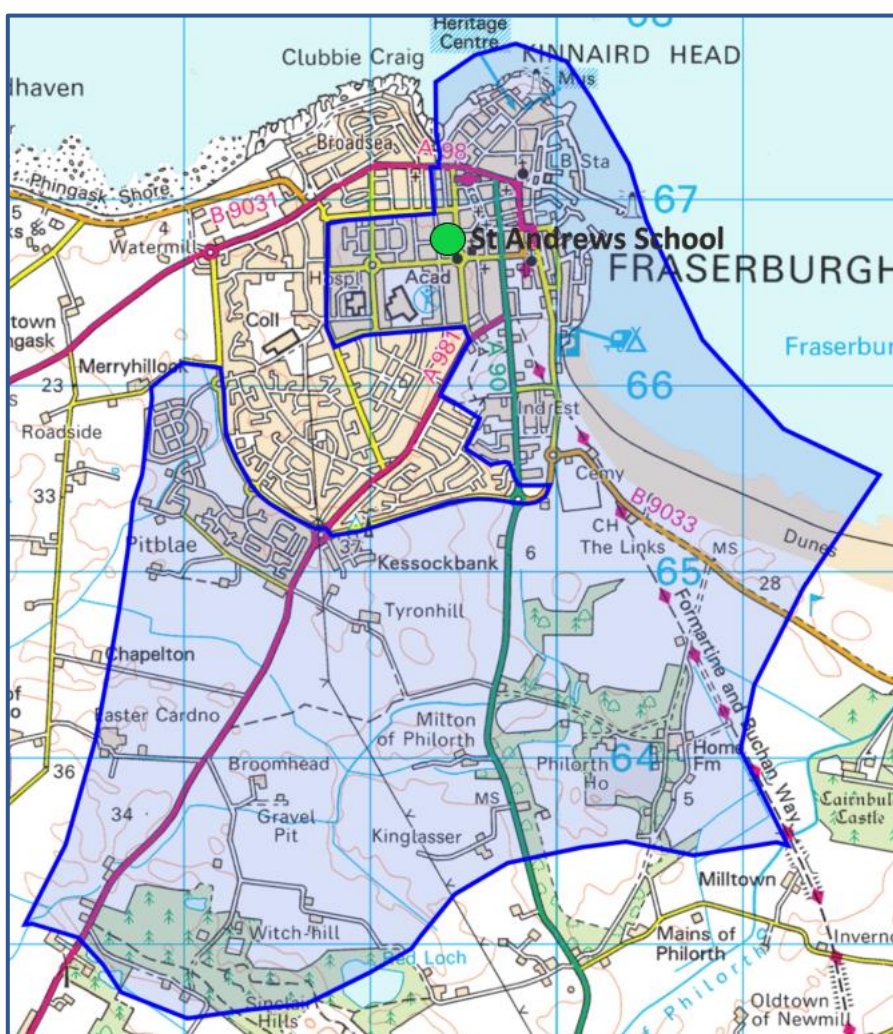
The Main Building was constructed in 1882. It is mainly a two-storey facility, with the exception of a clock tower which is four-storey. The facility is occupied by nursery and P4 to P7 pupils. The layout comprises of a number of classrooms, including nursery facilities and educational areas such as a library/IT room and general purpose hall. There are also various ancillary spaces such as a reception, staff room, Head Teacher office and toilet facilities. Lunches are served outwith the main building, in the kitchen block. Outside areas are mostly concrete. The block is heated by two gas fired boilers.

The Infant Annexe is a single-storey facility, constructed in 1900. The block is located on Albert Street, outwith the main site on Charlotte Street. The building is occupied by P1 to P3 pupils. The layout comprises of a number of classrooms located around a central general purpose hall, which is used for PE and as a dining hall. Lunches are delivered daily from the kitchen block. There are also ancillary spaces such as a staff room and toilets facilities. Outside areas are concrete with grass. The block is heated by two oil fired boilers.

The Kitchen/Nursery Building was constructed in 1900 and is a single-storey facility located on the Main Building site. The building consists of nursery facilities, kitchen, dining hall and toilet facilities. The block is heated with electric storage and fan heaters.

3.22 The catchment area for St Andrews School is shown in the Map 2 below.

Map 2 – St Andrews School catchment area



3.23 The school offers both primary education from P1-P7 and Early Years education.

3.24 St Andrews School has capacity of 429 pupils and a current roll of 314 P1-P7 pupils (SEEMIS extract as of 26 September 2022). This represents a 73% use of capacity. Pupils are distributed across 16 classes. 2021 based School Roll Forecast suggests pupil number increase to 393 pupils in 2027. This represents a 92% use of capacity.

- 3.25 St Andrews School Nursery has a capacity of 60 fulltime places and there are currently 61 children attending the setting. Children are entitled to 1140 hours across the year. The setting offers different models to suit parent/carers needs and is open Monday to Friday term-time or all year round, depending on the chosen option.
- 3.26 The existing St Andrews School building is graded as B for overall condition (2020). It is the 3rd lowest ranking for condition of the Primary School Estate with a score of 67.34%. Within the condition survey the following receives a grade C: ceilings, external walls, windows and doors, redecoration, roof coverings. Based on the latest condition survey, there is a minimum maintenance requirement of £1,226,360 equating to £411.92/m² to maintain the building at its current condition.
- 3.27 St Andrews School is graded as B for overall suitability. Accessibility is graded as B, but this is near the lower end of the assessment scale, on the edge of receiving 'C – Poor'. This is due to the dual-floor design, narrow corridors and many steps across the main school building. For these reasons, safety and security of some spaces is graded as C. The school is split over two sites, the main school building and the St Andrews Infant Building. This means that a number of school activities and facilities must be duplicated and delivered across both sites (e.g. lunches). Environmental conditions are graded as C, due to acoustics and ventilation quality in the shared spaces and toilets. The majority of the outdoor play space at the main school building is hard surface with some grass at the front and no play equipment. Infant Annexe building is a mixture of concrete with grass areas, with outdoor tables and benches, wooden planters and some play equipment. There are bicycle and scooter racks on both sites. Designated parking area is at the infant site and disabled parking spaces at the main building site. There are no designated drop-off and pick-up points. Thereby, safety and security of the drop-offs and pick-ups is graded as C.
- 3.28 Due to the age and design of the building, site size and condition, the school cannot achieve a grade A in suitability.

4. Details of the Proposal

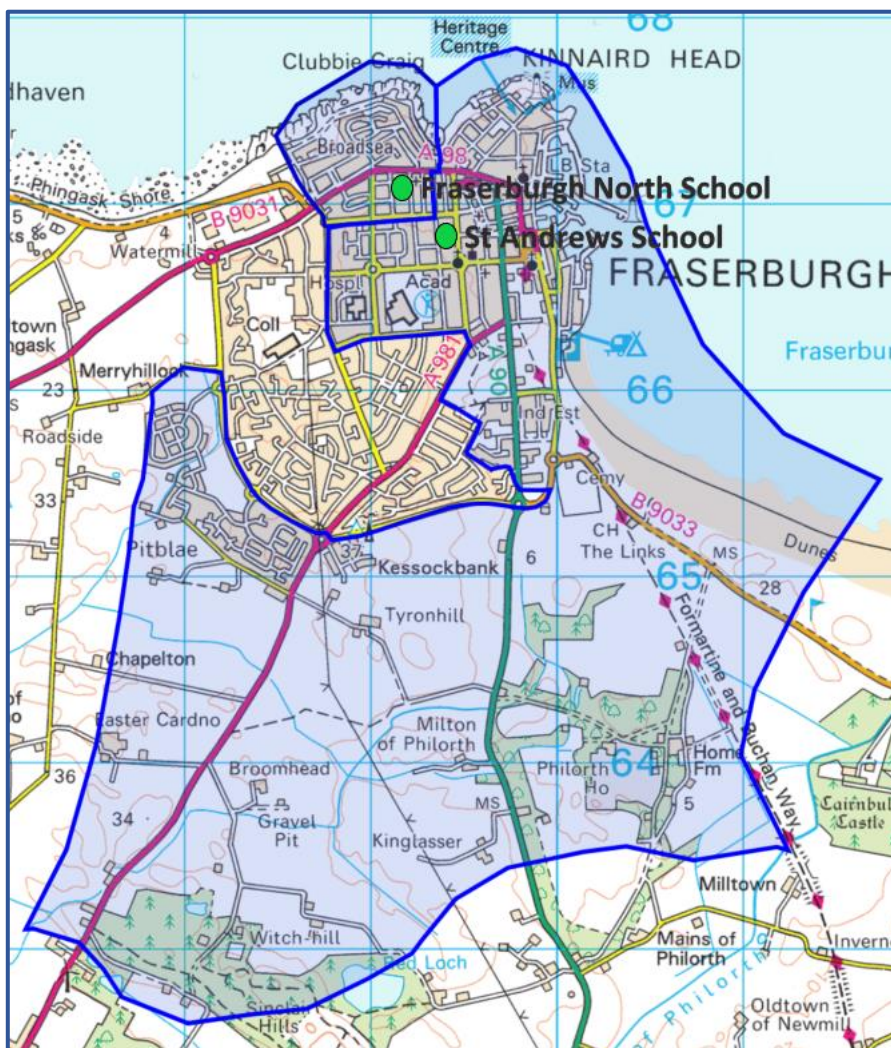
- 4.1 The Council proposes that existing Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School close on completion of the new school building, and education provision begins as a merged primary school located at the Fraserburgh Academy site.
- 4.2 The new primary school would be planned to open in Autumn 2025.
- 4.3 The new primary school would be a non-denominational school which would accommodate up to 450 primary pupils.
- 4.4 A new catchment area will be created for the new school. Therefore, there will be a rezoning exercise to consider the catchments of Fraserburgh North School, St Andrews School, Lochpots School and Fraserburgh South Park School. This will ensure that all pupils including those generated from the new housing developments are located in the correct school. This will be subject to an outcome of a separate statutory consultation.
- 4.5 All existing Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School pupils enrolled at the point of closure would continue their education within the new Primary School

located at the Fraserburgh Academy site once the building is completed. This will also apply to their siblings.

4.6 When the new school opens the new catchment areas will come into effect.

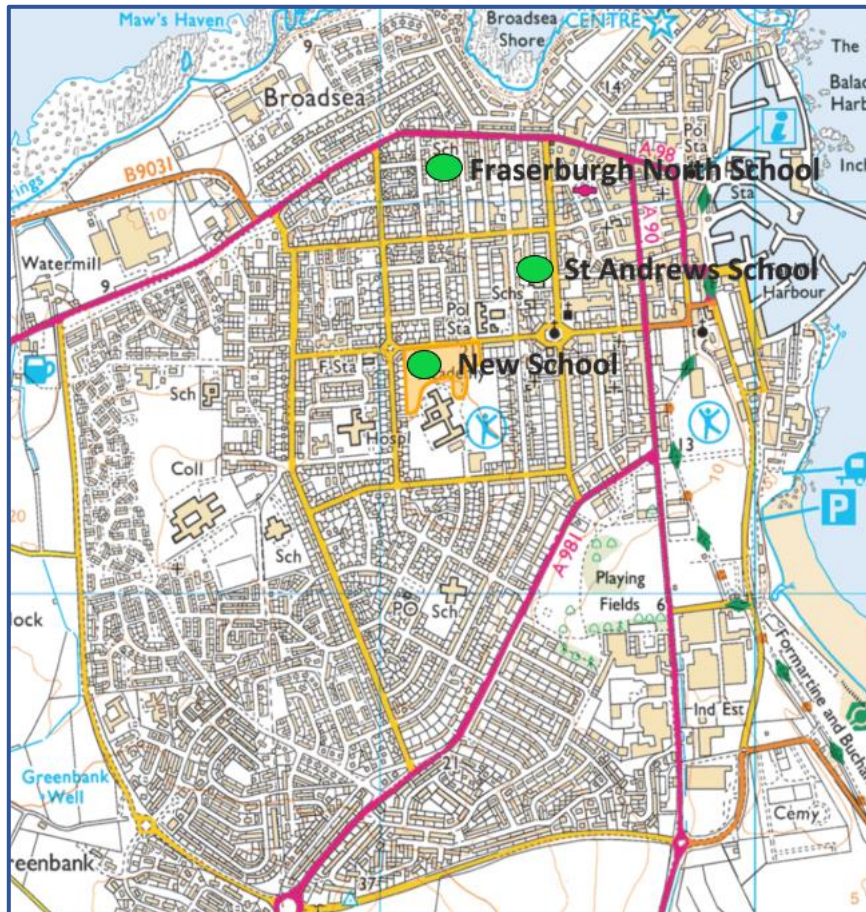
4.7 The distance between Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School is 0.4 miles, both schools are approx. 0.3 miles from the Fraserburgh Academy site location. The zones can be seen in the Map 3 below.

Map 3 – Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School catchment areas



4.8 Map 4 below shows the locations of the existing Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews Schools and the proposed site for the new Primary School.

Map 4 – Fraserburgh North School, St Andrews School and the new Primary School locations



- 4.9 The name of the new merged school and the uniform would be subject to further engagement prior to the school opening. As the schools are merging it may not be appropriate to name the new school either 'Fraserburgh North School' or 'St Andrews School'. Pupils of both schools and the local community would be involved in deciding what the new school name and uniform will be.
- 4.10 Tables 1 and 2 below show the current school roll forecasts for Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School, based on the September 2021 census data. These figures are the published figures which can be found on the Aberdeenshire Council website at the following web address:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/admissions/school-roll-forecasts/>

Table 1 – Fraserburgh North School 2021 School Roll Forecast

Year	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Total Roll	92	85	71	74	70

Table 2 – St Andrews School 2021 School Roll Forecast

Year	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Total Roll	369	389	387	390	393

- 4.11 The combined school roll forecast for Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School is shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School Combined 2021 School Roll Forecast

Year	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Total Roll	461	474	458	464	463

4.12 The new school will be built with a capacity of 450 primary pupils and as explained in Section 4.4, the rezoning exercise will be carried out before the opening of the new school to prevent the new school from exceeding the planned capacity in the future and to ensure the sustainability of the remaining schools.

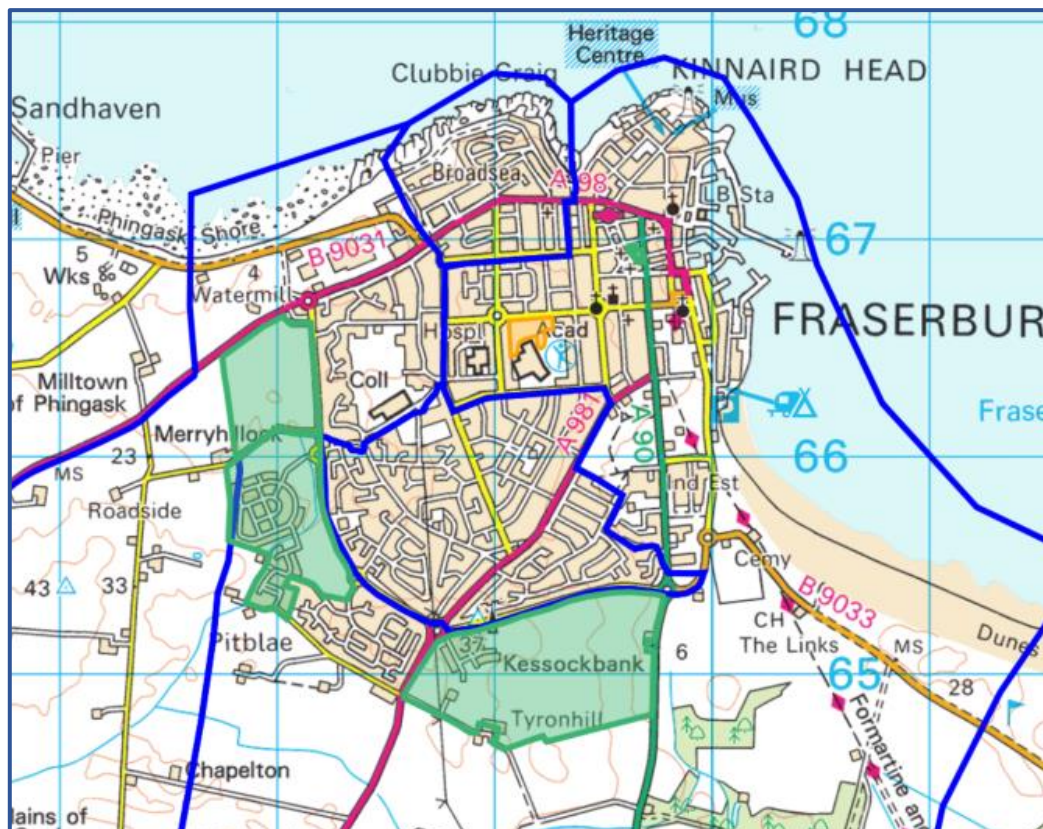
4.13 The school roll forecast information takes into account all housing allocated in Local Development Plan. Table 4 below illustrates approved housing developments within the current St Andrews School catchment areas (HLA 2021). No housing has been allocated within the Fraserburgh North School catchment.

Table 4 - Housing development in the St Andrews School catchment

Location	Total Units	5 Year Effective	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Land To West Of Boothby Road	350	60	4	0	26	15	15	15	15	15	15
Kirkton Development	600	122	22	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Cross Street	35	35	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		217	26	60	51	40	40	40	40	40	40

4.14 Map 5 below shows in green the housing developments allocated within the St Andrews School and Lochpots School catchment areas.

Map 5 – Allocated housing development within the St Andrews School and Lochpots School catchments



- 4.15 Whilst rezoning plans are still being developed it is intended that some of the new housing will be allocated to a different school. This will ensure that the new school remains with the capacity.
- 4.16 The proposed school will be a Primary Enhanced Provision, fully accessible, designed in line with the Aberdeenshire Council Primary School Design Brief and Accessibility Design Brief.
- 4.17 Details of the final designs will be determined through the design process. It will be a two-storey building and will comprise of purpose-built accommodation designed to meet the learning and care needs of mainstream pupils and those with additional support needs, such as:
- Classrooms and associated breakout spaces;
 - General Purpose spaces, such as a hall, dining area, music and drama room;
 - Enhanced Provision spaces, such as life skills area, therapy room, nurture space, quiet area, sensory room, low stimulation area;
 - Multi Use Games Area, outdoor learning spaces and garden.

5. Educational Benefit Statement

- 5.1 Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy 'Connecting People, Places and Learning', which was developed by Scottish Government and COSLA, contains ten guiding principles. Local Authorities are required to take account of these principles in planning changes to their school estate, namely:
- Learning environments should support and facilities excellent joined up learning and teaching to meet the needs of the learners;
 - Learning environments should support the wellbeing of all learners, meet varying needs to support inclusion and support transition for all learners;
 - The learning estates should be well managed and maintained, making the best of existing resources, maximizing 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 for walking, cycling and wheeling and be digitally enabled;
 - Outdoor learning and the use of outdoor learning environments should be maximized;
 - Good consultation about learning environments, direct manage with learning 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 maximizing its full potential;
 - Investment in Scotland's learning estate should contribute towards improving learning outcomes and support sustainable and inclusive economic growth.
- 5.2 At the Education and Children's Services Committee on 18 March 2021, the revised Learning Estates Strategy, which sets the minimum standards for the

various elements of educational buildings to achieve optimal educational benefit, was approved. The strategy for Aberdeenshire Council's Learning Estate sets out three values, Equity, Excellence and Inclusion. They are core to all decision making. The new building will be fully responsive to future learning requirements and the design process will ensure that all spaces support learning and teaching styles of the 21st Century. It will be designed to be an inspiring learning environment which is fully able to support new and innovative digital learning and engage pupils with the curriculum.

- 5.3 The proposal will provide an improved working environment and access to modern facilities and resources. The condition of the new building will be a significant improvement on the current establishments, making the environment more attractive to learners, inspiring to engage with the curriculum.
- 5.4 Pupils of both schools will benefit from Multi Use Games Area provision, which will enable more opportunities to activities and will increase participation time resulting in positive impact on pupils health and wellbeing.
- 5.5 The new school will be fully accessible and equipped with modern ICT solutions to ensure that the best learning opportunity is afforded to every pupil.
- 5.6 The new school will ensure that accessibility for all including learners with additional support needs complies with the Council's Accessibility Strategy and the Equality Act (2010). It will be designed in such a way as to promote accessible and inclusive learning which will meet the needs of all learners including those with additional support needs.
- 5.7 Both schools will benefit from improved enhanced provision spaces and resources, including life skills/nurture rooms, small group rooms, sensory rooms, low sensory stimulation rooms and disabled parking spaces. Designated nurture spaces would support individual and small group work.
- 5.8 There are a number of pupils within the Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Schools catchments recorded to be living in socio-economical deprived households. More details on how it is calculated can be found in Section 10.7. It is believed that the new modern fit-for purpose school building will support the improvement of attendance, attainment, achievement and allow children to reach their full potential.
- 5.9 Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Schools are in receipt of pupil equity funding for a large number of pupils and both schools have invested in additional staffing, such as Pupil Support Workers. Combining this resource on one site and creating a bespoke team dedicated to the NIF priority of closing the poverty related attainment gap will allow more targeted interventions with our most vulnerable children and their families.
- 5.10 Pupils will further benefit from increased circulation space, improved dining facilities and sport facilities as well as improved access to digital learning and IT resources.
- 5.11 The proposal presents an opportunity to develop a sense of belonging, engagement and ownership for all pupils and staff of both Fraserburgh North

School and St Andrews School with a richer cultural, learning and teaching experience.

- 5.12 Spaces for learning will be designed in a way to allow a range of learning and teaching approaches including active, interdisciplinary and outdoor learning. New and flexible learning environments inspire pupils and have a positive impact on health and wellbeing. They can also increase ethos, aspirations, attainment, achievement and positive destinations beyond school.
- 5.13 Outdoor learning and learning outdoors is vitally important to promote and develop social, wellbeing and curricular experiences for the whole school community. To ensure this was front and foremost in the main principles and designs for the new builds, landscape architects were appointed at the start of the project. The architects were part of a working group to explore requirements for the outdoor environment and the cohesion of this to the indoor spaces. This working group engaged fully with staff members from the school and a cross section of pupils both from the primary setting and from the associated secondary schools.
- 5.14 Flexible learning spaces will provide opportunities for inclusive and collaborative learning and can further promote positive attitudes to diversity and difference.
- 5.15 All pupils will have the opportunity to receive all their educational entitlement at the same location under one roof. It is expected that improvements in facilities and the associated impact on practices will have a positive impact on pupils health and wellbeing. This will be significantly important for St Andrews pupils who currently access lunch in the kitchen building.
- 5.16 Pupils from both schools will be able to work collaboratively to develop and personalise their identity as a newly formed school community. They will be supported to identify existing partnerships they wish to sustain and to identify key values and ways of working they want to embody in the life and work of the new school.
- 5.17 At both schools pupils are encouraged to participate in a range of pupil groups. Currently Fraserburgh North School have Pupil Council, Rights Respecting School Group, House Captains, Eco-committee, Young Leaders, Road Safety Officers, Librarian Group, Buddy System and Playground Leaders. St Andrews School have Pupil Council, Rights Respecting School Group, House Captains, Eco-Committee, Lunchtime Clubs, Young Volunteers, Buddy System and Digital Leaders.
- 5.18 St Andrews School offers pupils the opportunity to participate in basketball, yoga, football, rugby and cricket and Fraserburgh North School pupils could benefit from participation in these activities which are not currently offered to them.
- 5.19 The new school with shared and flexible learning spaces would encourage staff to work collaboratively and provide more opportunities for pupils to work co-operatively supporting depth, pace, and challenge to learning.
- 5.20 The new school will amalgamate the Enhanced Provision from the other schools in the Fraserburgh Cluster into one setting. Therefore, centralising staffing, facilities and expertise.

There will be a greater number of staff than at either Fraserburgh North School or St Andrews School. Being part of a larger professional community, including mainstream and enhanced provision, will promote opportunities for joint professional learning and increased opportunities for leadership development. A greater concentration of teaching staff in one location, with a broader range of staff experience will allow for better sharing of good practice as well as a broader range of materials and resources. Staff will be able to work more collaboratively and effectively on improving professional and reflective practice and self-evaluation.

5.21 Through a newly reformed Parent Council, parents from both schools will have the opportunity to become part of a large parent community, providing more opportunities to engage in their children's learning and development. The benefits of parental involvement in their children's education are clearly recognised and any increase in parental involvement has the potential to directly benefit children and their learning.

5.22 The new school will provide excellent facilities for children, families, and other users out with core school hours and will support engagement across the community.

6. Alternatives to the Proposal

6.1 A range of alternative possibilities have been considered as noted below:

- Continuing the status quo with Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School remaining and no new school being built;
- Relocate one primary school only;
- Inclusion of other primary schools within the new school.

6.2 These have been discounted for the following reasons;

- Government Guidelines within the Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy "Connecting People, Places and Learning" Guiding Principle states that "The Learning Estate should be well managed and maintained, making the best of existing resources, maximising occupancy, and representing and delivering best value."
- The council's aims to provide the best possible education opportunities for the young people educated within the schools.
- School criteria of combined capacity, locations, pupils rolls and trends, and the learning estate core facts.
- The council aims to reduce the overall number of buildings which will result in a reduction of carbon footprint and energy consumption.
- Education and Children's Services want to deliver improvements for the estate that will impact the greatest number of buildings.

7. Effect on the Local Community

7.1 This proposal will not negatively impact on local, social or economic activities.

7.2 Currently there are no lets either at Fraserburgh North School or St Andrews School. This means there are no community uses of the buildings.

7.3 It is anticipated that the new modern building will provide quality community, sport and leisure opportunities for all and will encourage the community members to use the facilities more efficiently.

7.4 The school will be available for groups and individuals to make use of the facilities available out of school hours through the letting system.

8. School Transport

8.1 Currently the only transport provided to Fraserburgh North School is for pupils attending the Enhanced Provision.

8.2 There are no pupils currently receiving school transport to St Andrews School.

8.3 Given that the site at Fraserburgh Academy is approximately 0.3 miles from both Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Schools, it is not anticipated that there will be any changes to the current school transport arrangements.

8.4 There will be minimal impact on travel time for pupils attending the new school who are currently transported by bus or by car or those who walk or cycle to school.

8.6 Concerns have been raised regarding pupils' safety crossing Dennyduff Road; however, there are already pupils who cross this road daily to attend their zoned school. A full and thorough assessment of safe walking routes to school will be undertaken and any safety measures identified will be implemented before the new primary school opens.

9. Sustainability

9.1 Sustainability is a key factor in the design of the new school and is being incorporated into every feasible aspect. This ranges from the materials used in construction, to the heating system and the lighting provided, and the landscaping of the external site to encourage biodiversity.

9.2 The new schools design, construction and operation will be environmentally and energy efficient; contributing directly to delivering the year-on-year reductions in greenhouse gas emissions introduced by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

9.3 The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019 sets targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net-zero by 2045 at the latest, with short-term targets for reductions of at least 56% by 2020, 75% by 2030, 90% by 2040. The Council have an essential role in supporting the Scottish Government in meeting its targets.

9.4 Managing and reducing carbon footprints forms part of the Council's Carbon Reduction Strategy in order to generate a substantial Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emission and energy consumption reduction and as a result significant costs savings.

9.5 Table 5 below illustrates the four-year energy consumption with its cost and emission of greenhouse gases at the combined Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Schools compared with the new Kinellar School, which is a two-storey building and it is anticipated to leave similar carbon footprint as will the new primary school.

Table 5 - Annual Total Energy Consumption, Cost and Carbon Emission (CO₂)

Year	School	Annual Energy Consumption (kWh)	Annual Cost (£)	Annual CO ₂ Emissions (tonnes)
2018/19	Fraserburgh North School	502,724	19,668	99
	St Andrews Main School Building	643,423	28,387	137
	St Andrews Infant Building	115,853	16,144	35
	Fraserburgh North & St Andrews Schools	1,262,000	64,199	271
	Kinellar School	742,133	30,696	152
2019/20	Fraserburgh North School	411,535	16,230	78
	St Andrews Main School Building	646,260	26,713	133
	St Andrews Infant Building	95,551	14,216	26
	Fraserburgh North & St Andrews Schools	1,153,345	57,159	238
	Kinellar School	634,770	25,182	130
2020/21	Fraserburgh North School	375,652	14,463	71
	St Andrews Main School Building	710,295	27,310	145
	St Andrews Infant Building	98,253	15,455	26
	Fraserburgh North & St Andrews Schools	1,184,200	57,228	241
	Kinellar School	548,836	32,810	112
2021/22	Fraserburgh North School	345,783	19,627	65
	St Andrews Main School Building	682,923	36,700	137
	St Andrews Infant Building	86,247	14,842	20
	Fraserburgh North & St Andrews Schools	1,114,954	71,169	221
	Kinellar School	537,048	31,219	104

9.6 It is anticipated that the new school would result in an annual reduction on average 118 tonnes of CO₂ emissions and around 560,000 kWh energy consumption.

9.7 The new school will be a Passivhaus building created to rigorous energy efficient design standards which reduces the building's ecological footprint. It is an approach to building and construction which considers a wide range of considerations around quality, materials, sunlight, orientation and design to maximise the sustainability and reduce the carbon footprint.

9.8 Expansion of outdoor learning and increased use of outdoor learning environments will also have an essential impact on reduction of energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Sustainable learning environments will support adaptation to continuous climate changes.

9.9 Any changes to transport arrangements will be minimal which will have a minimal environmental impact.

10. Equal Opportunities

10.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) is a statutory requirement of the Council to assess the policies and practices necessary to meet the requirements of anti-discrimination and equalities legislation. It also affords an opportunity for the Council to consider the impact on the education service. In addition, an IIA can provide more information to develop and deliver services that meet the needs, in this case, of children and parents.

- 10.2 The purpose of an IIA is to examine policies and practice in a structured way to make sure that adverse effects on equality target groups are avoided. It is also a tool to enable the Council to assess what positive steps it can take to promote equality of opportunity and measure the results of the actions that have been taken.
- 10.3 Three main adverse effects and mitigation steps have been identified as part of the IIA process; these are:
- Negative impact identified around the transition period. Careful transition planning will ensure positive transition to the new school.
 - Reduced outdoor spaces of Fraserburgh Academy, which will be offset by delivery of a new Multi Use Games Area provision at the Fraserburgh Academy site.
 - Concerns around the potential site location and the need to protect children from environmental impacts which are not present in current environment, such as: noise, pollution, proximity to other schools and congestion. Careful consideration and design will ensure safe and appropriate facilities are delivered to meet the needs of children attending.
- 10.4 As part of the consultation process the Council will continue to consult with a range of stakeholders, including staff, parents/carers and children, and will address comments about equality during this consultation.
- 10.5 Taking into account UNCRC Article 12 the pupil body will be fully involved in the development of the project.
- 10.6 Under the Equality Act 2010 education providers must not treat disabled pupils less favourably and should take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage. Existing arrangements in place for pupils with additional support needs within either Fraserburgh North School or St Andrews School will continue. The new primary school will be an Enhanced Provision facility, fully accessible, designed to be inclusive and should have a positive impact on any child who has a disability.
- 10.7 The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a measure of deprivation across 6,976 data zones. According to SIMD, across all primary age children zoned for Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Schools catchments, 41% reside in the most deprived areas ranked in quintile 1, 12% in quintile 2, 32% in quintile 3 and remaining 16% in quintiles 4 and 5 (where quintile 1 represents the most deprived areas and quintile 5 the least deprived areas). This indicates that more than half of pupils living within the Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Schools catchments are considered living in socio-economical deprived households.
- 10.8 A new primary school in Fraserburgh is an opportunity to improve condition and suitability of the existing school buildings, learning spaces and resources providing equitable experiences. It is anticipated that an improved learning environment will help to raise attainment of Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Schools and pupils will have a greater sense of pride in their environment.

11. Implications for Staff

- 11.1 HR and Trade Unions are included in the consultation process. Any impacts for

staff will be addressed under existing HR & OD policies.

- 11.2 On completion of the new primary school, it is anticipated that teaching and support staff based at the existing schools will transfer to the new school, in line with their existing contracts and HR & OD policies and procedures.
- 11.3 There will be one Head Teacher appointed prior to the new school opening, selected in line with the Aberdeenshire Council Recruitment & Selection Policy.
- 11.4 There are no anticipated negative implications for school staffing beyond relocation of workplace.
- 11.5 Consultation will take place with members of staff and with Trade Unions at a time closer to the opening of the new school, should this proposal be accepted.

12. Consultation Arrangements

- 12.1 At its meeting on 8 December 2022, Aberdeenshire Council's Education and Children's Services Committee were asked to agree that a proposal document should be issued as a basis for consultation. No decision will be taken by the Council on the proposal contained in the paper until after the end of the consultation period. The Council will then receive a report on the consultation and will reach a view on the proposal.
- 12.2 A copy of this document will be issued to all the consultees listed on page 2 of this document and it will also be published on the Council's website:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/education-consultations/>
- 12.3 The period for consultation will run from 12 December 2022 until 24 February 2023 which adequately covers a period of 30 school days.
- 12.4 A public meeting will be held on 1 February 2023 at 6.30pm in Assembly Hall at Fraserburgh Academy, Dennyduff Road, AB43 9NA. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting are welcome. The meeting will be convened by the Council and the Council will present the reasons for bringing forward the proposal. There will be an opportunity for questions and comments at the meeting. A minute will be taken so that comments can later be summarised and considered.
- 12.5 Opportunities will be provided for the staff working in Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School to discuss the proposal. Opportunities will also be arranged for all primary pupils within Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School to engage in the consultation in a manner appropriate to their age.
- 12.6 An online survey will be available as part of the consultation. This can be completed at the following address or by scanning the QR code below:

<https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/merger-statutory-consultation>



12.7 The Council will also consider any written comments which should be emailed to LearningEstates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. Alternatively, any comments can be sent to Aberdeenshire Council, Learning Estates, Gordon House, Blackhall Road, Inverurie, AB51 3WA. Comments should be received no later than 4pm on 24 February 2023.

12.8 A copy of this document will also be sent to Education Scotland. They will also receive a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Council during the consultation period. They will also receive a copy of any oral representations made at the public meeting and a copy of any other relevant documentation. Education Scotland will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal. In preparing their report, they may visit the schools and make such reasonable enquiries as they consider appropriate.

13. Consideration of Consultation Responses

13.1 The Council will review the proposal having regard to the Education Scotland Report, survey results, written representations that it has received, and oral representations made to it by any person at the public meeting. It will then prepare a report on the consultation. This report will be published in electronic format and will be available on the Council website. Anyone making written representations during the consultation period will be informed about the report.

13.2 The report will include a record of the total number of written representations made during the consultation period, a summary of the written representations and a summary of the oral representations made at the public meeting. The report will also include the Authority's response to the Education Scotland Report, a response to issues raised through any written or oral representations it has received, together with a copy of the Education Scotland Report and any other relevant information, including details of any alleged inaccuracies and how these have been handled. The report will also contain a statement explaining how the Council has complied with the requirement to review the proposal in light of the Education Scotland Report and representations (both written and oral) that it received.

13.3 The last section of the report will include an officer recommendation as to whether the proposals should be adopted and implemented. The Consultation Report will be published at least three weeks prior to the Council making a decision.

13.4 A final decision is likely to be made by the Council on the proposed changes in late 2023.

14. Decision Making

14.1 The consultation report will be considered firstly by Banff & Buchan Area Committee who will be asked to make a comment on the officer recommendation.

- 14.2 Following Banff & Buchan Area Committee, Education and Children's Services Committee will be asked to make a recommendation as to whether the proposed changes are implemented. This is expected to be in Summer 2023.
- 14.3 Following discussion and recommendation at both Banff & Buchan Area Committee and Education and Children's Services Committee, Full Council will consider the report and be asked to approve the officer recommendation in the report. This is expected to be in late 2023.
- 14.4 At the end of the consultation process, Section 15 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 enables ministers to call-in a decision to implement the proposed merger of Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School.
- 14.5 Beginning on the day that the final decision is taken, the Council has a period of six working days to notify Scottish Ministers of the decision. Scottish Ministers then have a period of eight weeks from and including the date of decision to decide if they will call in the proposal. The Council must publish the fact that the Scottish Ministers have been notified and that representations can be made to the Scottish Ministers within the first three weeks of the eight-week period. The Scottish Ministers will take into account any relevant representations that were made to them by any person within the first three weeks. The Council may not proceed with the implementation of the proposal until this eight-week period has passed.
- 14.6 If the Scottish Ministers decide to call in a closure proposal, it is then referred to the Convener of the School Closure Review Panels who has a period of seven days after a call-in notice is issued to constitute a School Closure Review Panel. The Panel may decide to refuse consent to the proposal, refuse consent and remit it to the education authority for a fresh decision or grant consent to the proposal, either subject to conditions, or unconditionally. The Panel must notify the education authority of its decision within eight weeks from when the Panel was constituted or within 16 weeks if the Panel has issued a notice to the education authority that a decision has been delayed. The Council may not proceed with the implementation of the proposal until the outcome of the call-in has been notified to the Council.

15. Conclusion

- 15.1 There are strong educational reasons to favour this proposal.
- 15.2 The proposal will address the concerns regarding condition and suitability of Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School, and will meet the Council's aims to provide the best possible education opportunities for children in Fraserburgh.
- 15.3 The Council believes that the measures proposed in this document will enhance the provision of primary education within the Fraserburgh area.