



EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

APPENDIX A:

**THE PROPOSED RELOCATION OF
ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL
WITHIN THE
INVERURIE COMMUNITY CAMPUS**

CONSULTATION REPORT

June 2017

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

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1. The Proposal

Section 1 (“The Proposal”) represents the relevant sections in the initial consultation document as approved by the ELL Committee in December 2016. It is replicated here for reference and to fulfil statutory requirements.

The proposal is to relocate St Andrew’s School from the current site to the new Inverurie Community Campus and into a purpose-built all-through (3-18) facility co-located with Inverurie Academy and the community/leisure facilities.

The proposed new build St Andrew’s School will be a distinct facility, with a distinct management and staffing structure/organisation so in effect a distinct school, co-located on the same site as a mainstream secondary school and community/leisure facilities and NHS accommodation.

Despite being co-located these schools would have distinct identities, although develop shared values and ethos through an inclusive community.

This community campus model will provide the full continuum of ASN provision within an inclusive environment (from mainstream to complex needs; from universal to specialist support).

1.1. Proposed accommodation

The proposal aims to improve on the current accommodation with purpose-built facilities and resources that reflect current thinking and best practice, an enhanced rather than an equivalent provision. In real terms, the proposal involves a larger footprint than the current school provision. The accommodation schedule for the proposal includes a range of teaching and shared spaces, sensory suites, outdoor spaces, therapy spaces, and personal care:

Space	Qty
Senior Suite	
Class base	2
Class base	2
Class base	2
Equipment & resource store	3
Therapy Room	1
Life skills	1
Breakout / Dining	1
Junior Suite	
Class base	2
Class base	2
Equipment & resource store	3
Therapy Room	1
Life skills	1
Breakout / Dining	1

Early Years	
Class base	2
Class base	1
Equipment & resource store	2
Therapy Room	1
Shared Spaces	
Soft play	3
Sensory room (snoozelen)	3
White room	3
1 to 1 focus teaching / therapy	3
Changing places toilets	5
Accessible wc	11
Independent toilets	4
Laundry	3
Dispersed mobility stores	1
Pool Areas	
Warm Water Pool	1
Hydrotherapy Pool	1
Changing Areas	5
Mobility Store	1
Admin & Management	
Admin/reception office	1
Head Teacher office	1
Depute Head Teacher office	1

In response to issues identified by stakeholders through the informal engagement and formal consultation processes, the proposed accommodation has been reviewed and revised as detailed below (Sections 6 and 7).

The current designs/plans as proposed are available on the Aberdeenshire Council Education Consultations website:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/education-consultations/>

1.2. Capacity

The capacity of the proposed relocated St Andrew's School would reflect the current roll, but also make accommodation for fluctuations in the roll over the past 10 years, with a standard occupancy of 88 pupils and a maximum occupancy of 114. It should be emphasised that these figures are indicative only, and subject to the evolving profile of needs of the pupil cohort and configuration of classes.

Class (size)	Size	Standard occupancy
Early Years Suite		
Class base	56.25m2	8
Class base	56.25m2	8
Class base	45m2	4

Junior Suite		
Class base	56.25m2	4
Class base	56.25m2	8
Class base	45m2	8
Class base	45m2	8
Senior Suite		
Class base	56.25m2	8
Class base	56.25m2	8
Class base	56.25m2	4
Class base	56.25m2	4
Class base	45m2	8
Class base	45m2	8
Total		88

1.3. Organisation of space

Provision will be made across 3 suites: Early Years; Junior; and Senior. This is to reflect recent thinking on best practice on the delivery of education and move beyond traditional (special school) class configuration. It will allow for flexible and responsive grouping of children across stages of learning and development.

The proposed facility will incorporate a range of teaching, sensory and specialist shared spaces, with an emphasis on flexible and responsive use of space to reflect the evolving interests, abilities and needs of the St Andrew's School pupil cohort. Further the proposed facility will be co-located with a range of learning and leisure spaces across the wider community campus.

1.4. Co-located NHS services with St Andrew's School

In March 2016, discussions with NHS Grampian explored the possibility of integrating the Child Development Team currently based in Inverurie Hospital, which covers physiotherapy, occupational, therapy and speech and language therapy in support of children with complex needs. The team extends to 8-10 professionals. The following accommodation has been incorporated into the Inverurie Community Campus: office for 10 staff; space for file storage within the office; treatment room; group treatment room; and store.

1.5. Access

There will be a sole access way to the St Andrew's School entrance and reception via Jackson Street with St Andrew's School specific parking areas, with the level of parking calculated on the basis of current school transport and staff/visitor parking requirements.

1.6. Travel and transport context and implications of the proposal

Pupils at St Andrew's School currently travel to school through a variety of modes of transport:

Mode of transport	Number of pupils
Authority-provided transport	86
Private transport	2
Public transport	0
Walking	0
Cycling	0

The majority of pupils at St Andrew’s School are transported to school by authority-provided transport, including: taxi; accessible taxi; minibus; and accessible minibus. Given that the new Inverurie Community Campus is 0.3 miles from the current site of St Andrew’s School, it is not anticipated there will be significant implications for school transport arrangements.

1.7. Outdoor space

A range of outdoor spaces have been identified for St Andrew’s School, including both private, invited and shared spaces: enclosed outdoor courtyard with sensory garden; Early Years play area; Grounds for Learning / landscaped play area; and a shared play area. It is proposed that further development of these spaces will be co-produced with stakeholders including pupils from both Inverurie Academy and St Andrew’s School.

2. Educational benefits statement

Section 2 (“Educational benefits statement”) represents the relevant sections in the initial consultation document as approved by the ELL Committee in December 2016. It is replicated here for reference and to fulfil statutory requirements.

Aberdeenshire Council believes this proposal will provide a range of educational benefits and enhance the Council’s efforts to meet statutory obligations enshrined in:

- The Education (Scotland) Act 1980;
- The Standards in Scotland’s Schools etc. Act 2000;
- The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003;
- The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004;
- The Educational (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009;
- The Equality Act 2010; and
- The Children and Young People Act 2014

2.1. Likely educational effects and benefits on pupils of the affected school(s)

The following educational benefits have been identified for the pupil groups below:

- Pre-school, primary and secondary aged pupils at St Andrew's School
- Secondary aged pupils attending the Inverurie Community Campus
- Pre-school, primary and secondary aged pupils from the Inverurie, Kemnay and Westhill clusters

2.1.1. Inclusion: inclusive education and the inclusive community

The proposal presents an opportunity to develop a sense of belonging, engagement and ownership for all pupils and staff across an inclusive campus with a richer cultural and learning experience. Co-location of specialist and mainstream schools could promote wider staff awareness, understanding and celebration of diversity and raise expectations of professional behaviours and practice.

Opportunities for inclusive and collaborative learning (where appropriate) through access to flexible learning spaces can further promote positive attitudes to diversity and difference.

It is recognised that the proposal to co-locate a specialist and a mainstream will present both opportunity and challenge alike to both school's management and staff teams, and for parent and pupil bodies. However, there is a commitment to collaborate to develop positive relationships and sense of mutual respect and responsibility within and across peer groups.

Some St Andrew's School parents identified concerns about the vulnerability of their children accessing a more mainstream environment, with particular reference to the attitudes and behaviours of academy pupils. However, other parents identified possible approaches to address such concerns by initiating early engagement with and between pupils from St Andrew's School and Inverurie Academy, to explore and develop a shared vision and strategy for inclusion and positive relationships.

There would also be benefits for pre-school, primary and secondary-aged pupils across the Area (Kemnay, Westhill and Inverurie clusters) would benefit from accessing inreach and outreach services and programmes through St Andrew's School within an extended inclusive environment.

2.1.2 Learning environment

Pupils at St Andrew's School will have access to a purpose built, fit-for-purpose and future-fit facilities for meeting complex additional support needs, with a range of appropriate accommodation and facilities including both St Andrew's School-specific facilities and shared access to facilities across the wider Inverurie Community campus. The proposal would provide a structured, supported and specialist learning environment for those St Andrew's School pupils who require it, and on-site access to mainstream/inclusive learning opportunities which may be beneficial.

The current accommodation and facilities would be both improved and increased, with the proposed St Andrew's School offering purpose-built classroom bases and a range of break-out, general purpose, life-skills, individual and therapy spaces. Further the current and inadequate offer of sensory and soft-play facilities will be both increased and improved with the provision of state-of-the-art white rooms (3), sensory (Snoezelen) rooms (3) and soft-play suites (3).

The proposal would provide improved wireless-enabled learning environment to allow the use of mobile devices throughout the campus, and to promote digital literacy and independence in learning for all pupils learning on the ICC. Further, the increased use of mobile devices would promote the use of specialist, alternative and augmentative technologies for pupils with speech, language and communication needs as they access the wider learning environment across the campus.

Pupils at St Andrew's School would also have on-site access to the full range of learning, community and sport facilities across the Inverurie Community Campus. The current on-site offer of sport facilities is limited to a warm water pool and an inadequate gym hall with limited equipment. Access to wider facilities involves traveling 1.3 miles to the Garioch Sports Centre, which for many pupils would involve transport in the school minibus.

The proposal would both improve and increase on-site access to state-of-the-art leisure and sporting facilities, including: fitness suite; dance studios; sports hall (including basketball and badminton); Multi-Use Games Area and playing fields; and an accessible 25m / 6 lane swimming pool, training pool, warm water pool and hydrotherapy pool.

The proposal would also mean on-site access for St Andrew's School pupils to a range of community facilities including a youth café, an enterprise kitchen and CLD services.

Pupils attending Inverurie Academy would have access to the range of sensory, soft-play, life-skills and therapy facilities. Although, there are such facilities with exclusive access to St Andrew's School pupils, there is also a shared suite adjacent to the Learning Plaza for Guidance and Support for Learning.

Bespoke and specialist learning and therapy spaces designed in collaboration with NHS agencies would allow for more effective therapeutic interventions across the learning environment for pupils at St Andrew's School and indeed for pupils from Inverurie Academy and all schools within the area. For example, physiotherapist can deliver specialist programmes for pupils with motor needs using the hydrotherapy pool and soft-play suites, OT can carry sensory programmes using the sensory suites and garden.

There would also be benefits for pre-school, primary and secondary-aged pupils across the Area (Kemnay, Westhill and Inverurie clusters) would continue to benefit from accessing inreach services and programmes through St Andrew's School but within the proposed purpose-built range of teaching, sensory, therapeutic and community/leisure spaces

2.1.3. Curriculum

The proposal has the potential to enhance the quality of the learning for all pupils across the campus by improving the depth, breadth, coherence, relevance, challenge and enjoyment provided by the curriculum.

The proposal will ensure higher quality learning experiences for all pupils through sensory approaches and sensory curriculum with an improved suite of sensory spaces (white rooms, sensory rooms, soft-play suites and a sensory garden).

Specialist and campus facilities including sensory suites, life-skills areas, community/enterprise kitchen and Youth Café will provide opportunities for intensive and extended interventions for pupils, for example social and communication skills development, sensory learning, independent and life-skills development.

Both secondary-aged pupils and staff at St Andrew's School would enjoy increased access to a range of learning spaces and resources, including: science labs and technology workshops; drama suites; dance studios; and libraries. Not only would they be able to access spaces and resources, there would be increased opportunities for those pupils who can benefit from access to mainstream/Enhanced Provision learning arrangements across the wider campus.

It should also be noted that pre-school and primary-aged St Andrew's School pupils would also have access to the spaces and facilities across the campus, although consideration would need to be given to how the movement of younger children around the campus could be facilitated through careful timetabling.

Both pupils and staff at St Andrew's School would have more ready access to subject specialist staff providing increased opportunities for accredited courses and qualifications (pupils), and for professional consultation and collaboration (staff). In a similar way, pupils at Inverurie Academy will have access to National 1 and 2 level qualifications, and other specialist programmes and courses.

Staff at Inverurie Academy would have access to specialist experience and expertise in meeting needs of Inverurie Academy pupils with additional support needs.

The proposal would promote an emphasis on personalisation and choice, rather than 'specialist' standardisation through the provision of flexible and shared learning spaces, and access to a wider range of curricular facilities. For example, pupils with complex needs can access state-of-the-art music facilities to enhance and intensify their learning experience.

There would also be benefits for pre-school, primary and secondary-aged pupils across the Area (Kemnay, Westhill and Inverurie clusters) who would continue to benefit from accessing inreach and outreach services and programmes through St Andrew's School by accessing an enhanced curricular offer across a community campus.

2.1.4. Raising attainment and achievement

The proposal to co-locate a complex needs school and a secondary school on a community campus alongside community and leisure facilities could improve levels of pupils' achievements and broaden the range of opportunities for young people to develop their skills for life, work and learning. This would be the case for pupils from both St Andrew's School and Inverurie Academy pupils.

There would be improved opportunities for flexible Senior Phase pathways for S4-S6 St Andrew's School pupils through improved opportunities to access:

- Appropriate qualifications/courses in a wider range of subject areas
- On-site supported work experience and volunteering opportunities
- On-site Community Learning and Development (CLD) programmes

There would be improved access to an extra-curricular programmes and wrap-around care to promote wider achievement. There would be increased potential for more flexible and responsive Senior Pathways delivered in more mainstream experiences and environments which could contribute to improved post-school destinations that promote independence and inclusion in the community.

The proposal has the potential to promote more seamless transitions for secondary-aged pupils between specialist and mainstream learning environments, based on responsiveness to pupil needs and interests rather than administrative and staffing arrangements.

It is acknowledged there may be a challenge for both school management teams to collaborate to ensure complementarity in staffing and timetabling to ensure the fullest access to the range of learning, specialist and community spaces.

There would also be benefits for pre-school, primary and secondary-aged pupils across the Area (Kemnay, Westhill and Inverurie clusters) would benefit from accessing inreach services and programmes through St Andrew's School with an increased range of opportunities to attain and achieve.

2.1.5. Integrated services

Mainstream / Enhanced Provision

Co-location with mainstream/Enhanced Provision would ensure all secondary-aged pupils on the campus can access the right support, in the right place, at the right time through a continuum of support, namely universal, targeted and specialist support. The proposal would provide a structured, supported and specialist learning environment for those St Andrew's School secondary-aged pupils who require it, and access to mainstream/inclusive learning environments for those who can benefit.

It is recognised that pre-school and primary-aged St Andrew's School pupils would not benefit from the same co-location of services. However, it is proposed that formalised links be established with a nearby primary school offering mainstream and/or Enhanced Provision for those St Andrew's School pupils who could benefit from opportunities for inclusive provision.

Further, the proposal would also offer increased and improved opportunities for pre-school and primary-aged pupils from across the area (Kemnay, Westhill and Inverurie clusters) to access in-reach programmes alongside St Andrew's School pupils, due to increased/improved facilities (sensory and soft-play rooms, swimming pool and hydrotherapy pool) and co-location with NHS services.

Community Learning and Development (CLD)

Co-location with the CLD team will allow for timely and responsive collaboration between school and CLD staff around the development of community learning programmes for individual and groups of children and young people.

NHS Child Development Team (CDT)

Co-location with child health therapy services (Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Speech and Language Therapy) will improve access to these teams by reducing travel time for therapists, children/families and education services and provide better facilities which will widen the range of interventions therapists can offer, improving quality and standard of care to St Andrew's School pupils and Inverurie Academy pupils. Due to the above efficiencies, more resources might be available for children in both the Inverurie and other areas.

Experience has shown where improved facilities are provided a wider range of therapeutic activities can be made available, enhancing the engagement and participation for children and families. There would be more opportunities for groups and clinics to meet locally, for example Cynet, SLT and DCD groups

Co-located NHS CDT services will provide greater opportunities for shared learning and informal communication between staff, which will positively impact on children's education and development.

There would also be the possibility of more specialist therapy-led clinics being delivered locally, meaning children and families making fewer trips to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary/Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital and in turn less time at school missed for attendance at such clinics.

However, it would be important not to overstate benefits and create false expectations. There would not necessarily be an increase in service to individual children, but there would be a better use of NHS CDT resource and enhanced collaboration and communication in the teams working around the child.

2.1.6. Professional development

The proposal to relocate St Andrew's School within a new Inverurie Community Campus has the potential to promote increased opportunities for professional development for St Andrew's School, academy, community and partner staffing.

The proposal will provide an improved working environment and access to modern resources and facilities. Being part of a larger professional community, will promote opportunities for joint professional development and increased opportunities for leadership development. A greater concentration of teaching staffing in one location, with a broader range of staff experience will allow for better sharing of good practice and 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

The co-location of related professionals from different professional backgrounds and disciplines will promote more holistic understanding of child development and early intervention approaches. Further, improved interchange of information – “soft intelligence”.

2.2. Likely educational effects and benefits on any other users of the school’s facilities

Children and young people with additional support needs across the wider community who access Wrap-Around Care services will have improved access to improved facilities through after-school, weekend and holiday respite/clubs hosted at the new Inverurie Community Campus, including specialist, community and leisure facilities.

Families of children and young people with additional support needs across the wider community will have improved access to improved specialist, community and leisure facilities after school, at weekends and during school holidays. The range of facilities will allow for whole family engagement in a range of activities within the community campus. For example, parents and siblings could access community and leisure activities while children and young people with complex needs could access specialist facilities, for example the hydrotherapy pool.

Adults with complex needs living in the locality will benefit from the above proposed relocation through improved access to improved specialist facilities (i.e. hydrotherapy pool) through community letting, perhaps through SDS packages.

NHS Child Development Team clients and their families from the wider community will benefit from improved access to improved specialist facilities in delivering therapeutic services and programmes in a more accessible location.

3. Background to the proposal

Section 3 (“Background to the proposal”) represents the relevant sections in the initial consultation document as approved by the ELL Committee in December 2016. It is replicated here for reference and to fulfil statutory requirements.

3.1. Learning Estate strategy: Inverurie / Garioch

This proposal for relocation of St Andrew's School from its current site to the new Inverurie Community Campus has emerged from a wider engagement process regarding secondary school provision along the A96 corridor, between Blackburn and Inverurie and local community development. In particular, the Council has approved the replacement of the current Inverurie Academy as part of a new campus development, part-funded by the Scottish Government. To ensure a holistic approach has been adopted, it was important to engage widely and consider ways to improve educational, social and related opportunities for all children, young people and wider community. Accordingly, engagement with St Andrew's School staff, parents and carers was an essential part of this process. This engagement process identified possible opportunities for St Andrew's School in the emerging A96 solution.

3.2. A96 corridor: secondary provision solutions

On 4 June 2014, officers met with St Andrew's School parents to outline and discuss the range of A96 corridor options. At this stage this included a development of a 3-18 campus in Kintore, a secondary provision extension to Kemnay Academy, and a new-build Inverurie Academy within a community campus. It was considered that all of these options presented opportunities for a relocation of St Andrew's School. On 23 June 2014, officers and parent representatives from the Friends of St Andrew's School visited sites options. At this stage, the parent representatives expressed an interest in St Andrew's School remaining within the Inverurie community due to established linkages and ready access to a wide-range of community-based services and resources. It was also acknowledged that there would be opportunities for relocation to a new 3-18 campus in Kintore. There was limited interest in the opportunities to relocate to an extended Kemnay Academy.

3.3. Inverurie Community Campus

On 24 February 2015, the Garioch Area Committee identified a rebuild of Inverurie Academy within a new Inverurie Community Campus as the preferred solution to meet the needs of pupils in the area. It was further noted there may be opportunities to relocate the St Andrew's School secondary provision within the new Inverurie Community Campus.

On 5 March 2015, a Garioch Academy Assessment Study was considered by P&R Committee. The preferred option at this stage did not include the co-location of St Andrew's School. However the report did recognise that, as part of an integrated model, secondary school pupils could be accommodated within the replacement Inverurie Academy with primary pupils retained within St Andrew's School.

Developing Requirements

A consultant was engaged between June-October 2015 to facilitate the delivery of a strategic brief for the whole community campus, which included the requirements of pupils with complex additional support needs, albeit at this stage focused on secondary-aged pupils. The process involved reviewing existing accommodation and interviewing officers, school management and staff to develop a brief for the design.

The specific St Andrew's School outcomes of the brief were subject to a workshop during which the proposals were discussed and tested before being finalised into the final brief.

To ensure all options were considered, officers proceeded to also explore possible opportunities for relocation of the St Andrew's School pre-school and primary provision to a primary school campus, and began to scope out possible options.

4. Stakeholder engagement

Section 4 ("Stakeholder engagement") represents the relevant sections in the initial consultation document as approved by the ELL Committee in December 2016. It is replicated here for reference and to fulfil statutory requirements. Further update on stakeholder engagement is also provided.

4.1. St Andrew's School opportunities: informal engagement process

4.1.1. May 2015

On 5 May 2015, officers met with the Friends of St Andrews School and school management to update on the current discussions and decision-making process. The opportunity to explore possible relocation of the St Andrew's School secondary provision within the new Inverurie Community Campus was discussed and agreed upon. It was further determined that further work would be required to determine the approach to St Andrew's School pre-school and primary provision, including possible relocation to a primary school campus.

4.1.2. January 2016

On 26 January 2016, officers again met with the Friends of St Andrews School to update on progress. Officers committed to developing an 'options appraisal' of a range of possible solutions for St Andrew's School pre-school and primary provision, and to facilitate a meeting with the wider parent forum. Options to be considered included relocation to a number of primary school sites, relocation to the new Inverurie Community Campus and leaving the pre-school and primary provision at the current St Andrew's School.

4.1.3. April 2016

On 20 April 2016, meetings were held between officers, staff and parents of St Andrews School to share the options appraisal. The purpose of the meeting was to: give an update on the Educational Provision in Inverurie; gather further feedback from wider parents/carers community about the options of relocating the St Andrew's education provision into new build facilities on a campus mode; and gather views on possible site selection and agree on what to progress for further development. Staff also submitted written questions to which officers subsequently provided a written response. Meetings were also organised between officers, staff and parents of Kellands and Strathburn schools, the 2 primary school sites identified as possible options for relocation.

Feedback from the meeting with staff and parents of Kellands and Strathburn schools was largely positive although some concerns around transport and capacity were identified. However, feedback from the meetings with staff and parents of St Andrews School included a general preference to maintain the St Andrew's School community and not to explore a split-site solution. Parents provided feedback to the options presented and suggested further options to be considered.

No.	Summary of possible options proposed at April 2016 engagement event
1	Leave St Andrew's School (P/S, P and S) on its current site with improvements to the current site as required.
2	Leave St Andrew's School nursery and primary provision on its current site and build new St Andrew's School secondary provision on the Inverurie Academy campus
3	Build a new St Andrew's School (P/S, P and S) on the same site.
4	Build a new St Andrew's School (P/S, P and S) on a new site as a stand-alone facility not linked to a mainstream campus.
5	Build a new St Andrew's School (P/S, P and S) on the Inverurie Academy campus as a stand-alone facility.
6	Build a new St Andrew's School (P/S, P and S) on the Inverurie campus as an integrated facility (with appropriate access to other campus facilities).
7	Build a new St Andrew's School nursery and primary provision on a primary site and a new St Andrew's School secondary provision as part of the Inverurie campus.

A public engagement event around the wider Inverurie Community Campus project was held on 28 April 2016. Although no specific plans around relocation of St Andrew's School were presented, feedback was received from stakeholders.

4.1.4. June 2016

On 15 June 2016, a further meeting was held with staff and parents of St Andrews School. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a summary of feedback from the April meeting and to facilitate a workshop to explore in more detail the different options for relocation of the St Andrew's School pre-school, primary and secondary provision. At the April engagement event, officers had presented a number of options for exploration, and staff and parents had in turn contributed further options, resulting in a set of 7 options.

At the engagement event, officers talked through the resulting set of options and explained which of those options were viable for further exploration, resulting in 4 options:

No.	Options
a	Leave St Andrew's School (P/S, P and S) on its current site with improvements to the current site as required.
b	Leave St Andrew's School nursery and primary provision on its current site and build new St Andrew's School secondary provision on the Inverurie Academy campus
c	Build a new St Andrew's School (P/S, P and S) on the Inverurie campus with appropriate access to campus facilities
d	Build a new St Andrew's School nursery and primary provision on a primary site and a new St Andrew's School secondary provision as part of the Inverurie campus.

Given lack of parent support for a split-site solution, it was decided by the officers and attending parent body to focus on 2 options, namely:

- *Option a: Leave St Andrew's School (Pre-School, Primary and Secondary) on its current site with improvements to the current site as required.*
- *Option c: Build a new St Andrew's School (Pre-School, Primary and Secondary) on the Inverurie campus with appropriate access to campus facilities*

Those who attended split into 2 groups which considered key opportunities and issues with reference to each option. At the subsequent plenary session, the consensus of those attending the meeting was that the option to build a new St Andrew's School on the Inverurie community campus was an option for further exploration and discussion. This would include provision for pre-school, primary and secondary pupils, with the opportunity to also incorporate other associated facilities/services, e.g. Health.

Officers committed to progress thinking and develop proposals (including designs/plans) for a possible relocation of St Andrew's School within the Inverurie community campus.

4.1.5. August 2016

On 30 August 2016, a drop-in session was arranged to share the possible designs proposals, and to outline educational benefits across a number of themes. There was a reasonable level of staff and parent attendance. In general terms the feedback was largely positive. Staff and parents identified a number of opportunities and challenges against each theme of educational benefit, which in turn informed ongoing design and planning.

4.1.6. October 2016

A further informal meeting was held on 7 October 2016 with parents and staff to update and share new developments in the plans and designs. There was limited staff and parent attendance but those who did attend were largely positive.

4.1.7. November 2016

An introductory session with school staff and NHS partners was organised to look at next steps in developing classroom designs, including (toilet) adjacencies, tracking/hoisting arrangements, and requirements for fixtures, furniture and equipment. It was decided to plan and organise a field trip to visit other new build complex needs provisions to support staff and partners to make more informed contributions to the ongoing design and planning processes.

4.1.8. January 2017

Officers met with the Parent Council and school management to discuss a range of issues and concerns that had emerged during the formal consultation period. Updated designs and plans were shared and discussed.

4.2. Informal engagement with partners and other stakeholder groups

Informal engagement with partners and stakeholders has been facilitated throughout the above process, including NHS Grampian Community Child Development Team and the Allied Health Professionals. Informal engagement was also carried out with officers from adult social work services, and with Third Sector organisation providing respite care services in the current St Andrew's School facilities.

4.3. External research

Officers have engaged with Education Scotland, Scottish Futures Trust and with officers in other authorities to explore good practice in the development of complex needs facilities within co-location and community campus models, including Inverclyde Council, Highland Council, Falkirk Council, Aberdeen City Council and Fife Council. This included review of planning and design documents, site visits and engagement with relevant stakeholder groups. This research will both inform ongoing design and development, but also opportunities for St Andrew's School stakeholders to engage with their counterparts in other authorities if the proposal to relocate St Andrew's School progresses.

4.4. Education, Learning and Leisure (ELL) Committee: 27 October 2016

On 27 October 2016, officers provided a verbal briefing to Aberdeenshire Council's Education, Learning and Leisure (ELL) Committee. The briefing included an update on the informal engagement process and the latest proposed plans for St Andrew's School. Further, officers advised Committee members of the intention to bring a paper to the ELL Committee in December 2016, seeking approval to progress statutory consultation for the relocation of St Andrew's School within the new Inverurie Community Campus.

4.5. ELL Committee 8 December 2016

In December 2016, officers brought a paper to the ELL Committee to recommend the Committee review of the proposal document and to seek approval to progress a formal statutory consultation process on the proposed relocation of St Andrew's School. Approval was given by the ELL Committee.

4.6. Garioch Area Committee 31 January 2017

In January 2017, officers brought a paper to the GAC to recommend the Committee consider the consultation on the relocation of St Andrew's School, encourage participation within the communities they represent, and agree to receive a follow up report on the consultation in Spring 2017 in order to submit a recommendation to the Education and Children's Services (ECS) Committee as part of the decision making process.

4.7. Pupil consultation

Pupil engagement has been carried out with Inverurie Academy School Council. A minute of the meeting has been provided (Appendix 1A).

Officers collaborated with NHS partner professionals to develop approaches for engagement with St Andrew's School pupils, including the commissioning of a software application using symbols technology:

www.togetheraberdeenshire.co.uk (username: stand; password: stand)

However, when officers met with the school-based management, Educational Psychological Services and NHS Speech and Language Services, colleagues considered the appropriateness and feasibility of a meaningful consultation with pupils with complex needs on the specific question of the statutory consultation. It was highlighted that there might be risks to the emotional and psychological wellbeing of pupils in trying to explore an abstract concept.

It was considered more appropriate to engage with pupils on issues relating to features of the school environment and ethos, and to use the views gathered to inform the ongoing design process of the proposed plans. Given the sensitivities within the staff and parent community at the time, it was further considered appropriate to undertake this consultation outwith the formal statutory consultation period. It is proposed to initiate this over the ongoing design and planning process.

5. Formal Consultation

5.1. The Public Meeting

A public meetings was held in Inverurie Academy on 1 February 2017 to discuss the proposal issued for public consultation. Stakeholders from all schools in the 3 clusters affected by the proposal (Inverurie, Westhill, Kemnay) and community members were invited to the meeting. A minute of the meeting has been provided (Appendix 1B).

The table below provide numbers and detail of the attendees at the public meeting.

Category of attendee	No. of attendees
School/Staff/Education Member	10
Pupil	2
Parent/Carer	13
Community Member	11
Other	8
TOTAL	44

There were several comments and questions raised and these included the following:

- Aberdeenshire Council's 9 Area Model for Enhanced Provision, and the impact of the proposed relocation on this.
- Clarification on whether the proposal was about a rezoning exercise, or a closure or merger, and reduction on school capacity
- Security and privacy issues with regards to the outdoor areas being overlooked by other campus buildings
- Issues about bullying and harassment of vulnerable pupils and their siblings
- Disruption to academy pupils i.e. emergency medical care for St Andrew's School pupils
- Access to shared facilities and resources across the campus
- Impact of construction process for academy pupils over examination time
- Current site land ownership
- Privacy in campus facilities
- Clarification on educational benefits
- Opportunities for inclusion and access to learning across the campus
- Specialist showering and changing arrangements
- Challenges of meeting needs with staffing/recruitment challenges
- Cluster and community access to St Andrew's School specialist facilities
- Provision of dining facilities across the campus
- Retention of both schools' identity
- Transition and movement of vulnerable pupils within the campus

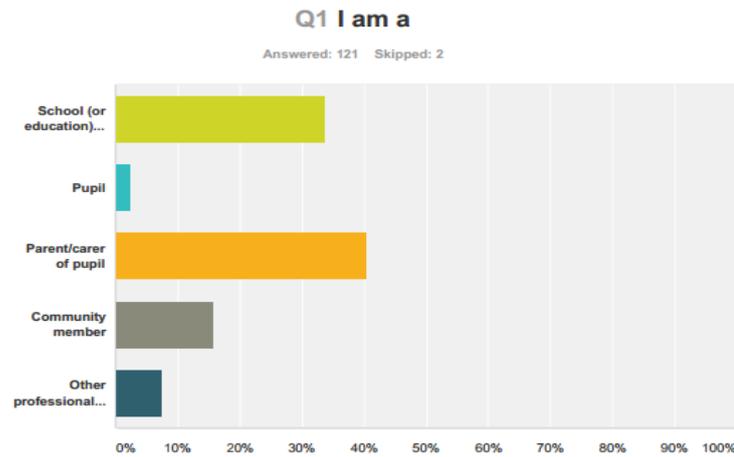
5.2. Online Survey

A survey was created on survey monkey to ask stakeholders to consider the proposal to relocate St Andrew's School within the new Inverurie Community Campus. Letters and emails were sent to 6300 individual households in the Inverurie, Westhill and Kemnay clusters, in an effort to ensure that all who may be affected in any way by the decision regarding the proposal would have an opportunity to respond.

The survey results are presented below.

Question 1 and 2

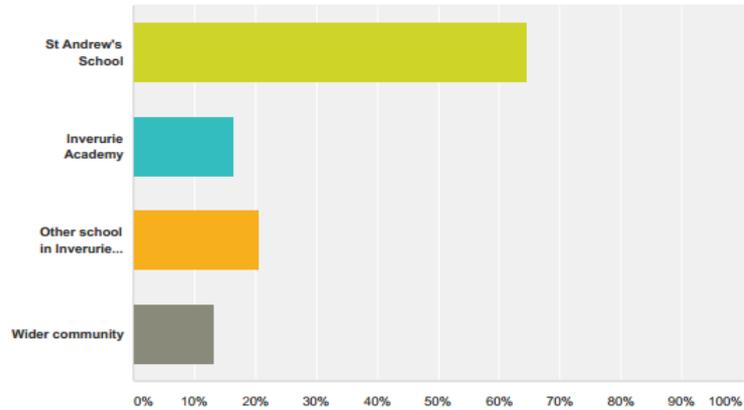
Question 1 asks respondents to identify the ‘category’ of stakeholder they would fall in to, and Question 2 asks which establishment they are connected to. Of the 123 total respondents to the survey, 121 provided their nature of their connection. One of the two who did not respond provided details in their later responses explaining that they were a member of the St Andrew’s Parent Council. The other entered that their connection is to St Andrew’s in Question 2.



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
School (or education) staff member	33.88%	41
Pupil	2.48%	3
Parent/carer of pupil	40.50%	49
Community member	15.70%	19
Other professional working with pupils	7.44%	9
Total		121

Q2 My connection is to (please tick all that apply)

Answered: 121 Skipped: 2



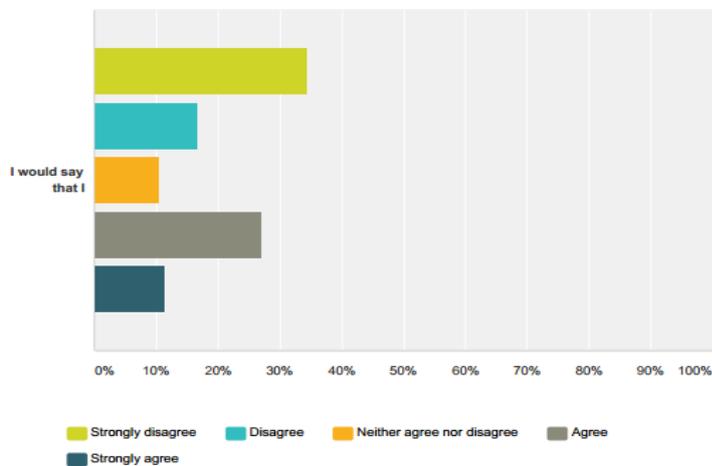
Answer Choices	Responses
St Andrew's School	64.46% 78
Inverurie Academy	16.53% 20
Other school in Inverurie, Kemnay and Westhill clusters	20.66% 25
Wider community	13.22% 16
Total Respondents: 121	

Question 3

Question 3 asks the core question of the survey, which is whether they agree or disagree with the statement 'St Andrew's School should be relocated within the new Inverurie Community Campus. 96 of the 123 respondents answered this query. A majority of 34.38% (33 of 96) marked 'strongly disagree'. 27 did not respond ('blank'). The following chart/table represents the spread of responses.

Q3 St Andrew's School should be relocated within the new Inverurie Community Campus

Answered: 96 Skipped: 27



	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
I would say that I	34.38% 33	16.67% 16	10.42% 10	27.08% 26	11.46% 11	96

Using the raw data from the survey the responses to Question 3 can be broken down further to identify the answers for different stakeholder categories (table 1). The number refers to the number of respondents in each category, while the percentage shows the percentage of respondents in each category who agreed/disagreed and to what extent. The column total will not equal 100%; the row total will.

Table 1

Response	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	(blank)	Grand Total
Community member	(3) 16%	(3) 16%	(3) 16%	(5) 26%	(2) 11%	(3) 16%	(19) 100%
Other professional working with pupils	0%	0%	(1) 11%	(3) 33%	(1) 11%	(4) 44%	(9) 100%
Parent/carer of pupil	(14) 29%	(6) 12%	(4) 8%	(13) 27%	(4) 8%	(8) 16%	(49) 100%
Pupil	(1) 33%	0%	0%	(1) 33%	(1) 33%	(0) 0%	(3) 100%
School (or education) staff member	(15) 37%	(7) 17%	(1) 2%	(4) 10%	(3) 7%	(11) 27%	(41) 100%
(blank)	0%	0%	(1) 50%	0%	0%	(1) 50%	(2) 100%

We can see that the highest proportion of respondents were parents/carers of pupils (49 of the 123), and of those who responded the highest percentage (29%) strongly disagree with the statement, followed by 27% agreeing with it. This is in line with overall responses to the question, with 'strongly disagree' and 'agree' attracting the most responses, respectively, overall.

Of those who said they were 'parent/carer of pupil', 36 of the 49 marked a relationship to St Andrew's school. Multiple choices to this question were allowed. 32 of the 41 School (or education) staff members also had a connection to St Andrew's School.

Question 4

Question 4 invites responders to give reason for their response to question 3. 87 individuals chose to answer the question, with 36 skipping it. The following 'word cloud' identifies the words that came up commonly:

Theme	Sub-theme	No. of respondents
Inclusion	Improved opportunities for inclusive education / inclusive practice	17
	Improved opportunities for community and social inclusion	4
	Concerns about principles of inclusion for pupils with complex needs	5
	Concerns about vulnerability of St Andrew's School pupils	11
	Concerns about privacy and security of St Andrew's School pupils	10
	Preference for segregated / stand-alone provision	11
	Co-location	Improved opportunities for shared access to campus facilities
Concerns regarding access to campus facilities		2
Concerns re status of St Andrew's School within a campus		2
Concerns re sensory issues within wider campus		6
Concerns re losing reputation and practice of St Andrew's School		6
Concerns re transport access		1
Proposed designs/plans		Improved and purpose-built facilities
	Concerns lack of alternative options	1
	Concerns re lack of staffroom	3
	Concerns re lack of hall	9
	Concerns re smaller classrooms	1
	Concerns re shared specialist spaces (art, music etc)	1
	Concerns re travel distances in campus	3
	Concerns re capacity of school	1
	Concerns re outdoor space	3
	Resources	Improved sustainability and future-proofing for school and pupils
Concerns re lack of separate budget for St Andrew's School		1
Transitions	Upheaval and disruption for pupils during re-location	3
Staff development	Concerns re lack of staff capacity across campus	1

Issue	No. of respondents
Transition planning for staff	3
Transition planning and programme for pupils	20
Transition planning for parents/carers	1
Pupil needs at centre of planning	10
Staff/parent/carer engagement in planning and design of school	3
Review of proposed designs/plans	11
Safety and security for vulnerable pupils	13
Ensure commitments are delivered through development	1
Transport issues	1
Communication and information for pupils, staff and parents	2
Campus staff training on complex needs	9
Ensuring appropriate/adequate access to shared campus facilities	5
Preserve St Andrew's School identity and ethos	2
Minimise sensory issues for pupils in campus	2
Ensuring accessibility around school and campus	3
Awareness raising for academy pupils	6
Ensuring adequate capacity for St Andrew's School pupils	1

5.3. Written submissions

Fourteen written submissions in response to the statutory consultation were received through the identified email and postal address. Five directly opposed the proposal, one supported the proposal and the remainder sought clarification on a range of points within the proposal. Full details of the written submissions is provided below. One written submission was made by an elected membership seeking clarification on acknowledgements of written submissions made by parents.

Eleven written submissions were received, from seven different parents of pupils at St Andrew's School.

- Written submission from Parent 1 raised 21 question regarding issues around budget, resources, staffing, project process, inclusion, management, pastoral care / guidance, ICT, social media and security.
- Written submission from Parent 1 raising 9 questions and comments regarding process of consultation, process of design, identification of options, process of review and budget (forecasting) and the quality of the consultation proposal document. The submission made further comment on the authority's promotion of national/local policy of inclusion and co-location without due regard to future of children with complex needs. The submission further expressed a preference for community/business engagement around the development of a new-build stand-alone St Andrew's School.
- Written submission from Parent 2 agreeing with proposal to replace current St Andrew's School but querying why it could not be a stand-alone new build. The submission also expressed that the space restrictions on the site would compromise the facilities available to St Andrew's School, specifically a gym hall, and making suggestions for a revised proposed design. The submission indicated a preference for a stand-alone new build and requested further information why this was not feasible on the current site.
- Written submission from Parent 3 expressing disagreement with the proposal and emphasising the importance of the current St Andrew's School to the pupils, families and wider communities. The submission highlighted concerns about integration and the vulnerability of St Andrew's School pupils, and suggests the strength of St Andrew's School is that it is a standalone facility.
- Written submission from Parent 4 outlining the informal engagement process which lead to the development of the proposal and their participation in the process, and commenting positively on the officer support and response. The submission expressed agreement with the proposal and identified a range of opportunities and benefits for pupils.
- Written submission from Parent 5 enquiring how long it would take officers to issue a response to written submissions within the statutory consultation.
- Written submission from Parent 5 asking for clarification on the identification of the proposed option to relocate St Andrew's School to the Inverurie Community Campus, and why the option to rebuild on the current site had not been progressed for consultation. The submission also requested clarification on whether the proposal involved merging the 2 schools, or whether St Andrew's School would still retain separate management, staffing, budgets etc
- Written submission from Parent 5 enquiring about the process for officer response to submissions
- Written submission from Parent 5 enquiring about budget allocation for the St Andrew's School relocation within the Inverurie Community Campus and asking about planning and costings for the project. The submission also enquired as to what would happen if the proposal did not progress to development.

The submission further enquired regarding the land ownership of the current St Andrew's School site and whether plans to rebuild on the current site had been progressed. The submission further enquired as to what input staff, parents and partners would have in the ongoing design process after the close of the statutory consultation period.

- Written submission from Parent 6 expressing disagreement with the proposal. The submission enquired as to why the current site could not be re-developed, and why staff and parents had not been provided with proposals on this option. The submission further enquired what funding would be allocated to St Andrew's School in the event it would not be relocated to the Inverurie Community Campus and why the budget allocated to the proposal could not be allocated to a rebuild of the existing St Andrew's School.
- Written submission from Parent 7 objecting to the proposal as it would not be in their child's interests, and emphasizing that a stand-alone setting was the only appropriate provision for their child. The submission further enquired what assessment of suitability of provision would be carried out in the event of a relocation of St Andrew's School

One written submission was received from the St Andrew's School Parent Council sharing results of a survey issued by the Parent Council to all parents on the proposed relocation. Thirty-two responses were received. Sixteen responses were in favour of the proposal. Fifteen responses were opposed to the proposal. One response was undecided. The submission also provided some comments made in the response. One response commented on the need to consider upgrading or rebuilding the current site, suggesting that another authority had progressed an integrated model but were now building a standalone special school. One response agreed with the proposal on the condition that the current plans were reviewed and revised.

One written submission was received from the Inverurie Youth Forum indicating a lack of support for the proposed relocation. In particular the submission considered that there would be discomfort for St Andrew's School pupil in the new setting, and issues in transitioning from the current setting. Concerns were also raised by the disruptions to learning and examinations for academy pupils in the presence of pupils from St Andrew's School who might require emergency care. The submission also identified potential bullying and victimisation of St Andrew's School pupil as an issue, and the unsuitability of the environment. Further, issues were raised concerning the proposed plans and available space, including dining arrangements.

6. Summary of oral and written representation with Education Authority responses

During the informal engagement and formal consultation processes, stakeholders identified a range of challenges and issues for consideration during any decision-making and development/planning process. Many of these issues have been responded to through the ongoing development and design process, including issues around management, administration and general purpose spaces.

In the event the decision is taken to relocate St Andrew's School within the Inverurie Community Campus, it is acknowledged that careful strategic planning is required to progress some of the opportunities identified by stakeholders. It is further acknowledged that mitigating approaches will be required to address some of the issues and challenges identified by stakeholders. These will be continue to be developed through ongoing engagement and collaboration with stakeholders as detailed below.

The high-level opportunities and issues raised by stakeholders are detailed below, with the authority response and proposed planning and mitigation outlined, as appropriate or required.

6.1. Inclusion

During both informal engagement and formal consultation, stakeholders expressed a range of views on opportunities and issues around inclusion. A significant number of responses recognised the opportunities for promoting inclusive education and strengthening inclusive practice not only for St Andrew's School pupils but also Inverurie Academy pupils and other community members. Further, a few stakeholders identified increased opportunities for community and social inclusion across the wider campus and community beyond.

However, a few stakeholders expressed disagreement with principles and policy on promoting educational and social inclusion. Some stakeholders expressed concern around the vulnerability of St Andrew's School pupils within a more inclusive setting, and identified possible issues around privacy and security for those pupils.

Authority response

Aberdeenshire Council is committed to the promotion of co-location and integration of services within a community campus model. Officers emphasise the opportunities for promoting educational and social inclusion through the proposed co-location of a special school within a community campus. Officers also recognize the possible challenges of bringing together a diverse community of young people. Consultation responses from young people indicated a range of views on the principles of inclusion, and it will be essential to empower and mobilise young people to champion and advocate for the rights of all community members to respect, privacy, dignity and protection.

Indeed, both young people and parents identified possible approaches to address such concerns by initiating early engagement with and between pupils from St Andrew's School and Inverurie Academy, to explore and develop a shared vision and strategy for inclusion and positive relationships. There will be opportunities to bring stakeholders and in particular young people together to build relationships of trust and respect over an extended transition period. The authority will promote stakeholder co-production of vision and values statements for the wider community campus, and strategies to promote respect and celebration of diversity.

Joint stakeholder groups will bring together staff, pupils and parents from both schools to develop shared policy and practice guidelines on promoting positive relationships and positive behavior including anti-bullying, and on acceptable use of ICT/social media.

6.2. Alternative options

During both informal engagement and formal consultation, stakeholders requested clarification around the process of deciding on the proposed option for relocation within the Inverurie Community Campus. In particular, a few stakeholders raised the question of why the option of rebuilding St Andrew's School on the current site was not being proposed for consultation.

No.	Summary of possible options proposed at April 2016 engagement event	Response
1	Leave St Andrew's School (P/S, P and S) on its current site with improvements to the current site as required.	This option is the implied 'status quo'
2	Leave St Andrew's School nursery and primary provision on its current site and build new St Andrew's School secondary provision on the Inverurie Academy campus	This option was not progressed in response to the strong parental objections to this proposal expressed in the April 2016 engagement event. The authority recognised the importance to staff and parents of keeping the St Andrew's school community together.
3	Build a new St Andrew's School (P/S, P and S) on the same site.	<p>This option was not progressed as it was not consistent with national and local policy. Aberdeenshire Council is committed to the promotion of co-location and integration of services within a community campus model. This is referred to in the proposal document (Section 8).</p> <p>In addition there are financial/affordability considerations regarding both capital and revenue expenditure and the requirement to ensure best value of public expenditure.</p> <p>A particular difficulty is the feasibility of rebuilding St Andrew's School on its current site. The current site constraints would result in the closure of the school building during the construction period. Accordingly pupils would need to be relocated to other schools for a period of around 18 – 24 months. This could be considered to be of the significant detriment to the pupils.</p>

4	Build a new St Andrew's School (P/S, P and S) on a new site as a stand-alone facility not linked to a mainstream campus.	This option was not progressed as it was not consistent with national and local policy. Aberdeenshire Council is committed to the promotion of co-location and integration of services within a community campus model. This is referred to in the proposal document (Section 8). In addition there are financial/affordability considerations regarding both capital and revenue expenditure and the requirement to ensure best value of public expenditure.
5	Build a new St Andrew's School (P/S, P and S) on the Inverurie Academy campus as a stand-alone facility.	This option was not progressed for further discussion as the footprint of the new Inverurie Community Campus would not allow for a stand-alone facility. Further a stand-alone facility would not promote ease of access to the collocated services. In addition there are financial/affordability considerations regarding both capital and revenue expenditure and the requirement to ensure best value of public expenditure.
6	Build a new St Andrew's School (P/S, P and S) on the Inverurie campus as an integrated facility (with appropriate access to other campus facilities).	This option was progressed for further discussion as it both reflected the authority position (within the context of national and local policy) and reflected the staff/parent interests in maintaining the St Andrew's School community together
7	Build a new St Andrew's School nursery and primary provision on a primary site and a new St Andrew's School secondary provision as part of the Inverurie campus.	This option was not progressed in response to the strong parental objections to this proposal expressed in the April 2016 engagement event. The authority recognised the importance to staff and parent of keeping the St Andrew's school community together.

Authority response

At an informal engagement event in April 2016 between officers and school stakeholders, a range of possible options for further consideration were generated, as detailed in the proposal document. In June 2016, these options were revisited at another informal engagement event and officers provided explanation as to which options were appropriate for further consideration. The explanation is provided above.

6.3. Project budget

During both the informal engagement and formal consultation, a few stakeholders raised the issue of the Inverurie Community Campus project budget and how much of this had been allocated to the St Andrew's School element of the budget. Further a few stakeholders questioned whether this funding could be reallocated to a rebuild of St Andrew's School on the existing site.

Authority response

The campus is being delivered through a single overall budget which is not defined by individual elements. The total project cost is estimated to be in the order of £56m. The overall budget is supported by a Scottish government funding allocation of £24.8 million, albeit the council must meet certain criteria to receive this funding.

As St Andrew's School is categorized as B for condition and suitability, it would not necessarily be prioritised for redevelopment as a stand-alone project within the council capital planning and learning estate strategy.

6.4. Proposed status of St Andrew's School within the Inverurie Community Campus

During both the informal engagement and formal consultation, a few stakeholders sought clarification of the status of St Andrew's School within the Inverurie Community Campus in terms of budget, staffing and management, expressing concern that the proposal involved a merger of the schools and a resulting loss of identity and the 'family' of St Andrew's School. Some stakeholders expressed concerns that the relocation of St Andrew's School would lead to a loss of the recognised best practice in complex needs provision and resulting reputation of the school. However, a few stakeholders identified that relocation to a new, purpose-built facility co-located within a community campus improved sustainability and future-proofing for both school and the pupils.

Authority response

As confirmed in both the proposal document and in responses to oral and written submissions made during the consultation, the proposal refers to a relocation not a merger. The proposed new build St Andrew's School will be a distinct facility, with a distinct management and staffing structure/organisation so in effect a distinct school, co-located on the same site as a mainstream secondary school, community/leisure facilities and NHS accommodation. Despite being co-located these schools would have distinct identities, although develop shared values and ethos through an inclusive community.

Aberdeenshire Council recognises and values the experience and expertise that St Andrew's School currently provides in meeting the needs of children and young people with complex needs. St Andrew's School as a Community Resource Hub has an essential and evolving role in meeting additional support needs both within the school and across the local clusters/areas through outreach support. The authority considers this role and contribution will be strengthened through relocation to a new purpose-built facility and through co-location on a community campus.

6.5. Access to campus wide facilities

During both the informal engagement and formal consultation, a few stakeholders identified the opportunities for St Andrew's School pupils and staff to access a wider range of learning spaces and leisure facilities across the campus. However, a few stakeholders expressed concerns that St Andrew's School pupils and staff would not be able to enjoy an adequate level of access.

Further, some stakeholders expressed concerns for pupils with complex needs and sensory issues in accessing wider campus facilities.

Authority response

St Andrew’s School pupils will have ample access to such specialist spaces in the wider campus through management agreement and timetabling. The table below provides detail of the potential availability of access when Inverurie Academy is at full capacity:

Specialist space	Academy utilisation at capacity	St Andrew’s School availability at capacity
HE	66.75% (2 spaces)	33.25%
Art	81.58% (3 spaces)	18.42%
Music	70.46% (3 spaces)	29.54%
Drama	75.09% (2 spaces)	24.91%
PE	83.44% (6 spaces)	16.56%

The above projected figures don’t take account of the two project spaces (“messy” & “clean”), these are included in whole campus spaces. PE figures do not include external spaces such as All-weather pitches and Multi Use Games Area, and the swimming pool suite designated for St Andrew’s School.

The authority has established an accessibility working group, comprising of representation from Aberdeenshire Council officers, partner agencies and Third Sector to develop a campus-wide accessibility brief to address a range of issues, including sensory sensitivities. The working group will review planning and design specifications to ensure environmental solutions to ensure privacy and sensory sensitivity in St Andrew’s School spaces, and inclusive access to wider community campus spaces.

6.6. Proposed designs / plan for the relocated St Andrew’s School

During both the informal engagement and formal consultation, stakeholders expressed a range of views regarding the proposed designs/plans. Many stakeholders responded positively to the proposal to provide state-of-the-art facilities in a purpose built school.

Others raised concerns on a number of issues, in particular: reduction of available space; travel distance between the St Andrew’s School classroom bases and the campus facilities; and the lack of general purpose, specialist and administrative/management space in the St Andrew’s School specific facilities. Issues were also raised regarding privacy concerns of having a courtyard overlooked by academy facilities.

Authority response

In June 2016, stakeholders indicated they were experiencing difficulties conceptualising what was in effect an abstract idea of a relocated and rebuilt St Andrew's School. On that basis officers committed to return with proposed plans / designs to better inform discussions.

In August 2016, officers presented indicative plans, and from that stage the designs/plans have evolved in response to the range of issues raised, in particular the lack of administrative and management spaces. The plans were further developed to include both an administration and reception area, and offices for the Head Teacher and the Depute Head Teachers within St Andrew's School in response to stakeholder feedback.

With regards to the issue of the perceived reduction of space in the proposed design/plans, officers made a comparison of the overall and specific areas of space allocation. The proposed designs/plans represent an increased net educational area compared to the existing school.

With the regards to the comments in respect of general purpose space, particularly a hall specifically for St Andrew's School, the national and authority position is to build schools/campuses which promote the flexible use of shared spaces. The overall campus provision makes more than adequate provision to ensure appropriate access to a range of general purpose and specialist spaces for all campus users. However, the authority recognised that there is stakeholder interest in securing a large general purpose space for St Andrew's School and that there may be reconfiguration and timetabling solutions.

The school management team have been presented with options for reconfiguration of spaces within the proposed St Andrew's school space. Classroom bases and/or sensory spaces can be re-designated as general purpose spaces to provide the desired functionality. In this way, the school can consider the needs and size of their pupil cohort on a year-on-year basis and make flexible use of space to respond to evolving needs and requirements. Further, there will be opportunities to access nearby spaces that can be timetabled for St Andrew's School on a regular and routine basis. Officers proposed to meet with the Parent Council to discuss the options, but the offer was declined on the grounds they felt there had been enough meetings and enough time had been spent on discussions to date.

The proposed accommodation for St Andrew's School does not include specific 'specialist' spaces such as Art, Music, HE, Drama, PE. Rather, an allocation of 2 spaces for 'break-out' and lifeskills have been provided which provide opportunities for small group learning in these specialist subjects and will be developed in more detail through the design development process. In addition, the option for allocation of a further general purpose space (see above) offers further scope and flexibility. Further, St Andrew's School pupils will also have ample access to such specialist spaces in the wider campus through management agreement and timetabling, as detailed above.

Although there is a reduction to the dedicated St Andrew's School outdoor space, there are further shared outdoor spaces that can be accessed by St Andrew's School pupils, including landscaped parkland, an outdoor amphitheatre, sports and multi-use games areas. There is also a large shared playground area, adjacent to the dedicated St Andrew's School outdoor spaces, for those pupils who can benefit from accessing wider outdoor learning and play provisions.

Effective landscape design will provide an enhanced outdoor environment, with the dedicated area incorporating a large courtyard which will be directly accessible from classrooms and providing the scope for outdoor life-skills and sensory learning. Age-appropriate and inclusive play equipment/areas will be designed to reflect the full range of pupil needs, and the authority is committed to ensuring equivalent provision of play equipment. A sensory garden, currently being developed at St Andrew's School, can be replicated and developed to reflect current thinking in best practice.

The authority has commissioned landscape architects to plan a participatory workshop programme to co-produce the outdoor space designs/plans with key stakeholders. In particular, the authority considers that pupils from both schools will have a key contribution to make in this process.

With regard to travel distances within the campus, particularly for pupils with complex physical and sensory needs, officers commissioned a review and reconfiguration of the school design/plans footprint which has resulted in significantly reduced travel distances between St Andrew's School and the campus facilities. The reconfiguration has been presented to school management for information and feedback was positive.

Officers proposed to meet with the Parent Council to share the updated designs and ask for their feedback on the changes. The Parent Council declined the offer to meet (see above).

In summary, the proposed designed/plans have evolved over the course of the informal engagement and formal consultation processes in response to stakeholder feedback, with developments including:

- Provision of a warm water pool and hydrotherapy tank for St Andrew's School
- Provision of management, administration and reception spaces
- Identification of options for provision of a large general purpose space
- Reconfiguration of the school designs/plans to reduce travel distances

The current designs/plans as proposed are available on the Aberdeenshire Council Education Consultations website:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/education-consultations/>

The designs/plans will be further developed through participatory processes involving relevant stakeholders

6.7. Staff development

During both the informal engagement and formal consultation, a number of stakeholders identified the need to ensure appropriate staff development, particularly for wider campus staff (including teaching, non-teaching and support/administration staff) to ensure all staff are confident and capable in meeting the needs of pupils with more complex needs.

Authority response

The authority have developed a Career Long Professional Learning and Training strategy for Additional Support Needs. The strategy provides a framework of professional learning at universal, targeted and specialist across themes of learning, including: safety, health and wellbeing; language and communication; ICT; learning and teaching; and positive relationships.

The authority would promote and develop a joint CLPL and training plan for all teaching and non-teaching staff working across the Inverurie Community Campus, ensuring all staff have access to the appropriate level of professional learning. This would be developed through collaboration between school managers, ECS services, partner agencies and stakeholder groups.

Further, the authority consider it essential to develop an information, communication and education programme to raise awareness and promote attitudes of tolerance, inclusion and respect for diversity for all campus users, including pupils.

6.8. Transitions

During both the informal engagement and formal consultation, a number of stakeholders identified issues around the transition of St Andrew's School pupils from the current school to the proposed relocated site, citing their vulnerabilities and sensitivities to change. The need for careful transition planning for pupils and for staff and parents was also highlighted as a key consideration by many stakeholders in the event the decision was taken to relocate the school.

Authority response

In the event the decision is taken to relocate St Andrew's School, a school stakeholder group will be established to initiate transition planning, both for individual pupils and for the wider school community. Issues around transition for individual pupils will also be assessed and planned for through single/multi-agency processes to ensure appropriate strategies are implemented.

School stakeholder participation in the wider project stakeholder group and

campus board will also ensure issues around transitions for pupils and staff are addressed through participatory processes.

Extended and enhanced transition planning and programmes will be implemented for individual and groups of children allowing them to become comfortable and familiar with new settings, and to develop the necessary skills and confidence to participate in the wider community campus, as deemed appropriate.

It should be emphasised that transition processes will, as far as possible, be at the pace of the child, and ensure that the needs of the child/young person are at the centre of the planning.

7. Education Scotland report summary

- 7.1. The Education Scotland report is provided in full in Appendix 1C. The Education Scotland report includes consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees, and summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. The main points from the Education Scotland Report are replicated below in italics.

Education Scotland report: Educational Benefits of the proposal

- 7.2. *The proposal to relocate St Andrew's School to the new Inverurie Campus offers an opportunity to create an inclusive learning community through the co-location of mainstream and specialist provision on the same campus. There is potential for all children and young people educated on the new campus to benefit through a deepened, shared understanding of children and young people's varying needs and how these can be met. The council has stated that access to shared learning spaces can further promote positive attitudes to diversity and difference. Whilst this may be the case, it must not be at the expense of learning and teaching or the requirement to meet the physical, social, emotional and learning needs of all children and young people on the campus.*

Authority response

The proposed designs and plans for St Andrew's School within the wider campus offers a full continuum of support and services to ensure the needs of all children and young people on the campus.

For example, dining facilities have been planned to ensure that St Andrew's School pupils can access the campus dining facilities independently or with adult support, either alongside academy peers or in timetabled slots when the facilities have limited use. Further the proposed plans/designs provide for 2 breakout / dining spaces within St Andrew's School where pupils can dine in small, supported groups. Further, there are a number of proposed spaces within St Andrew's School that can be used for those pupils who require privacy for specialist feeding approaches, for example gastrostomy feeding.

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- 7.3. *Consultees have raised concerns about the current plans for shared and separate spaces within the campus. These include the time and physical challenges of transitioning children and young people with severe and complex needs to and from shared areas, less flexibility in access to areas such as the swimming pool and school halls and significantly reduced access to outdoor space which is an important sensory learning environment for those who attend St Andrew's School.*

Authority response

The proposed designed/plans have evolved over the course of the informal engagement and formal consultation processes in response to stakeholder feedback (see above), with developments including:

- Provision of a warm water pool and hydrotherapy tank for St Andrew's School
- Provision of management, administration and reception spaces
- Identification of options for provision of a large general purpose space
- Reconfiguration of the school designs/plans to reduce travel distances

The current designs/plans as proposed are available on the Aberdeenshire Council Education Consultations website:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/education-consultations/>

The designs/plans will be further developed through participatory processes involving relevant stakeholders

- 7.4. *It is not clear to all stakeholders how the shared spaces, for example, classrooms and dining areas will meet the diverse needs of all children and young people aged 3 to 18. In taking its proposal forward, the council is conscious of the need to take account of these concerns before finalising plans for the new campus and work with all stakeholders to agree solutions.*

Authority response

Over the course of both the informal engagement and formal consultation, officers have carefully considered issues and concerns as raised by stakeholders.

Next steps in the design and planning process for St Andrew's School will involve key workstreams to develop detailed requirements for fittings, furniture and equipment for:

- Workstream 1: General spaces including classroom bases, break out/life skills spaces, dining spaces and therapy spaces
- Workstream 2: Sensory spaces including dark rooms (Snuzelen), white rooms and soft-play spaces

- Workstream 3: Outdoor spaces including early years play area, sensory garden, courtyard, private play area and shared play area.

The workstream groups will indicatively include: 2-3 school staff; NHS partners; central officers; officers from other authorities; designers; and project manager.

Accessibility issues, including sensory considerations, for the wider community campus classrooms and spaces will be considered by another working group involving education/authority, partner agency and Third Sector representation. The working group will develop an accessibility brief for the Inverurie Community Campus.

Public engagement meeting have been held and a project stakeholder group is being established to ensure campus-wide issues are identified and responded to.

- 7.5. *The proposal offers children and young people attending St Andrew’s School, Inverurie Academy and other pre-school, primary and secondary schools in the Kemnay, Westhill and Inverurie clusters, access to purpose built, fit for purpose and future-fit facilities for learning. This includes classroom bases and play and specialist therapy spaces with a range of modern resources and equipment. Children and young people could potentially benefit from greater sharing of specialist expertise across the two schools including through increased collaboration between staff and with NHS staff and other partners.*
- 7.6. *Staff and parents in St Andrew’s School and Inverurie Academy and partners working with the schools are unclear as to how this can be achieved within the current plans for the campus. In taking the proposal forward, the council will need to ensure arrangements for sharing facilities and the expertise of partners between St Andrew’s School, Inverurie Academy and with other pre-school, primary and secondary-aged pupils across the area, are well understood, agreed and managed appropriately.*

Authority response

As Aberdeenshire Council’s 9 Area model for Enhanced Provision continues to be embedded, local processes for determining, prioritising and meeting needs across clusters/areas continue to evolve. Guidance on the Management of Community Resource Hubs and Enhanced Provision Centres has been developed and local areas are developing local arrangements.

In the Inverurie, Kemnay and Westhill area, a local forum has been established to consider referrals for Community Resource Hub and Enhanced Provision Centres. The forum considers referrals for inreach and outreach services, including blended placements, assessment placements and access to specialist programmes. This will be the process for agreeing area/cluster pupil access to the St Andrew’s School specialist facilities.

In terms of the arrangements for access to wider campus facilities, a campus board involving management from both schools and other stakeholders will ensure appropriate access. The spaces specifications have been scoped to ensure adequate access and sufficient provision of campus facilities for both schools and other community users. Specific details of the current and projected occupancy and availability of spaces is provided above.

- 7.7. *Pupils are likely to benefit from an improved wireless enabled learning environment allowing greater use of digital technology to meet their varying needs.*
- 7.8. *The proposal includes the opportunity to further enhance learning experiences for all children and young people alongside extending the curriculum and raising attainment and achievement for children and young people. A few secondary pupils from St Andrew's School currently access learning facilities at Inverurie Academy. There is potential to increase and widen this experience through opportunities available across the wider campus. For a few young people, attainment might be increased through participation in courses and programmes alongside Inverurie Academy pupils and/or through working with Community Learning and Development partners on the campus.*
- 7.9. *The proposal includes the opportunity for those pre-school and primary aged St Andrew's pupils who would benefit from it to access mainstream provision in a nearby primary school or enhanced provision. In taking the proposal forward this requires to be scoped further with all stakeholders.*

Authority response

As described above, the local forum for the Kemnay, Westhill and Inverurie area has been established to determine, prioritise and meet local needs. The scope of the forum will be developed to consider access to mainstream settings for pupils on the roll of St Andrew's School, as identified appropriate by the 'team around the child' through individual assessment and planning single-agency and multi-agency processes.

Education Scotland report: Summary

- 7.10. *The proposal to relocate St Andrew's School on the new Inverurie Community Campus has potential to significantly enhance the education of children and young people currently attending St Andrew's School and those who may attend the school in the future.*

- 7.11. *The current St Andrew's School building which has been given a category B rating (satisfactory) provides a rich learning environment in a range of well-planned areas and includes a swimming pool, hall and extensive outdoor area. The Care Inspectorate report for St Andrew's School in 2016 indicates a quality of provision which has been consistently graded as very good. However, there are aspects of the school which require upgrading. The proposal offers an improved learning environment and the potential for increased partnership working which can enhance the curriculum and increase attainment and achievement for children and young people of St Andrew's School. Young people attending Inverurie Academy can also benefit from being part of a more inclusive and diverse learning community.*
- 7.12. *The proposal includes the building of a new St Andrew's School on the Inverurie Community Campus with appropriate access to campus facilities. It is this latter aspect of the proposal which is the cause of great concern for some parents and staff in both Inverurie Academy and St Andrew's School and for some members of the wider community.*
- 7.13. *Whilst agreeing with the proposal to build a new St Andrew's School, a significant percentage of those who have responded to the consultation have raised legitimate questions about what is considered appropriate access to campus facilities. In taking the proposal forward, there is a need for further discussions between all stakeholders to ensure arrangements for sharing campus spaces including outdoor space are appropriate to meet the needs of all children and young people educated on the campus.*
- 7.14. *The council also needs to take steps to reassure staff and parents that the high standard of provision currently enjoyed by children and young people attending St Andrew's School will be enhanced through the relocation of the school.*

Authority response

Officers maintain that the proposed provision of spaces and facilities represents a significant improvement on the current provision. Not only will the St Andrew's School specific spaces and facilities be purpose built, they will also reflect best practice in meeting the needs of children and young people with complex needs. Further, the authority maintain that co-location in the community campus will enhance both the educational and social experiences of those pupils who can benefit from access to more inclusive settings and experiences.

- 7.15. *A significant number of consultees raised a range of concerns about the current architectural plans for the campus. In taking the proposal forward, Aberdeenshire Council should commit to reviewing these plans with all*

stakeholders and aim to find agreed solutions which are mutually beneficial to all campus users.

Authority response

As detailed above, the authority are confident that the establishment of a campus board and project stakeholder group and the proposed/ongoing workstreams will ensure that the needs and interests of key stakeholders are responded to as appropriate in the evolving design and planning process.

8. Compliance with Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

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

After the Education Authority has received Education Scotland'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) Education Scotland's report.*

Officers of the Education Authority have listened carefully to the points made at the public meetings and have considered equally carefully the written representations and survey findings. The Education Authority has reviewed the proposal in light of these representations and HM Inspector's report.

9. Conclusion and recommendations

In review of the oral and written submissions to the formal consultation and survey results, it is clear that there is mixed stakeholder support for the proposal to relocate St Andrew's School within the Inverurie Community Campus.

Officers have carefully considered the opportunities, issues and challenges identified by stakeholders during both the informal engagement and formal consultation processes.

It is considered that the authority has already taken action to respond to a range of issues through the evolving design and plan development, and demonstrated commitment to continue collaborating with stakeholders to progress identified opportunities and develop management and mitigation approaches to identified issues.

Officers have considered the balance of opportunity and challenges associated with the 2 options for St Andrew's School, namely:

- The status quo with St Andrew's School remaining on its current site
- The relocation of St Andrew's School within the Inverurie Community Campus

On the basis of this consideration, officers suggest that the opportunities and educational benefits identified with the proposed relocation would outweigh any identified challenges or concerns. Further, it is suggested the identified challenges and concerns can be addressed through partnership working between the authority and all stakeholders to generate shared solutions and strategies to ensure the relocation represents and realises all stakeholders' best interests.

It is therefore recommend that Education and Children's Services approve the relocation of St Andrew's School within the Inverurie Community Campus.

Appendices

Appendix 1A: Minute of consultation with Inverurie Academy School Council

Appendix 1B: Minute of public meeting

Appendix 1C: Education Scotland report on consultation