

## APPENDIX A2

### **Public Consultation Meeting Merger of Dales Park and Meethill School 3 February 2021 6.30pm – Virtual Meeting Microsoft Teams**

**Officers present:** Laurence Findlay (Director of Education and Children's Services), Anne-Marie Macleod Davies (Interim Head of Service, Resources & Performance), Maxine Booth (Quality Improvement Manager), Rachael Goldring (Learning Estates Team Leader), Mark Mitchell (Estates Programme Manager), Gail Dick (Learning Estates Officer), Anna Zadka-Labus (Learning Estates Officer), Gemma Dacre (Learning Estates Officer) and Kelly Tennant (Learning Estates Officer)

**Elected Members present:** Councillor Gillian Owen, Chair of Education & Children's Services Committee, Cllr Alan Fakley, Cllr Stephen Calder, Cllr Stephen Smith, Cllr Anne Allan, Cllr Dianne Beagrie, Cllr Alison Evison, Cllr Rosemary Bruce, Cllr Stephen Smith

Thirty three members of the public attended the meeting.

**Apologies:** Cllr Norman Smith

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Councillor Owen opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced the officers present and advised that a minute would be taken by Anna Zadka-Labus and Gail Dick.

Cllr Owen confirmed that the format of the meeting would be an overview of the proposal, a PowerPoint presentation followed by an opportunity for questions and comments from the floor. To ensure that everyone had a chance to be heard, all attendees will be muted until the questions section.

Cllr Owen stated that the pre consultation period was held between October 2019 and January 2020. Fortunately, due to the timing of this the COVID-19 pandemic has not caused the consultation process to be delayed, however, the face to face meetings have been cancelled.

#### **2. Consultation Overview**

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

The proposal currently under statutory consultation is the Merger of Dales Park and Meethill Schools to the new Peterhead Community Campus. This consultation proposes to discontinue education at the Dales Park and Meethill Schools current locations from July 2025. Existing and future pupils of Dales Park and Meethill Schools should continue their education at the new Peterhead Community Campus located at Kinmundy Road, Peterhead from August 2025. These are the current planned completion dates.

This proposal has emerged from identifying opportunities for school provision in the Peterhead area following a wider engagement process.

An analysis of options was carried out which considered all primary schools within the Peterhead area, their suitability, condition, location and roll projections. Following this community engagement began for the merger of Dales Park and Meethill Schools.

The aim is to relocate Dales Park and Meethill Schools to a purpose-built all-through 4-18 years facility.

The new school will be fully responsive to future learning and the design process will ensure that all spaces support all learning and teaching styles. It will be designed to be an inspiring learning environment which is fully able to support new and innovate digital learning and engage pupils with the curriculum.

Work continues to define specific requirements for pupils, this involves reviewing existing accommodation and interviewing officers, school management and staff to develop a brief for the design. A follow up workshop on the design will then be discussed and tested before being finalised. Parents and staff will be given an opportunity to review and discuss the proposed plans and to consider opportunities and challenges.

This consultation is taking place under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and will run until 26 February 2021.

The Council believes that the measures proposed in this document will enhance the provision of primary education within the Peterhead area.

Maxine Booth presented a PowerPoint that displayed some photographs of Primary School provision within new builds.

### **3. Questions from the Floor**

Before Cllr Owen opened the floor for questions, she stated that the Learning Estates Team had received some questions which would be addressed first.

Q.1 Why are you merging primary and secondary schools at Kinmundy? Why not invest in the current primary schools?

MB:- There is a wider masterplan looking at Peterhead as a whole and what is best required for the community. The aim of this project is to provide significant educational benefits through the development of a community campus. This will include relocating the Academy, primary and special schools. Nursery provision will be provided on site albeit in a separate building through separate funding arrangements. There will also be complementary work at the existing Academy site to develop Community Facilities. The Council has secured funding from the Scottish Government on the basis of developing a campus at Kinmundy and subject to statutory consultation. The campus approach is now seen as best practice across Scotland due to its community and educational benefits.

The Conditions of this funding is predicated on achieving outcomes. The benefits of this integrated approach also include the reduction of carbon footprint, reduction of number of buildings, and to become fully digitally enabled throughout all learning spaces.

If all elements of the campus are not delivered including the merger of the primary schools then there is likely to be a significant impact on the availability of government funding. In this scenario there would need to be further dialogue with Scottish Futures Trust and the Scottish Government.

All schools in the learning estate are subject to condition and suitability assessments, these together with school roll forecasts form the basis of the Council's own investment programme. The council must prioritise this budget across its entire estate and given other priorities in Aberdeenshire it would be unlikely there would be opportunity to invest in these two existing primary schools. There is currently no government funding available to invest in the existing primary schools as they currently are.

The ongoing repair and maintenance programme of the school estate will continue, however, other investment is not available or prioritised at this time at Dales Park or Meethill Schools.

Q.2 Burnhaven School had the option to merge into the community campus, why are they no longer being considered.

MB:- All schools in the town were considered and the main criteria was current roll, combined roll, SRF and location. Burnhaven was discounted at this point. There were some queries from Meethill parents who had suggested Burnhaven to be considered for the campus. However, this was not a viable option.

Q.3 Nursery pupils zoned for Burnhaven attend Meethill Nursery. If the Meethill merge goes ahead into the community campus what will happen to the Burnhaven nursery.

MB:- Burnhaven does not have a nursery like many other schools in Aberdeenshire. Nurseries do not have catchment areas like schools. If the proposed merger is to go ahead Meethill Nursery would be merged with Dales Park nursery and this would be delivered at the new Dales Park Nursery building which is currently under construction. There would be sufficient capacity available to accommodate these children and there would be no reduction in places overall as a result of the proposal. Parents will continue to be given the choice where to apply for a Nursery place for their child and will have a range of choices between local authority and partner providers.

Q.4 Meethill School have been strongly and continuously against the merger and still being considered. Why?

MB:- The engagement and consultation is required to include as many people from the community as possible. The small number of people who attended the engagement sessions expressed a mixture of views.

October 2019 – 52 attended, 38 No

Online survey – 59% - yes/don't know, 41% - No

January workshop – 14 attended

Q.5 Why have Clerkhill School pupils who live close to the new campus not been considered?

MB:- As with all primary schools in Peterhead, Clerkhill has been considered as part of the option appraisal process from the outset.

Q.6 Road Safety is a huge concern, what safety measures have been decided?

MB:- Planners and design teams in collaboration with the roads department will ensure that safe routes to schools are an integral part of the process. This will look at the town as a whole due to the catchment of the primary and the secondary.

Q.7 How will separate outdoor spaces for Nursery, Primary and Academy be addressed.

MB:- The nursery which is currently in the construction stage is a separate standalone building and will be fully secured in its own part of the Kinmundy site. Anna Ritchie, primary and the academy each have their own outdoor spaces. The outdoor spaces are crucial to the learning of all and will be designed as such.

Q.8 Has a decision been made on the re-zoning that will come with the community campus.

RG:- Once the outcome of this consultation is known, a decision will be made whether further work is needed to create a catchment for the primary school. This will take into account the agreed capacity of the school and can be carried out once construction has started if required. This would be a statutory consultation and would need to be approved at Education and Children's Services Committee.

Q.9 It is still not clear what will be in the Meethill School site if Meethill move to the new campus. It has been mentioned that it would be either a play park or green space. Is this still the case?

Q.10 Currently there is a play park and large areas of green space near Meethill School, is there a need for more?

MM responded to both question 9 and 10. Aberdeenshire Council has an Asset Disposal Policy which must be followed when assets become surplus to requirements. If Meethill School was to join the Community Campus then there would be no requirement for the Meethill School building to continue as a school.

It would be the intention of Education and Children's Services to declare the building surplus to requirement, other council services will be approached to express an interest in the site.

There will be opportunities for the site to be developed as green space and/or playing space. This would have to be fully assessed through the asset disposal procedure. Thereafter any surplus council sites can be subject to a Community Asset Transfer Application.

Parents who attended the informal engagement sessions intimated that they would prefer green space.

The Chair opened the floor for questions and comments and asked anyone that if they wanted to speak press the raise your hand icon on the app or desktop screen or type a question in the comment box for officers to answer. She also asked everyone to introduce themselves for the minute (e.g. parent, pupil, staff, community member, etc). She said that all attendees would now be able to unmute and we will take your questions and comments one by one, she also asked everyone to press the unmute icon before asking their question or making comments.

Cllr Calder:- The statutory consultation is laid down by the Scottish Government and the money is dependent from Scottish Futures Trust, and that he has to rely on the community to take part in this project. If that part of the project didn't go ahead, because of the community views, would that mean the money wouldn't be available from Scottish Futures Trust?

MM:- The whole project wouldn't be jeopardised if this particular element didn't go ahead, but as mentioned by Maxine Booth, we would have to renegotiate with Scottish Futures Trust on the funding available for the community campus. If we do not merge these two schools there wouldn't be a requirement for the 600 primary places at the campus. It wouldn't jeopardise the entire process, but we see the benefits of putting these two schools together at Kinmundy.

P1 Parent:- My youngest daughter will be affected by the move from Meethill School. All the people who live around the schools, how do they get to the new school if they don't have transport? Because they live right next to the school and then you move it? Is there transport to be organised for these pupils to get to the new campus?

MB:- In Aberdeenshire and across Scotland there is transport available if pupils live two miles or more from a primary school and three miles or more from a secondary school. Looking at the distances of the catchment for Meethill and distance to the new Kinmundy, they are within that two miles, transport won't be available.

P1 Parent:- It's inconvenient, normally schools are placed local to everyone. This will be a large area and a lot of people will need to travel, a lot of car park would be useful.

MB:- - There will be increased car parking compared to what is currently at Dales Park and Meethill Schools. There will also be designed pick up and drop off points.

Member of Staff:- Why would Burnhaven School not be considered as it is a dilapidated building with porta cabins.

MB:- This was part of the options appraisal that we looked at. It was to do with distances and the school roll. We are dealing with temporary accommodation through a separate review, we are trying to remove all temporary accommodation and we will be looking at Burnhaven School separately, following a condition and suitability assessment.

Parent:- How can you be so sure you can control the road network to support such a plan when Buchanhaven School and Clerkhill School is such a nightmare. This would be even worse with a cross of Meethill pupils going to the new campus.

MB:- The planners need to look at this very carefully, they have already provided safe crossings for children at our new builds. Safety to everyone is crucial and needs to be fully considered and addressed. An example is Ury School in Inverurie, new crossings was put onto a busy road and there were traffic calming measures put in place on the Inverurie to Meldrum road to slow down the traffic to ensure safety. All of these things need to be considered and looked at.

Cllr Owen assured everyone that at the Education & Children's Services Committee (ECS) Cllr Beagrie raised this concern and it is on the ECS list of outstanding actions. We are aware of that and it is being monitored.

Parent of 3 children at Meethill:- I have attended a number of meetings as it's about the future of my children. It is frustrating is to hear the same answers being churned out, the same standard answers in response to questions. Concerns of many parents seem to be not taken on board seriously at any level. That is very frustrating as a parent. This isn't really a question it's a voice for parents out there who are not thinking that this is a good move at all.

Cllr Owen thanked Alice for her comments and explained that the whole purpose of this meeting is to ensure that people are able to raise their questions and comments.

Parent:- My daughters will be moving with the school, so would like to know how the class structure works, if they are going to be mixed together, pupils and teachers?

MB:- If this merger goes ahead then the class sizes are to be set by an agreement. Children would merge, classes would not be bigger, but there would be more classes. Class sizes would be 25 if it was a composite class or P1, 30 for younger and 33 for older children. Parents would be involved in designing a new identity, as what we have done with other new builds.

Cllr Owen:- Have you got children at the school?

Parent:- Yes a P5 so she wouldn't be affected and a P1 starting this year.

Cllr Beagrie: I am a Councillor for Peterhead North and Rattray so this is not my ward, however, education is important to us all. I'm sure as a parent it's quite intimidating in a forum with officers and councillors, but please speak up with your views. We are really finding it most helpful to hear your concerns. As Councillors in the ward it is really good to hear your concerns so we can speak to officers on your behalf. Please come forward with your opinions, tonight is all about listening. Please be assured everything you say is taken into consideration. The crossing at the top, needs to be looked at now and for the new campus.

Cllr Owen:- Absolutely correct. Rachael can you talk to us about the consultation.

RG:- It is important that everyone gets involved and lets their view known. We are not seeing that at the moment and what we need is to see is the wide spread views of Meethill and Dales Park parents. Information is fairly mixed from previous engagements. There are views of parents who didn't want it, and of those who were very interested. I would



encourage your fellow parents who haven't been able to attend to provide us with comments. How to contact us can be found in the comments bar. If parents want to be heard, we need them to speak up. This isn't a foregone conclusion.

Parent:- During one of the other consultations I brought up the problem of drugs and alcohol at the academy. Shona Sellers said that it's only about 20-30 children who have issues and wouldn't affect our kids greatly as it's such a minority. Then there was a meeting attended by press where Shona stated that there is quite a big problem with drugs and alcohol at the academy. Followed by her telling the S2's that this was all lies, none of what the press said was true. I myself asked the Press and Journal to provide proof of the minutes. Shona stated there was a problem with truancy and alcohol and blamed it on offshore parents not getting their children to attend. How will our children be safe, how can we trust Shona Sellers when the last 4 things she told us were false?

Laurence Findlay: I'm not going to make any comments on staff. The wellbeing of staff and pupils is paramount. Having visited Peterhead on many occasions, there are preventative works they do with partners, NHS, Aberdeen FC, Community Trust and Police Scotland. No concerns about Peterhead Academy and the campus approach is successful across the country. The health and safety and wellbeing is of paramount to all of us.

Cllr Owen:- I agree about the comments on members of staff.

Parent:- I have two children at Meethill and one who will start within the next two years. If the merger didn't go ahead would the money be put into the existing school. I cannot speak for Dales Park but Meethill has a lot of issues, I know there has been issues with the roof and there are ongoing issues with the playground. Are our hands tied in that if the merger doesn't go ahead would the money be put into the schools that are there to regenerate them or is the merger the only way we are ever going to see our childing in a new building fit for purpose

Cllr Owen:- I know that SFT funding basically requires certain things to be achieved and if doesn't go ahead money doesn't follow.

MD:- As I said earlier all schools are assessed for condition and suitability and that's how we prioritise work and spend the budget. Meethill and Dales Park are not high up on that list due to priorities elsewhere but they are subject to the normal maintenance and repair budget, which would include things like the roof. The budget is specifically allocated to the new campus we cannot use the funding for other things for the surrounding schools.

Parent:- I have a daughter at Dales Park and a son away to start Dales Park, which will effect him if the merger does happen, I am pro active about the merger and it is really good for the community for a modern school with updated technology. I noticed at one of the consultations the intake numbers in the next five years, Dales Park pupils will go up and Meethill pupils is obviously decreasing, between the schools there would be 550 pupils, but the new school will only have an intake for 600, I just wondered that the reason for it only being 600. As you know with most of the schools in Peterhead are full and it feels like you are taking away two schools when one school extended and keeping one

the way it is for the numbers, obviously rezoning can take place, this is just one concern that has been brought up by parents of Dales Park School.

RG:- One of the things that we constantly do within the LE team is monitor the school roll projections and is something that is entrenched in everything that we do. The reason for setting the new build size to a 600 pupil capacity is that 600 is the largest size of primary school that we would want to build, anything beyond that sometimes feels too big. In terms of the numbers coming in we are confident that 600 is sufficient for a merger of Dales Park and Meethill based on the number we have got coming in, both currently and projected. A lot of it is dependent upon house building within the area and that is again something we are heavily involved in and keep track of the number of houses and at what rate they are being built, as well as the number of children that are generated from the new houses, 600 is a size that we are comfortable with.

Member of Staff:- Will the staff be affected, for example will there be a reduction in teaching or support staff?

MB:- There will probably be an expansion because of the extra houses and extra children so they're certainly won't be a reduction in teaching or support staff. However, if the merger does go ahead there will be one Head Teacher.

Cllr Fakley:- These kind of events can be extremely intimidating, if there is any parents or members of staff within the community feel they can't bring their questions forward they are most welcome to contact their local councillors. They will ensure that they will direct them to the correct education officer. If they feel they haven't had the chance to put forward their questions or perhaps come up with a question after the event.

Cllr Owen:- We have put contact details in the chat bar if anyone does have additional comments or too apprehensive about speaking in this particular forum. It is very easy, all they have to do is email the learning estate team at Aberdeenshire council. The address is in the message bar and obviously we would welcome as many comments as possible. It is actually very important that people do take the opportunity and Cllr Fakley is correct in that many people do find it difficult to give their opinion in a forum like this but I am hoping that we have a couple of more questions before we finish.

Cllr Beagrie:- I don't want to put any of the officers on the spot, I wonder if it would be good if we could get a brief overview of the thoughts of the campus, I realise nothing is set in stone because the consultation is to go forward. Perhaps your thoughts on how Ellon Community Campus works, just to settle some of the minds, as stated before there is a lot going on and to take in. There is so much involved in the big picture, can you give a caption on the vision going forward.

MM:- In terms of what we are looking at the Kinmundy site we have 1400 secondary places, 600 primary places and 70 ASN spaces, we are obviously developing a separate stand alone nursery building on the site which would sit completely separate in a different building but on the same site.

In terms of the design, we are working with a company called Space Strategies which are supporting us on the design of the spaces to ensure that we maximise all spaces within



the campus and that they are as flexible as possible. In terms of what we know about campus design we would be looking at maintaining separate areas for primary and secondary pupils and a discreet area for Anna Ritchie pupils, albeit all subject to satisfactory conclusion of this process. We would be looking to ensure that primary pupils can access spaces within the academy and vis versa but we would not be looking to have pupils mixing at the same time, as that might be a concern to some of the parents. We would be looking to protect some of the play spaces outside for pupils, we don't envisage that primary and secondary pupils will be mixing during break and lunch times, and similarly pupils within the special school at Anna Ritchie would have an element of protection around play spaces.

As part of the design and lessons learned we have looked at lots of other buildings across Scotland, and include lessons learned from Ellon, Alford, Mearns and most recently Inverurie. We are looking to develop spaces such as learning plazas which are a new concept in Aberdeenshire, and it is taking that learning space further where we have flexible furniture, modern IT, which can encourage group work, and break out spaces and move away from the cellular classroom. We would also be encouraging pupils who are in the primary to access specific spaces such a science labs, accessing specialised provision such as HE kitchen to really develop the curriculum at the community campus;

Cllr Beagrie thanked Mark for his comprehensive answer

Parent:- Would extra lunch breaks be allowed for children who live further away in Meethill and would like to come home at lunchtime? The reason we moved to Meethill was the close proximity to Meethill school.

MB:- What happens when we have a new school, there will be a parent body who will do the consultation, with the rest of the parents and the community to be involved in making decision such as that. As schools have a lunch time break at the moment if this was to be changed then that would be done through consultation, it would be exactly the same for the new school, parents would be fully involved in making these decisions of how long lunch times and certainly proximity to the school would be part of making that decision.

Parent:- Sorry if this has been answered but is the school on schedule to open on time and what timescale are we looking at?

MD:- I can confirm it is on schedule and the timescale for the accommodation opening is August 2025.

Parent:- Would zoning be changing in 2025, and again if everything was still on time for the campus opening.

RG:- They may well be a further statutory requirement for rezoning but that will very much be determined on the outcome of this consultation and whether the merger goes ahead. It will be predicted on the rolls and the forecasted number of children at that point in time. If we do require to create a new catchment area then that consultation can run as late as the building is under construction if necessary. We will consult on rezoning at the appropriate time if we feel it is necessary once we know the outcome of this consultation.

Parent:- Do you know where the proposed access to the school would be from? From Dales View Drive or Kinmundy Road. Also with the reduced greenspace is the council looking to have another area to replace what is lost?

MM:- In terms of access to the main community campus building the current proposal is looking to take that off Kinmundy Road, although that has not been fully agreed yet and obviously there is some detailed design process to go through. The Dales Park Nursery building which is due to be built on the Kinmundy site would be accessed through the opposite side of Kinmundy Road, I think that might be Dales View Drive, it's not a project that I have detailed involvement in, however, I can check with colleagues if required. In terms of green space that is lost due to the campus being built at Kinmundy, obviously we as an authority would be looking to develop the site at Kinmundy with as much green space as possible to support community and support the curriculum for pupils but anything that is lost must be replicated elsewhere in Peterhead and Sports Scotland will be involved in the planning process around that, we need to ensure that what we do lose we somehow put that back into Peterhead. That might be elsewhere in Peterhead certainly the aspiration is to replace anything that is lost.

Cllr Owen:- I think I am correct in saying that there will be many access routes for pedestrians very like Inverurie.

MB:- confirmed this was correct.

Parent and staff member at Meethill:- I am aware that the consultation is open until 26 February 2021. What is the plan of action after this, will we have another meeting to see what the results are or does it go to Councillors after that.

RG:- The standard practice for the statutory consultations is that at the end of the process we access all of the responses that have come in from everybody, that will include all of the questions and comments that we have had tonight, everyone from the online survey, any emails or letters or any correspondence that has been forwarded by elected members as Cllr Fakley mentioned earlier, all of that will be taken into account. We will then provide all of this information to Education Scotland and they in turn will have a look at the consultation and get in touch with parents, pupils, community as part of their own assessment of the consultation process. There will be meetings set up virtually for those groups of stakeholders to join in with Education Scotland shortly after the consultation period has ended, and if parents will want to take in part in that by all means let us know and we can arrange for that to take place. The Head Teachers at both Dales Park and Meethill will be working towards ensuring they get representation from their schools at those meetings. Education Scotland will have their engagement period and they will prepare their report on the consultation once we have received that the learning estate team will be looking at the responses that we have had as well as the Education Scotland report and decide next steps and make an officer recommendation. The standard process with other consultations was that it is taken to Area Committee, in this case it will be taken to Buchan Area committee to get their views, then to (ECS) afterwards to make a decision. However, what we can't say for certain at this stage is whether those meetings, the report and decision of ECS and the comments from Buchan Area Committee will happen straight away, or there will be enough information that comes out of this process to think again and take things further, and potentially come back for more

discussions. In theory we would take to the summer to Area Committee but until we see everything we can't really give an exact timescale.

Parent:- Has it been decided what will happen with the current pool? Will that remain? will there be playing fields at the new campus?

MM:- As part of the funding package that has been secured from Scottish Futures Trust that includes an element for replacing the pool. The pool location hasn't 100% been decided where that will be, whether it is in the town centre site or Kinmundy. However, all the engagement to date has indicated that there is a very strong preference for the pool to remain in the town centre site. That's what officers are moving forward with at the moment. In addition to this and subject to the conclusion of the Anna Ritchie consultation, specialist pool provision at Kinmundy in the form of a hydrotherapy pool and a warm water pool will support the pupils of Anna Ritchie school. There will be a split element of pool facilities if the town centre site is the chosen site for the pool. In terms of the playing fields there will be playing fields at Kinmundy we need playing fields to support the schools that will be there, but also the opportunity will be there for the community to use the fields as well. As well as grass playing fields there will be some all weather facilities for all year round ability to access outdoor facilities.

Cllr Calder:- Following on from some of the comments from Meethill primary children crossing the very busy Meethill Road we were told that the roads department will be considering safe routes to school. Once we get the proposals from the roads department and what they propose to do as obviously not everyone from the Meethill area will be travelling by car and we can't expect everyone to travel by car to school, those that will be walking will have to cross a busy road. The roads department, we have been told are going to come up with a solution for this at an earlier stage than the final report. Will the proposals from the roads department for the crossing of Meethill Road be put back to the parents of Meethill School for consideration.

Cllr Owen:- I think it will be planners and the design team in corroboration with the roads department, road safety is an integral part of the whole process. I also said at the beginning Cllr Beagrie has already put this on the ECS Committee as an outstanding action. I am confident that this point will be covered, and obviously if it is in a planning application it goes out to consultation.

MB:- I re-iterate Cllr Owen's comments and that officers take safe routes to school very seriously we need to involve the right people in this to get it sorted to give people the reassurance.

Cllr Owen:- This is highlighted in a number of places as it is a concern to many people.

Parent:- For the pupils of Dales Park School or Meethill School that are not actually zoned for Dales Park, when the move happens will they automatically move to the new school. Will all Dales Park pupils move to the new school or just the in zone pupils?

MB:- Yes, all of the pupils that are in Dales Park and Meethill Schools regardless whether they took up that position as an out of zone or in zone pupil will all be entitled to a place at the new build with any siblings following them.

#### **4. Next Steps**

Cllr Owen outlined the next steps in the process. The consultation period will run until 26 February. Any comments you wish to make on the proposal document require to be submitted by 5pm on Friday 26 February 2021.

Comments can be submitted in writing to Gordon House, Blackhall Road, Inverurie AB51 3WA, or by email to [learningstates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:learningstates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk). Alternatively, comments could be sent to your nearest school, adhering to COVID guidelines.

We would encourage you to take part in the consultation and give your opinions via the online survey. The link to the online questionnaire is on the Education consultation page on the Aberdeenshire Council website.

We are also involving pupils in our discussions, and head teachers have been asked to work with pupils to gain their views on the proposals.

Once the consultation period is over, all written submissions, minutes of this meeting and pupil discussions will be provided to Education Scotland for their consideration who will produce a report on the consultation.

A final report on the consultation will be presented at Buchan Area Committee and Education & Children's Services Committee for a decision

#### **5. Close**

The Chair closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.