



REPORT TO EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE – 1 FEBRUARY 2018

PRIMARY SCHOOL CAPACITIES REVIEW 2017

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Approve the proposed capacities based on Scottish Government guidelines for Aberdeenshire primary schools as per Appendix 1.**

2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 Reference is made to the Education & Children's Services Committee on 12 October 2017, when consideration was given to using a revised methodology for assessing primary school capacities, and the commencement of a review of primary school capacities based upon Scottish Government Guidelines 'Determining Primary School Capacity' published in 2014.
- 2.2 The committee approved the commencement of the review, sought further information on the potential outcome of the revised methodology and requested a further report be brought to the Education & Children's Services Committee.
- 2.3 Officers have assessed the capacities of each primary school in Aberdeenshire using the proposed methodology (detailed below). The proposed capacities are outlined in Appendix 1.
- 2.4 It should be noted that when referring to standard sized classrooms, this would be applicable to those between 50m² and 70m². The Aberdeenshire Council Primary School Brief requires new classrooms/teaching spaces to be 56.25m² which complies to Scottish Futures Trust requirements.

Methodology

- 2.5 In considering revised capacities, cognisance was given to the likely class configurations based upon the number of classrooms. Schools with five classrooms or fewer will be teaching pupils in composite classes with a maximum of 25 pupils in each. It is possible that a school with 6 classrooms could have one class of a single year group. A school with 7 classrooms would be expected to have a class for each year group, (i.e. a single stream school). Accordingly, the maximum class sizes for each year group as detailed in Table 1 below would apply.
- 2.6 The list of nominal capacities based on standard sized classrooms is provided as Appendix 2. For planning purposes this allows a single stream school with a class for each year group a capacity of 217 pupils. A two stream school would have a capacity of 434 pupils and so forth.

Table 1 – Maximum Class Sizes

Year Group	Class Size Limit
P1	25
P2 - P3	30
P4 – P7	33
Composite class	25

- 2.7 The Scottish Government recommendations for classrooms/teaching places use a space standard of 1.7m² per pupil. Each primary school in Aberdeenshire has been assessed on number of classrooms, size of classrooms, likely class configuration and number of GP spaces and other core facilities within the building. Where these areas are limited the proposed capacity has been amended accordingly.
- 2.8 Aberdeenshire Council is committed to ensuring that educational benefit is the main driver of change and therefore have assessed each building accordingly. Whilst the majority of capacities have increased, some capacities have remained unchanged, others have been reduced.
- 2.9 Whilst previously only classrooms located in the main building of the school were counted in the published capacity, the revised capacities now include all classrooms located in non-linked accommodation and annexes. This gives a comprehensive Planning Capacity representing all teaching areas available at each school.
- 2.10 The Scottish Government recommendations also suggest that local authorities should have an Operational Capacity that is reviewed on a regular basis. In the majority of cases this would be the same as the Planning Capacity. However it allows an element of flexibility to react to short term or emerging capacity issues.
- 2.11 If a school is expecting a short term increase in the roll for one or two sessions, then the Operational Capacity could be the number of pupils that could be taught in a team teaching scenario. For example, a room of 80m² which was being used for a P4 class would be able to accommodate a greater number of children than the maximum class size of 33 pupils. Using the space standard, up to 47 pupils could be accommodated in the classroom, with two teachers utilising a team teaching approach. Alternatively, there may be a requirement to convert a GP space to a classroom for a session to support class configurations, and the Operational Capacity would reflect this temporary increase in classrooms and pupil numbers that could be accommodated.
- 2.12 Operational Capacities are similar in principle to the previous Working Capacity that has been used for some schools. They will be assessed on a school by school basis as required, and as they would be short term measures would not normally be reported as official capacities in school roll forecasts.

- 2.13 The current process for calculating capacity is largely effective, however there are circumstances where this is not the case. Space standards that are being applied both nationally and locally are leading to inconsistencies. The current capacities also lead to some misconceptions that schools are full when in fact they are not. This in turn causes schools and parent councils to be concerned that their schools are over capacity when in reality there is space for additional pupils in some or all classes.
- 2.14 Changing the methodology will allow Aberdeenshire Council to be more robust in decisions around extending the learning estate.

2.15 Case Studies

The following case studies illustrate how capacities have been calculated in different circumstances.

HILL OF BANCHORY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Current Capacity	387
Current Roll	373
Number of pupil spaces across school comparing Capacity to Roll	14
Number of classrooms / teaching spaces	14
Number of General Purpose spaces	5
Roll projections for 2018	383
Proposed Planning Capacity	434

Possible Class Configuration for 2018

	Total in year group	Class Breakdown		Places available
P1	47	24	23	3
P2	54	27	27	6
P3	52	26	26	8
P4	48	24	24	15
P5	59	31	28	7
P6	65	32	33	1
P7	58	31	27	8
	383			48

Based on the current capacity and the roll projections alone, it would appear there is a requirement to explore options for extending the school. However, introducing a capacity based upon maximum class sizes, as illustrated above, there are more spaces available than suggested by current capacity. This is exemplified in the planning capacity approach by the national guidelines.

OLD RAYNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Current Capacity	47
Current Roll	55
Number of pupil spaces across school comparing Capacity to Roll	-8
Number of classrooms / teaching spaces	2
Number of General Purpose spaces	1
Roll projections for 2018	58

Proposed Planning Capacity	50
Proposed Operational Capacity	60

Possible Class Configuration for 2018

	Total in year group	Class Breakdown	Places available
P1	8	26	0
P2	8		
P3	10		
P4	6	32	0
P5	9		
P6	9		
P7	8		
	58		0

Both classes would require team teaching with two teachers per class as maximum class sizes are exceeded. The Head Teacher can choose to split the P4 cohort across the two classrooms. Alternatively the GP room / dining hall can be used as a classroom for the session allowing three smaller classes to be formed. Using the 1.7m² space standard 30 pupils can be accommodated in the smaller of the two classrooms and 33 pupils can be accommodated in the larger classroom. This would give an Operational Capacity of 60 pupils during which time officers would explore medium to long term solutions.

INSCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Current Capacity	368
Current Roll	335
Number of pupil spaces across school comparing Capacity to Roll	33
Number of classrooms / teaching spaces	13
Number of General Purpose spaces	3
Roll projections for 2018	354
Proposed Planning Capacity	372

Possible Class Configuration for 2018

	Total in year group	Class Breakdown			Places available
P1	53	23	23	18	8
P2	65	27	27		9
P3	43	29	30*		1
P4	48	32		1	
P5	48	25	23		18
P6	54	32	33*		1
P7	43	32		1	
	354				39

*Insch School could require to team teach two classes in 2018.

Whilst the overall pupil numbers remain within both the current capacity and the proposed planning capacity, a larger cohort moving into P2 causes difficulty in configuring classes into 13 classrooms. By utilising the team teaching approach, all pupils can be accommodated within the existing number of classrooms.

BALMEDIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Current Capacity (does not include non-linked classrooms)	415
Current Working Capacity (includes non-linked)	469
Current Roll	406
Number of pupil spaces across school comparing Capacity to Roll	9 / 63
Number of classrooms / teaching spaces	16
Number of General Purpose spaces	6
Roll projections for 2018	415
Proposed Planning Capacity	484

Possible Class Configuration for 2018

	Total in year group	Class Breakdown			Places Available
P1	53	22	22	18	10
P2	59	25	25		15
P3	60	30	30	25	0
P4	71	32	33		1
P5	50	31			2
P6	57	29	28		9
P7	65	32	33		1
	415				33

Balmedie School has 16 classrooms including two in non-linked accommodation. The school roll can be configured across 15 classes in the 2018 session. The proposed Planning Capacity allows for a full 16 classes to be created should the number of pupils rise.

MIDMAR PRIMARY SCHOOL

Current Capacity (does not include non-linked classrooms)	47
Current Working Capacity (includes non-linked)	71
Current Roll	52
Number of pupil spaces across school comparing Capacity to Roll	5/23
Number of classrooms / teaching spaces	2/3
Number of General Purpose spaces	1
Roll projections for 2018	42
Proposed Capacity	75

Possible Class Configuration for 2018

	Total in year group	Class Breakdown	Places available
P1	4	19	6

P2	4		
P3	6		
P4	5		
P5	6	23	2
P6	9		
P7	8		
	42		8

Midmar School currently reports as over capacity due to a class being accommodated in a non-linked classroom. As the roll is expected to fall in the 2018 session and in future years, an assessment can be made as to whether the relocatable classroom continues to be required.

- 2.16 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section E.3.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to setting the school capacities.

4 Implications and Risk

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because pupils will continue to be educated in line with nationally agreed accommodation standards, and by changing school capacities there will not be a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 4.2 There are no direct staffing and financial implications arising from this paper.
- 4.3 Changing school capacities could reduce the requirement for additional capital expenditure to extend or replace some schools which would previously have been forecast to exceed capacity. There may be a reduction in the level of developer obligations that are secured if schools are not exceeding capacity, however as the level of contributions from developers is normally significantly lower than the cost of the works, this would not be a detrimental impact.
- 4.4 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level: Social risk (demographic change). The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level: A Future Fit E&CS Estate. This capacity review will help ensure that existing resources are better utilised, particularly in areas with substantial population growth.

Maria Walker
Director of Education & Children's Services

Appendix 1 Proposed Capacities for Aberdeenshire Primary Schools

School	Current Capacity	Proposed Capacity
Aberchirder School	225	225
Aboyne Primary School	225	342
Alehousewells School	171	217
Alford Primary School	350	372
Arduthie School	415	459
Arnage School	71	75
Auchenblae School	96	96
Auchnagatt School	71	75
Auchterellon School	442	459
Auchterless School	71	75
Ballater School	145	145
Balmedie School	415	484
Banchory Primary School	550	550
Banchory-Devenick School	70	70
Banff Primary School	415	459
Barthol Chapel School	47	50
Bervie School	252	292
Boddam School	171	217
Bracoden School	145	145
Braemar School	47	50
Buchanhaven School	523	523
Burnhaven School	47	100
Cairney School	47	50
Catterline School	94	94
Chapel of Garioch School	71	71
Clatt School	47	50
Clerkhill School	442	484
Cluny School	96	96
Craigievar School	47	47
Crathes School	19	50
Crathie School	47	47
Crimond School	191	155
Crombie School	333	342
Crudie School	47	50
Cultercullen School	71	75
Dales Park School	306	317
Daviot School	120	120
Drumblade School	47	60
Drumoak School	145	155
Dunecht School	71	75
Dunnottar School	195	195
Durris School	59	60
Easterfield School	30	25
Echt School	47	47

School	Current Capacity	Proposed Capacity
Ellon School	345	345
Elrick School	442	442
Fetterangus School	71	75
Fettercairn School	96	100
Fintry School	46	50
Finzean School	71	71
Fisherford School	30	30
Fishermoss School	358	358
Fordyce School	47	47
Forgue School	19	45
Foveran School	47	47
Fraserburgh North School	198	217
Fraserburgh South Park School	550	550
Fyvie School	171	155
Gartly School	47	50
Glass School	47	47
Glenbervie School	95	100
Gordon School	333	484
Gourdon School	96	100
Hatton (Cruden) School	145	155
Hatton (Fintray) School	43	60
Hill of Banchory School	387	434
Hillside School	350	372
Insch School	333	368
Inverallochy School	214	155
Johnshaven School	47	50
Keig School	46	50
Keithhall School	47	47
Kellands School	442	442
Kemnay Primary School	252	252
Kennethmont School	47	50
Kincardine O'Neil School	69	69
Kinellar School	279	484
King Edward School	47	47
Kininmonth School	47	50
Kinneff School	47	50
Kintore School	469	651
Lairhillock School	145	150
Largue School	19	50
Laurencekirk School	306	387
Lochpots School	252	267
Logie Coldstone School	47	47
Logie Durno School	19	45
Longhaven School	47	50
Longside School	198	217
Lumphanan School	96	100

School	Current Capacity	Proposed Capacity
Lumsden School	47	50
Luthermuir School	95	99
Macduff School	387	420
Marykirk School	47	50
Maud School	120	125
Meethill School	279	279
Meiklemill School	306	317
Meldrum Primary School	415	459
Methlick School	120	120
Midmar School	47	75
Midmill School	540	559
Mill O'Forest School	442	434
Mintlaw Primary School	171	217
Monquhitter School	198	217
Monymusk School	71	75
New Deer School	171	180
New Machar School	360	484
New Pitsligo & St John's School	145	155
Newburgh Mathers School	171	217
Newtonhill School	415	459
Old Rayne School	47	50
Ordiquhill School	96	100
Oyne School	71	75
Peterhead Central School	279	300
Pitfour School	145	180
Pitmedden School	225	242
Port Elphinstone School	171	155
Port Erroll School	200	242
Portlethen Primary School	333	434
Portsoy School	252	267
Premnay School	19	50
Rathen School	71	71
Rayne North School	65	74
Redmyre School	71	75
Rhynie School	71	71
Rosehearty School	198	217
Rothienorman School	145	150
Sandhaven School	96	100
Skene School	71	100
Slains School	47	50
St Andrews School	362	429
St Combs School	96	100
St Cyrus School	171	171
St Fergus School	120	120
Strachan School	47	50
Strathburn School	442	480

School	Current Capacity	Proposed Capacity
Strathdon School	47	50
Strichen School	145	150
Stuartfield School	93	125
Tarland School	145	155
Tarves School	171	217
Tipperty School	47	50
Torphins School	200	200
Tough School	47	60
Towie School	46	50
Tullynessle School	47	50
Turriff Primary School	360	559
Tyrie School	71	71
Udny Green School	71	75
Uryside School	540	589
Westhill School	333	342
Whitehills School	134	134

Appendix 2 – Nominal Capacities for Schools with Standard Size Classrooms

Number of Classrooms / Teaching Areas	Anticipated Number of Composite Classes	Anticipated Number of Single stage classes	Capacity
1	1	0	25
2	2	0	50
3	3	0	75
4	4	0	100
5	5	0	125
6	5	1	155
7	0	7	217
8	1	7	242
9	2	7	267
10	3	7	292
11	4	7	317
12	5	7	342
13	5	8	372
14	0	14	434
15	1	14	459
16	2	14	484
17	3	14	509
18	4	14	534
19	5	14	559
20	5	15	589
21	0	21	651

