

Appendix 1



Care, Learning and Wellbeing

A PROPOSAL PAPER

Establishment of nursery provision for children of pre-school age at Struthers Primary School, Troon

Affected Schools – Struthers Primary School, Troon

December 2013

This document has been issued by South Ayrshire Council for consultation under the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010

1. Purpose of the Paper

- 1.1 This paper is being published in accordance with the requirements of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010. The contained in this document seeks to establish pre-school provision at Struthers Primary, Troon.

2. The Proposal

- 2.1 To make use of existing space within Struthers Primary School to create a nursery class for three and four year old children.
- 2.2 If agreed the nursery class would open in August 2014

3. Background

- 3.1 South Ayrshire Council has a well earned reputation for providing high quality education for pre-school age children. This is reflected in the reports received on our nursery schools, classes and Partnership Centres following inspection by Education Scotland (formerly HMIE) and Care Inspectorate Scotland.
- 3.2 The Council has a statutory duty to ensure all children have access to pre-school provision and presently operates four nursery schools and twenty nine nursery classes. In addition it provides access to places in eleven partnership nurseries.
- 3.3 The proposal contained in this consultation will assist in meeting an expected increased demand for nursery provision in the Troon area through higher birth rate and, if adopted, assist in building capacity to address a key national priority to increase nursery entitlement to 600 hours per annum for pre-school children as set out in the Children and Young People Bill.

4. Details of Existing Provision

- 4.1 The Troon area is currently served by 3 local authority pre-5 establishments (Troon Nursery Class, Muirhead Nursery Class, and Barassie Nursery Class) and two partner providers, (Meadowgreen Pre-school Centre and Granny Smiths Nursery).
- 4.2 Although the Council has always managed to meet its pledge for a pre-school place for every children living in the Troon area, demand for places has increased and we are currently operating at near capacity in most nurseries the Troon area. The geographical spread of the nurseries make it difficult for some parents to access pre-school provision.
- 4.3 At present Troon Nursery Class offers 40:40 places for preschool children. (Nursery capacity is indicated as number of places for children in the morning: number of places in the afternoon)
- 4.4 Muirhead Nursery Class offers 50:50 places.

- 4.5 Barassie Primary School Nursery Class offers 50:50 places.
- 4.6 The Council also works in partnership with Meadowgreen Pre-school Centre, which provides 30 pre-school places and Granny Smiths who provide 30 pre-school places
- 4.7 Over the past 5 years there has been a 4% year on year increase in the birth rate in South Ayrshire. This increase is projected to continue for the next 5 years. This presents an ongoing challenge in meeting the Council's statutory functions as well as providing children and families with local pre-school provision.

Projected increase in numbers of pre-school children:

	Current year	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Troon Area	301	313	326	339	353

5. Details of the Proposal

- 5.1 This proposal would enhance current provision for pre-school children in South Ayrshire and more specifically in the Troon area.
- 5.2 It would meet future demand for more localised high quality local authority nursery places and augment existing provision. It would assist the council to meet the Scottish Government's pledge to increase entitlement for all 3 and 4 year old children to access 600 hours of early learning and childcare per year from autumn 2014.
- 5.3 It is proposed to establish a nursery class in Struthers Primary school with a capacity of up to 30:30 places in order to increase the number of places in the Troon area of South Ayrshire. The nursery class will initially offer 20:20 places with the potential to increase to accommodate 30:30 children from August 2015.
- 5.4 It is possible to adapt an existing teaching area at Struthers Primary School to provide a nursery class. As a consequence there would be the loss of 2 primary school classrooms. A small separate entrance area and protected secure play area for use by the nursery children would be included in the proposed works to Struthers Primary School should the proposal be accepted.
- 5.5 Struthers Primary was built in 1980, the school has a capacity of 402. The pupils census in September 2012 confirms 163 pupils were on the school roll which is 41% of the schools overall capacity. Struthers Primary School could continue to operate effectively without requiring these 2 additional classrooms which would be allocated to the nursery,
- 5.6 If the proposal were to be accepted, there may be some increased traffic at the beginning and end of the school day at Struthers Primary School with the introduction of the nursery class. South Ayrshire Council would take measures such as a review of the school's travel plan to ensure pupil safety and

effective traffic management.

6. Educational Benefits Statement of the proposal

- 6.1 Pre-school education is a crucial element of an entitlement to a broad general education for all children. The aim of *Curriculum for Excellence* is to enable all children and young people to develop their capacities as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors to society.
- 6.2 The proposal supports continuity and progression in children's learning from age three. The Early Level is intended to outline the experiences and outcomes for children from nursery to the end of Primary 1 (3 – 6 years). The cohesion between nursery and primary is enhanced by close liaison between the two sectors.
- 6.3 The nursery class will be developed to provide a high quality learning environment with direct access to a secure outdoor play area.
- 6.4 Children who currently attend Struthers Primary School come from a number of different nurseries including Meadowgreen Pre-school Centre. The school works with Meadowgreen Pre-school Centre to support children's transition to primary school however the proposal gives an opportunity for enhanced transitions from pre-school into primary school and opportunities for children to work together across *Curriculum for Excellence* Early Level.
- 6.5 Travel arrangements for some families will be simplified by a single drop off point.
- 6.6 Using the projections on school populations the authority is confident that it will be able to meet the demand for catchment area places over the next five years despite using two classroom areas for the nursery provision.
- 6.7 South Ayrshire Council presently purchases pre-school places at the nearby partnership centre, Meadowgreen Pre-school Centre. There may be an adverse effect on the uptake of places at Meadowgreen Pre-school Centre. The benefit in the community will be providing parents with more local choice and a likely easing of the current demand which is challenging to meet.
- 6.8 Across the Troon area there will be a greater capacity for pre-school education, enabling the authority to meet the national priority of 600 hours for all 3 and 4 year olds by Autumn 2014.

7. Financial Implications

Revenue Budget Implications

- 7.1 Based on a 30:30 nursery class the staffing and resource costs are estimated at £94,928.81 for a full financial year.

	Projected Part Year costs 2014/15	Full Year costs based on 2013/14
Teacher x 1 fte (Ave salary inc oncosts)	24,366.43	£39,991.40
Nursery Nurse x 2 fte (JE06 SCP39 inc oncosts)	15,154.28	

Nursery Nurse x 2 fte (JE06 SCP39 inc oncosts) from August 2015		49,743.93
Admin costs for nursery class	1,297.17	£3,193.48
Additional running costs (minimal as the building is currently operating)	£1250	£2,000
TOTAL	£42,067.88	£94,928.81

Capital Implications

- 7.2 The estimated cost for the associated capital works for a nursery class in Struthers Primary is £50,000. Initial resource costs for furniture and equipment £10000

8. Consultation Process

- 8.1 This proposal is being issued for consideration under the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010. The decision to publish this proposal and follow the procedures as outlined below was taken by the Full Council of South Ayrshire Council.

Schools Affected

- 8.2 This report will be available to all relevant consultees listed below free of charge. Copies of the report will also be available for inspection at all affected schools, local library in Troon and the Council's Head Office, County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA71DR. An electronic version can be accessed at the South Ayrshire website (www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk).

8.3 Consultees

We will consult with the following in terms of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010:

- Parent Council of the affected school
- Parents/carers of all children in the affected school
- Parents of any child(ren) expected to attend the affected school within the next 2 school years
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- Trade unions representing staff employed in the affected school
- Troon Community Council
- Trade Unions
- Current community users of the affected school
- Education Scotland (HMIE)

We will also consult with

- Members of Parliament and local Members of Scottish Parliament representing residents of Troon
- Staff and parents of the Meadowgreen Centre
- Local elected members representing residents of Troon

8.4 Length of Consultation Period

The consultation process will begin with an advert being placed in the appropriate local newspapers by 9th January 2014 and will cease on 24th February 2014. This allows for the consultation period to include in excess of 30 school days as required by the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010..

8.5 Public Meetings

During the consultation period a public meeting will be held in Struthers Primary, Staffin Road, Troon KA10 7JB, at 7:00 pm on 18th February 2014.

Senior officers of South Ayrshire Council will be present to explain the proposal and offer an opportunity to attendees to ask questions; state their views or raise points of clarification at the meeting. A note of the views made at the public meeting will be recorded as part of the consultation process.

9 Involvement of Education Scotland

- 9.1 A copy of the proposal paper and the dates of the public meeting will be sent to Education Scotland. Education Scotland will also receive a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Council from any person during the consultation period or, if Education Scotland agree, a summary of them. Education Scotland will also receive a summary of any points made to the Council at the public meetings that will be held and, as available (and so far as otherwise practicable), a copy of any other relevant documentation. Education Scotland will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal not later than 3 weeks after the Council has sent them all representations and documents mentioned above. However, for the avoidance of doubt, the 3 week period will not start until after the consultation period has ended. In preparing their report, Education Scotland may enter the affected school and make such reasonable enquiries of such people there as they consider appropriate and may make such reasonable enquiries of such other people as they consider appropriate.

10. Note on Corrections

- 10.1 If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this proposal document either by the Council or any person, the Council will determine if relevant information has been omitted or, there has been an inaccuracy. It will then take appropriate action which may include the issue of a correction or the reissuing of the proposal paper or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period if appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and Education Scotland will be advised.

11. Preparation of the Consultation Report

- 11.1 Following the above procedure the proposal will then be reviewed by the Council's Care Learning and Wellbeing Directorate taking account of the Education Scotland Report; written representations received and oral representations made by any persons at the public meetings. A consultation report containing the information required by Section 10 of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 will be prepared. The report will include a record of the total number of written representations made during the consultation period, a summary of the written representations, a summary of the oral representations made at the public meeting, the Authority's response to the Education Scotland Report as well as any written or oral representations it has received, together with a copy of the Education Scotland Report and any other relevant information, including details of any alleged inaccuracies and how these have been handled. The Report will also contain a statement explaining how it complied with the requirement to review the proposal in light of the Education Scotland Report and representations (both written and oral) that it received.

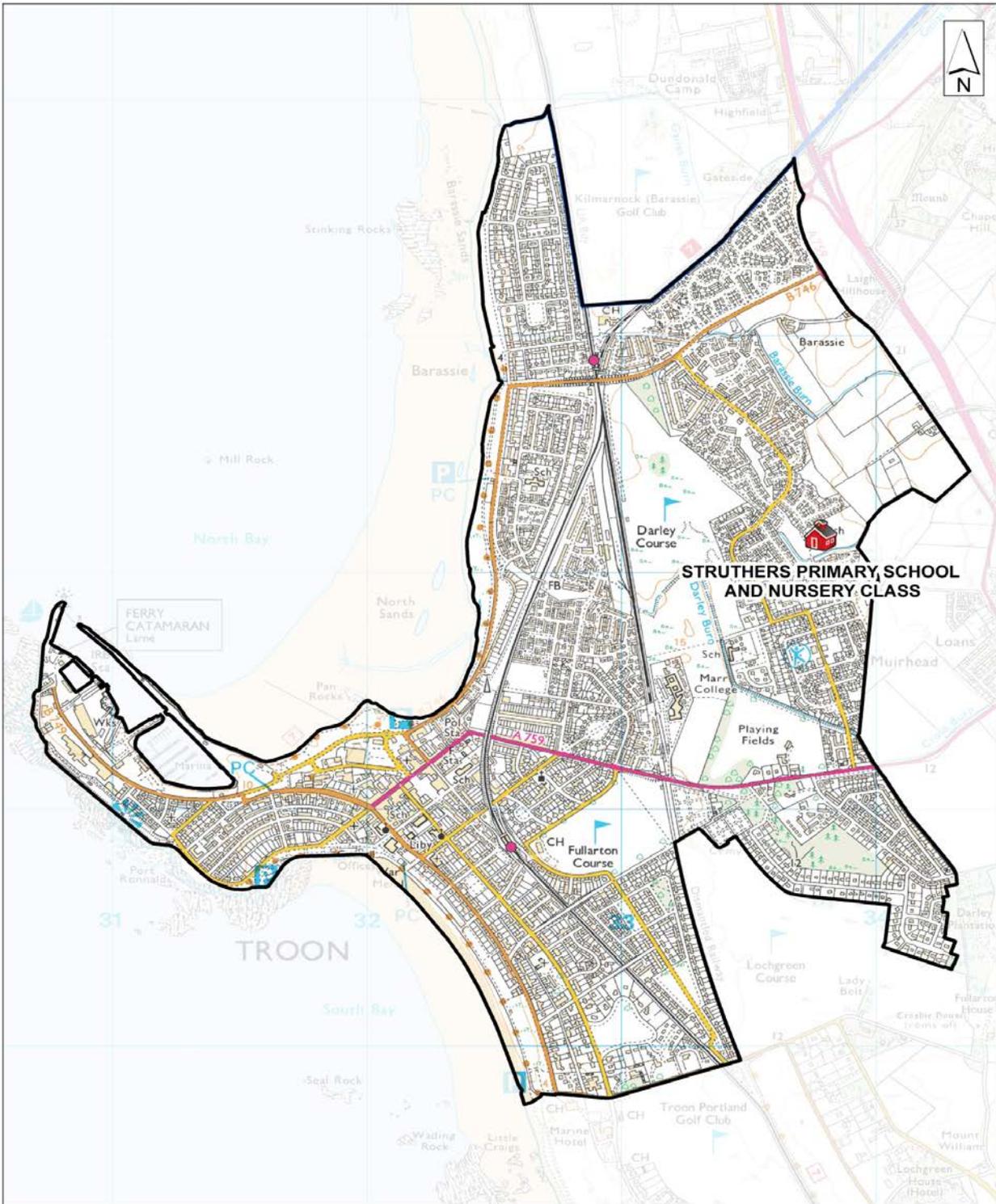
- 11.2 The consultation report will be published and made available for further consideration for a period of 3 weeks. This report will be available for inspection at all reasonable times at Council Offices and published on the Council's website.

12. Decision

- 12.1 The consultation report will be submitted to a future meeting of the Council's Leadership Panel for consideration and the elected Members will decide whether or not to implement the proposal in whole or in part. The decision may be subject to the Council's scrutiny process.

13. Responding to the Proposal

- 13.1 South Ayrshire Council invites all interested parties to make written representation on the proposal. Interested parties are encouraged to complete and return the response form that is attached (see Appendix 2) and is also available on South Ayrshire Council's website.
- 13.2 Written responses regarding the proposal will also be accepted by letter or email. Such responses should be clear about who you are, where you live, why you are interested including your relationship with the affected school (e.g. parent of pupil in the affected school, member of staff at the affected school, relative of a pupil at the affected school etc.) and whether or not you agree with the proposal, or have any alternative solutions or comments. Petitions will be treated as a single response.
- 13.3 Education Scotland (HMIE) is entitled to copies of all responses received. We would therefore advise that your personal information will be supplied to Education Scotland if they request it.
- 13.4 Please send all written representation on the proposal (via the response form, Appendix 2, a letter or an email) to Executive Director for Care, Learning and Wellbeing, South Ayrshire Council, Wellington Square, Ayr KA7 1DR or e-mail to struthersprimaryconsultation@south-ayrshire.gov.uk, no later than 24/2/14. Responses received after this time will not be considered.
- 14.5 Reasonable requests for alternative forms of consultation papers or response documents will be accommodated wherever possible e.g. audio support or language translations. For this support please contact struthersprimaryconsultation@south-ayrshire.gov.uk or write to the address above.



Struthers Primary School and Nursery Class

Scale 1:20,000

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SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL: CARE, LEARNING AND WELLBEING

FUTURE NURSERY PROVISION FOR CHILDREN OF PRESCHOOL AGE IN THE TROON AREA OF SOUTH AYRSHIRE FOR SCHOOL SESSION 2014/15 AND BEYOND FORM FOR YOUR RESPONSE

ABOUT YOU

Name:

Address:

Post Code

Tick the box if we should keep your name and address confidential

For Parents/Carers (Carer means the responsible adult with whom the young person lives)

I live in the area

Name(s) of my child(ren):

Name of school/ Nursery attending:

For Others (tick only one box, and complete as appropriate)

I am a child/ young person at

I am a member of staff at

I am related to a young person who attends the affected school/ Nursery

I provide care to a young person who attends the affected school/ Nursery

I am responding on behalf of a group.

Name of group

Other (please specify)

WHAT YOU THINK

	I Agree	I Disagree
The proposal to establish a nursery class in Struthers Primary School with a capacity of 30:30 places		

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSALS *(tick only one box)*

I have no additional comment to make

My comments are written on the reverse of this sheet

I attach my comments

Signed

Send your reply to South Ayrshire Council, Care Learning and Wellbeing, County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR, no later than midnight on **24/2/14**

PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS BELOW

The reason(s) I have for reaching my decision is/are

Reason 1

Reason 2

Reason 3

Any other additional comment