

SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 – SOUTHEND PRIMARY SCHOOL

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 When considering the future of a rural school the Education Authority must first satisfy the preliminary requirements as set out in Section 12A the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*, as amended.

- 4.2 The Options Appraisal for Southend Primary School is attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 4.3 Four alternative options have been assessed whilst considering the future of Southend Primary School. For each option, information was collated and particular regard was given to:
- Community feedback;
 - Pupil numbers;
 - Assessment of rural factors – namely the likely effect on the local community (having particular regard to the sustainability of the community and availability of the school’s premises and its other facilities for use by the community); and the likely effect of any different travelling arrangements that may be required (having particular regard to the effect on pupils, staff and any other users of the school’s facilities, and any environmental impact).
 - Educational benefits; and
 - Financial information
- 4.4 An authority that is contemplating a rural school closure proposal must satisfy the preliminary requirements set out in Section 12A of the 2010 Act prior to formulating any proposal.
- 4.5 Consideration was given to the underlying reasons as to why the future of Southend Primary School is being reviewed, and all reasonable alternatives to closure of the school as a response to those underlying reasons, were identified. All four options (including closure) were then assessed – having particular regard to likely educational benefits, likely effect on the local community and likely effect on travelling arrangements. Following this assessment, closing Southend Primary School and realigning the catchment area of Castlehill Primary School to include the current catchment area for Southend Primary School is considered to be the most reasonable option to address the underlying reasons for the possible proposal.
- 5.0 CONCLUSION**
- 5.1 The Options Appraisal for Southend Primary School has been prepared in accordance with the preliminary requirements of the 2010 Act.
- 5.2 After consideration of the preliminary requirements, all identified reasonable alternatives and the reasons for why the future of the School is being considered, closing Southend Primary School and redrawing its catchment area to the delineated catchment area of Castlehill Primary School is considered to be the most reasonable option in order to address the underlying reasons for the possible proposal. Officers are now in a position to formulate a draft proposal that will come back to the August 2023 meeting of the Committee for approval by members which would subsequently trigger the formal consultation process under the 2010 Act.

