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Report to: People Committee

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Date of Meeting: 27 January 2022

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**Subject: Statutory Consultation on the proposal to relocate  
Clackmannanshire Primary and Secondary Support Services to  
The Orchard, Tullibody.**

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Report by: Lorraine Sanda, Strategic Director (People)

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## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. This Paper outlines the proposal to take forward the formal consultation to relocate Clackmannanshire Primary and Secondary Support Services to The Orchard, Tullibody, further to approval granted by Council on 16 December 2021 to hold a statutory consultation process.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1. Approve the Proposal document (Appendix 1) and agree that the Chief Education Officer may undertake a formal consultation under the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010, to relocate Clackmannanshire Primary and Secondary Support Services to The Orchard, Tullibody.
- 2.2. Agree that the outcome of the consultation be brought to a meeting of the Council in June 2022.

## **3.0 Considerations**

- 3.1. The Bedford Place school building was closed in July 2020, as a result of a structural engineer's inspection report in the same month, and is now a vacant school building.
- 3.2. Multiple structural engineer reports have highlighted the extent of the work which would need to be undertaken and accompanying costs, to retain the building as an educational establishment.
- 3.3. All young people and staff were relocated to The Orchard, Tullibody, where Clackmannanshire Secondary Support Service has been located since the closure of the Bedford Place building in July 2020. This also includes Clackmannanshire Primary Support Service.

- 3.4. Prior to July 2020, Primary Support Service was located in an annexe next to Park Primary school. Given that both Primary and Secondary Support Services are managed by a single Headteacher and there was sufficient space in The Orchard to bring the service into one building, a temporary relocation was undertaken at that time.
- 3.5. The educational benefits of retaining Pupil Support Services at The Orchard, Tullibody, include:
- 3.5.1 The co-location of primary, secondary and outreach supports a seamless transition for all young people. This also affords the Senior Management Team the opportunity to retain a high profile in both sectors, thereby promoting a very positive ethos for young people and staff and enhancing learning experiences.
  - 3.5.2 The sensory garden at The Orchard provides a wide range of opportunities for outdoor learning in a safe, contained environment for all age groups. There is scope for these areas to potentially support children's broader achievements, including developing their skills when outdoors.
  - 3.5.3 Given its location, the Bedford Place building has no outdoor areas to offer the same provision as The Orchard and so young people did not benefit from these additional opportunities.
  - 3.5.4 Retaining the Support Service in its current locality at The Orchard offers a myriad of different opportunities and increases capacity to support outreach pupils in the school grounds.
  - 3.5.5 Excellent links have been established with Action for Children 'blue house', Tullibody Community Garden and Civic centre, which lends itself to the DYW agenda.
  - 3.5.6 On its current site, the school community has achieved a 6th Eco flag and increased volunteering qualifications by 100%.
  - 3.5.7 Partnerships have been forged with NHS, FVEL, CTSI, NHS Braveheart, Scottish Trust for Conservation Volunteers, the Gate and Robertson Construction.
  - 3.5.8 There has been a significant reduction in 'safe holds', as children and young people are encouraged to self-regulate using the safe space within the grounds.
  - 3.5.9 Children, young people and staff have settled well into The Orchard facility, ensuring no interruption to learning.

#### **4.0 Next Steps**

- 4.1. A formal consultation under the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 (the Act) will be undertaken, with a focus on the educational benefits of the proposal.
- 4.2. Copies of the consultation document, including the timeline, (Appendix 1) will be distributed to all parents, carers and staff of Primary and Secondary Support Services and copies will also be made available on the Council website.
- 4.3. The consultation responses will be collated via Clackmannanshire Council's online consultation database, Citizen Space.
- 4.4. The consultation document will also be sent to both Alloa Community Council and Tullibody, Cambus and Glenochil Community Council, the constituency MSP and MP, as well as all members of Clackmannanshire Council.
- 4.5. As required by the Act, a formal consultation event will be held, to which Education Scotland will be invited.
- 4.6. Education Scotland will prepare a report in response to the proposal.
- 4.7. The Council will then comply with the post consultation legislative requirements in relation to publication of the outcome of the report. The outcome of the consultation will be brought back to a future meeting of Clackmannanshire Council in June 2022 for a final decision.

#### **5.0 Sustainability Implications**

- 5.1. There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

#### **6.0 Resource Implications**

##### *6.1. Financial Details*

If the Council agrees at the end of the consultation to the permanent move of the service, the Director of Place will bring forward a report to Council on future options for the Bedford Place building.

##### *6.2. Staffing*

There are no implications for staffing arising from this report, as all staff have moved to The Orchard, Tullibody.

#### **7.0 Exempt Reports**

- 7.1. Is this report exempt?    Yes  (please detail the reasons for exemption below)    No

## 8.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

### (1) Our Priorities (Please double click on the check box )

- Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all
- Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life
- Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential
- Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish

### (2) Council Policies (Please detail)

## 9.0 Equalities Impact

9.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes  No

## 10.0 Legality

10.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes  No

## 11.0 Appendices

**Appendix 1 - Consultation Document**

## 12.0 Background Papers

12.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes  (please list the documents below) No

Update Inspection Report on Bedford Place - CRA Ltd Alloa, March 2021

Update Addendum Inspection Report on Bedford Place - CRA Ltd Alloa, August 2021

Report on Structural Condition of Bedford Place Building, FLN Consulting Engineers September 2021

Report to Special Meeting of Clackmannanshire Council July 2020  
<https://www.clacks.gov.uk/document/meeting/127/1012/6720.pdf>

**Author(s)**

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**Approved by**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>
Lorraine Sanda	Strategic Director (People)	





## Clackmannanshire Council – People – Education

### Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

#### Statutory Consultation on the proposal to relocate Clackmannanshire Primary and Secondary Support Services to The Orchard, Tullibody.

### Proposal

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Bedford Place school building was built in 1875 and is a Category “C” Listed Building within a conservation area. Until June 2020, the building was used to house the Clackmannanshire Secondary Support Service, a provision which supports secondary aged pupils with a range of additional support needs. This support may be through outreach provision to an individual, family support or, for those who require more intense support, an offsite placement.
- 1.2 The school building at Bedford Place was closed in July 2020, further to an inspection report in July 2020 and is now a vacant school building. The building remains closed due to structural failure of the roof and wall masonry. On Health and Safety grounds, all young people and staff were relocated to The Orchard, Tullibody, the former St Bernadette’s Primary School, where Clackmannanshire Secondary Support Service has been located since the closure of the Bedford Place building in July 2020.
- 1.3 Prior to July 2020 the Primary Support Service was located in an annexe to Park Primary school. Given that both Primary and Secondary Support Services are managed by a single Headteacher, and there was sufficient space in The Orchard to bring the service into one building, a temporary relocation was undertaken at that time.
- 1.4 This Proposal Document has been issued as a result of a decision taken by Clackmannanshire Council on Thursday 16 December 2021, where the Council agreed to officers undertaking a statutory consultation regarding the closure of the Bedford Place building. The outcomes of the consultation will be reported back to Council.

#### 2.0 Reasons for the proposal to relocate from Bedford Place to The Orchard, Tullibody:

- 2.1 At the Learning Estate Strategy paper to Council in December 2019, specific reference was made to the poor condition of the roof, stonework and chimney at the Bedford Place building, which previous surveys had highlighted.
- 2.2 Since December 2019 and prior to lockdown, essential maintenance and wind and watertight work was identified and commissioned to rebuild three chimneys, repointing defective stonework and to carry out replacement areas of defective slate on the front elevation turret.

- 2.3 Initial visual inspections by structural engineers resulted in an instruction to close the property in July 2020 until further inspections and subsequent works were commissioned.
- 2.4 In a number of inspections and reports from July 2020, February 2021, March 2021 and September 2021, it was highlighted that the Bedford Place building is not suitable as an educational establishment and there is a high risk of further ceiling collapse and also collapse of the north and front east wing roof structures. It was recommended that any future decision regarding the building must be taken timeously, as the deterioration of the building will increase exponentially if it is retained as an unused property, with increasing risk of elemental and progressive collapse.
- 2.5 The reports carried out conclude that the refurbishment cost of sustaining the Bedford Place building as an educational facility would be far higher than the cost of a full or partial demolition and would therefore be cost prohibitive. It is also anticipated that the extent of structural deterioration may be too far advanced for any repairs and that full removal and replacement of the entire roof structures will be required.

Works Required	Estimated Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• roofing replacement works</li> <li>• specialist stonework</li> <li>• Disability Discrimination Act compliance</li> <li>• complete rewiring</li> <li>• complete re-plumbing</li> <li>• removal of asbestos</li> <li>• full internal refurbishment including internal decoration</li> <li>• external landscaping</li> </ul>	<p>Projected capital costs to sustain this as a future school facility are expected to be in excess of £3.5M, excluding project fees.</p>



### **3.0 Financial information**

3.1 As outlined under section 2.5 of this paper

### **4.0 Likely Impact on the Alloa Community**

4.1 The Bedford Place building remains closed and is not used by the community.

### **5.0 Travel Plan for Families**

5.1 As a specialist offsite provision, there are no travel implications for young people and their families.

### **6.0 Future use of Bedford Place building**

6.1 If the Council agrees at the end of the consultation to the permanent move of the Support Service, the Director of Place will bring forward a report to Council on future options for the Bedford Place building.

### **7.0 The Proposal**

7.1 The Bedford Place building should be closed permanently as an educational establishment.

7.2 All young people accessing School Support Services should continue to be accommodated at The Orchard, Tullibody. The Orchard building has lower running costs than Bedford Place.

### **8.0 Educational Benefits Statement**

8.1 Clackmannanshire Council believes the closure of the Bedford Place building and the permanent relocation of young people and staff to The Orchard, Tullibody, will provide a range of educational benefits and enhance the Council's efforts to meet the statutory duties 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 (Updated 2009)
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

8.2 The educational benefits of retaining Pupil Support Services at The Orchard, Tullibody, include:

- The co-location of primary, secondary and outreach supports a seamless transition for all young people. This also affords the Senior Management Team the opportunity to retain a high profile in both sectors, thereby promoting a very positive ethos for young people and staff and enhancing learning experiences.
- The sensory garden at The Orchard provides a wide range of opportunities for outdoor learning in a safe, contained environment for all age groups. There is scope for these areas to potentially support children's broader achievements, including developing their skills when outdoors.

- Given its location, the Bedford Place building has no outdoor areas to offer the same provision as The Orchard and so young people did not benefit from these additional opportunities.
- Retaining the Support Service in its current locality at The Orchard offers a myriad of different opportunities and increases capacity to support outreach pupils in the school grounds.
- Excellent links have been established with Action for Children ‘blue house’ and Tullibody Community Garden and Civic centre, which lends itself to the DYW agenda.
- On its current site, the school community has achieved a 6th Eco flag and increased volunteering qualifications by 100%.
- Partnerships have been forged with NHS, FVEL, CTSI, NHS Braveheart, Scottish Trust for Conservation Volunteers, the Gate and Robertson Construction.
- There has been a significant reduction in ‘safe holds’, as children and young people are encouraged to self-regulate using the safe space within the grounds.
- Children, young people and staff have settled well into The Orchard facility, ensuring no interruption to learning.

## **9.0 Staffing implications**

- 9.1 There are no staffing implications, as all staff relocated to the new premises at The Orchard, Tullibody, alongside the young people.

## **10.0 Consultation Timeline**

- 10.1 Approval to take forward a formal consultation on the relocation of Bedford Place was initially brought to a meeting of Clackmannanshire Council on 16 December 2021, where approval was granted to present the proposal paper at a meeting of the People Committee on 27 January 2022.
- 10.2 Education Scotland is involved in every proposal on which a local authority consults, under the 2010 Act.
- 10.3 Education Scotland must review the local authority’s proposal paper along with other relevant documents. The review will have a particular focus on the educational aspects of the proposal. Education Scotland sometimes attends and observes the public meeting.
- 10.4 Education Scotland must prepare an independent report on the educational aspects of the proposal being consulted on. In preparing their report, Education Scotland will consider the local authority’s proposal paper. They will also take account of written responses received by the local authority, a summary of oral representations made at the public meeting and any other relevant documents.
- 10.5 Education Scotland may visit the building affected by the proposal when they are preparing their report. In this case, it is possible they will meet parents/ carers, young people and staff to hear their views.
- 10.6 The Council will then comply with the post consultation legislative requirements in relation to publication of the outcome of the report. The outcome of the

consultation will be brought back to a future meeting of the Council In June 2022 for a final decision to permanently relocate Primary and Secondary Support Services to The Orchard, Tullibody.

**Consultation arrangements:**

**Distribution of the proposal document, stakeholders, and the consultation process.**

**Distribution of the proposal document**

A copy of this document is available on Clacksweb.

**A copy of this document will be provided for:**

- The families of children and young people who access Primary and Secondary Support Services
- The Parent Council and/or parent representative bodies of Primary and Secondary Support Services
- Clackmannanshire Parent Forum
- Clackmannanshire Youth Council
- Trade Union representatives of the staff at Primary and Secondary Support Services
- Alloa Community Council
- Tullibody, Cambus and Glenochil Community Council
- Elected members of Clackmannanshire Council
- Constituency MP and MSP
- Education Scotland

This document is available in alternative formats or translated for readers whose first language is not English. Please apply to:

Clackmannanshire Council Education Service  
Kilncraigs  
Alloa,  
FK10 1EB

or by email: [education@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:education@clacks.gov.uk)

We will be consulting:

- Parents and carers of all children and young people who access Primary and Secondary Support Services
- Primary and Secondary Support Services staff and trade unions
- Alloa Community Council
- Tullibody, Cambus and Glenochil Community Council
- Elected Members of Clackmannanshire Council (People Committee)
- The Pupil Council and children and young people who access Primary and Secondary Support Services

## **The Consultation Period – Timeline**

The consultation will take place between Tuesday 1 February 2022 and Friday 1 April 2022

Date	Activity/Task	
Thurs 16 Dec 2021	Council Meeting. Paper to seek approval to take forward consultation	
Thurs 27 Jan 2022	People Committee Meeting regarding proposal for formal consultation.	
Tues 1 Feb 2022	Consultation starts	
	Letters and proposal sent to parents/carers of those accessing Pupil Support Services, Primary and Secondary	
	Staff letter and proposal sent to all PSS and SSS staff	
	Other letter and proposal sent to other consultees MSP, MP, Alloa Community Council, Tullibody, Cambus & Glenochil Community Council, TU, HR	
	Citizen space questionnaire goes live	
	Council social media post Information on Council website about consultation	
Wed 2 Feb 2022	Email all settings to request all PSS and SSS staff are not at any late meetings, so that they can attend staff meeting if they wish	
Tues 15 Feb 2022	Email all PSS and CSS staff/TU/HR/ virtual staff consultation link. Check with Eileen re MS teams or Google Meet	
Tues 22 Feb 2022	Virtual staff meeting 5.15 pm Closing date for public requests to attend virtual public meeting - Link to be set up and sent out to all members of the public who made contact to indicate they would attend	
Tues 1 March 2022	Compile list of parents, carers, staff, young people to speak to Education Scotland staff	
Wed 2 March 2022	Virtual public meeting 7pm Minute taker required	
Wed 30 March 2022	Consultation responses so far for collation	
Fri 1 April 2022	Consultation closes	
Mon 2 May 2022	Evidence gathering for Education Scotland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Results of citizen space survey</li> <li>• Minutes from public meeting</li> <li>• Consultation with staff/parents</li> <li>• Proposal document</li> <li>• Building Survey Information</li> <li>• Parent/Carer/ Young People Focus Groups</li> </ul>	
Mon 25 April 2022	All information sent to Education Scotland	
Mon 16 May 2022	Report due from Education Scotland	
Wed 1 June 2022	Final report written and agreed by ESLG members Appendix A number of responses Appendix B list of respondents Appendix C option selected Appendix D Education Scotland report Appendix E equality impact assessment Appendix F minutes of public meeting Summary paper	
Thurs 23 June 2022	Formal proposal taken to Clackmannanshire Council	

### **Public meeting**

A virtual meeting will take place on Wed 2 March at 7 p.m.

Please contact [education@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:education@clacks.gov.uk) by Tuesday 22 February 2022 for joining instructions.

We would urge anyone who would like to participate, but feel they would be limited by this approach, to contact us directly to discuss (contact details below).

### **Responding to the Consultation**

Please respond online using the Consultation Hub on the Clackmannanshire Council website at:

<https://clackmannanshire.citizenspace.com/>

If you would prefer to write to us directly then you can do so using the email or postal address shown in the contact details below.

All responses should be provided by Wed 30 March 2022. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, all submissions should be in writing or via email.

### **Following the Consultation**

Education Scotland will receive details of both the consultation responses and public meeting and they will then provide Clackmannanshire Education Services with a report.

Education Services will then prepare a consultation report which will be published on the council website. All respondents to this consultation will be notified when it is available. The consultation report will be discussed by Elected Members, where they will decide on the matter.

### **Contact details**

Informal telephone enquiries concerning these proposals can be made on 01259 450000.

Please respond to the online consultation response form if you can <https://clackmannanshire.citizenspace.com/> but if you would like to write to us directly in response, please email us at [education@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:education@clacks.gov.uk) or use the following postal address:

**Re-location of Primary and Secondary Support Services to The Orchard, Tullibody.  
Clackmannanshire Council  
People Directorate (Education Service)  
Kilncraigs  
Alloa  
FK10 1EB**

