



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

CONSULTATION REPORT

CONSULTATION REPORT ON THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW NON-DENOMINATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL WITH EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE PROVISION AT MONTGOMERIE PARK AND TO AMEND THE CATCHMENT AREA OF ANNICK PRIMARY SCHOOL

REPORT BY HEAD OF SERVICE, COMMUNITIES AND EDUCATION DIRECTORATE

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Please apply in writing to North Ayrshire Council, Communities and Education Directorate,
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**North Ayrshire Council
Communities and Education Directorate**

Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill Areas

Irvine East

**Establish a new non-denominational primary school
with early learning and childcare provision, and amend the
Annick Primary School catchment area**

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NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES AND EDUCATION DIRECTORATE
CONSULTATION REPORT

1. THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION REPORT

In line with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, North Ayrshire Council is required to:

- set out the total number of written representations made to the Council by any person during the period of the public consultation exercise;
- set out a summary of those written representations;
- set out a summary of the oral representations made to the Council at the public information meetings held online via Zoom on Tuesday 26 and Thursday 28 January 2021.
- set out a statement of the Council's response to:
 - those written and oral representations; and
 - Education Scotland's report.
- provide a copy of Education Scotland's report;
- set out a statement explaining how the Council reviewed the above proposal having had regard (in particular) to:
 - the relevant written representations received by the Council during the public consultation period;
 - oral representations made to it at the public information meetings detailed above; and
 - Education Scotland's report.
- provide details of any alleged omission from, or inaccuracy in, the Proposal Document and a statement of any action taken where necessary.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Our Learning Estate

North Ayrshire Council has invested significantly in its learning estate, with a number of highly regarded buildings delivered in recent years, including the Garnock and Largs Campus developments. In addition, major refurbishment projects to provide improved learning environments have taken place at Kilwinning, Irvine Royal and Auchenhavie Academies.

North Ayrshire Council is also currently delivering significant projects to improve educational facilities across primary, early years and additional support needs (ASN) sectors. Some of these include:

- a new additional support needs school, which will see the closure and amalgamation of four existing schools;
- the replacement of Moorpark Primary School;
- 42 individual projects, at various stages of completion, to enhance the early years estate to enable the delivery of 1140 hours per child of early learning and childcare provision, in line with revised legislation from August 2021.

In November 2018, the Scottish Government announced a programme of further investment in Scotland's learning estate. It has allocated £1 billion to this programme, available to successful local authority bidders, from 2020. The key objectives of this investment are to:

- support the delivery of Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy;
- improve the condition and suitability of the learning estate;
- establish links across the learner journey, where appropriate; and
- support sustainable estate planning.

The new Ardrossan Community Campus is receiving funding through Phase 1 of this programme of investment and in October 2020, the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) invited bids for innovative new educational and community facilities as part of their Phase 2 Learning Estate programme and a bid was made in respect of a new primary/early years establishment for the Montgomerie Park area of Irvine. On 18 December 2020, the Scottish Government announced the inclusion of this new school proposal in the second phase of investment in Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy.

3. THE PROPOSAL

3.1 At its meeting on 22 December 2020, North Ayrshire Council Cabinet agreed to the commencement of a Statutory Public Consultation on the proposal:

- (i) to establish a new non-denominational primary school with Early Learning and Childcare provision and catchment area for the Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill areas of Irvine from August 2023, and
- (ii) to amend the catchment area for Annick Primary School from January 2023, or such other date as may be necessary, to meet the registration requirements for pupils wishing to attend the new school.

3.2 The proposal is for a new non-denominational primary school with early learning and childcare, capacity as follows:

- a 12-class primary school for up to 342 pupils; and
- a 32-place early learning and childcare facility for 3-5 year olds plus 15 places for 2-year olds

4. THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 4.1 A Proposal Document was developed and published on the Council website at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk. A hard copy was made available at Bridgegate House, however, there was restricted access to the building during this time, therefore, a copy was displayed in the window, along with the consultation helpline phone number. The Proposal Document is attached to this report at Appendix 1.
- 4.2 The consultation was open from Monday 11 January until Tuesday 2 March 2021.
- 4.3 Views on the proposal were encouraged, using the following methods:
- Completing an online response form via North Ayrshire Council's website;
 - Submitting a paper copy of the response form. These could be obtained on request by calling 01294 324442;
 - Writing to the Head of Service (Education), Communities Directorate, North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE; or
 - E-mailing educ_consultation@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.
- 4.4 Two public information events were held online, via Zoom, and the notes of both meetings can be found at Appendix 2.
- 4.5 Education Scotland has a key role in considering the educational aspects of the proposal. Their officer attended both online public information meetings and conducted virtual meetings with Annick and Lawthorn Primary Schools to consult with parents/carers, staff and young people on the educational aspects of the proposal.
- 4.6 Copies of the Proposal Document, the full note of both online public information meetings held and all responses to the proposal received were submitted to Education Scotland on 3 March 2021. Their report on the proposal can be found at Appendix 3.

5. WHAT WAS THE RESPONSE TO THE STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION?

- 5.1 The proposal document was emailed to 45 statutory consultees at the beginning of the consultation period. These consultees included: Parent Councils, Education Scotland, Trade Unions and Community Planning Partners. The link to the document was also made available to all parents/carers at all the affected schools via an emailed link and a hard copy was made available at Bridgegate House. Access to public buildings was restricted in early 2021, therefore, the document was displayed in the window, along with the consultation helpline number.
- 5.2 A total of 26 formal responses were received including one email. A further 2 responses were received with incomplete information and could not be included in the analysis and a further 2 email enquiries were received, neither agreeing nor disagreeing with the proposal. All responses are available for public reference at Communities and Education, 5th Floor East, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE by appointment.
- 5.3 After considering the information provided within the proposal document and appendices stakeholders were asked to respond to the following questions:

- “Do you agree with the proposal to create a new non-denominational primary school with early learning and childcare provision for the Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill areas of Irvine and, to amend the catchment area for Annick Primary School?”
- “Please give your reasons below.”

5.4 The table below provides a breakdown of the 26 responses received to these questions during the consultation period.

Yes	22
No	4

5.5 Key themes that emerged throughout the consultation period, both at the public information meetings and comments made in the form of responses received can be summarised as follows:

- The school as a community asset and its significance for the local area
- Area population growth and the need for a new school
- Traffic management considerations

5.6 Pupil Consultation

The Council recognises the importance of seeking the views of learners and their school communities, and the valuable contribution that this collaborative approach has had in establishing this proposal.

A guiding principle of ‘Scotland’s Learning Estate Strategy’ states that, *‘good consultation about learning environments, direct engagement with learners and communities about their needs and experiences, and an involvement in decision making processes should lead to better outcomes for all’*.

Usually, young people from Irvine Royal Academy would be invited to assist with consulting with younger pupils, however, COVID-19 restrictions meant that this would have to be done online and therefore class teachers were asked to chat about the consultation with pupils at their class check-ins. The children were asked to then complete an MS Form online to share their thoughts and views on the proposal. The following (Head Teacher approved) questions were asked:

“Do you think building a new school at Montgomerie Park is a good idea?”

“If yes, why do you think this is a good idea?”

“If no, why do you think this is not a good idea?”

A total of 66 responses were received from pupils across Annick and Lawthorn Primary Schools and the table below provides a breakdown of these:

Yes	51
No	15

Key themes from the primary school pupil responses can be summarised as follows:

- The children were keen to be able to walk to school safely (8 responses)
- The school being close to their homes (7 responses)
- More space and choice of schools (6 responses)
- Smaller class sizes (6 responses)

Young people at Irvine Royal Academy were invited to complete an online response form and a reminder was issued, via the school website, on 25 February to encourage further responses. One response was received from a pupil at Irvine Royal and this is included in the total of 26 above, at 5.4 as it was submitted along with the formal online responses.

5.7 Public meetings

Under usual circumstances, a face-to-face public gathering would be held, however as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, the Council decided to hold two online meetings in place of this arrangement. There are a few advantages to using this method of communication, including:

- no need to restrict numbers (should there have been high demand to attend)
- families can participate together without leaving their home
- the chat box facility allows people to comment without having to speak in front of the audience, if this is their preference

The Council recognise that not all people can use, or have access to, the online world. In order for everyone to be offered the chance to have their say, other methods were employed as follows:

- a letter to each directly affected address
- provision of a widely advertised helpline
- press releases and public notices
- radio adverts (Irvine Beat FM from 15 to 29 January)

5.8 In order to evaluate the effectiveness of conducting these meetings online, all 13 attendees across both meetings were invited to complete an anonymous feedback form, which asked the following questions:

1. In comparison to a face-to-face meeting, what did you think of the online meeting?
2. In future, would you be more likely to attend a face-to-face or online Council public meeting?
3. How user-friendly did you find Zoom as an online platform?
4. Is there anything else the Council could do to let people know about this proposal and consultation?

5.9 Three responses were received to this survey, all positive and comments were received as follows:

“Thought it went really well and might actually improve attendance because people can attend from their home rather than have to leave the house.”

“I thought it was well presented and the information that could be given was.”

“much more efficient time wise although I think a face to face meeting would spark more debate/questions.”

“I think it went great, I think Zoom is new to a lot of people although it could end up the future which would make it easier understanding for most. It’s great when you can listen and attend in your own house no baby-sitters needed.”

6. THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE ISSUES RAISED

6.1 The issues raised at both public meetings, along with the Council's response are summarised below:

- Community access to the school building
- Whether the opening date is fixed at August 2023
- Clarification on registration arrangements and early years provision

6.1.1 Community access to the facilities outwith school hours

The Council will establish a stakeholder reference group and engage with this group on design development. One of its aims will be to understand demand for community space and facilities, taking account of other available community assets in the area. The stakeholder reference group will help to shape the design and optimise use of the building.

6.1.2 School opening date

August 2023 is the key school opening target date, and the current project plan demonstrates that this is challenging, but achievable, whilst taking account of known risk factors at this time. Delivering large capital projects throughout the pandemic has provided lessons on how projects can be delayed, and the project team will be mindful of these issues when planning the new school, however, at the present time the plan shows that the school can be delivered and operational by August 2023.

6.1.3 Registration arrangements and early years provision

Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill (Stanecastle) form the catchment area for the new school and, therefore, children resident in these areas will register here and take priority. There are no catchment areas for early years provision and the admissions process takes place in February each year. The Early Learning and Childcare places at the new school are in addition to those available in Irvine and should be sufficient to satisfy demand across this area. Current plans are for the new Early Learning and Childcare provision to be open from 8am until 6pm Monday to Friday. The project team will continue to work with the Early Learning and Childcare Team to ensure that the provision for young children is a high quality addition to the early years learning estate.

Any child registered for attendance at any primary school is entitled to retain that place until the end of P7. The new catchment area for Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill becomes effective from January 2023 and this means that any child living at the 646 affected addresses will register for P1 at either the proposed new non-denominational primary school, or St John Ogilvie Primary School from that date. Those who have older siblings attending another school will require to submit a placing request to that school in order for the siblings to attend there together. These placing requests will be prioritised for entry after those with medical conditions under the current admissions system.

6.2 Analysis of online responses

Of the 4 people who disagreed with the proposal, their reasons were as follows:

- Traffic management concerns (2 people)
- The current primary school(s) should be extended

- **Montgomery Park should be for housing only**

Of the 22 people who agreed with the proposal, the following themes emerged:

- The school as a community asset and its significance for the local area
- Area growth and the need for a new school
- Traffic management considerations
- The school should be built in a different location within Montgomery Park

There were 2 requests to include other new housing within the catchment area. Comments were also received about the good walking routes and outdoor opportunities. One person commented that the school should be built with sustainability as a priority.

The Council's response to these points is detailed below:

6.2.1 Traffic management concerns

The site at Turnpike Way was allocated for a school at the outset of the Montgomery Park housing development and is situated near to the entrance to the estate. The plan is to utilise existing access to the new school site. The Planning Application process will provide a further opportunity for residents to comment on the more detailed site plan and a transport assessment will be carried out at that stage, should the proposal be approved.

6.2.2 The current primary school(s) should be extended

There are 582 new homes planned for the next 12 years at Montgomery Park, in addition to the 481 existing houses. This is likely to result in up to 348 children living in the proposed new catchment area, the equivalent to 12 classes of children. Annick Primary School currently operates with 15 classes, and two of these are accommodated in temporary modular classrooms. It would not be practical or feasible to extend Annick Primary School to the extent required to accommodate the number of pupils expected by 2033.

6.2.3 Montgomery Park should be for housing only

Irvine Development Corporation transferred the land to North Ayrshire Council in 1996. A masterplan was then developed with houses, residential and community facilities including a school. The Council approved this plan in 2003 and it was then updated in 2015. The Council's Local Development Plan also recognises a school as part of this site.

6.2.4 The school as a community asset and its significance for the local area

The Council will establish a stakeholder reference group and engage with this group on design development. One of its aims will be to understand demand for community space and facilities, taking account of other available community assets in the area. The stakeholder reference group will help to shape the design and optimise use of the building.

6.2.5 Area growth and the need for a new school

The children and young people of North Ayrshire should understand, feel part of and be able to contribute to their community. The “Irvine Vision” place plan, co-produced with local residents, recognises the potential of Irvine as a destination and a place to live, and the importance of the quality of its schools and early years provision. Appendix 2 to the Proposal Document acknowledges the growth to date in the Montgomerie Park area and projects the likely number of children that the area will contribute to this exciting new school project.

6.2.5 Traffic management considerations

See 6.2.1 above

6.2.6 The school should be built in a different location within Montgomerie Park

The Council’s Local Development Plan recognises a school as part of the site allocated within the masterplan for Montgomerie Park. The distance from this site to the furthest proposed housing is 0.8 miles. The allocation of the site near the entrance to the development means that school traffic is kept on the periphery of the estate, rather than traffic driving through the residential areas to obtain access to school.

6.2.8 The proposed catchment area should be extended to include North Newmoor and Annick Gardens

The Montgomerie Park development is projected to grow to over 1000 homes and the school is proposed to accommodate children from Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill (Stanecastle) only. By the end of the development, it is projected that over 300 children will live in the proposed catchment area and a 12-class school has capacity for 342. Parents and carers from outwith any school catchment area have the opportunity to submit a placing request to the school of their choice.

6.2.9 Outdoor opportunities and good walking routes

Experiences over the last year have highlighted the key role that outdoor learning has in terms of positive educational experiences. The proposed school site is directly adjacent to Eglinton Country Park and the children will benefit greatly from having this and associated Countryside Ranger staff on their doorstep. Given the easy access to woodland areas, walks, ponds and local historic monuments, strong links and relationships will be fostered to develop innovative outdoor learning experiences, enhancing emotional, social and physical well-being and providing freedom to learn. There is also an extensive open space and path network within the Montgomerie Park area, which includes a sustainable urban drainage system. The space and sheltered learning and teaching facilities required to maximise the outdoor experience for children will be at the forefront of this exciting project. This project offers exciting opportunities for the children to experience outdoor adventures beyond those possible within the school grounds.

6.2.10 Sustainability

North Ayrshire Council has declared a Climate Emergency and recognises the key role that new building design can play in Carbon Reduction and sustainability. This will be a key objective in both the construction of the new school and in reducing unnecessary

journeys within the town. Both aspects will contribute to the Council's target of reducing our carbon footprint and the North Ayrshire Council's ambitious policy target to achieve a net zero carbon estate by 2030.

These ambitions of the Council are bolstered by the criteria set out by the Scottish Futures Trust which ensures that buildings are designed to be energy efficient (target of 67kWh/m² in use energy consumption), which the new building will be designed to achieve.

6.3 Analysis of Pupil Consultation Responses

Of the 15 primary school children who disagreed with the proposal, their reasons were as follows:

- The new children should go to the other schools in the area
- Animal habitat will be destroyed
- Won't see friends
- The new school is not needed
- The noise will disturb the neighbours
- There will be less land for playing
- Traffic will be busy

Of the 51 primary school children who agreed with the proposal, the following themes emerged:

- To be able to walk to school safely (8 responses)
- The school being close to their homes (7 responses)
- More space for new children and choice of schools (6 responses)
- Smaller class sizes (6 responses)

The Council's response to these points is detailed below:

6.3.1 The new children should go to the other schools in the area

There are 582 new homes planned for the next 12 years at Montgomerie Park, in addition to the 481 existing houses. This is likely to result in up to 348 children living in the proposed new catchment area, the equivalent to 12 classes of children. Annick Primary School currently operates with 15 classes, and two of these are accommodated in temporary modular classrooms. It would not be practical or feasible to extend Annick Primary School to the extent required to accommodate the number of pupils expected by 2033.

6.3.2 Animal habitat will be destroyed

The Council is not aware of any specific risks to nature on the proposed site. A key part of any construction project will be to undertake an ecology assessment before any work starts to consider animal habitats and plan around this carefully.

6.3.3 Won't see friends

As outlined in 6.1.3 above, parents of children living within the new school catchment will have the option of remaining at Annick or Lawthorn Primary Schools until P7, if this is their choice.

6.3.4 The new school is not needed

The rolls at Annick and Lawthorn Primary Schools and the space needed at these schools indicates that a new school is required in order to provide a space for all of the expected new children over the next 10-12 years.

6.3.5 The noise will disturb the neighbours

The school site is situated on the edge of Montgomerie Park, and sits at a lower level than the surrounding area. This natural protection, along with a considerate design will reduce noise disturbance.

6.3.6 There will less land for playing

The Council understands how important space to play is for children. The new school will come with an all-weather pitch, meaning that games can be played there more often than on grass, which can get water-logged and the current multi-use games area will remain.

6.3.7 Traffic will be busy

There will be periods in the day where traffic will be busier around the new school, but the Council are committed to promoting Health and Wellbeing for all pupils and staff. The furthest pupil journey is likely to be less than one mile, so there are clear opportunities to establish and promote suitable walking routes to the new school.

6.3.8 To be able to walk to school safely

The Council recognises the importance for children to be able to walk to school safely and employs a Road Safety Officer to assist with this. The new school will prevent children from having to cross a busy main road, as they would do presently to reach either of the two primary schools currently serving the Montgomerie Park area.

6.3.9 The school being close to their homes

As outlined above at 6.3.7, the furthest walk to the new school should be less than a mile by the time all houses are built.

6.3.10 More space for new children/smaller class sizes and more choice of schools

The new school will create spaces for over 300 children. As pupil numbers increase in the area, the new facilities will help to bring about a balance of pupil numbers across the local primary schools, benefitting teaching and learning.

7. EDUCATION SCOTLAND

- 7.1 Representatives from Education Scotland attended both online public information meetings and were subsequently provided with copies of all correspondence received by the Council during the consultation period as well as details of all discussions at all of the public information meetings.

7.2 In accordance with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, a report was provided by Education Scotland in relation to the proposal. This report can be found at Appendix 3.

7.3 Education Scotland Report Summary

“North Ayrshire Council’s proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school and implement catchment changes is well considered and has clear educational benefits. The proposal addresses school accommodation pressures as a result of new and planned housing in the Irvine East Area. Children attending the new school in Montgomerie Park will benefit from a modern, state of the art learning environment, which facilitates outdoor learning and encourages health and wellbeing. In taking forward the proposal, the council should ensure the stakeholder reference group is fully involved, along with school staff, in planning facilities that have the optimum benefit for all. This will support community identity and secure links between the school, local residents and groups as the area grows and develops.”

8. THE COUNCIL’S RESPONSE TO THE EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT

8.1 North Ayrshire Council welcomes the report by Education Scotland which highlights the educational and wider benefits of the proposal. Education Scotland’s comments are detailed in their report, attached at Appendix 3. The Council has considered these comments, both during and after the public consultation process and can offer the following responses.

8.2 Education Scotland’s comment:

“Parents from Irvine Royal Academy seek reassurance that their school is resourced appropriately for any increase in roll.”

8.2.1 The Council’s response:

Allocation of resources is based on the number of children enrolled at a particular school each session. Education can reassure the parents from Irvine Royal Academy that the school will be appropriately resourced.

8.3 Education Scotland’s comment: “In taking forward the proposal, the council should ensure the stakeholder reference group is fully involved, along with school staff, in planning facilities that have the optimum benefit for all. This will support community identity and secure links between the school, local residents and groups as the area grows and develops.”

8.3.1 The Council’s response:

North Ayrshire Council is committed to placing the building users at the heart of the design of new buildings. Should this proposal be approved, a stakeholder reference group will be established, followed by a series of consultation sessions to help shape aspects of the design. These sessions will be planned to ensure that key aspects of the building’s functionality are considered throughout each stage of the process and are reflected in the final design.

9. NEXT STEPS IN TERMS OF SECTION 15(4) OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION)(SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

9.1 Council Decision

North Ayrshire Council will take the decision on whether to approve the proposal or not at the Council meeting on 27 April 2021.

9.2 Design Consultation

North Ayrshire Council is committed to placing the building users at the heart of the design of new buildings. Should the proposal be approved, a stakeholder reference group will be established in May, followed by a series of design consultation sessions to help shape aspects of the design of the new facilities, with a view to being on site early 2022. These sessions will be organised to ensure that views on key aspects of the building's functionality are gathered from the users, to inform the architects who will be responsible for the detailed design.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 There is widespread support for this proposal among the school communities which it will affect. This is evidenced by the response to the consultation and from Education Scotland's engagement with Irvine Royal Academy, Annick and Lawthorn Primary Schools.
- 10.2 After reviewing and considering the online and written representations, feedback from the public information meetings and Education Scotland's report, North Ayrshire Council's proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school with early learning and childcare remains unchanged.
- 10.3 North Ayrshire Council has an exciting opportunity to deliver a £14.47m fit for purpose school with early learning and childcare provision, along with excellent outdoor education. The building will be a sustainable asset and create a sense of identity for the local area. The children will be able to walk and cycle a short distance to school and will benefit from a modern, state of the art learning environment. The new school will promote creative and engaging teaching approaches, offering facilities that support and encourage health and wellbeing.

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Proposal Document

Appendix 2 - Note of both Online Public Information Meetings

Appendix 3 - Education Scotland Report



COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE (EDUCATION)

Proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school with Early Learning and Childcare provision and catchment area for the Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill areas of Irvine East and, to amend the catchment area for Annick Primary School

REPORT BY HEAD OF SERVICE (EDUCATION) COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE

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**North Ayrshire Council
Communities Directorate (Education)**

**Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill Areas
Irvine East
Establish a New Non-Denominational Primary School
With Early Learning and Childcare Provision**

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Appendices

- 1. Map of proposed catchment area and school site**
- 2. Projected numbers of catchment pupils**
- 3. Map of current Annick Primary School catchment area**
- 4. List of streets included in the new catchment area**
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- 6. Response Form**

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 New housing developments within the Irvine East area, have resulted in an increase in the local population. One result of this population movement is education accommodation pressures at Annick Primary School, the catchment primary school for non-denominational pupils residing in the Montgomerie Park area. On 27 February 2019, North Ayrshire Council approved funding for a new 12-class non-denominational primary school for the Montgomerie Park area of Irvine within the Council's capital plan.
- 1.2 In March 2020, the COVID-19 virus impacted the UK and the country was forced into lockdown. This meant that this project was placed on hold, until a clear strategy out of lockdown and the restrictions which existed as a result, could be planned. This delay has resulted in the proposed opening date for the new school being revised from August 2022 to August 2023. It is important for any totally new school to open at the start of the educational year, otherwise it would not be an attractive educational option for families.
- 1.3 It is now proposed that the new school would open in August 2023, but the changes to the catchment area of Annick Primary School would be implemented from January 2023, or such other date as may be necessary, to meet the registration requirements for pupils wishing to attend the new school to allow registration for the new provision to be undertaken appropriately.
- 1.4 There will be no mandatory transfer for pupils already attending another school; however, pupils in P2-P7 within the catchment of the new primary school will be given the opportunity to transfer to the new school, should they wish to do so.
- 1.5 A pre-consultation engagement meeting took place on 15 January 2020 with Parent Council representatives from Annick Primary School, Lawthorn Primary School and Irvine Royal Academy (the catchment secondary school). This positive interaction resulted in the collective views of the schools impacted by the proposal being considered in order to shape the best way forward. This will ensure that the proposed development meets the needs of young people and the wider community.

2. Strategic Context

2.1 Council Vision

North Ayrshire Council's Plan, 'North Ayrshire: A Council that is Fair for All,' sets out our key aims and ambitions over the five-year period 2019-2024. Our mission is *"working together to improve well-being, prosperity and equity in North Ayrshire"*.

Our Council:

- recognises there is strength in doing things together;
- engages with, listens to and supports communities to be active partners in what we do;
- believes in fairness, tackles inequality and bases its decisions on these values;
- is ambitious, determined and committed to improving North Ayrshire;
- acts early taking a preventative approach;
- focuses resources towards our priority outcomes;
- innovates and drives positive change, embracing technology, to provide valued and cost-effective services for our communities; and
- makes sure its voice is heard – locally, regionally and nationally – to influence decision making and to attract investment.

Our priorities are centred on our people and places:

Aspiring Communities

- active and strong communities
- children and young people experience the best start in life
- inclusive, growing and enterprising local economy
- people enjoy good life-long health and well-being
- people and communities are safe

Inspiring Places

- effective infrastructure and digital connectivity
- affordable, modern and well-designed homes that meet residents' needs
- vibrant, welcoming and attractive places
- a sustainable environment

2.2 Education Vision

Aspiring Communities means creating a society where everyone has the same life chances to grow, prosper and have fulfilling and healthy lives.

In order to ensure our children and young people experience the best start in life, we will create the conditions for them to access the highest quality learning experiences.

North Ayrshire Council's Communities Directorate (Education) shares the Scottish Government's ambition of excellence and equity for all, underpinning the approach to delivering Scottish education. As stated in the recently launched 'Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy: Connecting People, Places and Learning:'

"Improving the education and life chances of children and young people are key priorities for both local and Scottish Government. Providing our children and young people with the best possible start in life and ensuring that all learners reach their full potential is critical."

The Learning Estate Strategy was published in the context of the refreshed National Performance Framework (updated in June 2018), which at its heart focuses on creating a more successful country with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish through increased well-being, and sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

Quality education and the accompanying infrastructure are at the heart of many of the national outcomes and their indicators and development goals. The specific national outcomes to which this strategy relates most closely are:

- we grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential;
- we are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society;
- we are healthy and active;
- we live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe;
- we have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone; and
- we have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy.

The vision is to develop an innovative and motivation learning environment that supports the delivery of positive educational outcomes for the children of this part of Irvine.

2.3 Equality

Promoting equality is one of North Ayrshire Council's core values. The principles of equality and fairness are central to all council activities. Equality means everyone has the right to be treated fairly and the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Under equality legislation, the general equality duty requires public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

The main method the council uses to ensure it is meeting its requirements under the legislation is through the Equality Impact Assessment process, which is used to assess policies, procedures and proposals. Following an Equality and Children's Rights Impact Assessment (ECRIA), no adverse effects on any protected characteristic have been identified as a result of the proposal. This document is live and will evolve with the consultation and throughout the project, if approved.

2.4 Asset Management Strategy

The Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 places a duty on Local Authorities to demonstrate best value in delivering their services and managing any assets they hold.

Typically, individual councils hold assets worth many millions of pounds and it is in the interest of councils and their residents that the most effective use of these assets is being made. The high-level direction of travel and ambition for the wider property estate is captured in the Council's Estates Strategy.

The delivery of this strategy is achieved through a Property Asset Management Plan (PAMP), which has been developed by North Ayrshire Council.

North Ayrshire Council's PAMP clearly outlines the priorities for the physical care and improvement of the Council's property portfolio and is intended to assist the Council in contributing to its key priorities.

The purpose of the PAMP is to support the delivery of our vision for North Ayrshire properties, providing a strategic framework to facilitate fit for purpose properties to ensure these assets continue to play an active role in the delivery of our services. The PAMP sets out the Council's approach to the management of its property assets.

A key theme of both the Estates Strategy and PAMP is a locality approach to service delivery, brought about by property rationalisation and co-location of Council services and other partners.

The locality approach to service delivery means providing the right services in the right areas, addressing the requirements of the communities they serve. The learning estate is the Council's most extensive asset and is therefore key to ensuring the success of this approach.

The overarching objective of the Property Asset Management Plan is to align the Council's land and property assets with the organisation's corporate objectives. By taking a strategic view in relation to the management of property assets, it is envisaged the Council will ensure the operational cost of property is as efficient as possible and that capital receipts are generated from the release of surplus assets.

2.5 Irvine Vision

The children and young people of North Ayrshire should understand, feel part of and be able to contribute to their community. The "Irvine Vision" place plan, co-produced with local residents, recognises the potential of Irvine as a destination and a place to live, and the importance of the quality of its schools and early years provision. We also recognise that the current COVID-19 pandemic has initiated change across the education sector and requires our buildings to be more flexible, functional and futureproof, in ways which previously were not envisaged.

3. Background and Rationale

- 3.1 This section sets out the background and rationale for the proposal, the main aims of which are to ensure that there are sufficient school places for the Irvine East area and to address capacity issues at Annick Primary School.
- 3.2 The site for the new school, shown at Appendix 1, was identified as part of the original masterplan for Montgomerie Park.
- 3.3 In the last few years, the number of completed housing units within Montgomerie Park has reached 481 units and the number of primary school aged pupils living here and attending non-denominational schools has reached 196.
- 3.4 There are a further 582 units planned for Montgomerie Park, scheduled to commence building within the next year. Appendix 2 illustrates the likely numbers of pupils residing there in the future and demonstrates the need for the new provision.
- 3.5 The table below shows the increase in roll at Annick Primary School since 2011. A significant proportion of this increase is as a direct result of new housing built at Montgomerie Park. The school now operates with a 16-class structure and temporary modular accommodation was installed at the school in August 2018 to provide sufficient capacity. The longer-term plan to ease the high occupancy level at Annick Primary School relies on a new primary school being established for the Montgomerie Park area.

Year	2011/ 12	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17	2017/ 18	2018/ 19	2019/ 20
Roll	251	277	278	285	306	340	359	371	386

- 3.6 The current catchment area for Annick Primary School is shown at Appendix 3. The proposed catchment area for the new school is shown at Appendix 1 and a list of streets included to create the new catchment area is at Appendix 4.
- 3.7 The location of school buildings, existing pupil flows, obvious geographical boundaries, public transport links and distances to and from a school are all factors considered when establishing new catchment boundaries. However, the principal driver is to ensure that the catchment populations for each of the schools affected are appropriate to their proposed capacity.
- 3.8 In this regard, the proposal also includes the Knadgerhill area of Irvine. Currently, 19 non-denominational pupils live in the area and there is a good network of paths from there to Montgomerie Park. The Knadgerhill area was previously within the John Galt Primary School catchment area and was rezoned to Annick Primary School catchment in the 2010 consultation that resulted in the closure of the former school. According to statistical data, the maximum number of P1-7 pupils we would expect to come from this area at any

one time would be around 40. It therefore makes sense, geographically and practically, to include this area within the new school catchment.

- 3.9 As part of ongoing work to assess the impact of COVID-19 on children and families, an assessment of capacity across the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) estate has been undertaken. This takes account of proposed legislative changes which will likely see an increase in demand for two year old places and for three to five year old places due to parental choice around deferring entry to primary education.
- 3.10 As a result of this recent assessment, it is proposed that ELC provision is included in the plans for the new school to accommodate 32 three to five-year olds and 15 two-year olds in their local area.

4 Pre-Consultation Stakeholder Engagement

- 4.1 The Council recognises both the importance of seeking the views of learners and their school communities, and the valuable contribution that this collaborative approach has in establishing a comprehensive proposal. Working together from this early stage builds the foundation for positive joint working throughout the life of this project.
- 4.2 As outlined above, one of the guiding principles of 'Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy' states that *'good consultation about learning environments, direct engagement with learners and communities about their needs and experiences, and an involvement in decision making processes should lead to better outcomes for all'*.
- 4.3 In this regard, a pre-consultation engagement meeting took place on 15 January 2020 with Parent Council representatives from Annick Primary School. Also in attendance were the Parent Council representatives from Lawthorn Primary School and Irvine Royal Academy (the catchment secondary school). Lawthorn Primary School is equidistant from Montgomerie Park to Annick Primary School and takes in a significant number of children by placing request from the area.
- 4.4 The purpose of the meeting was to offer information on the initial proposals and to gather the views of the school communities in preparation for the formal statutory public consultation.
- 4.5 Feedback obtained at this meeting indicates that there is widespread support in the Montgomerie Park area to establish a new primary school, as outlined in the previous masterplan. Considerations were raised regarding; transition to secondary school, sibling placing requests, composite classes and transport to Irvine Royal Academy, and these are addressed within this proposal document.
- 4.6 This positive interaction resulted in the collective views of the schools impacted by the proposal being considered in order to shape the best way forward. This

will ensure that the proposed development meets the needs of young people and the wider community.

5 Proposal

- 5.1 In March 2020, the COVID-19 virus impacted the UK and the country was forced into lockdown. This meant that this project was placed on hold until a clear strategy out of lockdown and the restrictions which existed as a result, could be planned. This delay has resulted in the proposed opening date for the new school being revised from August 2022 to August 2023. It is important for any totally new school to open at the start of the educational year, otherwise it would not be an attractive educational option for families.
- 5.2 In line with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, and as a result of engagement with relevant interested parties, North Ayrshire Council, proposes:
- (i) to establish a new non-denominational primary school with Early Learning and Childcare provision and catchment area for the Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill areas of Irvine from August 2023, and
 - (ii) to amend the catchment area for Annick Primary School from January 2023, or such other date as may be necessary, to meet the registration requirements for pupils wishing to attend the new school.
- 5.3 The new facility would be established on North Ayrshire Council-owned land reserved for this purpose at Montgomerie Park. Appendix 1 shows the site, along with the proposed catchment area and Appendix 4 shows the list of streets proposed for inclusion in the new catchment area. These streets would be removed from Annick Primary School's catchment to create a new catchment for the proposed school.
- 5.4 On the assumption that the proposal for a new school is approved and opened by August 2023, the catchment area for the new primary school would apply from the start of the registration process in January 2023. Please note that a later date of opening would change these dates. All interested parties would be informed of any change to the dates contained in the timeline at Appendix 5.
- 5.5 Pupils eligible to start school in August 2023, residing within the Montgomerie Park or Knadgerhill areas should present for registration on the notified date in January 2023. Detailed registration arrangements will be published in Winter 2022.
- 5.6 In Autumn 2022, the Council will contact the parents/carers of all P1-6 pupils (who will be P2-P7 from August 2023), living in the Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill areas, attending a North Ayrshire school. The purpose of this will be to offer the opportunity to apply for a place at the new school for August

2023. Parents/carers may choose to refuse this offer of a place. All pupils will be entitled to remain in their current primary schools – there will be no mandatory transfer to the new school, for existing school pupils.

- 5.7 Parents and carers of children residing in the Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill areas should note that, where they have a child attending Annick Primary School and choose to continue that arrangement, as detailed in 5.5 (above), that in respect of any younger siblings registering for P1 from August 2023, a placing request will require to be submitted should they also wish the younger child to attend Annick Primary School with their older sibling. All decisions taken will be in accordance with the prevailing council policy in respect of the management of placing requests.
- 5.8 The experience of other local authorities who have opened an entirely new school would suggest that transfer on a voluntary basis is likely to result in an uneven distribution of pupils between year groups with a risk that some stages, especially from P4-7, are very small, or empty. Accordingly, it should be anticipated that the new school will not operate at its class capacity in the short to medium term and composite classes may be necessary. Composite classes occur where children from two or more year stages are grouped together to form one class.
- 5.9 Research on practices adopted in other authorities leading up to the opening of an entirely new school has highlighted the value of appointing the Head Teacher a few months before the new school opens. This would allow the Head Teacher to take time to appoint staff, oversee the completion and occupation of the building and take a lead role in establishing relationships within the new school community, including the establishment of the new Parent Council. Subsequent to the appointment of the new Head Teacher, work will commence to establish a school uniform, badge, school handbook and develop the values and aims of the new establishment.
- 5.10 The school will be staffed to meet the requirements of the pupil roll. This will include both teaching and non-teaching staff, support admin/clerical, dining and janitorial staff.
- 5.11 Whilst no changes are anticipated in the short term to the existing staff structures at any other primary schools as a direct result of this proposal, the longer term effects on the school rolls, particularly at Annick and Lawthorn Primary Schools will require regular monitoring and review of staffing requirements.
- 5.12 Both the Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill areas are currently within the catchment for Irvine Royal Academy and this will continue. Therefore, any pupil residing in these two areas and wishing to attend any other secondary school will require to make a placing request to that school.
- 5.13 The Council provides free school transport to those secondary school pupils who reside more than 3 miles suitable walking distance from their catchment secondary school. The distance from Montgomerie Park to Irvine Royal

Academy is less than 3 miles, therefore the Council will not provide school transport.

- 5.14 There are no catchment areas for early years provision, however this proposal is to include a 32 capacity (3-5 year olds) and a 15 capacity (2 year olds) provision at Montgomerie Park.

The inclusion of an Early Years provision responds to a number of pressures:

- (i) A forthcoming change to the law, which will allow parents of all children born between August and March, to have a guaranteed additional year of Early Years education, should they wish to defer their child attending primary school. This change is likely to see greater numbers of deferred places across all ELC establishments, and whilst the predicted numbers are manageable in many localities, within Irvine East, there is likely to be a shortfall in available places at the establishments which are currently attended by children from the Montgomerie Park area.
- (ii) A rise in the number of eligible 2-year old children in the area, as a result of the economic downturn caused by the global pandemic.
- (iii) Feedback obtained through the pre-engagement exercise from parents

6 Educational Benefits Statement

- 6.1 A new non-denominational Primary school for Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill will ensure sufficient primary school capacity to meet projected demand, providing catchment school places for catchment children.
- 6.2 The proposal will mean that the existing primary school rolls at Annick and Lawthorn Primary Schools will decrease over time, reducing pressure on school facilities.
- 6.3 Despite the catchment areas of the existing primary schools being reduced, the proposal will ensure that all schools in the area have a viable and sustainable school roll with flexibility to support a variety of learning and teaching approaches, aligned to the Curriculum for Excellence. The proposed catchment will allow teacher staffing levels and year group arrangements to be effective, and children will be able to learn within a variety of peer group opportunities, in a very local context, the importance of which has been reinforced by the pandemic.
- 6.4 The new primary school will be part of the Irvine Royal Academy cluster of schools, comprising Annick, Castlepark, Loudoun Montgomery and Woodlands Primary Schools. As such, it will benefit from strong relationships with the associated secondary school. Children will be involved in a full transition programme in P7, which is designed to make the move to secondary school a successful experience for all. Currently, pupils transitioning to their catchment secondary school meet and work with their peers from other local schools several times prior to beginning their secondary schooling.

- 6.5 The inclusion of an early learning and childcare class will support effective transition into primary school and enable staff to better share information to ensure progression in children's learning.
- 6.6 The school will provide community space in a new and growing local area, enabling social capital and participatory approaches. This will strengthen community and school capacity to promote health, wellbeing and resilience. Emphasis will be placed on creating new opportunities for local community groups. Local residents are already working together and North Ayrshire's emphasis on participation will be developed at Montgomerie Park through relationships with the school. As a result, not only will a high-quality educational environment for our young people be created but significant positive outcomes for the entire community will be realised.

7 The Proposed New Provision

- 7.1 On 27 February 2019, North Ayrshire Council approved funding for a new 12-class non-denominational primary school for the Montgomerie Park area of Irvine within the Council's capital plan.
- 7.2 In October 2020, the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) invited bids for innovative new educational and community facilities as part of their Phase 2 Learning Estate programme. On 18 December 2020, the Scottish Government announced the inclusion of the new school proposal in the second phase of investment in Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy.
- 7.3 Revenue costs of £945,976 are projected, by the time the school is operating at its full capacity. The establishment of a fully operating school will take time and these costs will be partly offset by resource transfer from the other primary schools, as their rolls reduce over time.
- 7.4 The new facility of high quality, modern learning and teaching spaces, including the early years provision, will be flexible, functional and future proof. In terms of sustainability and environmental impact, the proposed new facility will meet the guiding principles set out in 'Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy':
- learning environments should support and facilitate excellent joined up learning and teaching to meet the needs of all learners;
 - learning environments should support the wellbeing of all learners, meet varying needs to support inclusion and support transitions for all learners;
 - the learning estate should be well-managed and maintained, making the best of existing resources, maximising occupancy and representing and delivering best value;
 - the condition and suitability of learning environments should support and enhance their function;
 - learning environments should serve the wider community and where appropriate be integrated with the delivery of other public services in line with the place principle;

- learning environments should be greener, more sustainable, allow safe and accessible routes and be digitally enabled;
- outdoor learning and the use of outdoor learning environments should be maximised;
- good consultation about learning environments, direct engagement with learners and communities about their needs and experiences, and an involvement in decision making processes should lead to better outcomes for all;
- collaboration across the learning estate, and collaboration with partners in localities, should support maximising its full potential; and
- investment in Scotland's learning estate should contribute towards improving learning outcomes and support sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

7.5 North Ayrshire Council has declared a Climate Emergency, and in this respect sustainability will be a key objective in both the construction of the new school and in reducing unnecessary journeys within the town, thereby contributing to the Council's target of reducing our carbon footprint and the Scottish Government's ambitious policy target to achieve a near zero carbon estate by 2050.

The building will be designed in line with the Council's Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, which includes workstreams relating to the following aspects of the strategy:

- Affordable Warmth
- Green Economy
- Transport and Travel
- Natural and Built Environment
- Sustainable Operations

7.6 Experiences over the last 6 months have highlighted the key role that outdoor learning has in terms of educational experiences. The proposed school site is adjacent to Eglinton Country Park and the children will benefit greatly from having this and associated Countryside Ranger staff on their doorstep. With access to woodland areas, walks, ponds and local historic monuments, strong links and relationships will be fostered to develop innovative outdoor learning experiences, enhancing emotional, social and physical well-being and providing freedom to learn. There is also an extensive open space and path network within the Montgomerie Park area, which includes a sustainable urban drainage system. The space and sheltered learning and teaching facilities required to maximise the outdoor experience for children, will be at the forefront of this exciting project. This project offers exciting opportunities for the children to experience outdoor adventures beyond those possible within the school grounds.

7.7 The design will signal to all users (children, parents and staff) that learning is a valued activity, and that the learning environment is a priority. It will be inspiring and invite exploration of the use of the environment and space in different and imaginative ways.

8. Statutory Public Consultation Process

- 8.1 This document has been issued by North Ayrshire Council for consultation in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

8.2 What is a Statutory Public Consultation?

In Scotland, local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure the adequate and efficient provision of education in their area. If a local authority proposes to change any part of the existing education provision in its area, then it must engage in a formal consultation process under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The act aims to ensure that all major changes which affect schools are subject to clear consultation with parents, children, young people and communities.

8.3 When does the Statutory Public Consultation start?

The consultation will start on Monday 11 January and close on Tuesday 2 March 2021, which includes a period of 35 school days.

8.4 Who will have access to this proposal document?

This proposal document has been made available to all interested parties, including Parent Councils, Education Scotland, parents and carers of children attending the establishments affected, Staff, Trade Unions and any other users of the establishments as detailed in the distribution list.

This proposal document is published on the Council website at -
<http://www.northayrshire.community/consultationsevents/consultations/>

Copies are also available from the Communities Directorate (Education) HQ, Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE (tel: 01294 324442). The document will be displayed for the public at Bridgegate House, Irvine KA12 8BD.

Copies can be also be made available in alternative formats or in translated form for readers whose first language is not English.

8.5 What if I notice an error in the document?

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 if there has been an inaccuracy.

The Council may then take appropriate action, which may include the issue of a correction notice, the reissuing of the proposal document or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period, if appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and Education Scotland will be advised.

8.6 How will I get a chance to give my opinion?

You will be able to give your opinion on the proposal:

- Online at 'Shaping North Ayrshire' www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/mpschool
- By completing an online response form at <https://tinyurl.com/y5l2mn2d>
- By submitting a paper copy of the response form, attached at Appendix 6
- By emailing educ_consultation@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
- In writing to the Head of Service (Education), Communities Directorate, North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE

There is also a consultation helpline available on 01294 324442. Staff will be available on this number from 9am until 4.45pm Monday to Friday to answer any questions and provide further information.

All responses must be submitted by no later than close of business on **Tuesday 2 March 2021**.

8.7 Will there be any meetings for the public?

North Ayrshire Council has made the decision to hold information sessions for the public online via Zoom. These sessions will provide an opportunity for interested parties to hear about the proposal from council officers, ask questions and have their views recorded so that these can be taken into account as part of the consultation process.

The Council has a duty of care to both the public and its staff to ensure their health and safety. The best way to eliminate the risk of COVID-19 virus transmission and, to allow as many people to hear the views of others at the same meetings, is to hold these online.

Advance notice of specific questions or issues to be raised at the online meetings will be accepted up to Monday 25 January 2021. This will allow all issues to be covered and give those who may not be comfortable speaking publicly their opportunity to be heard.

Please contact the Education Infrastructure team on 01294 324442 or via email at educ_consultation@north-ayrshire.gov.uk to receive the Zoom meeting link.

Information sessions will be held as follows:

Platform	Date	Time
Zoom	Tuesday 26 January 2021	6.30pm (use contact details above, before 5.30pm on 26 January for meeting link)
Zoom	Thursday 28 January 2021	6.30pm (use contact details above, before 5.30pm on 28 January for meeting link)

Anyone wishing to attend either meeting online, will be made very welcome.

A note will be taken of comments, questions and officer responses at each session. The notes will be published on the Council website and a copy will be made available on request. The notes will also be forwarded to Education Scotland along with all other submissions and comments that are received by the Council during the consultation process.

8.8 Will any other agencies be involved in the process?

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 requires that a report on the proposal is prepared by Education Scotland. Education Scotland may attend the public meetings.

Once the statutory public consultation period comes to an end, Education Scotland have three weeks to consider the educational aspects of the proposal and submit a report to the council.

Education Scotland receives copies of relevant papers from the council, including:

- a copy of the proposal paper;
- copies of the written representations or a summary of them (if Education Scotland agree);
- a note of oral representations made at the public meeting sessions; and
- any other related documentation.

Education Scotland may visit schools as part of their consideration of the proposal and meet with children, staff and parents who may be affected by the proposal.

Upon receipt of the proposal document and other relevant documentation, Education Scotland will consider the educational aspects of the proposal. They will ensure that their report takes account of:

- the educational benefits statement;
- the representations received by the council; and
- any further written representations made directly to Education Scotland on any educational aspect of the proposal which is considered relevant.

The consultation report that the Council publishes following the statutory public consultation must include the report from Education Scotland in full.

8.9 Will the outcome of the consultation be made public?

The Head of Service (Education) will prepare a report on the results of the consultation process. The report will take account of all Education Scotland recommendations. This report will be published in electronic and printed formats and will be advertised in local newspapers. It will be available on the Council website and from Council Headquarters. The report will include a

record of the total number of written representations made during the consultation period, a summary of the written and oral representations, and the Council's response to recommendations made by Education Scotland. A copy of the Education Scotland report will be an appendix to the consultation report which will be published and available for further consideration for a period of more than 3 weeks ahead of presentation to Elected Members in Spring 2021.

8.10 When will the Council make a decision on the outcome of the consultation?

The consultation report, together with any other relevant documentation, will be considered by Cabinet, who will make a decision on the proposal in Spring 2021. Thereafter, the timeline at Appendix 5 will be followed.

DISTRIBUTION

A copy of this document is available on the Community Planning Partnership pages within the North Ayrshire Council website:

<http://www.northayrshire.community/consultationsevents/consultations/>

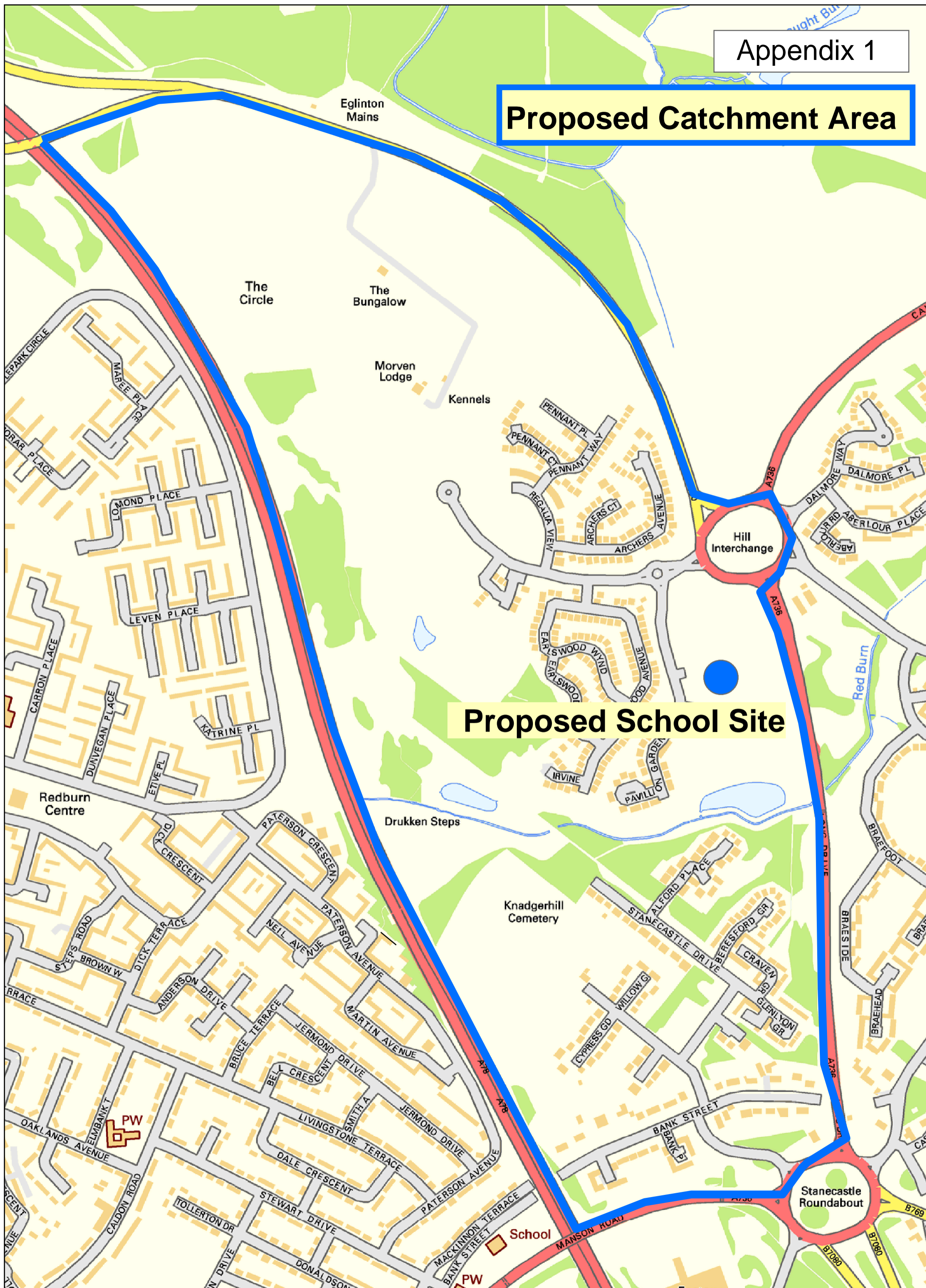
A copy of this document will be made available to all stakeholders associated with the schools affected by the proposal, including:

- Parents/Carers
- Parent Councils
- Headteachers
- Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff, including facilities management
- Local Elected Members for Irvine East
- Member of Parliament
- Member of Scottish Parliament
- Education Scotland
- Chief Executive, North Ayrshire Council
- Director (Growth and Investment) – North Ayrshire Council
- Director (Health and Social Care Partnership) – North Ayrshire Council
- Executive Director (Place) – North Ayrshire Council
- All NAC Heads of Service
- Community Planning Partnership Board
- Sub Division Commander, Police Scotland
- Area Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Chief Executive, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
- Community Councils (Irvine)
- Local Community Groups
- Trade Unions
 - Unison
 - EIS, Education Institute of Scotland
 - NASUWT
 - GMB
 - UNITE
 - VOICE

A copy of this Proposal Document is available to view at Bridgegate House, Irvine KA12 8BD.

Public notices have been placed in the Irvine Herald and Irvine Times.

Proposed Catchment Area



Projected Numbers of Catchment Pupils

Montgomery Park Area	Knadgerhill Area
481 existing homes + 582 planned homes = 1063 units in total	172 existing homes

Year	Projected Total Housing Unit Completions	Projected number of primary aged non-denominational pupils	Projected number of primary aged non-denominational pupils
2005-15	221*		
2016	287*		
2017	357*		
2018	447*	173*	
2019	481*	176*	28*
2020	481*	196*	19*
2021	481	196	20
2022	561	201	22
2023	636	209	24
2024	715	215	26
2025	791	238	28
2026	867	261	30
2027	897	270	32
2028	927	279	36
2029	957	288	34
2030	987	297	32
2031	1017	306	30
2032	1047	315	29
2033	1063	320	28
2034	1063	320	27

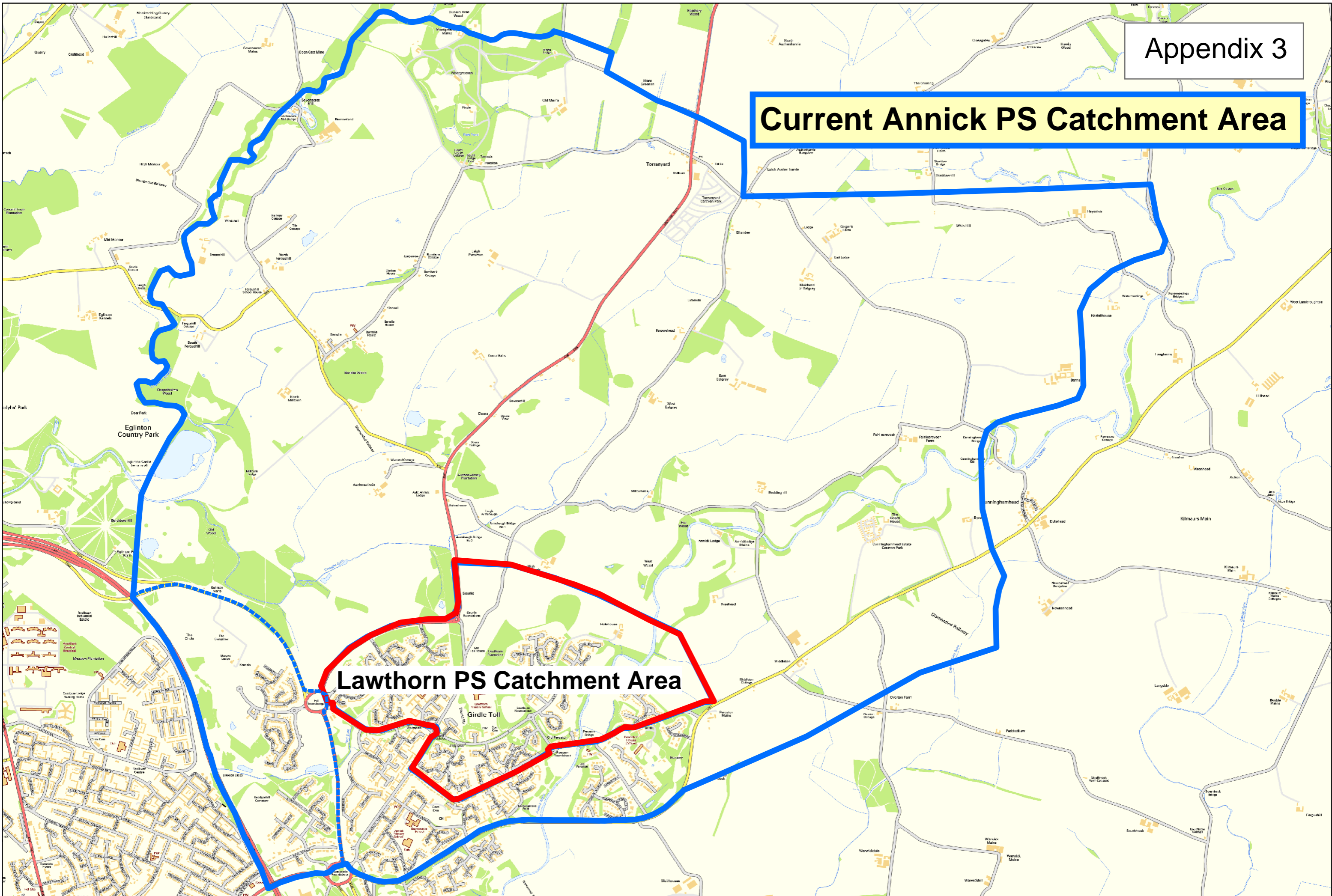
*Actual number

Assumptions:-

0.35 pupils per home, based on current pupil product for new homes at Montgomery Park
86:14 ratio of non-denominational to denominational pupils

Current Annick PS Catchment Area

Lawthorn PS Catchment Area



List of Affected Addresses

The addresses list below are properties which are registered with the Council as at March 2020 and will be directly affected by the proposals.

Knadgerhill

Street	Properties
Alford Place	All numbers 1 to 18
Bank Court	All numbers 1 to 6
Bank Place	All numbers 1 to 7
Bank Street	Even numbers 192 to 216 and odd numbers 223 to 257
Beresford Grove	All numbers 1 to 24
Cherry Gardens	All numbers 1 to 7
Chestnut Gardens	All numbers 1 to 7
Craven Grove	All numbers 1 to 20
Cypress Gardens	All numbers 1 to 14
Glenlyon Grove	All numbers 1 to 19
Stanecastle Drive	All numbers 1 to 11
Willow Gardens	All numbers 1 to 10

Montgomerie Park

Street	Properties
Archers Avenue	All number 1 to 50, even numbers 52 to 56
Archers Court	All numbers 1 to 12, 14, 16
Earl's Bridge Gardens	All numbers 1 to 10, even numbers 12 to 46
Earl's Bridge Place	All numbers 1 to 9, odd numbers 11 to 25
Earlswood Avenue	All number 1 to 57, add numbers 59 to 73
Earlswood View	All numbers 1 to 9, odd numbers 11 to 19
Earlswood Way	All number 1 to 4
Earlswood Wynd	All numbers 1 to 39, 41
Ladyacre Court	All numbers 1 to 14
Ladyacre Grove	All numbers 1 to 19, odd number 21 to 31
Ladyacre View	All numbers 1 to 9
Ladyacre Way	All numbers 1 to 21, odd numbers 23 to 37
Ladyacre Wynd	All numbers 1 to 34, odd numbers 35 to 49
Pavilion Gardens	All number 1 to 45
Pennant Court	All numbers 1 to 17
Pennant Place	All numbers 1 to 14, even numbers 16 to 26
Pennant Way	All numbers 1 to 14, even numbers 10 to 24
Regalia View	All numbers 1 to 20

A New Primary School for Irvine East Summary Timeline

Date(s)	Action
December 2019 to January 2020	Stakeholder engagement
17 March 2020	Approval to commence Statutory Public Consultation
22 December 2020	Seek approval for revised timeline and inclusion of Early Learning and Childcare
11 January to 2 March 2021	Statutory Public Consultation period
26 and 28 January 2021	Online information sessions for the public
3 March 2021	Provide Education Scotland with responses
24 March 2021	Receive report from Education Scotland
29 March 2021	Publish Consultation Outcome Report
27 April 2021	Seek Cabinet approval to proceed with proposal
May 2021	Notify Stakeholder Groups, (parents' councils, staff, etc) of outcome and next steps
By December 2021	Design and tender
January 2022 to July 2023	Build period
January 2023	Parents and carers invited to register children for the new school
January 2023	Registration – arrangements will be published
August 2023	New school opens



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Response Form
Irvine East - Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill Areas
Proposed New Non-Denominational Primary School with
Early Learning and Childcare Provision

Communities Directorate (Education)

Question 1

What is your main interest in the consultation? (please tick all items that apply):

Annick Primary School	Parent/Carer <input type="checkbox"/>	Staff <input type="checkbox"/>	Pupil <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Lawthorn Primary School	Parent/Carer <input type="checkbox"/>	Staff <input type="checkbox"/>	Pupil <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Irvine Royal Academy	Parent/Carer <input type="checkbox"/>	Staff <input type="checkbox"/>	Pupil <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify) _____

Question 2

Do you agree with the proposal to create a new non-denominational primary school, with early years provision, and catchment area for the Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill areas of Irvine and, to amend the catchment area for Annick Primary School?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Please give your reasons below:

Please provide your contact details so that we can respond directly to you, if necessary.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Date Completed: _____

Responses should be received no later than close of business on Tuesday 2 March 2021

Please contact 01294 324442 or email educ_consultation@north-ayrshire.gov.uk if you require further information or assistance in the completion of this form.

North Ayrshire Council, in line with our Data Protection responsibilities will only use the personal data provided for the sole purpose of evaluating your responses. The response submitted by you may form part of the response paper that will be submitted to the Council for consideration in the near future and will therefore be made available for public inspection.

Further information on how North Ayrshire Council manages your data can be found within our privacy policy at the following website: www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/privacy-policy.aspx

Should you wish any of your personal details (e.g. name, address, phone number, etc.), which you have included in your response, to be included in our published responses it is necessary for us to obtain your consent. Please indicate this by ticking the box below.

Yes, I consent ☐

**North Ayrshire Council
Communities and Education Directorate**

**Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill, Irvine
Proposed New Primary School with Early Learning and Childcare
Provision**



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

**Online Information Session for the Public – Meeting Note
6.30pm on Tuesday 26 January via Zoom**

Andrew McClelland opened the meeting at 6.32pm, welcoming the audience and thanking people for their attendance.

Andrew explained this new and different approach to consultation in the form of online meetings in place of face-to-face, as a result of ongoing COVID restrictions.

This meeting forms part of the formal consultation process to establish a new non-denominational primary school for Irvine East in line with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

Andrew asked the Council Officers to introduce themselves and explained that the officers would respond to any comments and questions that may arise:

Lynn Taylor, Senior Manager responsible for Resources and Infrastructure –remit to look after the Council's Learning Estate and ensure its fitness for purpose.

Robin Knox, Team Manager responsible for Education Infrastructure and **Claire Reid**, taking register and note of meeting.

Laurence Cree, Senior Manager and **Alan Martin**, Team Manager, North Ayrshire Council Property Management and Investment (PMI), responsible for delivering major capital projects

Gareth Picken, Regeneration Officer responsible for development around Montgomerie Park, dealing with matters that may arise outwith the school proposal

Attendees were asked to note their name and interest in the chat box for the sederunt. This was recorded by Claire Reid who advised that the meeting note will be published on the Council website as soon as possible after the second meeting is held.

Andrew outlined the ways that questions could be asked, using the chat box or raise hand facilities, and hoped that the audience would feel at ease to make comments or raise concerns.

Andrew then took the audience through the Powerpoint presentation, firstly setting out the proposal in line with Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010:

- (i) to establish a new non-denominational primary school with Early Learning and Childcare provision and catchment area for the Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill areas of Irvine from August 2023, and
- (ii) to amend the catchment area for Annick Primary School from January 2023, or such other date as may be necessary, to meet the registration requirements for pupils wishing to attend the new school.

An increase in population in Irvine East has resulted in a significant increase in the Annick Primary School roll over the last 5 years. Modular accommodation was installed there in 2018 to create capacity. Lawthorn Primary School also receive a number of placing requests from the Montgomerie Park area.

The new catchment area is proposed to come into effect from January 2023 as this is when registration takes place annually. It is important to confirm that pupils attending other schools will be able to remain there until the end of P7. However, it is hoped that some parents will transfer their children to the new school upon opening.

The proposed new school is additional to the current Learning Estate so it is expected that the roll will increase gradually over time, in parallel with a gradual decrease at Annick PS. This is a similar situation to the opening of Lawthorn Primary School in 2000. No other Irvine school rolls should be impacted by the new school opening.

The objectives of the meeting were to gather feedback, comments, questions in response to the proposal. The Act sets out a duty to engage with the public in any formal change proposals to education provision. Any major change is subject to consultation with parents. At least one public gathering would be held under normal circumstances, however as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, the Council will hold two online meetings in place of this arrangement. Andrew noted that there were some advantages to holding an online meeting:

- no need to restrict numbers (should there have been high demand to attend)
- families can participate together without leaving their home
- the chat box facility allows people to comment without having to speak in front of the audience

Andrew detailed the methods of contact for the public in respect of the consultation:

- The Shaping North Ayrshire website provides an opportunity to hear the views of others.
- The Council recognise that not all people can use, or have access to, the online world. In order for everyone to be offered the chance to have their say, other methods have been employed including a letter to each directly affected address and provision of a helpline (open 9am until 4.30pm Monday to Friday – 01294 324442), press, public notices and radio adverts (Irvine Beat FM).

Andrew asked attendees to let neighbours and friends know about all of the different ways available to get involved with the consultation.

Andrew then outlined details of the proposed facilities:

The proposed provision is a 12-class non-denominational primary school with Early Learning and Childcare provision for 32 3-5 year olds and 15 2-year olds. Andrew outlined the key educational benefits, which support continuous improvement and aim to secure the best life chances for the children of Irvine East:

- A high quality learning environment - investment in the school estate presents opportunities by maximising innovation in a 21st century learning environment.
- Well-being, inclusion and accessibility benefits of a new build school in a local area.
- To serve the local community – this new facility, well placed in a growing locality, will promote participatory approaches and provide opportunities for the community to come together.
- Outdoor learning – having Eglinton Park on the school doorstep will facilitate woodland walks and access to countryside rangers. There is also an excellent network of footpaths in the Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill areas. The building design will facilitate high quality indoor and outdoor learning.
- The project would ensure a greener and more sustainable environment. Sustainability will be a key objective in the construction of the new school, contributing to the Council's target of reducing our carbon footprint.

Andrew then showed an aerial view of proposed site, with a more detailed layout to follow, presented by Alan Martin, who explained that a school was planned for this part of the Montgomerie Park site since the initial site masterplan was produced in 2003. Alan thanked the group for the early opportunity to present information on the site and be involved at the outset of the proposal. Alan noted that PMI are interested in initial feedback from stakeholders in order to develop the new school design and that this project is a fantastic opportunity to create a brand new school on a blank canvas.

Alan outlined the history of the Montgomerie Park site – Irvine Development Corporation transferred the land to North Ayrshire Council in 1996. A masterplan was then developed with houses, residential and community facilities including a school. The Council approved this plan in 2003 and it was then updated in 2015. The Council's Local Development Plan also recognises a school as part of this site. The location is adjacent to Long Drive with a South aspect and excellent footpaths. Alan advised that this is a clear site with opportunities to promote access to outdoors, potentially directly from classrooms. The desktop information available on ground conditions is promising and a sustainable urban drainage system (SUDS) exists and has capacity for further development. The availability of utilities is currently good and this will be monitored as the housing development continues. Road infrastructure is in place, with turning heads into the school site. The Council's Regeneration Team will assist around future development opportunities and efficiencies to be gained in the future at the site.

Andrew then reiterated the various ways to respond to the consultation:

- Online at 'Shaping North Ayrshire' www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/mpschool
- By completing an online response form at <https://tinyurl.com/y5l2mn2d>
- By submitting a paper copy of the response form (these can be posted out on request)

- By emailing educ_consultation@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
- In writing, to the Head of Service (Education), Communities and Education Directorate, North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE

There is a consultation helpline available on 01294 324442. Staff will be available on this number from 9am until 4.30pm Monday to Friday to answer any questions and provide further information.

Andrew then invited Lynn Taylor to take the audience through the timeline and next steps. Lynn confirmed that the statutory public consultation ends on Tuesday 2 March. Lynn explained that Education Scotland are integral to the process and were represented at the meeting. The Council's consultation team will provide Education Scotland with all gathered responses on Wednesday 3 March and these will be used to produce a report on Education Scotland's findings on key focus areas and how the consultation was conducted. The Council will also develop a consultation (outcome) report to clearly set out its compliance with the legal process and will provide detail on any issues raised, providing responses to these.

Both reports will be published on Monday 29 March and the Council's Cabinet will meet on Tuesday 27 April to make a decision on whether the proposal should proceed. Should approval be forthcoming, the next stage is design development and the establishment of a stakeholder reference group. Representatives from Annick and Lawthorn Primary Schools and Irvine Royal will be invited, along with representatives of residents of Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill. Thereafter, we will undertake engagements to specify the design. This will be produced with the project tender planned for December 2021. School registration is planned for January 2023 with an opening date of August 2023.

Lynn advised that the Proposal Document contains much more detail and the audience were encouraged to read this. Education prides itself on a good track record of high quality new school buildings within its learning estate and the significant difference this makes to our young people and their life chances. Lynn listed the following new build projects to illustrate this point:

- New Lockhart Campus, Stevenston
- Garnock Community Campus
- Largs Community Campus
- Future Ardrossan Campus
- Replacement Moorpark Primary School
- Extension to Annick Primary School to replace Stanecastle Early Learning and Childcare Provision

Andrew asked for the helpline number to be displayed and opened the meeting to questions and comments from the audience.

Enquiry: Thank you for the information regarding the new school proposal, which I think sounds very positive. Given a number of schools in North Ayrshire are also used as community venues and recreational facilities (e.g. Dalry Primary, Garnock Community Campus, Largs Campus, Stanley Primary, etc), I wondered if consideration has been given to how the school

building might be utilised out with of normal school hours for the benefit of the local community?

Response: The Council will establish a stakeholder reference group and engage with this group on design development. One of its aims will be to understand demand for community space and facilities, taking account of other available community assets. The stakeholder reference group will help to shape the design and optimise use of the building.

Enquiry: Is there a chance the school will be built in phases – will the whole building open in August 2023?

Response: This is the key target date and the project plan provides a path toward this date, taking account of known risk factors at this time. The last year has provided lessons on how projects can be delayed, however, at the present time the plan shows that the school can be delivered and operational by August 2023.

Enquiry: Will Montgomerie Park residents get priority with the new nursey and school?

Response: Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill form the catchment area for the new school and, therefore, children resident in these areas will register here and take priority. There are no catchment areas for early years provision and the admissions process takes place in February each year. The Early Learning and Childcare places at the new school are in addition to those available in Irvine and should be sufficient to satisfy demand across this area.

There were no further questions or comments. Lynn encouraged attendees to submit responses, positive or negative and advised that a note of the meeting will be issued to all in attendance.

Andrew gave his thanks and closed the meeting.

**North Ayrshire Council
Communities and Education Directorate**

**Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill, Irvine
Proposed New Primary School with Early Learning and Childcare
Provision**



**Online Information Session for the Public – Meeting Note
6.30pm on Thursday 28 January via Zoom**

Andrew McClelland opened the meeting at 6.31pm, welcoming the audience and thanking people for their attendance.

Andrew explained this new and different approach to consultation in the form of online meetings in place of face-to-face, as a result of ongoing COVID restrictions.

This meeting forms part of the formal consultation process to establish a new non-denominational primary school for Irvine east in line with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

Andrew asked the Council officers to introduce themselves and explained that the officers would respond to any comments and questions that may arise:

Lynn Taylor, Senior Manager responsible for Resources and Infrastructure – part of this remit is to look after the Council's Learning Estate and ensure its fitness for purpose.

Claire Reid and **Claire Tombs**, taking register and note of meeting

Laurence Cree, Senior Manager and **Alan Martin**, Property Management and Investment (PMI), responsible for delivering major capital projects

Gareth Picken, Regeneration Officer responsible for all Mont Park matters that may arise outwith the school proposal.

Attendees were asked to please note their name and interest in the chat box for the sederunt. The meeting note will be published on the Council website as soon as possible after the second meeting is held.

Andrew outlined the ways that questions could be asked, using the chat box or raise hand facilities, and hoped that the audience would feel at ease to make comments or raise concerns.

Andrew then took the audience through the Powerpoint presentation, firstly setting out the proposal in line with Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010:

- (i) to establish a new non-denominational primary school with Early Learning and Childcare provision and catchment area for the Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill areas of Irvine from August 2023, and

- (ii) to amend the catchment area for Annick Primary School from January 2023, or such other date as may be necessary, to meet the registration requirements for pupils wishing to attend the new school.

An increase in population in Irvine East has resulted in a significant increase in the Annick Primary School roll over the last 5 years. Modular accommodation was installed there in 2018 to create capacity. Lawthorn Primary School also receive a number of placing requests from the Montgomerie Park area.

The new catchment area is proposed to come into effect from January 2023 as this is when registration takes place annually. It is important to confirm that pupils attending other schools will be able to remain there until the end of P7. However, it is hoped that some parents will transfer their children to the new school upon opening.

The proposed new school is additional to the current Learning Estate so it is expected that the roll will increase gradually over time, in parallel with a gradual decrease at Annick PS. This is a similar situation to the opening of Lawthorn Primary School in 2000. No other Irvine school rolls should be impacted by the new school opening.

The objectives of this meeting are to gather feedback, comments, questions in response to our proposal. The Act sets out our duty to engage with the public in any formal change proposals to education provision. Any major change is subject to consultation with parents. At least one public gathering would be held under normal circumstances, however as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, the Council will hold two online meetings in place of this arrangement. There are some advantages to holding online meeting:

- no need to restrict numbers (should there have been high demand to attend)
- families can participate at home, together without leaving their home
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Shaping North Ayrshire provides an opportunity to hear the views of others. The Council recognise that not all people can use, or have access to, the online world. In order for everyone to be offered the chance to have their say, other methods have been employed including a letter to each directly affected address and the helpline (open 9am until 4.30pm Monday to Friday – 01294 324442), press, public notices and radio adverts (Irvine Beat FM). Andrew asked attendees to let neighbours and friends know about all of the different ways available to get involved with the consultation.

The proposed provision is a 12-class non-denomination primary school with Early Learning and Childcare provision for 32 3-5 year olds and 15 2-year olds. Andrew outlined the key educational benefits, which support continuous improvement and aim to secure the best life chances for the children of Irvine East:

- A high quality learning environment - investment in the school estate presents opportunities by maximising innovation in a 21st century learning environment.

- Well-being, inclusion and accessibility benefits of a new build school in a local area.
- To serve the local community – this new facility, well placed in a growing locality, will promote participatory approaches and provide opportunities for the community to come together.
- Outdoor learning – having Eglinton Park on the school doorstep will facilitate woodland walks and access to countryside rangers. There is also an excellent network of footpaths in the Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill areas. The building design will facilitate high quality indoor and outdoor learning.
- The project would ensure a greener and more sustainable environment. Sustainability will be a key objective in the construction of the new school, contributing to the Council's target of reducing our carbon footprint.

Andrew then showed an aerial view of proposed site, with a more detailed layout to follow, presented by Alan Martin, who explained that a school was planned for this part of the Montgomerie Park site since the initial site masterplan was produced in 2003. Alan thanked the group for the early opportunity to present information on the site and be involved at an this consultation stage. PMI are interested in initial feedback from stakeholders in order to develop the new school design. Here is a fantastic opportunity to create a brand new school on a blank canvas.

Alan outlined the history of the Montgomerie Park site – Irvine Development Corporation transferred the land to North Ayrshire Council in 1996. A masterplan was then developed with houses, residential and community facilities including a school. The Council approved this plan in 2003 and it was then updated in 2015. The Council's Local Development Plan also recognises a school as part of this site. The location is adjacent to Long Drive with a South aspect and excellent footpaths. This is a clear site with opportunities to promote access to outdoors, potentially directly from classrooms. The desktop information available on ground conditions is promising. A sustainable urban drainage system (SUDS) exists and has capacity for further development. The availability of utilities is currently good and this will be monitored as the housing development continues. Road infrastructure is in place, with turning heads into the school site. The Council's Regeneration Team will assist around future development opportunities and efficiencies to be gained in the future at the site.

Andrew then reiterated the various ways to respond to the consultation:

- Online at 'Shaping North Ayrshire' www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/mpschool
- By completing an online response form at <https://tinyurl.com/y5l2mn2d>
- By submitting a paper copy of the response form (these can be posted out on request)
- By emailing educ_consultation@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
- In writing, to the Head of Service (Education), Communities and Education Directorate, North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE

There is a consultation helpline available on 01294 324442. Staff will be available on this number from 9am until 4.30pm Monday to Friday to answer any questions and provide further information.

Andrew then invited Lynn Taylor to take the audience through the timeline and next steps. Lynn confirmed that the statutory public consultation ends on Tuesday 2 March. Lynn explained that Education Scotland are integral to the process and were represented at the meeting. The Council's consultation team will provide Education Scotland with all gathered responses on Wednesday 3 March and these will be used to produce a report on Education Scotland's findings on key focus areas and how the consultation was conducted. The Council will also develop a consultation (outcome) report to clearly set out its compliance with the legal process and will provide detail on any issues raised, providing responses to these.

Both reports will be published on Monday 29 March and the Council's Cabinet will meet on Tuesday 27 April to make a decision on whether the proposal should proceed. Assuming approval is given, the next stage is design development and the establishment of a stakeholder reference group. Representatives from Annick and Lawthorn Primary Schools and Irvine Royal will be invited, along with representatives of residents of Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill. Thereafter, we will undertake engagements to specify the design. This will be produced with tender planned for December 2021. School registration is planned for January 2023 with an opening date of August 2023.

The Proposal Document contains much more detail and the audience were encouraged to read this. Education prides itself on a good track record of high quality new school buildings within its learning estate. The difference this makes to our young people and their life chances can be clearly seen. Lynn listed the following new build projects to illustrate this point:

- New Lockhart Campus, Stevenston
- Garnock Community Campus
- Largs Community Campus
- Future Ardrossan Campus
- Replacement Moorpark Primary School
- Extension to Annick Primary School to replace Stanecastle Early Learning and Childcare Provision

These are all fit for purpose and fit for the future.

Andrew asked for the helpline number to be displayed and opened the meeting to questions and comments from the audience.

Comment: I am delighted that North Ayrshire is making this capital investment in this area of Irvine. Lawthorn Primary School was the last example of such investment and I would be interested in denominational expansion too.

Enquiry: The proposed Early Learning and Childcare provision is quite small in terms of its numbers. Given the expansion to 1140 hours, do we know the attendance pattern yet? This will impact on other aspects, eg traffic management, etc.

Response: This school is the first brand new additional provision in the area since Lawthorn Primary, however, Elderbank Primary School opened in 2014, bringing together 3 existing schools, and is an excellent design.

The project team would love to showcase this provision to prospective parents, carers and residents to let them understand our thinking around education provision. With regard to early years provision, the Council is in the last stage of rolling out the 1140 hours expansion (delayed from 2020 to August 2021). Current plans are for the new Early Learning and Childcare provision to be open from 8am until 6pm Monday to Friday. The project team will continue to work with the early years team to ensure that this is fit for purpose.

Enquiry: What are the plans around community use of the new building? Local residents will agree there is little in terms of sport and recreation other than the MUGA (multi-use games area).

Response: A similar question was asked at Tuesday's meeting. The Council will establish a stakeholder reference group and engage with this group on design development. One of its aims will be to understand demand for community space and facilities, taking account of other available community assets. The stakeholder reference group will help to shape the design and optimise use of the building.

Enquiry: Is there scope to partner with KA Leisure?

Response: This is a possibility and would be determined throughout the ongoing community engagement.

Comment: There is a golden opportunity here to create a community focus.

Comment: I am delighted about the proposal, especially as the new school has been planned for many years. I understand concerns from the Annick and Lawthorn primary school communities in terms of the impact on their school rolls, but I believe there are enough children in the area to sustain all 3 primary schools. There is a massive appetite for more local and easier to access community facilities for young people and adults.

Enquiry: Could the new school opening date be delayed?

Response: This is the key target date and the project plan provides a path toward this date, taking account of known risk factors at this time. The last year has provided lessons on how projects can be delayed, however, at the present time the plan shows that the school can be delivered and operational by August 2023. There is governance to monitor project progress and programme. We have identified risks and contingencies as part of the process. Any change or deviation will be taken through the appropriate channels and this information will be shared with stakeholders.

Enquiry: I have a child starting school in August 2022 and a younger child. Will this result in attendance at 2 different schools?

Response: The Council wants this process to work for parents. Every parent/carer of 2 children would wish them to attend the same school. Let's say your older child registers at Annick Primary School in August 2022, then your catchment area changes in January 2023. The first option is to register

both children for the new school or, if you want them both to attend Annick Primary, you will make a placing request. As your younger child has a sibling already there, your application will be prioritised before those who do not have an older sibling at the school.

Enquiry: Does the Council plan closed or open plan classroom provision?

Response: Our design process has not yet reached that stage, however, we have a long history of building design and lessons learned. Fully open plan design has been reviewed over time and can create a 'barn' effect. We work with the Scottish Futures Trust to learn about best practice across Europe and Scotland. The best learning we have found is from our own developments and listening to our young people and staff. Closed classrooms are not planned, but a semi-open plan approach seems to offer best experience, however, there is no standard design for this. Our designs are started afresh each time. We would like to showcase previous projects to give a flavour of the preferred approach. Some schools inherited from Strathclyde Regional Council were open plan and partitions have been installed in many of these. Design standards change and PMI remain abreast of these (eg acoustics, lighting, ventilation). The aim is to create the very best environments for all building users.

Comment: The surrounding environment is key to those diagnosed with autism and the right space is important in order for deep, purposeful and meaningful learning to take place.

PMI stated that the design will be developed in partnership with the school community and Education colleagues. This project is slightly different as there is no existing cohort of children. Teaching and learning will lead the design.

Lynn then asked for any feedback to be submitted, whether negative or positive. Meeting attendance numbers have been relatively low both nights. We would appreciate attendees talking to neighbours and other residents about how they can engage. We need to understand concerns and would like to hear all types of feedback, which will be published in the report.

Andrew closed the meeting.

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by North Ayrshire Council to establish a new non-denominational primary school with early learning and childcare provision and catchment area for the Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill areas of Irvine East and, to amend the catchment area for Annick Primary School.

March 2021

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of North Ayrshire Council's proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school with early learning and childcare provision and catchment area for the Montgomerie Park and Knadgerhill areas of Irvine East and, to amend the catchment area for Annick Primary School. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the settings; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the virtual public meetings held on 26 January 2021 and 28 January 2021 in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- virtual visits to the sites of Annick Primary School, Lawthorn Primary School and Irvine Royal Academy, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

2.1 North Ayrshire Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#).

2.2 The consultation ran from 11 January to 2 March 2021. Parents and staff from Annick and Lawthorn Primary Schools welcome the early involvement in the consultation process of their Parent Councils by North Ayrshire Council. Public meetings were held on 26 and 28 January 2021. In total, 26 people responded to the online consultation, including one email. Of the 26 respondents, 22 were in favour of the proposal and four were not. North Ayrshire Council also conducted an informal consultation with children at Lawthorn and Annick Primary Schools. Of the 66 responses received 51 were in favour of the proposal and 15 were not in favour. Young people

at Irvine Royal Academy were invited to complete an online response form. One response was received from a pupil at Irvine Royal Academy and this is included in the total of 26 respondents. Reasons for supporting the proposal included relieving pressure on capacity and resources at Annick and Lawthorn Primary Schools, including reducing class sizes and making social and learning spaces more readily available. Those in favour also welcomed the sense of identity a new school could bring to the community. The main reason for opposing the proposal related to traffic management around the Montgomerie Park area.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 New housing developments within the Irvine East area have resulted in an increase in the local population. This has resulted in accommodation pressures at local schools, particularly Annick Primary School. The proposal seeks to ensure that there are sufficient school places for the Irvine East area to meet projected demand and to address capacity issues. This will provide catchment schools for catchment children with all schools having viable and sustainable rolls.

3.2 North Ayrshire Council has set out a comprehensive case for the proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school and implement catchment changes to address school capacity and accommodation pressures in Irvine East. The proposal recognises pressures as a result of planned housing developments in the Irvine East area. Children attending the new school in Montgomerie Park will benefit from a modern, state of the art learning environment. The new school will promote creative and engaging teaching approaches and offer facilities that will encourage further health and wellbeing and outdoor learning. North Ayrshire Council also recognise the potential for community use and plan to involve community members at the planning stage through a stakeholder reference group. This has the potential to provide opportunities for local groups, supporting the growth of community identity, therefore bringing benefits to the community beyond the school.

3.3 All parents, staff and children from Lawthorn Primary School, Annick Primary School and Irvine Royal Academy who met with HM Inspectors were supportive of the proposals. They were of the view that the existing primary schools do not have the capacity to accommodate the increasing numbers of children that the Montgomerie Park housing developments will generate over time. The proposal is therefore viewed as sensible and inevitable. Staff and parents at both primary schools recognise the potential impact that losing children and families to the new school may have on their existing positive ethos. The local authority should continue to work with parents of young people at Irvine Royal Academy who expressed concerns about resourcing, should the school roll increase.

3.4 The new primary school includes provision of early learning and childcare, for eligible children, from age two years. This has the potential to provide continuity in progression and learning for children to the end of primary school. The school will be part of the Irvine Royal Academy cluster of schools. The headteacher of Irvine Royal Academy is very keen to establish strong transition arrangements and programmes with the new school to ensure continuity in learning and successful outcomes for all.

3.5 Parents, children and staff who spoke with HM Inspectors indicated that providing a school in the Montgomerie Park area could potentially reduce car use. A school within their local community will allow children to walk, cycle or scoot to school which has potential health and environmental benefits. The proposed site offers easy access to Eglinton Park, which will readily support outdoor learning, also contributing to health and wellbeing.

4. Summary

North Ayrshire Council's proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school and implement catchment changes is well considered and has clear educational benefits. The proposal addresses school accommodation pressures as a result of new and planned housing in the Irvine East Area. Children attending the new school in Montgomerie Park will benefit from a modern, state of the art learning environment, which facilitates outdoor learning and encourages health and wellbeing. In taking forward the proposal, the council should ensure the stakeholder reference group is fully involved, along with school staff, in planning facilities that have the optimum benefit for all. This will support community identity and secure links between the school, local residents and groups as the area grows and develops.

HM Inspectors
March 2021