

# STIRLING COUNCIL

**THIS REPORT RELATES  
TO ITEM  
ON THE AGENDA**

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**STIRLING COUNCIL**

**EDUCATION SERVICES**

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**11 APRIL 1996**

**NOT EXEMPT**

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## **PROPOSED CLOSURE OF ARNPRIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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### **Purpose of Report**

The attached report is a consultative document which proposes the closure of Arnprior Primary School and the transfer of pupils to Buchlyvie.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Council agrees to adopt that:-

- (i) Arnprior Primary School be closed with effect from 28 April 1996.
- (ii) The pupils of Arnprior Primary School transfer to Buchlyvie Primary School from the start of session 1996/97.

It is also recommended that:-

- (iii) This report be issued as a consultative document and made available to all interested parties.
- (iv) Public meetings are arranged in the schools by the Director of Education Services to explain the reasons for the proposal and hear the views of the community.
- (v) All interested parties, including relevant school boards, are invited to make written comments on the proposals to Gordon Jeyes, Director of Education Services, Stirling Council, Viewforth, Stirling, FK8 2ET no later than Wednesday 15 May 1996.
- (vi) The Director of Education Services prepare a report on the consultation for consideration at a future meeting of the Council.
- (vii) It is further recommended that, should the proposal be agreed, the Director will report to the Children's Committee on proposals to enhance facilities at Buchlyvie Primary School.

**Gordon Jeyes  
Director of Education Services**

**STIRLING COUNCIL  
EDUCATION SERVICES**

**CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

**Report by Director of Education Services**

**CLOSURE OF ARNPRIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**This document has been issued by Stirling Council for consultation in terms of the Education (Publication and Consultation etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 and Amended Regulations 1987 and 1988.**

## **Stirling Council Education Services**

**This is a consultative document**

### **CLOSURE OF ARNPRIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The past decade has seen a significant reduction, nationally, in the primary school population without a corresponding reduction in the costs of running and maintaining school buildings.
- 1.2 This means that an increased proportion of schools budgets is spent on vacant pupil places rather than on education of the children who are in attendance, leading to increased unit costs per pupil without educational advantage.
- 1.3 Closure or amalgamation of schools can bring benefits of better value for money, provision of improved resources and facilities, better curricular and extracurricular opportunities and the redirection of money saved to upgrade buildings to meet modern curricular requirements.
- 1.4 These considerations have led Stirling Council to examine the possible closure of Arnprior Primary School.

#### **2 PRESENT SITUATION**

- 2.1 **Arnprior Primary School** consists of an attached school house (now sold and under renovation by the owner) and a school hall (formerly the classroom of the 1875 building and now used by the school and the community). There is a 1959 wooden extension providing 2 classrooms, staff room, office, toilet and kitchen accommodation. The school has one class of 12 pupils and a capacity for 50 pupils.
- 2.2 The position of the school and its delineated area are shown in the map in Appendix A.
- 2.3 The school is in good decorative order and is wind and water tight. The future of wooden buildings is less permanent than stone structures. Electrical rewiring has been completed recently.
- 2.4 **Buchlyvie Primary School** is 2.5 miles from Arnprior Primary School. It consists of the original 1876 classrooms, now serving as the school hall; another classroom in the 1908 extension to the original school, together with ancillary accommodation. A separate wooden building at the rear comprises 2 classrooms and a toilet block. In addition to its own tarmac playground the school is adjacent to a children's playground and a football field. The general condition of the building is similar to that of Arnprior Primary. The capacity of the school is 75 pupils and there are currently 43 pupils on the roll.
- 2.5 The position of the school and its delineated area are shown on the map in Appendix B.

### **3 PROJECTED ROLLS**

3.1	Year	Arnprior	Buchlyvie	Total
	1996/97	11	45	56
	1997/98	10	47	57
	1998/99	11	52	63
	1999/00	10	56	66
	2000/01	9	58	67

3.2 No new housing is anticipated at Arnprior. There are proposals to allocate a site for 20 new houses in Buchlyvie. In due course, if the houses are built, they could increase the projections by several more children but without resulting in overcrowding.

### **4 EDUCATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

4.1 Present provision at Arnprior is based in similar accommodation to that in Buchlyvie and the school is well resourced and supported by visiting teachers of music, art, craft, physical education and learning support. The headteacher has promoted links and joint activities with neighbouring schools for sports events and educational visits, and it is recognised that much good teaching and learning goes on there. A large school can however provide greater opportunity for social interaction with children of the same age, improved opportunities for group activity and discussion, and through economies of scale an increased range of materials and equipment.

### **5 PROPOSAL**

5.1 Against this background of overcapacity and balance of educational advantage it is proposed that Arnprior primary school be closed on 28 June 1996 and the pupils transferred to Buchlyvie Primary School from the start of session 1996/97.

### **6 CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROPOSAL**

6.1 Employees – the closure of Arnprior Primary School will have implications for teaching and support staff. All staff will be consulted about their future as will the appropriate trade unions. The particular wishes of members of staff will be taken into account.

6.2 The staffing complement of Buchlyvie would increase to meet the increased pupil roll.

6.3 Free transport will be provided for existing Arnprior pupils to Buchlyvie Primary School until they leave. Thereafter the policies in force at the time will apply.

6.4 No change is required in arrangements for secondary education resulting from the closure.

## **7 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 The estimated net annual savings of the proposal would be £32,005 in a full financial year, £25,500 in the first part year. (For details see Appendix C).

If the proposals are agreed the Director of Education Services will report to the Children's Committee on proposals to enhance facilities at Buchlyvie Primary School which would reduce these savings in part.

## **8 FUTURE USE OF THE BUILDING**

- 8.1 Education Services have no proposals for the continuing use of the Arnprior building and would declare it surplus to requirements. It may be that the community of Arnprior would wish, with grant aid, to continue to operate the building to accommodate community meetings, country dancing, keep fit, etc.

## **9 DATE OF PROPOSED CLOSURE**

- 9.1 It is proposed that the closure of Arnprior Primary School, if agreed, takes place from the end of session 1995/96 on 28 June 1996.

## **10 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 It is recommended that the Council adopt the proposal that:-

- (i) Arnprior Primary School be closed with effect from 28 June 1996
- (ii) The pupils of Arnprior Primary School transfer to Buchlyvie Primary School from the start of session 1996/97.

- 10.2 It is also recommended that:-

- (i) This report be issued as a consultative document and made available to all interested parties.
- (ii) Public meetings be arranged in the schools by the Director of Education Services to explain the reasons for the proposals and hear the views of the community.
- (iii) All interested parties, including the relevant school boards, are invited to make written comments on the proposals to Gordon Jeyes, Director of Education Services, Stirling Council, Viewforth, Stirling, FK8 2ET **no later than Wednesday 15 May 1996.**
- (iv) The Director of Education Services prepare a report on the results of the consultation for consideration at a future meeting of the Council.

- 10.3 It is also recommended that, should the proposal be agreed, the Director of Education Services will report to the Children's Committee on proposals to enhance facilities at Buchlyvie Primary School.
- 11 In terms of the Education (Publication and Consultation etc) (Scotland) Regulations the implementation of this proposal does not require the consent of the Secretary of State. The local Member of Parliament will be consulted as an interested party.

**Gordon Jeyes**  
**Director of Education Services**

**27 March 1996**

## Financial Implications of the Closure of Arnprior Primary School

### Projected Savings

	1996/97		Annually Thereafter	
	£		£	
Staff Costs	(15,340)	Note	(25,540)	Note
Property Costs	(7,710)		(12,340)	
Avoidance of planned double glazing programme	(7,000)			
	<b>(30,050)</b>		<b>(36,880)</b>	
<b>Less:</b>				
Additional transport costs	3,050		4,875	
Cost of removing and transferring equipment	1,500			
<b>Net projected savings</b>	<b>(25,500)</b>		<b>(32,005)</b>	

Note: Projected savings take account of increased staff allocations reflecting increased roll consequent of pupils transferring to Buchlyvie Primary School.

### Capital Receipts

No capital receipt is anticipated if the property is to become a local community asset. £40,000 could be achieved by sale assuming no legal restriction on title.