



EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

**OCTOBER 2019**

**PROPOSAL DOCUMENT**

**PETERHEAD COMMUNITY CAMPUS**

**RELOCATION OF PETERHEAD ACADEMY**

## **Proposal for the future provision of secondary education in the Peterhead area**

### **SUMMARY PROPOSAL**

**It is proposed that:**

**Education provision at the existing Peterhead Academy should be discontinued with effect from July 2025;**

**Pupils of the existing Peterhead Academy and future pupils from the Peterhead Academy catchment areas should continue their education at a new Peterhead Community Campus located at Kinmundy Road, Peterhead from August 2025.**

This document has been issued by Aberdeenshire Council in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

The schools affected by this proposal are:

- Peterhead Academy

### **DISTRIBUTION**

A copy of this document is available on the Aberdeenshire Council website: [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk), or by e-mail at [LearningEstates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:LearningEstates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

This document will be provided to:

- Parent Councils of Peterhead Academy and the cluster primary schools
- Parents of pupils at Peterhead Academy and the cluster primary schools
- Pupils at Peterhead Academy and the cluster primary schools
- Teaching and ancillary staff at Peterhead Academy
- Trade union representatives of the above staff
- Boddam Community Council
- Buchan East Community Council
- Cruden Community Council
- Longside and District Community Council
- Peterhead Community Council
- Relevant users of Peterhead Academy
- Education Scotland

A copy of this document is also available from:

- Buchan House
- Peterhead Library
- Peterhead Leisure and Community Centre
- Peterhead Academy

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Aberdeenshire Council strives to allocate its resources in a way that ensures the quality of all of its services. It attaches particular importance to providing the best possible educational experience for all of the pupils in its schools.
- 1.2 The Council's aims for its Education & Children's Services are:
  - the building of capacity
  - the realisation of potential
  - the achievement of excellence
- 1.3 In order to fulfil the above vision it is necessary to adapt to changing circumstances. It is essential that the Council regularly reviews the pattern of educational provision across all establishments, with a particular focus on school rolls, accommodation and quality of education.
- 1.4 At the full meeting of Aberdeenshire Council on 8 February 2018 a replacement community campus at Peterhead was agreed for the Aberdeenshire Council's Capital Plan and at its meeting on 27 June 2019 the site at Kinmundy was approved.
- 1.5 This proposal document is focussed upon Peterhead Academy. Located within the Buchan area of Aberdeenshire, Peterhead Academy is classed as Not Rural by the Scottish Government.
- 1.6 This consultation focuses solely upon the relocation of Peterhead Academy. Other elements of the campus will be subject to separate consultations.
- 1.7 This proposal does not impact upon primary provision at Boddam School, Buchanhaven School, Burnhaven School, Clerkhill School, Dales Park School, Longhaven School (currently mothballed), Meethill School, Peterhead Central School, Port Erroll School, St Fergus School and a special school provision at Anna Ritchie School.

## **2 Reason for Proposal**

- 2.1 Secondary education for the Peterhead area is currently provided at Peterhead Academy. The original building was built in 1891 with some extensions added over the years and the second block built in the 1980s.
- 2.2 The capacity of the Academy is 1700 with a current roll of 1144 (SEEMIS extract as of 2 September 2019).
- 2.3 The existing Peterhead Academy building is scored C under both, condition and suitability, as outlined in the Core Facts returns that go to

the Scottish Government as part of Aberdeenshire Councils School Estate Management Plan.

- 2.4 A number of options for replacing Peterhead Academy have been explored, which has involved a number of possible locations.
- 2.5 Following a number of meetings held with the public in previous years another two public drop-in sessions were held in February and March 2019. The meetings were well attended, with around 400 parents, staff, councillors and members of the community present. The members of the public had an opportunity to complete questionnaires, exit polls and comment sheets. Officers within Education & Children's Services have carefully considered all of the responses to the consultation and have made a recommendation in the report.
- 2.6 The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 requires that when a school is to be relocated then a consultation must be undertaken with all relevant stakeholders. This is because in practice the old school must close in order for the new school to open.

### **3 Details of the Proposal**

- 3.1 The council proposes that education provision at the current Peterhead Academy at Prince Street in Peterhead be discontinued with effect from July 2025 and that from August 2025 pupils continue their education at the new Peterhead Community Campus which will be located at Kinmundy Road in Peterhead.
- 3.2 The new Peterhead Community Campus will be built with sufficient capacity for secondary pupils, based upon school roll forecasts; with shared facilities and with sufficient core areas that additional accommodation could be provided for future roll increase should this be required.
- 3.3 The catchment area for Peterhead Academy will not change with the new location. All pupils currently zoned to the school would continue to be zoned to the school and would attend the new Peterhead Community Campus.
- 3.4 Pupils living outwith 3 miles of their zoned secondary school would have an entitlement to school transport.
- 3.5 The current capacity and predicted rolls for Peterhead Academy, based on the September 2018 census data, are shown in Table 1 below. These figures are the published 2018 School Roll Forecasts figures which can be found on the Aberdeenshire Council website at the following web address:  
<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/admissions/school-roll-forecasts/>

| School            | Capacity | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
|-------------------|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Peterhead Academy | 1700     | 1182 | 1205 | 1265 | 1282 | 1356 | 1430 | 1454 | 1444 |

3.6 The school roll forecast information shown in Table 1 takes into account all housing allocated in Local Development Plan. Table 2 below identifies approved housing developments within the current Peterhead Academy catchment area (HLA extract as of 5 September 2019).

| Location                           | Settlement | Total Units | 5 Year Effective | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Land at Rocksley Drive             | Boddam     | 11          | 11               | 3    | 4    | 4    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Mains of Boddam Caravan Site       | Boddam     | 5           | 0                | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Former Officers Mess RAF Buchan    | Boddam     | 21          | 10               | 0    | 5    | 5    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Land at Buchan Braes               | Boddam     | 31          | 0                | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Lendrum Terrace                    | Boddam     | 5           | 3                | 0    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 0    |
| Brick & Tile Works                 | Cruden Bay | 220         | 0                | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Land at Aulton Road                | Cruden Bay | 200         | 100              | 0    | 30   | 15   | 40   | 15   | 15   | 15   | 15   |
| South of Aulton Road               | Cruden Bay | 41          | 0                | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Land Adjacent to Longhaven School  | Longhaven  | 30          | 0                | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Inverugie Meadows/Howe Of Buchan   | Peterhead  | 365         | 27               | 25   | 2    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Land at West Road (Sovereign Gate) | Peterhead  | 225         | 140              | 20   | 30   | 30   | 30   | 30   | 30   | 30   | 6    |
| Upper Grange                       | Peterhead  | 334         | 49               | 23   | 26   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Land At Richmond Farm              | Peterhead  | 129         | 5                | 5    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| 58 Windmill Street                 | Peterhead  | 17          | 17               | 17   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Wester Clerkhill                   | Peterhead  | 248         | 231              | 71   | 40   | 40   | 40   | 40   | 17   | 0    | 0    |
| Inverugie Meadows                  | Peterhead  | 1265        | 70               | 0    | 0    | 0    | 35   | 35   | 35   | 35   | 35   |
| Land at The Park                   | Rora       | 6           | 0                | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Kirktown/School Road               | St Fergus  | 55          | 9                | 1    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| South Of Newton Road               | St Fergus  | 55          | 16               | 0    | 4    | 4    | 4    | 4    | 4    | 5    | 0    |
| Land to SW of St Fergus            | St Fergus  | 6           | 4                | 0    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 0    |

3.7 The locations of the existing Peterhead Academy and the proposed Peterhead Community Campus are shown in the map below.



#### 4 Educational Benefit Statement

4.1 Aberdeenshire Council is committed to delivering entitlements to learners in the 21st century according to Curriculum for Excellence. The new modern community campus will be a signal to the whole community how Aberdeenshire Council values 21st century learning and it will represent best value through the effective and efficient use of Council resources.

- 4.2 The curriculum will provide the opportunity for learners to achieve across all curricular areas and develop skills, attributes and capabilities through courses aligned with the design principles of Curriculum for Excellence: challenge and enjoyment, breadth, progression, depth, personalisation and choice, coherence and relevance.
- 4.3 The new building could adapt to future learning requirements and the design process will ensure that all spaces support the learning and teaching styles of the 21st Century.
- 4.4 The suitability of the new school building is at the heart of the design process. It should be an attractive place to learn that inspires pupils to engage with the curriculum.
- 4.5 The condition of the new building will be a significant improvement on the current school, making the environment more attractive to learners.
- 4.6 The new campus will provide a high quality learning environment offering greater flexibility for all school activities. Children and young people will be supported by a broad range of opportunities for personal achievement and interdisciplinary learning across all curriculum areas and subjects.
- 4.7 The new campus will benefit from design practices which support the varied range of teaching environments that best deliver learning. The shared flexible learning and teaching spaces will enable staff to work together in a collaborative manner and provide more opportunities for co-operative working between pupils.
- 4.8 Spaces for learning will be designed in such a way as to allow a range of teaching styles and approaches including active learning, interdisciplinary learning and outdoor learning. New and flexible learning environments inspire pupils and have a positive impact on the general health and wellbeing of learners. They can also increase aspirations, attainment, achievement and positive destinations beyond school. This is evidenced through improving trends in attainment and achievement of our young people.
- 4.9 The new campus will ensure that accessibility for learners with disabilities complies with the Council's Accessibility Strategy and the Equality Act (2010). It will be designed in such a way as to promote accessible and inclusive learning which will meet the needs of all learners including those with Additional Support Needs.
- 4.10 The new campus will be equipped with modern ICT solutions to ensure that the best learning opportunity is afforded to every pupil. The provision of high quality technology for learning will provide the potential to transform ways of learning and teaching by giving young

people and staff flexible and universal access to a fully digital learning environment.

- 4.11 The new campus will provide more space per pupil. Social and general purpose spaces are very limited at the current establishments. The new build school will include social spaces which will ease circulation around the new school and provide more opportunities for social interaction. Improved access to communal social spaces will facilitate active learning and collaborative work within and between classes.
- 4.12 Social areas for pupils will reduce congestion in corridors and encourage more pupils to remain on campus during lunch times. This would reduce safety concerns with fewer pupils off site during the day.
- 4.13 The new Peterhead Community Campus will be built with community and sport facilities, which will significantly enhance opportunities for PE, and related activities, and will improve pupil safety. The new sports facility will enable pupils to receive all of their educational entitlement at the same location and allow greater coherence of educational programmes.
- 4.14 The new campus will provide excellent facilities for children, families and other users outwith core school hours. The new school will provide accessible facilities that could be used to meet the learning, leisure and social needs of the community.
- 4.15 Access to modern sporting facilities will generate opportunities to improve pupils' health and wellbeing.

## **5 Alternatives to the proposal**

A range of alternative possibilities have been considered as noted below:

- Continuing the status quo – this does not address the concerns regarding condition and suitability, and would not meet the council's aims to provide the best possible education opportunities for the young people who are due to attend Peterhead Academy.
- Building the new Community Campus at the current Community site – the feasibility of this option was considered; however, it was rejected as there were financial implications of a staggered construction project. There are also implications for pupils attending a school campus while phased construction is undertaken.

## **6 Effect on the local community**

- 6.1 The new community campus will have comprehensive purpose built community and leisure facilities as part of the complex.

- 6.2 It is anticipated that the groups and individuals making use of the existing facilities available at Peterhead Community Centre located at the current academy campus will transfer to the new campus facilities on completion. There will also be additional outdoor pitches which will be of benefit to both the local community and the school.
- 6.3 There may be a slight increase in distance for some individuals attending the new community and leisure facilities as they will no longer be as centrally located within the town. However, there may also be a reduction in distance for other members of the public living to the South and West of the town. It is believed that the improved quality of facilities available for community use and the improved parking available on site will outweigh any inconvenience caused by a slightly longer journey to use them.

## **7 School Transport**

- 7.1 The location of the proposed replacement Peterhead Community Campus is approximately 1.3 mile from the existing establishment; however, there may be limited impact upon entitlement to school transport. There may be a change of entitlement for pupils living in the Collielaw / Blackhill area. This will be explored further throughout the consultation process. Pupils living in the surrounding villages of St Fergus, Boddam, Longhaven and Cruden Bay would still be over 3 miles from the campus.
- 7.2 The travelling times for pupils attending the new Community Campus on foot would vary from the travelling time to the current establishment, although this could be either an increase or a decrease depending on where they live.
- 7.3 The travelling times for pupils transported to the schools by either bus or car would also change slightly, depending on the pupils' home addresses.

## **8 Sustainability**

- 8.1 Sustainability is a key factor in the design of the new school and is being incorporated into every feasible aspect. This ranges from the materials used to the heating system and the lighting provided, and also to the landscaping of the external site to encourage biodiversity.
- 8.2 The new school's design, construction and operation will be environmentally and energy efficient; contributing directly to delivering the year-on-year reductions in greenhouse gas emissions introduced by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
- 8.3 Managing and reducing carbon footprints as part of the Council's Carbon Reduction Strategy is generating a substantial CO<sub>2</sub> emission and energy consumption reduction and as a result significant costs

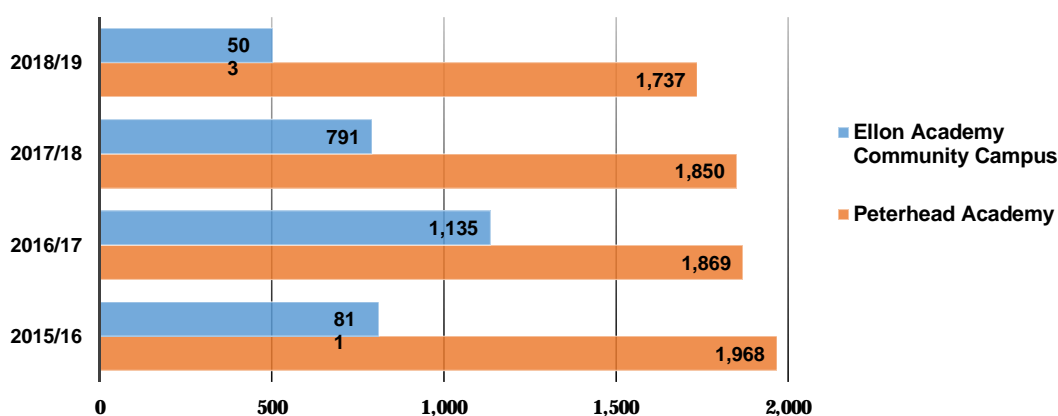
savings. Table 3 below illustrates the 4 years energy consumption with its costs and emission of greenhouse gases at the current Peterhead Academy and the new Ellon Academy Community Campus, which has a similar capacity to the proposed campus and includes pool facilities.

|         |                                | Annual Energy Consumption (kWh) | Annual Costs (£) | Annual Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> ) |
|---------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2018/19 | Peterhead Academy              | 9,175,504                       | 449,428          | 1,737                                |
|         | Ellon Academy Community Campus | 3,420,175                       | 245,756          | 503                                  |
| 2017/18 | Peterhead Academy              | 8,667,243                       | 385,630          | 1,850                                |
|         | Ellon Academy Community Campus | 4,540,351                       | 250,221          | 791                                  |
| 2016/17 | Peterhead Academy              | 7,750,873                       | 353,040          | 1,869                                |
|         | Ellon Academy Community Campus | 4,893,261                       | 246,749          | 1,135                                |
| 2015/16 | Peterhead Academy              | 7,956,598                       | 404,598          | 1,968                                |
|         | Ellon Academy Community Campus | 3,282,489                       | 169,546          | 811                                  |

The analysis of the current Peterhead Academy annual energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions shows poor performing. On average, the current Peterhead Academy consumes 51% more energy and generates 39% more CO<sub>2</sub> than the new Ellon Academy Community Campus.

Annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for Peterhead Academy in 2018/19 were 1737 tonnes while for Ellon Academy Community Campus those were 503 tonnes. Production of greenhouse gases at Ellon Academy Community Campus was 71% lower than carbon emissions at Peterhead Academy in 2018/19 and accordingly 57% lower in 2017/18, 39% in 2016/17 and 59% in 2015/16.

Annual tCO<sub>2</sub> Emissions



## 9 Equal Opportunities

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is a statutory requirement on the Council to assess the policies and practices necessary to meet the requirements of anti-discrimination and equalities legislation. It also

affords an opportunity for the Council to consider the impact on the education service. In addition an EIA can provide more information to develop and deliver services that meet the needs, in this case, of children and parents. An assessment has been carried out, and is at Appendix 2.

- 9.2 The aim of an EIA is to examine policies and practice in a structured way to make sure that adverse effects on groups with protected characteristics are avoided. It is also a tool to enable the Council to assess what positive steps it can take to promote equality of opportunity and measure the results of the actions that have been taken.
- 9.3 With regards to the replacement of the existing Peterhead Academy, it is not believed that this will have a negative impact on any groups with protected characteristics.
- 9.4 As part of the consultation process the Council will consult with a wide range of stakeholders, including staff, parents/carers and young people, and will address comments about equality during this consultation.
- 9.5 Under The Equality Act 2010 education providers must not treat disabled pupils less favourably and should take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage. Existing arrangements in place for pupils with additional support needs within the academy will continue. The new Peterhead Community Campus will be fully accessible and designed to be inclusive, and so would not have a negative impact on any child who has a disability.

## **10 Implications for staff**

- 10.1 On completion of the new Peterhead Community Campus it is anticipated that all staff based at the existing school(s) will transfer to the new Campus, in line with their existing contract and HR & OD policies and procedures.
- 10.2 It is also anticipated that all staff based at the existing community facilities at Peterhead Academy will also transfer to the new community campus, in line with their existing contract and HR & OD policies and procedures.
- 10.3 Consultation will take place with individual members of staff themselves and with Trade Unions representing these staff at a time closer to the opening of the new Campus, should this proposal be accepted.

## **11 Consultation Arrangements**

- 11.1 At its meeting on 10 October 2019 Aberdeenshire Council's Education & Children's Services were asked to agree the commencement of a

statutory consultation. No decision will be taken by the Council on the proposal contained in the paper until after the end of the consultation period. The Council will then receive a report on the consultation and will make a decision on the proposal.

- 11.2 As this consultation is occurring as part of wider capital building project, activity will continue in terms of the planning process to ensure that if this proposal is accepted the building programme will be able to finish within the timescales required set for securing the funding from the Scottish Government.
- 11.3 The period for consultation will extend from 14 October until 13 December 2019 which covers a minimum period of 30 school days.
- 11.4 A copy of this document will be issued free of charge to all of the consultees listed on the first page of this document and it will also be published on the Council's website:  
<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/education-consultations/>
- 11.5 A public meeting will be held on 12 November 2019 at Peterhead Academy at 7 pm. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting is free to do so. The meeting will be convened by the Council and the Council will present the reasons for bringing forward the proposal. There will be an opportunity for questions and comment. A note will be taken so that comments can later be summarised and considered.
- 11.6 Meetings will be organised for Peterhead Academy staff to discuss the proposal. These will also be open to staff at the community facilities within the current school. A number of opportunities will be arranged for all current pupils at the school and future pupils in the network to engage in the consultation.
- 11.7 An online survey will be available as part of the consultation. This can be completed at the following address:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PeterheadAcademyRelocation>
- 11.8 The Council will also take into account written comments which should be sent to Maxine Booth, Quality Improvement Manager, to be received no later than 5pm on Friday 13 December 2019. They should be posted to Aberdeenshire Council, Education & Children's Services, Gordon House, Blackhall Road, Inverurie, AB51 3WA or emailed to [learningstates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:learningstates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)
- 11.9 A copy of this document will also be sent to Education Scotland. They will also receive a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Council during the consultation period. They will also receive a copy of any oral representations made at the public meeting and a copy of any other relevant documentation. Education Scotland will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal. In preparing their report, they may visit the school and make such reasonable enquiries as they consider appropriate.

## **Consideration of Consultation Responses**

- 11.9 The Council will review the proposal having regard to the Education Scotland Report, written representations that it has received and oral representations made to it by any person at the public meeting. It will then prepare a report on the consultation. This report will be published in electronic and printed formats. It will be available on the Council website and from Council Headquarters, as well as at Peterhead Academy. Anyone who has made written representations during the consultation period will also be informed about the report.
- 11.10 The report will include a record of the total number of written representations made during the consultation period, a summary of the written representations, a summary of the oral representations made at the public meeting, the Authority's response to the Education Scotland Report as well as any written or oral representations it has received, together with a copy of the Education Scotland Report and any other relevant information, including details of any alleged inaccuracies and how these have been handled. The report will also contain a statement explaining how the Council has complied with the requirement to review the proposal in light of the Education Scotland Report and representations (both written and oral) that it received.
- 11.11 The Consultation Report will be published at least 3 weeks prior to the Council making a decision.

## **12 Decision making**

- 12.1 The consultation report will be considered firstly by the Buchan Area Committee who will be asked to make a recommendation as to whether the proposed changes are implemented.
- 12.2 Following discussion and recommendation at Buchan Area Committee, The Education and Children's Services Committee will consider the report and be asked to approve the officer recommendation in the report. This is expected to be in May 2020.
- 12.3 In the event that the Council approves the closure of the existing Peterhead Academy in order to open a new school, it is required to notify the Scottish Ministers within 6 working days of that decision and provide them with a copy of the Proposal Document and Consultation Report in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

## **13 Conclusion**

- 13.1 There are strong educational and financial arguments in favour of this proposal.
- 13.2 The Council believes that the measures proposed in this document will enhance the provision of secondary education in the Peterhead area.