



THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT

Proposal Paper

That, subject to the outcome of this proposal:

- **Provision of a school at Bothkennar Primary School be permanently discontinued with effect from August 2026, or as soon as possible thereafter;**
- **That the pupils of Bothkennar Primary School catchment area permanently receive their education at Beancross Primary School, from August 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter;**
- **That the delineated catchment area of Beancross Primary School be permanently extended to include the whole delineated catchment area of Bothkennar Primary School from August 2026.**

This document has been issued by Falkirk Council for proposal in terms of The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

          **FALKIRK COUNCIL**   
     **COMHAIRLE NA H-EAGLAISE BRICE**   

Education Services | Falkirk Stadium, 4 Stadium Way, Falkirk FK2 9EE | Director: Jon Reid

1. Reasons for Formulating this Proposal

The Schools (Consultation) Scotland Act 2010 states that education authorities must identify the reasons for formulating a proposal to close a rural school. This proposal was formulated for the following reasons:

- i. Bothkennar Primary Schools has been formally mothballed for approaching 7 years with no pupils in attendance since August 2019.
- ii. The catchment demand for places in Bothkennar Primary School continues to be assessed to be low and is not predicted to rise.
- iii. The Council is experiencing declining pupil numbers, making re-opening impractical.
- iv. Whilst the school is mothballed, the building is deteriorating with limited budgets for repairs, maintenance and capital investment. The current annual cost of mothballing Bothkennar Primary School is £40,580.
- v. The Local Development Plan does not identify any relevant sites within the catchment area for housing development that would impact on catchment demand for places.

On **26 March 2019**, the Education Executive agreed that Bothkennar Primary School would be mothballed from August 2019 due to falling catchment demand for places.

On **26 January 2021**, the Education, Children and Young People Executive was informed that the school remained mothballed, with no plans to re-open it beyond August 2021 due to continued low projected demand. At this meeting, it was agreed to progress to a formal statutory consultation on a proposal to permanently close Bothkennar Primary School.

The findings from this statutory consultation were reported to the Education, Children & Young People Committee on **1 June 2021**, which approved the recommendation to close the school permanently and submit the statutory notification to Scottish Ministers, in accordance with the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*.

On **26 July 2021**, Scottish Ministers reviewed Falkirk Council's proposal and determined that there were grounds for a call-in under section 17(2)(a) of the 2010 Act.

The **School Closures Review Panel** subsequently reviewed the case and, on **24 September 2021**, concluded that Falkirk Council had not fully met its obligations under the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*. As a result, the closure was not approved, and the Council was required to undertake the following steps before making any updated decision:

- Fully comply with the preliminary requirements set out in section 12A of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, including proper consideration of any reasonable alternatives to closure.
- If closure was still considered the most appropriate course of action, prepare a fresh proposal paper in full compliance with section 13 of the 2010 Act.
- Undertake a fresh statutory consultation process with all relevant consultees.

Education Services have recently undertaken preliminary community engagement in line with section 12A of the Act, including public meetings and a community survey.

A decision has now been taken to undertake a statutory consultation on a proposal to permanently close Bothkennar Primary School and to permanently extend the catchment area of Beancross Primary School to include the existing catchment area of Bothkennar primary school.

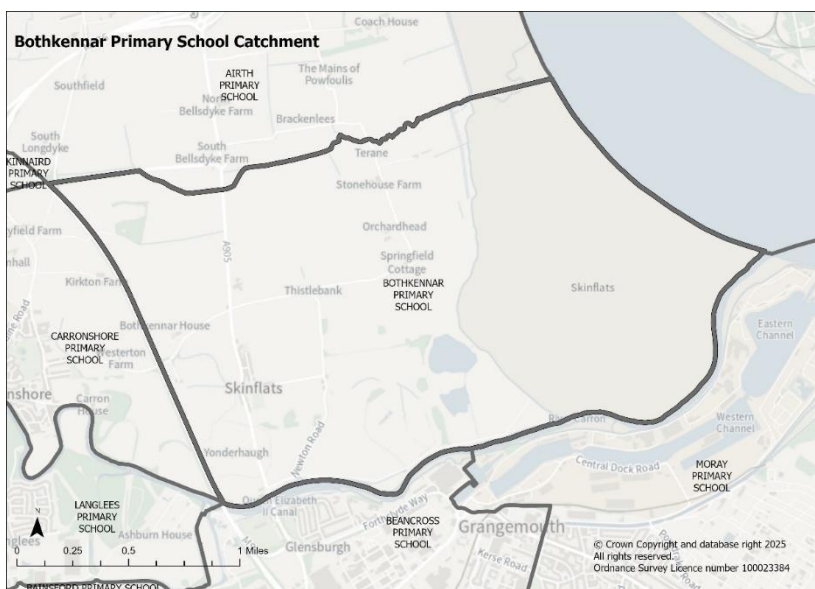
2. Bothkennar Primary School and the Local Area

Bothkennar Primary is a non-denominational, rural school situated in the village of Skinflats, 1.5 miles north-west of Grangemouth, 1.1 miles east of Carronshore and 2.3 miles north-east of Falkirk.

Settlement Profiles provide basic information for the towns and villages in the Falkirk Council area. The latest Settlement Profile for Skinflats is available [here](#).

The school has a capacity of 50 pupils and the last recorded school roll in 2018/19 was 4 pupils. The building is approximately 60 years old.

The catchment area comprises the village itself and the surrounding farms and isolated dwellings (see map below).



It borders the catchment areas of Airth Primary School, Carronshore Primary School, Moray Primary School and Beancross Primary School. The distance between Bothkennar Primary School and Beancross Primary School is 2.7 miles.

The [Scottish Government Rural School List](#) classifies Bothkennar Primary School as an accessible rural school, defined as an area with a population of less than 3,000 people and within a 30-minute drive to a settlement of 10,000 or more.

The [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) makes special arrangements in relation to rural schools and establishes a presumption against closure of rural schools. The result of this is education authorities must have special regard to several factors before formalising a proposal to close a rural school and in consulting on and reaching a decision whether to implement a rural school closure proposal.

These duties are outlined in [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) and the accompanying [Statutory Guidance](#).

As Bothkennar Primary School is a rural school, when formulating this proposal, the Council is required to:

- i. Identify the reasons for formulating the proposal; and
- ii. Consider whether there are any reasonable alternatives to the proposal as a response to those reasons.

In addition, in the proposal the Council must also give special regard to:

- i. The likely effect on the local community in consequence of the proposal (if implemented), and
- ii. The likely effect caused by any different traveling arrangements that may be required in consequence of the proposal (if implemented).

The school structure, when last open in June 2019, had 4 pupils in one composite class across stages Primary 2 to Primary 5.

The school has a capacity of 50 pupils and the last recorded school roll in school session 2018/19 was 4 pupils.

Throughout Scotland, core facts are gathered and published on school buildings. The definition and assessment categorisations are set by the Scottish Government. When last open in 2019, the condition and suitability ratings for Bothkennar Primary School were:

- Condition – **B**, Satisfactory - Performing adequately but showing minor deterioration.
- Suitability – **A**, Good – Performing well and operating effectively (the school buildings and grounds support the delivery of services to children and communities)

The school has been kept windproof, watertight and secure and has been occupied since 2019, its overall condition as a school has deteriorated.

3. Steps Taken to Address the Reason for this Proposal

The original mothballing of the school in 2019 followed a consultation with the local/school community. It was decided that the school should be mothballed due to extremely low pupil numbers, but pupil demand would be monitored annually to determine whether the school became viable for re-opening.

Following a review of the mothballing in 2021, a decision was taken to proceed to a statutory consultation on a proposal to permanently close the school. Following this consultation, the Education, Children and Young People Executive agreed to a permanent closure, however Scottish Ministers referred the decision to the Schools Closure Review Panel who did not approve the closure decision because the Council had not fully complied with the preliminary requirements set out in Section 12A of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, including proper consideration of any reasonable alternatives to closure.

Following this decision, there have been a further 4 years where the school has remained mothballed and opportunity for pupil numbers to recover. This has not happened, and as outlined above, primary and pre-school numbers in the local area have shown a marked decline. Following the annual review of mothballing in 2025, it was decided to carry out a preliminary engagement with the community to discuss the reasonable alternatives to closure and consider whether to come forward with a proposal to permanently close the school.

Before bringing this proposal to a statutory consultation, a preliminary engagement was undertaken with the Bothkennar Primary School catchment community. Letters were sent out by post to all addresses in the Bothkennar Primary School catchment area. In addition letters were sent by email to all parent/carers of primary aged pupils in the same area.

These letters outlined the reasons why the closure proposal is being considered and invited views on:

- a) The likely effect on the local community if the school were to close permanently.
- b) The likely effect of differing travelling arrangements for children and families in the Bothkennar catchment.
- c) The likely effect on children's education if the school were to be closed permanently.

The letter also asked the community to consider each of the following and suggest any other viable options.

- a) Re-open Bothkennar Primary School.
- b) Re-open Bothkennar Primary School with increased occupancy through rezoning and extending the catchment area.
- c) Permanent Closure.
- d) Continued mothballing of Bothkennar Primary School.
- e) Explore alternative uses for the building that could provide greater longterm value.

Consultees were invited to complete an online response form on Participate Plus or write directly to Education Services with a response. They were also invited to a public meeting held at Bothkennar Primary School on 23 September 2025. The informal consultation period was from 12 September to 10 October 2025.

Each option was appraised, taking account of the community feedback; financial assessment; pupil roll implications; assessment of rural factors and due regard to community impact and travel arrangements; and educational benefits.

There were 6 responses to the survey, 1 email response and 5 members of the community attended the public meeting at Bothkennar Primary School.

Further preliminary engagement was arranged in January 2026 to assess the views of parents of primary and nursery age pupils in the Glensburgh/Old Town area of Grangemouth about the possibility of re-opening Bothkennar Primary School, with a larger catchment area, that included the area that they live in. This would involve changing their children's primary school catchment area from Beancross Primary School to Bothkennar Primary School. Parents/carers were given the opportunity to contribute to the engagement process both electronically and in person at a meeting held at Bothkennar Primary School on Thursday 15 January. No responses were received through digital channels, and nobody attended the meeting.

4. Reasonable Alternatives Considered

In arriving at the proposal set out within this Proposal Paper, the Council has considered alternative options for the future of Bothkennar Primary School:

- Option 1 – Re-open Bothkennar Primary School.
- Option 2 – Re-open Bothkennar Primary School with Increased occupancy through rezoning and extending the catchment area.

- Option 3 – Re-open Bothkennar Primary School with available capacity used for early years provision or for other purposes.
- Option 4 – Continue with the mothballing of Bothkennar Primary School.

In considering the options below, account was taken of the fact there is a presumption against closure of a rural school. As part of the options appraisal, the “rural school factors” specified the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) have been given special regard.

These are the likely:

- Education benefits
- Effect on the local community.
- Effect on travel arrangements.

5. Assessment of Alternative Options

• Option 1 – Re-open Bothkennar Primary School

Summary - The low projected uptake, cost of returning Bothkennar Primary School to operational use, and availability of nearby alternative provision in Grangemouth means this is not considered to be a reasonable alternative option.

Assessment on Rural Factors

Effect on the local community

The reopening of the school would enable the premises to be used by the community which is not currently possible. The presence of a school may make the area a more attractive place to live, therefore encourage families with school aged children or pre-school aged children to move to the area.

If the school were to reopen as an educational establishment there would be an economic impact the expenditure needed to bring the facility back into use, staffing, and ongoing maintenance. However, the reopening of the school may attract more families, and this may have a positive effect on the wider economy of the community.

Effect on travel arrangements

The travel distance from Skinflats to Beancross Primary School is 2.5 miles. Travel time is approximately 8 minutes (Source: Google Maps).

The travel arrangements have been in place since August 2019 whereby pupils from Skinflats are provided with school bus transport to Beancross Primary School. There are currently 8 catchment children from Bothkennar attending Beancross Primary School, and these pupils are transported to school by bus. Travel time is 10 minutes each way and currently costs £5,200 per annum.

If Bothkennar Primary School was to reopen there could be a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of pupils who are able to walk or cycle to school.

Further to this, the pupils currently attending Beancross Primary School from the Bothkennar Primary School catchment area would lose their entitlement to transport in line with the Falkirk Council School Transport Policy. This would have an impact on those families particularly if their preference was to remain at Beancross Primary School.

Staff would travel to the school by cars as it is unlikely they will live locally.

Effect on education benefits

The Educational benefits associated with Bothkennar pupils accessing Beancross Primary School, balanced against them attending the much smaller Bothkennar Primary School are detailed in the Education Benefits Statement in section 7. This concludes that there would not be a net education benefit for pupils if Bothkennar Primary School were to re-open.

• Option 2 - Re-open Bothkennar Primary School with increased occupancy through rezoning and extending the catchment area.

Summary – There is one reasonable option for increasing the catchment area of Bothkennar Primary School: extending the original catchment area to include the Grangemouth Old Town/Glensburgh area. In theory, the combined pupil numbers would make the likely pupil roll at Bothkennar Primary School more viable and provide this locality with a school that is within walking distance. However, this would be workable if the current pattern of placing request demand to other schools (including denominational schools) continue unchanged. In addition, such a proposal would be disruptive to families living in the Old Town/Glensburgh area and preliminary engagement with this community did not identify any support for such a proposal. This proposal could not be combined with early years provision due to capacity constraints. Having considered this alternative to permanent closure, together with the risks and the Educational Benefits for pupils attending the larger school, Beancross Primary, permanent closure is still Education Services preferred option.

Assessment on Rural Factors

Effect on the local community

As for option 1 for the community of Skinflats and surrounding area, as defined by the Bothkennar Primary School catchment area. The community of Glensburgh/Old Town in Grangemouth would require to be rezoned to this catchment area. It would change current arrangements for primary school enrolments and the preliminary engagement with this community did not identify any support (or otherwise) for this proposal. Such a proposal would require a separate statutory consultation in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 before any decision could be taken.

Effect on travel arrangements

As for Option 1 for the pupils in the current catchment area. If it were extended to include the Glensburgh/Old Town area, then this would provide a more local primary school for those pupils within safe and easy walking distance. However, under the Falkirk Council Transport Policy, those pupils would lose their entitlement to free school transport if they chose to remain at Beancross Primary School. The current school bus provided for these pupils would be withdrawn if the catchment for this area changed.

Effect on education benefits

As for option 1 regarding Bothkennar catchment pupils, there would be no net education benefit expected. This would also be the case for pupils rezoned from the Glensburgh/Old Town area – there would be no anticipated net education benefit expected if they are moved from the much larger Beancross Primary School to Bothkennar Primary School.

• Option 3 Re-open Bothkennar Primary School with available capacity used for early years provision or other purposes.

Summary – The location of Bothkennar Primary School, the space availability within the school and the nearby early years provision in Grangemouth means this is not considered a reasonable option.

Assessment on Rural Factors

Effect on the local community

The addition of Early Years provision would neither be viable or practical in this small building. Major capital investment would be needed to carry out the necessary alterations, and this could not be justified based on current preschool numbers in the community (less than 5 according to data provided by Forth Valley Health Board). Even when Bothkennar Primary School was open pre-mothballing, early years provision for the village was based in Grangemouth, 2.5 miles away, so there is no community expectation that it should be provided more locally.

Effect on travel arrangements

Option 1 details this with regard to the re-opening of the Primary school. Regarding early years provision, this was not available in Skinflats pre-mothballing and pre-school children were taken to Grangemouth by their parents to access this.

Effect on education benefits

As for option 1 regarding primary pupils. The pre-school numbers are so small (currently less than 5) that early year's provision is not viable in Skinflats. If it was considered, there would be no net education benefit to the handful of pupils attending compared with the larger provision that can be offered in Beancross Primary School and other early years provisions in Grangemouth.

• Option 4 - Continue with the mothballing of Bothkennar Primary School

Summary - Mothballing the school in anticipation of increased pupil numbers is not considered a reasonable alternative. The school has now been mothballed for 6 years and the primary age population in the Bothkennar catchment area has not increased significantly in that time. There is no evidence that numbers will recover to ensure a sustainable demand for places at the school. The Statutory Guidance for the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended, in relation to mothballing states “The maximum length of its duration is likely to depend on the location of the school and the desirability of maintaining capacity to re-open a school there, but it is unlikely that it should exceed 3 years in areas that are not very remote.”

Assessment on Rural Factors

Effect on the local community

During the preliminary engagement with the community, there was no support for continuing to mothball the school.

Effect on travel arrangements

Bothkennar Primary School catchment pupils would continue to be provided with transport to Beancross Primary School. There would be no change here.

Effect on education benefits

The education benefits from continued mothballing do not differ from those attributed to permanent closure. This is fully explored in the Education Benefits Statement in Section 7.

Conclusion from the Options Assessed

Assessment of the 4 options considered, taking special regard to the rural school considerations, demonstrates that **the permanent closure of Bothkennar Primary School, with the pupils instead attending Beancross Primary School, is the only reasonable alternative in response to the unsustainable school roll and represents the best value for educational purposes**. The following sections now consider that option in more depth.

6. Beancross Primary School

Beancross Primary School in Grangemouth is located south-east of the current catchment area for Bothkennar Primary School, approximately 2.7 miles between the two schools.

Beancross Primary School is part of the catchment for Grangemouth High School. Denominational primary pupils attend Sacred Heart Primary School and are secondary educated at St. Mungo's High School.

Before Bothkennar Primary School was mothballed, Beancross Primary School already had a shared management arrangement with Bothkennar Primary School which meant both schools were managed by a single Headteacher.

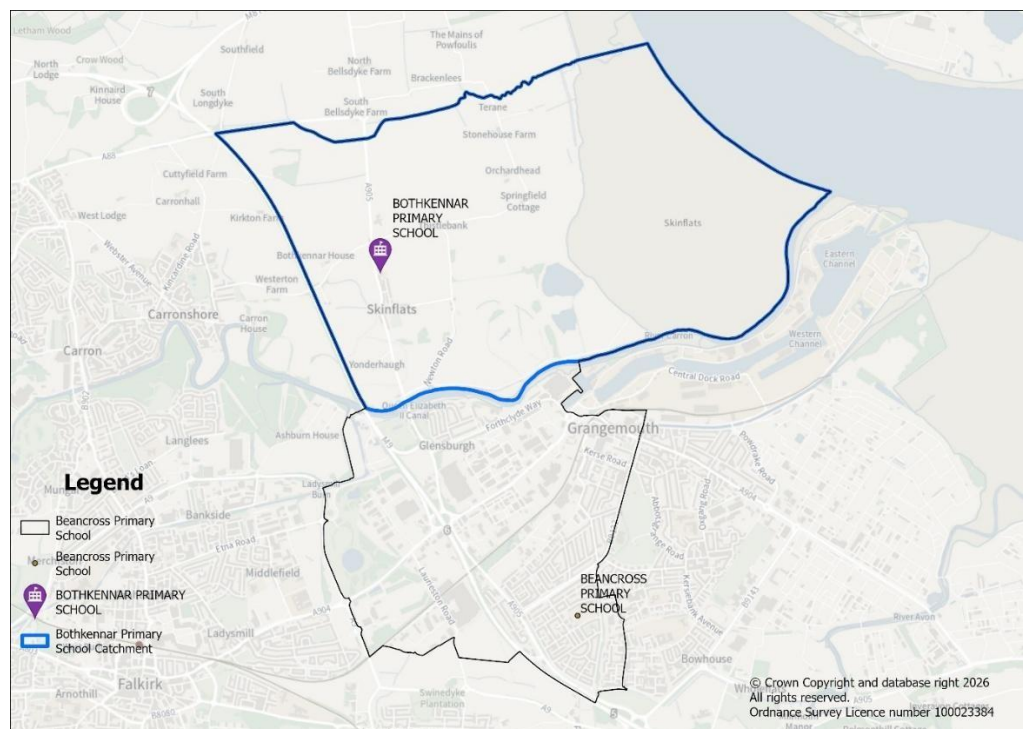
Beancross Primary School provides non-denominational primary education to Primary 1 – 7 pupils.

There is a nursery provision at Beancross Primary School which can accommodate a maximum of 64 children when fully staffed.

The catchment area for Beancross Primary School adjoins the catchment areas for Bothkennar, Bowhouse, Moray, other and other Primary Schools.

The map below shows the Beancross and Bothkennar Primary School catchment areas.

Map of Bothkennar and Beancross Primary School Catchments



Beancross Primary School has an operational capacity for 434 primary pupils. The pupil roll is currently 362 pupils (2025/26 school census) and the occupancy based on this is 83%.

The school structure currently operates with 15 primary classes.

Throughout Scotland, core facts are gathered and published on school buildings. The definition and assessment categorisations are set by the Scottish Government. The current condition and suitability ratings for Beancross Primary School are:

- Condition – **B**, Satisfactory - Performing adequately but showing minor deterioration.
- Suitability – **B**, Satisfactory - Performing well but with minor problems.

7. Educational Benefits Statement

This educational benefits statement is written from the perspective of benefits, should the proposal for permanent closure be implemented. This statement is

focussed on the educational benefits for pupils attending Beancross Primary School.

Assessment of likely educational benefits on pupils

Falkirk Council has a responsibility to ensure that education for school pupils is delivered in a quality school environment that sustains and improves their experiences and outcomes. The educational benefits associated with this proposal relate to:

- Learning and teaching.
- Meeting learners needs.
- Broadening the range of opportunities.
- The environment for learning including curriculum.

Whilst recognising the high quality of education provision that was offered at Bothkennar Primary School, the Council considers that the small, multi-stage cohort, taught by a single teacher, would benefit more from the wider range and breadth of learning experiences available to them at Beancross Primary School.

The multi-stage, single class environment means that there is a high probability of pupils not having peers at the same year stage, and this can remain the case for their entire primary education. Such a composition means that these pupils do not benefit routinely from learning in collaborative groups with age and stage peers. Pupils may be taught by the same teacher throughout their primary career and whilst this can provide consistency, it can limit their opportunity to develop relationships and confidence with a wide range of adults prior to transitioning to a secondary school which requires interactions and relationship building with a far wider range of adults. At Beancross Primary School children benefit more from working with a wider range of their peer group. This allows them to build and develop stronger and wider peer relationships with the group of children, including those with whom they will transition to the local secondary school.

Bothkennar School operated under a shared headship arrangement with Beancross Primary School. Therefore, transition for pupils during the period of mothballing has been seamless and consistent. The Head Teacher of Beancross Primary School and the wider management team are now dedicated to one school, within one building at all times. This supports consistent application of curriculum delivery and other policies aimed to support high quality educational experiences or pupils.

Notably, the educational benefits arising from the proposal for pupils transferring from a smaller school such as Bothkennar Primary School to a larger school such as Beancross Primary School are assessed by the Education Service to include i-iv below:

(i) Learning and Teaching

The curriculum includes a broad range of experiences which are planned for children and young people through their education, to help every child and young person to develop knowledge, skills and attributes for success in learning, life and work. Learning is planned across a wide range of contexts, allowing children to learn independently, alongside peers and as part of a whole class experience where relevant. Whilst recognising the increased

opportunities for individualised learning in a small class or school setting, opportunities are more limited across all contexts, building the necessary skills and experiences, and prior to mothballing, pupils learning experiences were already enhanced by working within Bothkennar and Beancross Primary School buildings. This was planned to ensure that the experiences of all pupils were not diminished by the small peer group and learning environment available. In Beancross Primary School, children are encouraged to be eager and active participants who are engaged, resilient and highly motivated during their learning. Children know that their views are sought, valued and acted upon. Although this can be said for all schools, including small schools like Bothkennar, due to the greater number of staff and pupils in Beancross Primary School, learners' experiences are broader and can be adapted to support interests of cohorts and groups more readily. In a small school, pupils may have individual interests, varied due to the small numbers at similar ages or stages, making it more difficult to plan learning and contextual learning that may engage and motivate all in a meaningful way. Arising from the benefit of having a higher number of staff who possess a range of expertise amongst them, pupils have access to wider range of skillsets and areas of expertise. In Beancross Primary School children are encouraged to be part of a wider social context in which they can build relationships with different groups and individuals, develop social skills, meet challenges and exercise responsibilities as members of a social group. They can interact and socialise with groups of children, take part in team activities and move with a wide range of peers to secondary school. Whilst attending Bothkennar, these opportunities for pupils were limited and whilst pupils were provided with opportunities to exercise responsibilities and engage with other to develop social skills, these were enhanced by attendance at Beancross Primary School to interact with pupils of the same age and stage and to engage in whole school activities that developed these skills in a progressive way.

The differing physical learning environments offered at Beancross encourages high levels of achievement across a range of disciplines and provides opportunities for pupils to apply their learning in a wide range of contexts, which is essential for achievement of curriculum levels. Over the last five years, Beancross Primary School has consistently delivered positive attainment outcomes for pupils and compares well with authority average and neighbourhood group average.

At Beancross Primary School, children embrace school values and regularly participate in a wide range of personal achievement opportunities. There is a sense of community and belonging within year groups, which is recognised and celebrated at regular assemblies and class celebrations. Whilst a sense of community is strong and relationships are easily developed and nurtured within a small school setting, opportunities are limited to develop these across similar ages and stages and pupils at the earliest and latest stages of primary school rely on each other for the opportunity to engage and interact with others.

Like all schools, Beancross Primary School is aspirational for the children and deliver various opportunities which allows pupils to demonstrate the four capacities and to develop skills for life. Children are regularly involved in leading and organising various family and community events linked to their learning experiences:

- Active learner groups promote UNCRC through events, assemblies, and community links.
- Digital Leaders pupils use digital technologies to plan and organise events, and, to gather and share stakeholder views.
- House groups and Pupil Leadership Team as part of the school's House System.
- Buddies and playground leaders organise shared activities, promoting inclusion.
- Pupil-led Sports Council supports events such as the annual Sports Ball and the 'Beanie Cup'.

(ii) Meeting learners needs

Beancross Primary School provides a nurturing environment for all pupils based on a rights-respecting ethos, rooted in the UNCRC principles and core educational values of: Ambition, Motivation, Nurture, Respect. Through the GIRFEC model, the school maintains a relentless focus on removing barriers and ensuring every child can make the best possible progress in their learning and achievement.

Through the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) practice model, meeting the needs of every child continues to be a priority. Teachers carefully plan and assess to ensure each child has the opportunity to reach their potential. Pupil tracking combines professional dialogue, classroom observations, learning discussions, assessments, and pupil work.

Across the school, attainment has steadily improved over the last three years with most children achieving expected levels in reading, writing, listening and talking and numeracy at P1, P4 and P7. The school level trend data shows this compares well to the Neighbourhood Group and Authority measures.

The approach at Beancross to the delivery of enhanced learning support ensures that children who need more focused help feel included, supported and successful in school. The nurturing spaces in the school are used flexibly to support a wide range of pupils' individual needs. The adoption of researchbased programmes, such as Decider Skills and Seasons for Growth, provides children with practical strategies to understand and manage their emotions, cope with change, and build resilience. Through a rigorous approach to professional learning for staff and engagement in Local Authority training, Beancross Primary School work with their wider school staff team to target particular needs of children and cohorts across the school, supporting their inclusive approach to learning and engagement. This approach to building expertise across the team can be difficult for a small school due to the small number of staff and time available to engage in professional learning.

Beancross Primary School offers a wide and diverse programme of extracurricular activities that support pupils to develop positive attitudes to their physical health. The school has achieved the School Sport Award. Prior to the closure of Bothkennar Primary School, pupils were supported to engage in activities being deliver at Beancross Primary due to the limited opportunities that were provided, both due to the facilities and staff available.

Children's voices also inform the setting of improvement priorities, regularly shaping wellbeing indicator reflections and targeted support. Children's views are important and are sought and valued to identify priorities. Wellbeing indicator reflections are reviewed regularly for positive Health and Wellbeing choices and supports are in place to address needs where identified. This is something that was developed across both Bothkennar and Beancross Primary, continuing to evolve at Beancross Primary in order to respond to pupil needs.

Beancross Primary School has planned meetings and discussions with parents. These discussions between home and school improve parental engagement whilst focussing on next steps for learning. Where appropriate, interventions are put in place, while working effectively with other agencies and parents to ensure the needs of each child are met.

(iii) Broadening the range of opportunities

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) promotes the development of knowledge, skills and attributes that children need to be successful, confident, responsible and effective in their learning, their life, and, in their future.

The development of a broad range of skills is central to children's happiness and success. These skills should be developed across all curriculum areas and are embedded into the Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes, requiring teachers to plan opportunities to develop them in a variety of ways, including engagement in active learning, interdisciplinary tasks and to experience learning in practical contexts.

A critical part of all of this is learning in collaborative and cooperative situations with peers and age and stage appropriate groups. Opportunities provided in a larger school context can deliver this in a more natural and progressive way, contributing to the acquisition of skills and knowledge to prepare pupils for transition across the primary stages, into secondary school and post school.

Children at Beancross Primary School are offered a range of active, planned experiences which help them develop the knowledge and understanding, skills, capabilities and attributes which they need for their mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing both now and in the future. This is in line with their entitlement to a broad general education.

Across Beancross Primary School children engage well with learning and contribute effectively to age and stage appropriate lessons. Staff promote positive relationships at all levels, the impact of this being that children enjoy good relationships with their peers. They also have opportunities to support each other in their learning through cooperative and collaborative peer experiences.

There is a well-structured transition between Beancross Primary School and Grangemouth High School, underpinned by a shared cluster vision, values, and aims. This strong partnership affords staff from both schools working together at key points in the school year to ensure a consistent approach to learning. The transition programme extends significantly beyond standard induction days, across the school year, with groups of peers. As these interactions take place well before the formal transition visits, learners

become well acquainted with the secondary school staff and the building, supporting them to feel confident, secure, and ready for the next stage of their education. Prior to the mothballing of Bothkennar Primary School, pupils became part of the Primary 7 cohort of pupils at Beancross Primary School, recognising the advantages this opportunity provided for the transition to secondary school, working with a wider range of staff and peers in a variety of learning environments.

Across Beancross Primary School children engage well with learning and contribute effectively to age and stage appropriate lessons. Staff promote positive relationships at all levels, the impact of this being that children enjoy good relationships with their peers. They also have opportunities to support each other in their learning through cooperative and collaborative peer experiences.

(iv) Environment for learning including curriculum

Beancross Primary School is well-equipped and supported. The building is well maintained, and its attractive setting provides a welcoming environment for children. Pupils benefit from specialist areas including a fully equipped library, a music room, and a stage with sound and lighting.

The facilities of Beancross include an expansive outdoor space enhanced with fixed play structures as well as dedicated football and basketball playing areas. The school holds the Cycle Friendly Scotland Aware, and, provides bike storage to support active travel.

There is a strong focus on meeting individual needs through the Additional Support for Learning Hub and Enhanced Support Learning Hubs known as The Treehouse, The Den, and The Nest.

Beancross Primary School includes an on-site nursery class provision for up to 64 children aged between 3 and 4 years old, bringing advantages to children across the school. The nursery is fully integrated into the life of the school and the wider learning journey. Operating under a shared vision, values, and aims, staff across the nursery and Early Level plan and work together to ensure high-quality experiences. This collaborative approach supports a seamless transition to Primary 1 at Beancross.

Assessment of likely educational benefits on any children who would (in the future but for implementation) be likely to become pupils of the school. Existing and future pupils:

Children who may live in this catchment area in the future will benefit from the broad range of educational opportunities which are presented through this proposal, as detailed in i-iv above.

There would be positive educational benefits associated with this proposal. There are increased opportunities for delivering the totality of the curriculum and increasing the use of active pedagogies. Whilst the benefits of learning in a small school environment are recognised, there is a greater requirement to significantly differentiate learning in order to meet the needs of all pupils, ensuring that experiences are age and stage appropriate, providing appropriate support and challenge for all.

The proposal extends the peer group for all pupils, present and future.

Pupils who would otherwise have attended Bothkennar Primary School have more shared experiences and opportunity for friendships. This will enhance their confidence and make the transition to secondary easier. Larger year groups make the delivery of specialist services more viable and provide enhanced opportunities for educational excursions and community engagement to enhance the curriculum offer.

Assessment of likely educational benefits on the pupils of any other schools in the Council area:

The cost per pupil of operating Bothkennar Primary School is relatively high compared with other Falkirk Primary Schools due to the low number of pupils attending. The reduction in school operating costs which would be achieved by the closure of Bothkennar Primary School means that this is a saving to the Council. There are no other significant impacts from this proposal on other pupils in the authority or who attend other schools, in either a positive or a negative way.

Consideration of how to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the implementation of this proposal:

The main adverse effect from this proposal would be the length of the journey to school for children who live in the Bothkennar Primary School catchment area. Funded school transport would be provided for pupils should this proposal be implemented. However, this extended journey time is still within reasonable journey time for home to school transport.

Summary of educational benefits statement:

In summary, there are a range of educational benefits for pupils if this proposal was to be implemented, as summarised in the paragraphs above.

Falkirk Council proposes closing Bothkennar Primary School and transferring pupils to Beancross Primary School to enhance educational experiences. The move offers significant benefits across four key areas: learning and teaching, meeting learners' needs, broadening opportunities, and improving the learning environment. Beancross Primary School provides a wider peer group, diverse curriculum, specialist staff expertise, and strong transition links to secondary education. Pupils gain access to enriched social interactions, extracurricular activities, and flexible nurturing spaces. The school's facilities, including outdoor play areas, specialist hubs, and integrated nursery provision, further strengthen learning continuity. While the main adverse effect is longer travel time, funded transport mitigates this.

Overall, the proposal ensures improved attainment, broader experiences, and stronger community engagement, delivering a more inclusive and aspirational education for current and future pupils.

8. Detailed Analysis of The Proposal

This section provides a more detailed assessment of the proposal which is considered to be the only reasonable response to the unsustainable school

roll. It considers the “rural school factors” of community impact and impact on travel arrangements, as well as the Educational Benefits Statement above.

Special Regard to the Likely Effect on the Local Community

Community Impact – Loss of the school

The previous statutory consultation on the proposal to permanently close the school in 2021 saw responses from the Community Council, 1 pre-school parent, 2 pupils and 2 staff at the affected schools, 1 other local residents and 1 other member of the public. All those who responded supported the proposal apart from the 1 other member of the public who did not.

Further preliminary engagement was undertaken with the community in October 2025 to further explore the proposal before it was brought forward to a statutory consultation. The key findings from this were:

- There was a general feeling expressed in responses to the survey and at the public meeting that current pupil numbers did not make re-opening the school viable, and that this would only be possible if the catchment was extended to increase pupil numbers.
- Nevertheless, 2 survey responses and a conversation at the public meeting and a number of those that responded expressed regret at the loss of the school and the community focus it had provided for so many years, as well as potentially encouraging families to move into the village.
- Two respondents commented that families had adjusted to the change since mothballing and there would be minimal ongoing impact if the school remains closed.
- The distance to Beancross PS was viewed as inconvenient and there was some feeling that Carronshore PS would be a better catchment alternative.
- The continued mothballing was not supported and seen by some as wasteful and detrimental to community morale.
- There was broad support for repurposing the building for community use or for an alternative educational purpose.

In conclusion, whilst many of those responding to the survey and attending the public meeting expressed regret at losing the local village school, there was a general acceptance expressed that little had changed re: pupil numbers, so viability remained a problem.

The option of increasing the catchment area to potentially include Glensburgh/Old Town area was thought worth investigating by some, and this was further explored with those families likely to be affected living in the Glensburgh/Old Town. Letters were sent out to everyone living in this area, but no responses were received, and nobody attended the public meeting arranged to discuss this.

There was no interest in continued mothballing of the school, but some felt that alternative community use should be considered.

The number of pupils living in the catchment area of Bothkennar Primary

School has not changed significantly since 2019 when it was 20 (it is currently 21) and is not expected to increase significantly in the near future. When there were 20 primary aged pupils living in the catchment area, only 4 were attending the school.

There are no concerns over the capacity at Beancross Primary School which is currently at 83% occupancy even with pupils attending from the Bothkennar catchment area, and the roll is projected to fall in the next 5 years.

The Council believes that the sustainability of Skinflats village community will not be affected. Pupils will attend a school only 2.7 miles away from their village.

Prior to mothballing, Bothkennar Primary School and Beancross Primary School had been jointly managed for several years allowing a strong integration of the educational approach in both schools. As such, pupils at Bothkennar were already part of a larger, sustainable school community through the leadership team already shared with Beancross Primary School, and this has only been solidified since the mothballing of Bothkennar Primary School. There are no indications that this has affected the sustainability of the village community.

Finally, the wider community of which Skinflats village is a part, will benefit from the development of a more sustainable school estate, with continuing reduced revenue costs. The longevity of the remaining schools will be improved, providing stability to the area.

There will be no impact on the use of shops, services and facilities in this wider community by residents of the Skinflats community because of the permanent closure of Bothkennar Primary School.

Community Impact – Use of the Building

Bothkennar Primary School is the only Council Facility currently situated in Skinflats.

Prior to mothballing in 2019, the local community made no real use of the school building for community activities. Therefore, if the proposal is accepted, no impact is anticipated that would adversely affect the sustainability of the Skinflats village community. All children would continue to live in the Skinflats village community and will attend a school only 2.5 miles away.

The Skinflats community requires to travel to access most services due to a lack of amenities with the village.

What will happen to the school building?

If the building becomes empty, and is deemed surplus to Education Services operational requirements, the Council's Asset Management Team would then consider what future options there are for the property, which could include potential sale. However, it is important that all community views are considered prior to this happening, and we would welcome your views on possible future uses for this building, should the school close permanently.

9. Likely Effect caused by Different Travelling Arrangements

As Bothkennar Primary School is a rural school, special regard is paid to the rural school factors. These were considered throughout the assessment of the options in section 6.

The travel distance from Bothkennar Primary School to Beancross Primary Schools is 2.7 miles with an approximate travel time of 9 minutes by car (Google maps). There are suitable walking routes for pupils from the village to Bothkennar Primary School, but pupils living in farms and isolated dwellings beyond the village would be offered to school transport due to the lack of safe and available walking routes in the country lanes around the Bothkennar catchment area.

Pupils in the Bothkennar Primary School catchment area attending Beancross Primary School receive free school transport to and from school and will continue to do so should the proposal be accepted. If Bothkennar Primary School was permanently closed, all children living in the Bothkennar catchment area will be transported by the Council to Beancross Primary School. This would take 10 minutes by taxi/school bus each way. This duration of journey is not uncommon for pupils travelling on school transport and taking this proposal forward would not adversely affect the current pupils concerned or future pupils. This arrangement has been in place since August 2019 when the mothballing took effect.

Travelling for primary school education is not uncommon in Falkirk because of the geography of the area.

There are currently 8 primary pupils attending Beancross Primary School from the Bothkennar Primary School catchment and they are provided with school bus transport also serving the nearby Old Town (Glensburgh) area of Grangemouth. This currently adds approximately £5,200/year to the overall cost of providing this school bus due to the additional mileage incurred.

Staff working in Falkirk schools regularly travel throughout the area to and from work. The distance of 2.7 miles is a relatively short distance to travel between schools. It is therefore considered that there is very limited impact on staff travelling arrangements whether the school were to re-open or be permanently closed. There is unlikely to be any environmental impact arising from the arrangements staff make to get to school.

There are no other users of the school premises or facilities that would be affected in relation to transport arrangements.

The community already requires travelling to access other services such a GP and Dental Surgeries, shops and Post Offices in Grangemouth, Falkirk or other areas.

10. Environmental Impact

Falkirk Council does not consider that there will be any significant adverse environmental effects because of this proposal. There will be a small environmental impact of continuing to transport the Bothkennar catchment

pupils to Beancross Primary School and extending their daily travel to school by about 2.5 miles each way.

If the proposal is approved, and the building became surplus to requirements, it will have a positive impact on the Council's energy and climate change ambitions, as less energy will be required across the learning estate, than if the school were to re-open.

11. Effects on Staff and School Management Arrangements

Where necessary, any aspect of the implementation of this proposal that impacts on staff will result in consultation with the relevant trade unions and the individuals concerned. Given the school has been mothballed since 2019, any initial overstaffing transferring to Beancross Primary School will have been resolved by realigning our staffing resource across the service through our annual staffing exercise.

12. Financial Implications

The full financial considerations are detailed in Appendix 1.

This information gives details on the estimated cost if Bothkennar Primary School were still an occupied and operational establishment, the figures are based on financial year 2018/19 as this was the last full year the school was fully occupied.

As Bothkennar Primary School is currently mothballed, the cost for the mothballing is £40,580 per year. Should the school be reopened, occupied and operational, the running costs per year are estimated at £229,299 (based on 2018/19 costs inflated to 2025/26 equivalent).

The cost per pupil of operating Bothkennar Primary School should it reopen is £57,325 based on the school roll of 4 (census roll academic year 2018/19). This is high compared with £7,447 (source Local Government benchmarking Framework (LGBF) 2024-25) for Falkirk Primary Schools due to the low number of pupils attending. The national comparator from the LGBF is £7,615.

Column 2 of Table 1 shows the projected annual running costs of Bothkennar Primary School whilst Column 3 shows the additional impact on Beancross Primary School as the receiving school. The annual recurring savings (or costs) are shown in Column 4.

Beancross Primary School is detailed as the receiving school, due to the current temporary catchment arrangements. Additional transport costs to Slamannan Primary School are £5,200 per annum based on the current pupils in attendance, assuming the proposal was implemented.

Table 1, School Costs. There are no figures included for column 3 as the receiving school did not require additional staffing to accommodate the additional pupils from Bothkennar Primary School. During the initial temporary arrangements all staff transferred to Beancross Primary School

and any over staffing has been modelled out with staff redeployed as part of the subsequent annual staffing exercises.

Table 1, Building Costs. There are no figures included for column 3 as the receiving school did not require additional resource to accommodate the additional pupils from Bothkennar Primary School.

Table 1, School Operational Costs. The cost of learning materials and catering followed the pupils to the receiving school.

Table 1, Transport Costs. Depending on the outcome and implementation of the proposal there are additional transport costs to Beancross Primary School, these currently total £5,200 per annum based on the current pupils attending Beancross Primary School from the Bothkennar Primary School catchment.

Table 3 details the annual running costs during mothballing of Bothkennar Primary School and these are £40,580 per year. Since mothballing in 2019/20, the school building has remained operational as an office base for the Learning Resource Service and Outdoor Education Service. If the school were to be formally closed, this would allow the Council to also consider selling the school to a third party or transferring ownership to the local community.

Any savings remaining from the proposed option to permanently close Bothkennar Primary School will be allocated towards bridging the Council's budget gap as set out in the Revenue Budget 2025/26 and Financial Strategy. Further information is available on the Council website:

[Falkirk Council Budget and Finances for 2025-2026](#)

The annual revenue budget is built reflecting cost drivers such as the number of schools, buildings, staff and pupils. Therefore, if Bothkennar Primary School did not re-open and were to be permanently closed then future years' budgets would not require any allowance for staffing Bothkennar Primary School and there would be reduced property costs (and possibly no costs should the building be declared surplus to the Council's requirements). Any per capita budgets relating to individual pupils would continue to be budgeted against the school that these pupils would attend following the permanent closure of Bothkennar Primary School.

Subject to ongoing operational use and community asset transfer considerations, the existing Bothkennar Primary School building/site could be declared surplus to the requirements of Falkirk Council. This would minimise the financial risks associated with vacant buildings.

A capital receipt would be forthcoming if the building was sold, or income could be generated through a lease.

Combining pupils from both catchment areas in one school maximises use of the learning estate and represents good asset management.

13. Conclusion

It is proposed that a statutory consultation exercise takes place on a proposal to permanently close Bothkennar Primary School. As a result, pupils would be permanently zoned to Beancross Primary School with the catchment area of Bothkennar Primary School rezoned to Beancross Primary School.

The number of pupils living in the catchment area of Bothkennar Primary School has remained fairly constant since 2019 from 21 to 20 and is not expected to increase significantly in the near future. When there were 20 primary aged pupils living in the catchment area, only 4 were attending the school.

Beancross Primary School can accommodate all current and projected pupils from the combined catchment areas. A higher occupancy level maximises the use of the learning estate and represents good asset management.

Travel distance from Skinflats to Beancross Primary School is comparable with the distance pupils travel when they transitioned from Bothkennar Primary School to Grangemouth High School.

Members of the Skinflats community are already travelling to access other services such as GP and Dental Surgeries, shops and Post Offices and so it appears to be an accepted part of life within the village community.

The only option which is considered to be a reasonable response to address the issue of unsustainable school roll is to consider permanently closing Bothkennar Primary School. Special regard has been given to the rural school factors and the assessment of these are considered in section 6 and throughout this proposal paper.

It is therefore recommended that the most appropriate response to the issues identified is that a statutory consultation exercise takes place on the proposal to close the school. If the proposal is agreed, pupils from Bothkennar remain at Beancross Primary School. The delineated catchment area of Beancross Primary School would be permanently extended to include the Bothkennar Primary School catchment.

14. Responding to The Proposal

This Proposal Paper has been issued as a result of a decision on 19 February 2026 of the Executive (including Education) of Falkirk Council. This is to seek views on the proposals and alternatives set out in this paper. This report is available here:

- www.participateplus.falkirk.gov.uk/

A formal consultation in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 is required for any proposal to permanently close a school. This consultation is fully in accordance with the requirements of this legislation.

A copy of this Proposal Paper is available on the Falkirk Council website:

www.falkirk.gov.uk/bothkennar-primary-consultation

A link to the electronic version of this document will be provided by letter to:

- Parents and carers of all primary and nursery age pupils living in the catchment area of each affected school (Bothkennar and Beancross Primary Schools)
- Beancross Primary School Parent Council
- School staff and trade unions at Beancross Primary School
- Grangemouth (including Skinflats) Community Council
- All other households in the Bothkennar Primary School catchment area (so that the views of the overall community can also be considered during the consultation because this is a proposal to close a rural school)

A copy of this document is also available from:

- Education Services, Suite 1A, Falkirk Community Stadium, 4 Stadium Way, Falkirk, FK2 9EE
- Beancross Primary School, Kenilworth Street, Grangemouth FK3 8QS

This document is available in alternative formats or in translated form for readers whose first language is not English. Please apply to Education Services, Suite 1A, Falkirk Community Stadium, 4 Stadium Way, Falkirk, FK2 9EE by telephone on 01324 506600 or by email educ.consultation@falkirk.gov.uk

Length of Consultation Period

The consultation will take place between Monday 23 February and Friday 24 April 2026.

Public Meeting

There will be 1 public meeting held at Bothkennar Primary School on 17 March 2026 at 6.00pm. This meeting will be an opportunity for interested parties to:

- Hear about the proposal.
- Ask question about the proposal.
- Have their views recorded so that they can be taken into account as part of the consultation process.

A note will be taken at the meeting of questions and views. This note will be published in the consultation report which will be available on the Council website.

How to Respond to The Proposal

Interested parties are invited to respond on the proposals or any alternative proposals:

- Online: <https://participateplus.falkirk.gov.uk>
- By email: educ.consultation@falkirk.gov.uk

- In writing: Bothkennar Primary School Closure Consultation
Education Services, Suite 1A, Falkirk Community Stadium
4 Stadium Way
Falkirk, FK2 9EE

All responses should be provided by Friday 24 April 2024.

Consultation with Children and Young People

Pupils will be consulted about the proposal in school and further information about this will be provided to parent/carers.

Following the Consultation

Education Scotland – When the proposal document is published, a copy will also be sent to Education Scotland by the education authority. Education Scotland will also receive a copy of any relevant written representations received by the authority from any person during the consultation period or, if Education Scotland agree, a summary of them. Education Scotland will further receive a summary of any oral representations made to the Local Authority at the public meeting which will be held and, as available (and so far, as otherwise practicable), a copy of any other relevant documentation.

Education Scotland will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal not later than 3 weeks after the authority has sent them all representations and documents mentioned above. For the avoidance of doubt, the 3-week period will not start until after the consultation period has ended. In preparing their report, Education Scotland may enter the affected schools and make such reasonable enquiries of such people they consider appropriate and may make such reasonable enquiries as they consider appropriate.

Falkirk Council – the education authority 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 consultation report. This report will be published in electronic and printed formats. It will be available from the Council website and from Education Services, Suite 1A, Falkirk Community Stadium, 4 Stadium Way, Falkirk, FK2 9EE free of charge. Anyone who made written representations to the Authority during the consultation period will also be informed about the report.

The report will include:

- A record of the total number of written representations made to the authority 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 detail of any alleged inaccuracies and how these have been handled; and
- A statement explaining how the Authority complied with the requirement to review the proposal in light of the Education Scotland Report and representations (both written and oral) that it received.

The consultation report will be published and available for further consideration for a period of at least 3 weeks.

This report together with any other relevant documentation, will be considered by the Education, Children and Young People Executive of Falkirk Council, who will come to a decision about whether to implement the proposal.

Note on Corrections

If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this proposal document, either by the Council or any person, the Council must investigate and decide what, if any, action is required.

If relevant information has been omitted or there has been an inaccuracy, the Council will then take appropriate action, which may include the issue of a correction notice, the publishing of a corrected Proposal Paper or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period, if appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and Education Scotland will be advised. The Authority must inform the person who made the allegation and what action it has taken.

Scottish Ministers Call In

If the education authority makes a final decision to implement the closure proposal, it will require to notify the Scottish Ministers of that decision and provide them with a copy of the proposal document and the consultation report. This must be done within 6 working days of that decision.

The education authority must also publish on its website the fact that it has notified Scottish Ministers of its decision and of the period during which consultees can make representation to Ministers. For rural schools, the education authority must also give notice of the reasons why the Council is satisfied that the closure is the most appropriate response to the reasons for bringing forward the proposal. The Scottish Ministers have an 8-week period from the date of that final decision to decide if they will call-in the proposal. Within the first 3 weeks of that 8-week period, the Scottish Ministers will take account of any relevant representations made to them by any person. Until the outcome of the 8-week call-in process is known, the authority cannot proceed to implement the proposal.

If Scottish Ministers decide to call in a closure proposal, they must refer it to the Convener of the School Closure Review Panels for determination by a School Closure Review Panel. The authority may not implement the proposal (wholly or partly) unless the Panel has granted consent to it (with or without conditions) and either the period for making an appeal to the Sheriff has expired or, if an appeal has been made, it has either been abandoned or the Sheriff has confirmed the Panel's decision.

The School Closure Review Panel may refuse to consent to the proposal, refuse consent and remit the proposal back to the authority or grant their consent to the proposal subject to conditions or unconditionally.

- Ministers have a power to call in a closure decision, but only where it appears to Ministers that the Council has failed in a significant regard to comply with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act's requirements or, in coming to its decision, has failed to take proper account of a material

consideration relevant to the proposal. Ministers have up to 8 weeks from the date of the Council's decision to decide whether or not to issue a callin notice.

- During the first 3 weeks of this period, anyone is able to make representations to Ministers on whether the decision should be called in.
- During the call-in period, the Council may not proceed further, in whole or part, with the proposed closure. Ministers may come to a decision sooner than 8 weeks (but not before the 3 weeks for representations to be made to them has elapsed).
- The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act, as amended, gives Ministers and School Closure Review Panels the right to call on advice from Education Scotland in relation to a proposal at the call-in or determination stage.

This consultation is being conducted having regard to the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

APPENDIX 1 - FINANCIAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED CLOSURE

TABLE 1 Current Revenue Costs

| Column 1 | Column 2 | Column 3 | Column 4 |
|--|--|--|--|
| Expenditure Category | Costs for full financial year (projected annual based on financial year (2018/19)) | Additional financial impact on receiving school [Beancross PS] | Annual recurring savings (column 2 minus column 3) |
| COSTS | | | |
| <i>Employee Costs:</i> | | | |
| Teaching staff | £136,347 | £0 | £136,347 |
| Support staff | £28,973 | £0 | £28,973 |
| Teaching staff training | £0 | £0 | £0 |
| Support staff training | £0 | £0 | £0 |
| Supply costs | £0 | £0 | £0 |
| <i>Building Costs:</i> | | | |
| Property insurance | £2,000 | £0 | £2,000 |
| Non-domestic rates | £11,700 | £0 | £11,700 |
| Water & sewerage | £1,644 | £0 | £1,644 |
| Energy costs | £18,675 | £0 | £18,675 |
| Cleaning | £10,705 | £0 | £10,705 |
| Repairs & maintenance | £848 | £0 | £848 |
| Grounds maintenance | £324 | £0 | £324 |
| Facilities management | £1,800 | £0 | £1,800 |
| Other | £1,690 | £0 | £1,690 |
| <i>Operational costs:</i> | | | |
| Learning materials | £2,643 | £2,643 | £0 |
| Catering | £9,841 | £9,841 | £0 |
| Other (inc. licences) | £1,813 | £0 | £1,813 |
| <i>Transport costs:</i> | | | |
| Home to school | £0 | £5,200 | -£5,200 |
| Staff travel | £296 | £0 | £296 |
| COSTS SUB-TOTAL | £229,299 | £17,684 | £211,615 |
| INCOME | | | |
| Sale of meals | £0 | £0 | £0 |
| Lets | £0 | £0 | £0 |
| Other | £0 | £0 | £0 |
| INCOME SUB-TOTAL | £0 | £0 | £0 |
| TOTAL COSTS MINUS INCOME FOR SCHOOL | £229,299 | £17,684 | £211,615 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| UNIT COST PER PUPIL PER YEAR | £57,324.75 | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|

(4 pupils in 2018/19)

All Costs shown in Tables 1 are based on Financial Year 2018/19 when the school was last open, apart from Home to School transport costs in Column 3 which are based on current costs (2025/26). Inflation has been applied to 2018/19 costs to provide a best estimate of the current costs if the school were not mothballed.

Table 2 represents the capital costs associated with bringing the school back into operational use.

TABLE 2 Capital Costs

| | School proposed for closure | Receiving school |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Capital Life Cycle cost (3 years from 2026/27 to 2028/29) | | |
| Third party contributions to capital costs | | |

The costs in Table 3 are based on Financial Year 2025/26. This is the current cost for keeping the school mothballed. It shows the annual running cost that can be expected prior to disposal.

TABLE 3: Annual Property costs incurred until disposal.

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Property insurance | £2,000 |
| Non-domestic rates | £11,700 |
| Water & sewerage charges | £1,600 |
| Energy costs | £11,000 |
| Cleaning | £10,510 |
| Security costs | £0 |
| Repairs & maintenance | £1,150 |
| Grounds maintenance | £200 |
| Facilities management | £730 |
| Other | £1,690 |
| TOTAL ANNUAL COST UNTIL DISPOSAL | £40,580 |

TABLE 4 Non-recurring Revenue costs

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| TOTAL NON-RECURRING REVENUE COSTS | £211,615 |
|--|-----------------|

See Table 1 for how this is calculated

TABLE 5 Impact on GAE

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| GAE IMPACT | £12,000 |
|-------------------|----------------|

GAE is the Grant Aided Expenditure for small schools covered by Scottish Government funding that would be lost if the school is closed. This figure is based on the 2018/19 school roll of 5 pupils.

TABLE 6 Non-recurring Revenue costs minus the impact of GAE

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| NET REVENUE COSTS (INC. IMPACT ON GAE) | £199,615 |
|---|-----------------|