

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

**EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE**

**PROPOSAL TO CHANGE EDUCATION PROVISION IN GLENDALE, ISLE  
OF SKYE**

**THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE PAPER PREPARED IN TERMS OF THE  
EDUCATION AUTHORITY'S AGREED PROCEDURE TO MEET THE  
REQUIREMENTS OF THE SCHOOLS CONSULTATION (SCOTLAND) ACT  
2010.**

## **THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

### **EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE**

**THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE PAPER PREPARED IN TERMS OF THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY'S AGREED PROCEDURE TO MEET THE RELEVANT STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

#### **CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO CHANGE EDUCATION PROVISION IN GLENDALE, ISLE OF SKYE**

This paper sets out a proposal by Highland Council to close Borrodale Primary School and extend the delineated area of Dunvegan Primary School to encompass that of Borrodale Primary. If agreed the proposal would be implemented for the start of the new school session in August 2010.

#### **1 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Borrodale Primary School has had no pupils since October 2007 when the remaining sets of parents with children at the school submitted placing requests for their children to attend Dunvegan Primary. At the time Highland Council indicated that Borrodale Primary School would remain open (although "mothballed") in case any new parents wished to enrol children there.
- 1.2 Prior to being mothballed Borrodale Primary was managed by an Associate Head Teacher responsible for Dunvegan Primary and Edinbane Primary as well as Borrodale.
- 1.3 The nearest alternative schools are Dunvegan Primary, located approximately 9 miles south of Borrodale Primary, or Struan Primary School, located approximately 16 miles from Borrodale Primary. Dunvegan Primary School provides a choice of English and Gaelic medium education (2 classes in each). The school has 4 classrooms, a pre-school nursery, a GP room, a gym hall/dining room, kitchen, office accommodation, staffroom and entrance foyer and a grass playing field shared with the community. One classroom and the nursery are located in demountable units. The roll currently stands at 60. The school has a "B" rating for suitability and a "C" for condition.
- 1.4 Struan Primary School is a school of 2 classrooms plus a nursery, the latter located within a demountable unit. The school also has a shared GP/dining room, office accommodation and staffroom, and a multi-use games area. The roll currently stands at 17. The school has a "B" rating for suitability and a "C" for condition.

## **2 LIKELY EFFECT OF PROPOSAL**

- 2.1 The proposals would give formal effect to the situation currently prevailing. Formal closure would mean that parents of future school pupils would no longer have the option to seek a re-opening of Borrodale Primary when their children become of school age. As the school age children living within the delineated area for Borrodale School are being educated elsewhere, the closure of Borrodale would have no adverse effects on those pupils. There are, in any case, more extensive educational opportunities available in Dunvegan Primary due to the wider range of facilities and the greater opportunities for social interaction.
- 2.2 Closure would have no impact on the current travelling arrangements for pupils.
- 2.3 Highland Council currently has a site and a building lying dormant. There would also be a benefit in clarifying the future arrangements for the education of children in the area.
- 2.4 Since being mothballed, the building has been used temporarily by the Glendale Trust for a local heritage exhibition. Representations supporting the continuation of this current use of the building have been received from the community. On the other hand, concerns have also been expressed about whether future community use of the school building would threaten the sustainability of Glendale village hall. Clearly there are conflicting views within the local community about the future use of the school building, were the school to be closed.
- 2.5 The catchment area for Borrodale Primary encompasses the Glendale peninsula on the Isle of Skye. All the parents who moved their pupils from the school in October 2007 opted to enrol their children in Dunvegan which is the closest school. The Council proposes to extend the delineated area of Dunvegan Primary to include the existing delineated area of Borrodale Primary.
- 2.6 Revenue expenditure for Borrodale school in the current financial year to date is approximately £7200, mostly relating to electricity costs and rates.

## **3 SUMMARY**

- 3.1 There has been no parental demand for a school at Borrodale since October 2007. Were the school to continue to be mothballed, the Council would be left with a building and site. The building is currently being used by the Glendale Heritage Trust, although there is some opposition to this within the community and if the school were to remain mothballed the Council would require to undertake further discussions to establish the prevailing view within the community over the use of the building. The building would require investment in order to prevent it

becoming derelict. In terms of a viable alternative to closure, the option of keeping the school mothballed would allow the building to remain open in the event that parents wished to enrol children there at some point in the future. There would however be greater educational advantage in pupils attending Dunvegan Primary.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 For the reasons set out in this paper, the Highland Council proposes the closure of Borrodale Primary.