Outcome of the Statutory Consultation on the proposal to re-establish primary stages P5-P7 in Auchengray Primary School

May 2014

This report has been issued by South Lanarkshire Council in response to the consultation undertaken in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This report includes recommendations of the outcome of the consultation which will be presented to the Executive Committee of South Lanarkshire Council.

If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.

Phone: 01698 454545 Email: education@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
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1. Distribution of consultation proposals document

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3. Report by Education Scotland
1. **Purpose of the report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise all stakeholders on the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the proposal to re-establish primary stages P5 – P7 with effect from August 2014. This includes a report from Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal and Education Resources’ responses to all questions and issues raised during the consultation period.

2. **Recommendations**

2.1 It is intended that the consultation report, along with any relevant documentation, will be considered by the Executive Committee of South Lanarkshire Council on 9 July 2014.

2.2 It is recommended that the Executive Committee:
   - Note the contents of the report
   - Agree the proposal to re-establish primary stages P5 – P7 with effect from August 2014

3. **Background**

3.1 A consultation proposal document was issued as a result of a decision by the Executive Committee of South Lanarkshire Council on 29 January 2014 to consult on the proposal below:
   - Re-establish stages Primary 5 to Primary 7 in Auchengray Primary School

3.2 The statutory consultation, in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 was carried out over the period 24th February 2014 to 4th April 2014 which included a public meeting held on 4th March 2014 in the Auchengray Church Centre.

3.3 A consultation notice was placed in the Carluke and Lanark Gazette on 19th February 2014. The notice included a summary of the proposal, information on availability of the proposal document, how written representations could be made and also details of the public meeting.

3.4 A copy of the proposal document was issued on 21st February 2014 to the consultees listed in Appendix 1. It was published on the Council website and a copy made available from all libraries and Q and As.

3.5 A public meeting was held on 4th March 2014 in the Auchengray Church Centre. A summary of the oral representations made at this meeting is included as Appendix 2 in this report.

3.6 South Lanarkshire Council sent a copy of the proposal document to Education Scotland (formerly HMIe) on 21st February 2014 in their role as a statutory consultee. In addition, on 28th April 2014, Education Scotland was provided with a summary of all relevant written responses and oral representations made during the consultation period.

3.7 South Lanarkshire Council received a copy of Education Scotland’s report on 14th May 2014. A summary of this report and Education Resources’ response to the key points is included in Section 7 of this consultation report and a copy of the whole document is included as Appendix 3.
4. Distribution of proposal document and summary of responses

Consultation proposal documents totalling 200 were sent to statutory consultees and other stakeholders (1 document per household) with the document also being available on the council website, within libraries and Council Q and As.

The total number of responses that were received was 51 representing 48 households or groups.

**Analysis of physical responses received - total 51**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In favour of proposal</th>
<th>Not in favour of proposal</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Analysis of physical responses by household / group (taking into account multiple returns from same household) - total 48**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In favour of proposal</th>
<th>Not in favour of proposal</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Table 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response to proposal</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Parent / carer of child at Auchengray Primary School</th>
<th>Parent / carer of child at Carnwath Primary School</th>
<th>Parent / carer of potential future pupil at affected schools</th>
<th>Parent Council</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Resident in Auchengray Primary School catchment area</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In favour</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in favour</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A summary of the comments received are included in Section 5. These are relatively unedited although any references to names have been removed to preserve anonymity.

**Relevant statutory consultees are**

- the Parent Councils of affected schools
- parents of pupils attending each affected school as well as the pupils themselves
- parents of pupils likely to attend an affected school
- staff at each affected school
- any trade union representative of those staff
- any other users whom the authority considers relevant
5. Summary of written responses and Education Resources' responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation (Parent etc.)</th>
<th>Comment / Issue raised</th>
<th>Council response / Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Elected Member</td>
<td>I think this is correct thing to do to ensure Auchengray is not unique in Scotland especially if we are in the process of building a new school. However I have concerns regards the plans only having one classroom. I think this issue needs to be addressed before the re-build is started. I think it would be less distressing to children to only have to move to secondary school. I feel to move them at P5 must be very stressful to them at a tender age.</td>
<td>Further to the feedback received at the Public Meeting held on the 4th March, Education Officers met with the Schools Modernisation Team to look at further refinement of the internal reconfiguration to provide the most appropriate and flexible use of space to meet the needs of the curriculum whilst reducing any possible noise / distractions as suggested by some parents. These will now be discussed with the Head Teacher and his team and will be shared with the Parent Council once revised drawings are available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Elected Member</td>
<td>Thank you for the information about the proposed changes to re-establish P5-P7 at Auchengray. I support these changes as both an ex head teacher and as a councillor. Indeed I taught Biggar High School for 28 years and as a consequence I knew the situation at Auchengray pretty well. I hope that the community see the advantages in the suggestions made by the council.</td>
<td>This comment is supportive of the proposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Commander</td>
<td>Allows for continuity of education and provides relevant support to the community. No issues for local policing.</td>
<td>Comment noted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent - Auchengray</td>
<td>Being the parent of 2 former and one current pupil of Auchengray Primary, I strongly agree with the proposal. I believe the removal of the transition to Carnwath primary at P5 will ensure continuity and stability in the children's education. I also believe it will be beneficial to the wider community encouraging young families to stay in the area.</td>
<td>This comment is supportive of the proposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designation (Parent etc.)</td>
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<td>Local community group</td>
<td>WAT IF? Support the proposal because we feel it will benefit the area and community. Wat IF? is a Community Trust, set up as a SCIO (SC043 606) on 28th November 2012 to use funds from developers (e.g. Wind Farms, Landfill) to improve the villages of Woolfords, Auchengray and Tarbrax and the settlements within a 3-mile radius of Stallanshaw Moss. We are looking to work with the school on growing and gardening and are thus interested in its redevelopment.</td>
<td>This comment is supportive of the proposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Church Centre</td>
<td>I note from the pupil roll information that the numbers of P1-P4 pupils attending has varied significantly over the years, not in line with general population trends, but more to do with local flow and make up of local population. That being the case it seems quite feasible that numbers of P1-P7 children could easily exceed 50, the capacity as I understand of the proposed building. I would have thought that this is the time to ensure the premises are adequate for the future and would suggest revisiting the plans so that up to 70 could be accommodated.</td>
<td>Comments noted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent - Auchengray</td>
<td>I think it is only prudent to consider such an option where a new build is taking place. Providing schooling up to P7 will increase community participation beyond the current which seems to dissipate beyond P4. I'd also like to comment on the lack of morning and after school provision (breakfast clubs and after school clubs) and I would hope this would be considered within the proposal. As a single parent and full time worker, with no childcare available I feel this would be an excellent addition not only in my circumstances, but for other parents whose children currently attend Auchengray.</td>
<td>Parents should discuss these suggestions with the school and wider community to investigate opportunities for such groups operating at the new school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent - Auchengray</td>
<td>My son attends Auchengray Primary School. He is very settled there and I am delighted with the high standards of education provided. Uninterrupted continuation to P7 would be beneficial for my son's education.</td>
<td>This comment is supportive of the proposal.</td>
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<td>Parent - Auchengray</td>
<td>As a young family we have taken the time to build a house and settle in this community. Our oldest son is currently p1 &amp; we have 2 further children due to attend Auchengray ps. Having them in one location right through to p7 would be greatly beneficial to the children in my opinion and we would love to support the school into this transition.</td>
<td>This comment is supportive of the proposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent - Carnwath</td>
<td>I feel that the children from both Auchengray and Carnwath benefit from the children from Auchengray coming down to Carnwath Primary a few years before High School.</td>
<td>Parents would still have the option to make a placing request to Carnwath Primary School for P5 entry if this was felt of benefit to their child(ren).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent - Carnwath</td>
<td>Consultation with community should have taken place before plans drawn up and approved. A lot of children do not attend Auchengray PS because it is only up to P4 and a transition at P5 is difficult compared to just an S1 transition. The community justifies a school up to P7. It would (of course) not be appropriate to teach P1-P7 in one classroom with a 'break out' space. An additional classroom is essential and it is the perfect opportunity to provide a showcase school. Let's get it right. You are already on the back foot because of a lack of forward thinking. Please don't make that mistake again.</td>
<td>A Parent / Resident roadshow took place on the 29th January when the plans for the new school were displayed and discussed with those who attended. A very positive response was received at that event by parents and residents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent - Carnwath</td>
<td>I doubt that 9 children would make a huge difference with regards community. It’s the resource of building not pupil numbers in that argument. If P5-7 went to Auchengray additional teacher(s) must be needed. Can't expect P5-7 to concentrate on their work with P1-4 taking different structures of lessons, more noise, in some area. PE etc also issue. Carnwath also struggles enough for teacher numbers and support staff relying on parental help. For the sake of small number of children, this could have huge impact on the rest (negative). Also kids need to socialise with their own age group especially before heading to high school so something would need putting in place for two schools to mix frequently.</td>
<td>Current staffing ratios would provide 1 teacher for 1-19 children and 2 teachers for 20-50 children regardless of how many stages involved. Effective transition arrangements would be put in place to facilitate this.</td>
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<td>Parent - Carnwath</td>
<td>My main concern is with integration. You've said in the report that this can prove problematic in younger children but surely the integration into High School is much more daunting when you only know one other person at the High School (which would be the case for the current P6 &amp; P1 pupils). Also I don't know what the impact would be on the new school builds, so far that reason I am undecided. It does not affect my son directly as he is at Carnwath but I'd be concerned if he hardly knew anyone and was going to the High School.</td>
<td>Effective transition arrangements would be put in place to avoid this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent - Carnwath</td>
<td>I am not against this proposal however I have a few concerns with the possibility of this happening. My son attends Carnwath PS as a placing request and I am disappointed that this proposal was not suggested before this placing request was made as an informed decision could then have been made. Concerns over transport for my child if he was to attend Carnwath PS at P5 stage. The consultation with pupils needs to be expanded. I feel the proposal is very parent led. Although my child attends Carnwath PS as a placing request, I feel I should have been able to attend Auchengray Parent Council meetings to ensure information on the progress of the proposal is given. Numbers in the proposal document do not take account of placing request pupils. Current one classroom plan inadequate for new school.</td>
<td>This statutory consultation was conducted after a formal request made in writing by the Auchengray Parent Council. Comments noted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>3 of my grandchildren attended Auchengray PS from P1-P4, thereafter transferring to Carnwath PS. The children found difficulty integrating with the resident pupils who had established their own hierarchy and most of the Auchengray children were never accepted by their peers. It is obviously quite a traumatic and stressful experience making the changes from a small school to a much larger one. I therefore feel that when the new Auchengray school is built, it should accommodate children from P1 through to P7, by which time the children have achieved greater maturity to enable them to make the transition to Biggar High.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>My youngest son attended Auchengray Primary school from P1-4. He absolutely loved the school and was very unsettled at having to leave on reaching the end of p4. If he had been given the opportunity of continuing his education until moving on to high school then I believe he could have avoided a lot of stress and anxiety at that time in his young life.</td>
<td>Comments noted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent - Carnwath</td>
<td>After having two children going to Carnwath PS from Auchengray PS, both had different experiences. My daughter went to Carnwath with a larger group of children and settled in quickly and made lots of friends on the other hand my son went up with only one other child and after 2 years still finds it difficult to mingle with the local children from Carnwath. And I would have preferred if he had stayed at Auchengray as he was progressing well after being diagnosed with dyslexia. At least when he goes to Biggar it will be part of a larger class. Auchengray is a family friendly school and had lots of assemblies through out the year. Another thing is that Tarbrax no longer has the Tads nursery and I believe that the local nursery is now at Carnwath Primary. It would be a good thing if Auchengray could provide a small space for a nursery group, as some parents who attended the Carnwath nursery place their children directly into Carnwath primary from P1and bypass Auchengray all together so that their children are settled with their peers. This could be affecting the amount of children attending Auchengray PS.</td>
<td>This comment is supportive of the proposal. Comments noted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>The children receive a great education at Auchengray and it would be more beneficial for them to continue to stay until P7. It can be very unsettling for the children to be moved to Carnwath then again to Biggar.</td>
<td>This comment is supportive of the proposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On behalf of Parent Council</td>
<td>The parents of Auchengray Primary School believe that this proposal would ensure we create the best possible environment for all children of primary school age, in the Auchengray catchment, for learning. We believe that this is the optimum time to re-establish P5-P7 as the school rebuild is being planned anyway.</td>
<td>This comment is supportive of the proposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Parent – Auchengray</td>
<td>Auchengray Primary School is an outstanding school. If the Council are investing £1.5million on the rebuild of our school, this is the optimum time to re-establish stages Primary 5-7 within the school. This is the best possible environment for all children of primary school age in the Auchengray catchment to learn.</td>
<td>This comment is supportive of the proposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>Yes I agree with the proposal. My younger sisters attend(ed) Auchengray, my own son is now at high school and this year my middle daughter will be starting Auchengray followed by her sister two years after. Living opposite the school means the longer they can attend the better. The teachers within Auchengray have always been fantastic and the rural setting has meant a closer community than Carnwath. When my son moved on it was a very anxious and scary time for him. I would much rather avoid that if my girls can. Being schooled in the same secure safe setting they will have become comfortable with, till they really need to move on, has to have a positive effect on them opposed to being outsiders and made to settle in again mid primary education. Putting them at a disadvantage from their peers already in Carnwath. Personally I've never enjoyed my experiences with Carnwath Primary school from being a pupil then a parent. It's just never had the same feel of support and happiness as Auchengray always has had. It's also very sad that TADS nursery finished as that wouldn't been my first choice for my daughters too. Perhaps if Auchengray reinstates P5-7 classes as a nursery or preschool option would become available again, taking pressure off surrounding schools. Maybe a section of the new school would be available during nursery classes sessions. Not interfering in school function. This in turn would encourage families to use the preschool nursery then follow on to school. Ensuring the rebuild and class increase is used to the best of its ability and potential. Encouraging a closer family community for Auchengray and surrounding area.</td>
<td>This comment is supportive of the proposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of staff</td>
<td>Phased introduction to P1-P7 may be helpful.</td>
<td>Comment noted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designation (Parent etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member of staff</td>
<td>Discontinue need to additional transition at P5 stage. All reasons stated 5.1-5.4 [in consultation proposal document].</td>
<td>This comment is supportive of the proposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>Nothing would make us happier than having both our children together at primary and a small village primary such as Auchengray a deciding factor in where to have our family home. A parent of two children moving into area and this would be our new catchment school. One thing that attracted us to the area was the school and the knowledge both children will stay together is important to us not just for one year and then big brother sent off to Carnwath but three years together. Otherwise we would have had to consider sending them both to the same school elsewhere.</td>
<td>This comment is supportive of the proposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>It is unfortunate that this consultation process wasn't carried out earlier during the planning process as there will need to be some re-design to have at least two different teaching areas. I believe the children will benefit overall from the stability during their first seven years of school and this is an opportunity to showcase what can be done if the will is there. I also understand the logistical challenges as children transition from Carnwath but feel we will wonder why we waited so long once Auchengray is up and running. a school is a focus point for the community and I hope this will be taken into account during re-development, such as integrating an area for community growing/gardening.</td>
<td>Comments noted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>It would make perfect sense to now re-establish P5-P7 whilst doing rebuild. The community deserve an educational facility P1-P7 which is local. Pupils leaving here have sometimes found the transition very difficult because they are so young. They have been very unhappy and found integrating very stressful. Parents can be anxious about the transition. A boost to our numbers means greater educational opportunities and security for the future.</td>
<td>This comment is supportive of the proposal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Designation (Parent etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member of staff</td>
<td>This is a great chance to take this school back to a P7 when building a new school as it was originally cut back owing to a lack of space. This would make Auchengray the same as all other small school in SLC. The standard of education speaks for itself as most of Carnwath duxes and this year Biggar High dux all started learning at Auchengray. I have had 7 children plus some grandchildren go through this system and most of their learning achieved at Auchengray where no child has ever left not being able to read and spell or count. While some adapt to Carnwath most find it hard to make friends as Carnwath children have already formed their friends and treat them as incomers where at Biggar High lots of small schools are all coming together. Small schools give children confidence as my own have never been out of work and the youngest a top student at Glasgow University.</td>
<td>This comment is supportive of the proposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent – Carnwath</td>
<td>We are not in favour of a P1-P7 school with only one classroom. We think the plans prepared in advance of the consultation should be altered if the P1-P7 proposal goes ahead. As parents of a child who was educated in P1-P4 at Auchengray we would not have considered sending her to a one classroom P1-P7 even if it meant not sending her to her catchment school.</td>
<td>Comments noted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent – Auchengray</td>
<td>Initially I was undecided having had a child who very successfully transferred to Carnwath and I felt this was a positive interim move before High School. However the school role then sat at a minimum of 30 over four years. I appreciate personalities and maturity of the children is a factor. As a P2 mother at this point I now welcome the opportunity of the P5-7 being reinstated mainly as there comes a point the numbers being so small in the school as a whole carries some disadvantages. I therefore agree with the proposal and feel Auchengray will continue to prepare the move for its pupils extremely well and on the same footing for the children as their peers.</td>
<td>This comment is supportive of the proposal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent – Carnwath</td>
<td>Not in favour - it could justify building a new school for only 16 pupils! One concern would be that this could affect Carnwath Primary classroom allocation - you talk about reconfiguring with fewer staff. Even with a possibility to increase the school to P7, does this justify such a small school - no guarantee of increased numbers! One question would be why numbers at Auchengray have declined by more that 50% over the last 14 years! A healthy learning environment like Carnwath Primary gives children a chance to make friendships and be in a larger group. If your child goes to Auchengray from P1-P4, Carnwath at the moment is used as a stepping stone making the transition to High School a little easier, A child leaving P7 with such low numbers would surely find it socially difficult going from 16 (for example) to a school of roughly 900.</td>
<td>Comments noted. Parents would still have the option to make a placing request to Carnwath Primary School for P5 entry if this was felt of benefit to their child(ren). Biggar High current pupil roll is approximately 680 pupils.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent – Carnwath</td>
<td>Our opinion is that it has been a good idea to change schools at P5. It has been good for our son as he had a troublesome child at the school who disrupted the lessons, and was bullying certain children at the school, our son being one of them. Since changing to Carnwath he has been able to put this behind him and has made a whole new group of friends and acquaintances, and finds it refreshing to be taught by a new teacher. Keep Auchengray P1-P4 as it gives the kids a fresh outlook on friends and teachers and mixing with a larger variety of people from outside the confines of Tarbrax, Auchengray and Woolfords. I would like to add that it has made a huge difference in bringing him on as a confident more rounded individual since going to Carnwath.</td>
<td>Comments noted. Parents would still have the option to make a placing request to Carnwath Primary School for P5 entry if this was felt of benefit to their child(ren).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future parent (beyond two years)</td>
<td>First I would like to express my disappointment at not being formally consulted as my children will not attend within 2 years. I received this form from a neighbour. I feel with the investment going into the school at the moment it makes this the perfect time to bring Auchengray in line with all other primary schools in South Lanarkshire. Changing schools for any reason is disruptive for children therefore having P1-P7 in the same school can only benefit our children.</td>
<td>The consultation was advertised in the local press and the proposal document was made available from the school, Q&amp;A offices and libraries plus the Council website. This comment is supportive of the proposal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Future parent (beyond two years)</td>
<td>This proposal will bring Auchengray in to line with all other primary schools in South Lanarkshire. Disappointed consulters only include parents of children to attend within 2 years. As a parent of two children who fall out with this bracket but will attend Auchengray in due course I feel that I and others in similar position should be considered as consultees. Danger that the views of parents within the catchment area are lost by those submitted by Carnwath residents due to their greater population.</td>
<td>This comment is supportive of the proposal. &lt;br&gt;The consultation was advertised in the local press and the proposal document was made available from the school, Q&amp;A offices and libraries plus the Council website. &lt;br&gt;The evaluation of the respondees to this consultation will not merely be based on numbers but the detail and quality of the arguments for and against the proposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of staff</td>
<td>When building a new school it makes sense to now be able to include children of stages P5-P7 who in the past have had to move on to Carnwath Primary through lack of space at Auchengray. The school is very much at the heart of the community of 3 fairly isolated villages and has always had strong community support. This will be further strengthened and a larger toll will ensure the viability of the school in years to come.</td>
<td>This comment is supportive of the proposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of staff</td>
<td>I agree with the proposal - it makes sense to make the school a P1-7. The parents and the community are very passionate about the school as it is the hub of the community. I think also that it would be an easier transition for children leaving a primary school to go to high school rather than going into P5 class within another primary school.</td>
<td>This comment is supportive of the proposal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Pupil comments

Pupil views gathered from P1-P4 pupils at Auchengray Primary School.

14 returns from pupils, all in favour of becoming a Primary 1 – 7 stage school. Comments from each pupil as follows gathered by class teacher:

- **P4 pupil** - This means I would be able to stay with my friends. I would be able to stay here for some more years. There would be more people to play with. There would be lots more fun work to do because I like the work at Auchengray. We would have more friends in Primary 1 and more people would come if we were a P1-7.

- **P2 pupil** - I would like to stay here for longer. We will be able to run faster in P6. Mrs Alexander and Mrs Newbold would have more people in P7 to help me with hard work. The P7s could help look after us in the playground.

- **P1 pupil** - You would learn new things. I would like to do new things in P5 but stay in Auchengray. My little brother would come in P1 and I would be able to stay with him. There would be more friends in P1. More people would come in P1 and I would have more friends to play with.

- **P3 pupil** - I would like to stay at Auchengray. I would get to go to the new school. It would be good to work there. It would be good to have a new playground. P7s would be able to help me with my work.

- **P3 pupil** - It gives us more time to get friends and stay friends. We would be able to carry on our work here. It would give us more people to play with.

- **P4 pupil** - I would be able to come back and see my teachers again. I would be able to make more new friends. There would be older children to help the P4s look after the primary 1s and 2s. I would be able to talk to my friends on a bigger bus. It means the work would be a little bit harder.

- **P4 pupil** - More people could come to the school in P1. There would be harder work. There would be more equipment at playtime and lunch time. P7s could organise some games.

- **P1 pupil** - You would get to stay for longer and not have to move in P4. We would have more girls in P1 because they would be able to stay for longer. Robin would have come to school if she was able to stay to P7.

- **P4 pupil** - There will be more people. I want to stay at Auchengray because I like the work and the playground. A new school would more equipment and a new playground. Carnwath is further to travel on the bus. If we had P7s it means everyone could stay. I don’t want to move.

- **P3 pupil** - I would like to stay with [other pupil name] longer at school. I would also like to see [other pupil name] again. I would get to make more friends so that you can have even more fun. If we had P7s they could help us with our work. They would organise games in the playground.

- **P3 pupil** – I really like my friends and I would like to stay here with them. I really enjoy being at this school. Can we have a swimming pool too?

- **P2 pupil** – I want to stay here for longer, working and playing with my friends.

- **P4 pupil** – I want to stay here. I enjoy playtime with all my friends. I prefer to stay here than move to another school. I like being a buddy in P4 and would like to be one in P7. I like helping the younger children with their work. I want to use the Gym Hall in the new school.
P2 pupil – There are good toys that I like to play with. I would have more friends to play with. I love playing in the sand pit. I will be in P6 when my wee sister Sarah comes to school. I will be able to look after her for 2 years then I will be able to see her again at High School.

Pupil views gathered from P4 – P7 pupils at Carnwath Primary School.

Primary 4
- I do think it would be good if they stayed at Auchengray because then they wouldn’t have all the hassle of moving to another school.
- I think it will be good for them to come to Carnwath Primary because they will be able to make new friends.
- I think it should stay the way it is.
- I think they should come because they don’t have a very big school so they won’t have new people to play with.

Primary 5
- The Auchengray children make more friends.
- They get a bigger playground.
- It’s nice to have some new children to talk to.
- If they want to play with someone there’s a bigger choice of people.
- It’s better here because there’s a lot more people here. At Auchengray everyone was friends but it was hard because if someone fell out then everyone fell out with that person. It’s just nice coming here and making new friends.
- They are fun to play with.
- Some people take the Auchengray bus but have never been to Auchengray so if the bus was stopped then it would be harder to get to school.
- They won’t need to move school till P7 or until they move away.
- It’s better at Carnwath because if you fall out with someone because you have other friends but at Auchengray if you fall out with someone there’s no-one else to play with.
- Carnwath’s better because it’s much bigger and there’s more people to play with.
- We get to meet new people and so do the Auchengray people.
- There is a football pitch here.
- On the bus we have more people to talk to.

Primary 6
- In Auchengray it was nice to have a small class because the teacher could see everyone and we were treated equally.
- In Auchengray there weren’t too many bullies so they didn’t have to deal with things that happened at break so much.
- I think it would be nice to have a smaller class in Carnwath. It would be easier for the teacher to have a smaller class.
- I think it must be a wee bit strange for children from Auchengray to come to a bigger school – they must be a bit nervous and unsure about stuff.
- The classes can get too crowded when children from Auchengray come.
- It is strange for them when they come down because they don’t know us but it’s also a bit strange for us too because we don’t know them.
- It’s nice when they come because you get to meet new friends and you get to know them.
- It was hard to leave Auchengray because I had quite a few friends.
- I think it’s good if more people come because it means there are more people to play with and people don’t get left out.
I don’t think it would be very good if it was a P1-7 because I really enjoyed the Auchengray children joining us and also it would mean because they are such small classes when you go to Biggar High School it wouldn’t be as enjoyable. It would be harder to go from a small class to a big school like the High School. It gives us a chance to make new friends before we go to Biggar High.

I don’t think it’s a good idea because when you come here you make new friends and it gets you ready for High School.

I don’t think it should go to P1-7, coming here it gets you ready for High School because we have already made the transition to a bigger school.

I don’t think it should go up to a P7 because it would make it bigger but it wouldn’t be as big as Carnwath and it would be harder to go to Biggar High School.

I think it would have been better as P1-7 because some people live quite a long way away, e.g. Tarbrax, and they have to travel quite a long way to get to Carnwath. It would have been easier to stay at Auchengray.

I don’t think it’s a good idea. I went to the meeting and they said if they didn’t have more than 19 pupils then the current teacher would have 7 year groups and that would be hard for them. It would be really distracting to have other year groups learning different things next to you. It would be really noisy.

I don’t think it’s a good idea. It was nice having Auchengray children coming to Carnwath and meeting new friends.

I like coming to Carnwath now and it’s good but it would have been easier if Auchengray had been a P1-7. It would have been nearer and mum would have let me cycle home and I could have got my homework done quicker. But I do really like it here and I have made lots of new friends.

It would be harder for everyone else if Auchengray was P1-7 because our class would be smaller and we wouldn’t know as many people when we went to the High School.
7. Summary of issues raised by Education Scotland (formerly HMIe) and Education Resources responses

7.1 As part of the statutory consultation process, Education Scotland prepared a report on the consultation proposal by South Lanarkshire Council, addressing educational aspects of the proposal. This report is attached as appendix 3.

7.2 Education Scotland reported that South Lanarkshire Council 'makes a well-reasoned case for its proposal' and that the removal of the additional transition stage at Primary 4 was seen as an opportunity to 'eliminate the potential for disruption to children’s educational experiences'.

7.3 It was recognised that the proposal would provide older pupils with opportunities to take on a greater leadership role within their own school community.

7.4 Education Scotland found, from their own discussions and the feedback provided by the Council, that the proposal had strong support from current and past pupils, current and future parents, school staff and the wider community.

7.5 **Response**

South Lanarkshire Council welcomes the very positive report and the recognition of the sound educational benefits for children arising from the proposal.

It is agreed that the Council's decision should be relayed to affected parents as soon as possible. This Consultation Report requires to be published for at least three weeks before the Council makes its decision. It is intended that the outcome of the statutory consultation will be considered by the Executive Committee on 9th July 2014.

Once the decision is known this will be relayed to parents of pupils currently in Primary 4 at Auchengray Primary School and those parents of pupils who reside in the Auchengray Primary School catchment area attending Carnwath Primary School at Primary 5 and 6 by telephone call.
8. Review of proposals by South Lanarkshire Council

8.1 The Council has reviewed the proposals having regard (in particular) to any relevant written representations received by the Council during the consultation, and representations made at the public meeting, and Education Scotland’s report.

8.2 Feedback indicates that there is strong support for the proposal amongst parents and the community.

8.3 A positive report from Education Scotland corroborates the educational and social benefits of the proposal.

8.4 After review, the proposal to re-establish primary stages P5 – P7 with effect from August 2014 is recommended.

9. Resource, risk and policy implications

9.1 Resource implications

There should be a reduction in transport costs with the removal of the need for transport to Carnwath Primary School for pupils at Primary 5 – 7. There may be some reconfiguration of resources between Auchengray Primary School and Carnwath Primary School depending on pupil roll numbers at the start of the new school session in August 2014.

9.2 Risk implications

The Council has a duty to conduct risk assessments under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulation 1999. Any current risk assessments at the schools would be reviewed if the proposal is implemented.

9.3 Policy implications

9.3.1 Strategy

This report supports Education Resources’ priorities for raising educational achievement and attainment and achieving efficient and effective use of resources.

9.3.2 Consultation

This report describes the outcome of the statutory consultation process with the community. Any school closure proposals or changes to school catchment areas are subject to the statutory consultation process. South Lanarkshire Council has undertaken this consultation in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. Further consultation with pupils, staff, parents, Trade Unions and other stakeholders would continue if the proposals are approved.
Appendix 1  Distribution of consultation proposals document

Distribution list and how to access a copy of the proposal document

A copy of this proposal document was provided to the following consultees:

• The Parent Council of the affected schools
• The parents of the pupils at the affected schools
• Parents who have children who are expected to attend the affected schools within 2 years of the publication of this proposal document. To achieve this, a copy of the proposal was provided to Early Years Establishments in the local area.
• The pupils at the affected schools and their pupil committees and councils
• All South Lanarkshire Council employees at the affected schools
• Trade union representatives
• Community Councils within the affected locality
• Local churches
• All relevant users of the affected schools
• South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partners

A copy of this proposal document was also made available to:

• All Elected Members of South Lanarkshire Council
• South Lanarkshire Youth Council
• Education Scotland (formerly Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Education, HMie)
• The Constituency MSP of the affected schools
• List MSP for the area of the affected schools
• The MP of the affected schools
• Police Commander for Lanarkshire Division of Police Scotland
• Chief Executive, NHS Lanarkshire
• Chief Executive, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
• Area Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services
• Care Inspectorate

The steps listed below were also taken to ensure that the proposal document was widely available.

• Notice of the proposals and of publication of the proposal document was placed within the Carluke and Lanark Gazette.
• The proposal document was also been published on the South Lanarkshire Council website: www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk.
• This document could made available in alternative forms or translated by contacting Education Resources on 01698 454102 or at: education@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
• The proposal document was also available at the following locations:
  
a. Council Offices, Education Resources, Almada Street, Hamilton, ML3 0AA. Phone 01698 454102
b. All libraries in South Lanarkshire
c. All South Lanarkshire Council Q&A Offices
d. The schools affected by the proposals
Appendix 2  Oral questions and responses at Public Meeting, held at Auchengray Church Centre on Tuesday 4th March 2014.

The following is a summary note of the above meeting that took views on the proposal to increase Auchengray Primary School to a full stage school, Primary 1 through to Primary 7.

Any questions and discussions regarding the operational aspects of the decant arrangements for Auchengray Primary School have been removed from this note.

The meeting commenced at 6.05pm and Garry Kemp, Head Teacher, welcomed those who attended and introduced the panel of Council Officers that consisted of:

- Gillian Coulter (GC) – Quality Improvement Officer for the Biggar Learning Community, whose role is to support Head Teachers particularly in the areas of Curriculum Development and Quality Improvement.
- David Hinshelwood (DH) – Support Services Manager with responsibility for providing professional management support and advice to schools such as placing request and school transport administration, property management and new build transition and Health & Safety.
- Lisa Kirkwood (LK) – Schools Modernisation Project Coordinator with a lead role in the statutory consultation process and Chair for this evening’s meeting.
- Gordon Turnbull (GT) – Schools Modernisation Project Officer who will be overseeing the new build project for Auchengray Primary School.
- Jean Hamilton (JH) – Support Services Coordinator for the Biggar Learning Community who line manages the support staff in the Learning Community including Auchengray and Carnwath Primary Schools.

Lisa Kirkwood thanked everyone for coming along to the Public Meeting that is intended to give everyone an opportunity to ask questions and express their views on the proposal to re-establish Primary 4 to 7 in Auchengray Primary School.

It was highlighted that Education Scotland will receive details of the feedback gathered at tonight’s Public Meeting plus a summary of all the written responses received during the period of the statutory consultation (Monday 24th February - Friday 4th April 2014).

The statutory process and timeline was explained along with the indication that, after the outcome of the consultation was known, a Consultation Report would be published, including the views of Education Scotland. A final decision is anticipated by August 2014.

Attendees were then invited to ask questions and make comments.

Questions and comments: Various Parents raised issues regarding the design of new school - size and configuration of accommodation provided to meet the needs of P1-P7.
- The Council should have addressed this before now.
- It will be a wasted opportunity if the new build Auchengray Primary School does not meet the needs of a P1-P7 school and provide the best teaching environment for the children.
- We require two separate classrooms. Teaching areas need to be defined.
- Issues with pupils being disrupted or distracted by noise when there is other teaching going on.
- Would it not be possible to put in foldable partitioning?

Panel response. In modern schools, flexibility of use of space is essential and teaching is not confined to just traditional classrooms. The new school design offers considerably more space than at present:

- 70m² Classroom with Teaching Wall plus interactive LCD screen
- 62m² General Purpose Area with storage facilities for resources plus interactive LCD screen
- 100m² gym and dining space.
There was a Parent and Resident Roadshow at the end of January where parents and residents had an opportunity to see the design for the new school and make comment at that time. We received very favourable feedback at that time. As a result of this, the current design has been submitted for consideration by Planning Services. However, we will take your comments into account and investigate if any internal fine tuning is possible.

Question: Parent - When will we know whether there will be changes to the new building and will this take longer and delay the project?

Answer: LK answered that the Council would not know what the impact would be without looking at possible options that will be discussed further with the Head Teacher and subsequent information will be shared with the Parent Council.

Question: MSP Campbell asked how the Council will feedback to those at the meeting before the end of the consultation period?

Answer: LK. The views received at tonight's Public Meeting will be noted by the Council and passed to Education Scotland for comment and the feedback considered within the Consultation Report where a council response will be provided.

Question: Parent. What options do parents have? Do pupils have to revert to Auchengray or do they have to stay at Carnwath?

Answer: DH answered that parents could choose and transport commitments would be honoured for existing pupils and they would continue to have this choice. We will need to engage with parents to gather their decisions.

Question: Parent. Would the schools share the same bus for the decant?

Answer: DH. The best form of provision influenced by transport times would be used.

Question: Parent. The consultation says it will be implemented in August 2014. How will we know what to do?

Answer: DH. We will contact parents for feedback on what they would prefer.

Question: Parent. The size of the school could affect some parents' decisions on the P1-P7 proposal or the choice of whether to send their child to the school. What if we change our mind?

Answer: DH. We would allow parents the choice for existing pupils of attending Auchengray Primary School from P1-P7 or, if they wish, existing pupils could continue attending Carnwath Primary School from P5-P7. However, any new enrolments would attend Auchengray Primary School from P1-P7 or parents could make a placing request to Carnwath Primary School although these pupils would not be entitled to free transport.

Comment: Parent. This is two years too late – we have lost some pupils because the school is only P1-P4.
Question: Resident. Why has it taken so long to have this meeting as consultation started a long time ago and how did people get to know about it.

Answer: LK. The statutory consultation started on Monday 24th February 2014. An advert was placed in the local press the week before the start date and a copy of the proposal document is on the Council website, in Q&As and in local libraries. It was also sent out to statutory consultees that include all parents / carers of pupils at both affected schools plus other key stakeholders such as community council, local elected members, MSPs etc.

Question: Various Parents. Debate on capacity of a school.

- How many children can the new school take?
- How many teachers would a primary 1 – primary 7 school get?

Answer. GC. Staffing is determined by number of children. If a school has 19 pupils or less there would be 1 Class Teacher irrespective of the stages i.e. P1-P7. If numbers rose to 20, a school would have two teachers to teach up to 50 pupils.

Answer: DH. Technically we could have 33 pupils in one classroom with two class teachers. However, different teaching practice with varying pupil groups/age/stage/activities means that break out space and other flexible teaching spaces are extremely useful. Legislatively we must provide 1.7m² per child. We will be providing much more than that in the new school depending on the pupil numbers at Auchengray.

Answer: GT. The new school has sufficient toilet provision for 50 pupils.

Question: Cllr Shaw. What additional IT provision will there be provided for P5-P7?

Answer: GT. The whole school will benefit from the most up to date IT provision such as interactive LCD screens in both teaching areas plus Wifi throughout the school and external areas.

Question: Parent. Clarification over possible, future pupil roll needed. Not sure your statistic of 26 possible pupils is completely accurate. I don’t think all possible Auchengray pupils are accounted for as some parents elect to make placing requests to other schools (not Carnwath) to avoid the P4-P5 transition. Numbers have gone to Breahead in the past.

Answer: LK. The pupil numbers taken into account are those pupils currently at Auchengray at P1-P4 and those who attend Carnwath P5-P7. Parental choice will always be a factor and only assumptions can be made over potential, future Auchengray Primary School numbers if the proposal goes ahead.

Comment and debate from various parents over current transition arrangements.

- Transition is more traumatic at this early stage.
- I think the two stage transition was helpful.
- Better for children moving up to high school in a bigger group.

LK mentioned that as part of the educational benefits statement, the removal of a second transition was suggested as a potential benefit of the proposal but obviously parents would have their own views as demonstrated by this discussion.

DH stressed the importance of putting detailed feedback of views onto a formal consultation response form. This is why we are here tonight – to listen to parents’ and the community’s views.
Comment and debate from various parents over positives and negatives of P1-P7 school.

- I think it is harder for small peer groups with fewer friends moving onto High School. Lack of friends of their own age group.
- Anecdotal experiences shared by parents expressing both positives and negatives.

Question: Parent. I wondered how difficult it is for pupils moving from a small year group (perhaps the only one) going to the High School?

Comment: School Support Assistant and Resident: I have worked at the High School and have experience of pupils coming from very small, rural schools where they have been the only or one of only a few pupils coming up to High School. Pupils in this category tend to settle well and make friends.

Answer: GC commented that most small schools have a robust transition programme to cater for these small numbers.

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**Decant queries**

What will happen if new Carnwath Primary School is rebuilt and Auchengray Primary School building is not complete, where will our children go?

Answer: GT confirmed that the current programme for both schools meets the necessary timescales to accommodate pupils for Auchengray Primary School’s decant period.

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As there were no more questions, LK thanked everyone for their attendance, encouraged everyone to participate in the consultation process and submit a consultation response form and to make good use of the comments section to ensure they have all their views recorded. The meeting closed at 7.08 pm.
Appendix 3  Report by Education Scotland

Consultation proposal by South Lanarkshire Council

Report by Education Scotland, addressing educational aspects of the proposal to re-establish primary stages P5 to P7 in Auchengray Primary School.

Context

This report from Education Scotland is required under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. It has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the Act. The purpose of this report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of the council’s consultation proposal. Section 2 of this report sets out the views expressed by consultees during the initial consultation process. Section 3 sets out HM Inspectors’ consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal and the views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors’ overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council’s final consultation report should include a copy of this report and must contain an explanation of how it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation and the council’s response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision.

1. Introduction
1.1 South Lanarkshire Council proposes to re-establish primary stages P5 to P7 in Auchengray Primary School.

1.2 The report from Education Scotland is required under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. It has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the Act.

1.3 HM Inspectors undertook the following activities in considering the educational aspects of the proposal:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 4 March 2014 in connection with the council’s proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others;
- consideration of further representations made directly to Education Scotland on relevant educational aspects of the proposal; and
- visits to the site of Auchengray Primary School and Carnwath Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

1.4 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the school; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area, including those attending Carnwath Primary School.
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- benefits which the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council’s reasons for coming to these beliefs.
2. Consultation process

2.1 South Lanarkshire Council undertook the initial consultation on its proposals with reference to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

2.2 South Lanarkshire Council’s decision to undertake this consultation was in response to a formal approach from the Auchengray Primary School Parent Council which had carried out its own extensive consultation within the local community and informal discussions with parents of children currently attending Auchengray Primary School.

2.3 Auchengray Primary School currently provides education for stages P1 up to P4. Children who attend Auchengray Primary School currently transfer to Carnwath Primary School at the end of P4. A few children who live within the catchment area for Auchengray Primary School attend Carnwath Primary School from P1 on parental placing requests. The entire population of Auchengray Primary School will be decanted to temporary accommodation within the grounds of Carnwath Primary School for session 2014/2015 whilst a new building for Auchengray Primary School is under construction. There is strong support within the local community for the re-establishment of stages P5 to P7.

2.4 All children from Auchengray Primary School interviewed expressed positive views about the proposal. They felt a very strong attachment to their school and to the Auchengray community. They were very happy in school and thought that there would be significant benefits for them in being able to continue their learning there without interruption until the end of P7. Older children wanted to stay at Auchengray Primary School so that they would have the chance to take on greater leadership roles within what they regard as their own school community. Some welcomed the opportunity to avoid having to travel to school by bus, particularly during winter months.

2.5 Children currently at P4 were concerned at the uncertainty about plans for their future education. The reason for this uncertainty was that a decision is not due to be taken until after the end of the school term, meaning that they will not know where they will be going to school in August 2014 and which school uniform they will need. Similarly, children currently at P3 who will be decanted during session 2014/2015 will not know whether they will be returning to Auchengray Primary School or remaining at Carnwath Primary School.

2.6 Parents of children attending Auchengray Primary School who were interviewed were strongly in favour of the proposal. They were keen for a decision to be made as soon as possible to end the uncertainty for their children, particularly those currently at P4. Parents had thought through in some detail the educational benefits of the proposal as well as the implications for their children’s experiences as learners. They were particularly concerned that under the current arrangements, their children have to make an additional educational transition at the end of P4 and that this had the potential to interrupt learning, particularly for children who cope less well with change.

2.7 Staff of Auchengray Primary School firmly supported the proposal. They felt that almost all children are happy and settled and that they would benefit from continuity of education, and the removal of the need for an additional educational transition at the end of P4. They thought that the opportunity to have older children as role models would benefit all age groups.

2.8 Staff, parents and children of Carnwath Primary School understood the rationale for the proposal and were well aware of the potential benefits for the children of Auchengray Primary School of staying there until P7. They also recognised the benefits of moving to Carnwath Primary School at the end of P4 and the opportunities for new friendships and experiences of larger class groups that this can bring.
3. Educational aspects of the proposal

3.1 South Lanarkshire Council has given careful consideration to this proposal, including consideration of the current and future projections of the school roll. In doing so it has identified a range of clear educational benefits of the proposal to the current and future children attending Auchengray Primary School. Should the proposal be accepted, there is no doubt that children will have a larger peer group within the school with whom to interact. There will also be more scope for collaborative activities as well as increased opportunities for whole school initiatives.

3.2 The removal of the need for a transition at stages P4 to P7 would bring Auchengray Primary School into line with all other South Lanarkshire Council primary schools, and eliminate the potential for disruption to children’s educational experiences.

3.3 In identifying these benefits, the council has taken into account a range of factors including: its aspiration to ensure the social, emotional and intellectual development of all its children; the recognition of the importance of the location and size of a school; and the importance of positive relationships between parents, school and community. The council also pays due regard to the principles of Curriculum for Excellence and good practice in relation to peer engagement and the potential benefits of enhanced opportunities for showcase events and enterprise activities.

3.4 It will be particularly important for the council to reassure children currently at the P3 and P4 stage and their parents about its plans for their future education.

3.5 This proposal will lead to a reduction in the size of the P5, P6 and P7 classes of Carnwath Primary School in future years.

4. Summary

South Lanarkshire Council makes a positive and well-reasoned case for its proposal to re-establish primary stages P5 to P7 within Auchengray Primary School. The proposal would have clear educational benefits for children at all stages within the school, including the removal of the need for an additional educational transition. The proposal has strong support from current pupils and from past, current and future parents of the school as well as staff and the community. The council now needs to take account of the need to eliminate uncertainty, particularly in relation to those children currently in at the P3 and P4 stage, by deciding, without delay, whether to implement the proposal.

HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
May 2014