



Stirling Council
Schools, Learning and Education

CONSULTATION REPORT

**REPORT ON THE CONSULTATION RELATING TO THE PROPOSAL ON THE
PLANNED ESTABLISHMENT OF A NON-DENOMINATIONAL PRIMARY
SCHOOL AND ASSOCIATED CATCHMENT AREA AT THE
SOUTH STIRLING GATEWAY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

April 2024

**This Consultation Report has been issued by Stirling Council in accordance with the
Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010**

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1 Proposal

This Consultation Report has been prepared following consultation on Stirling Council's proposal regarding:

- The planned establishment of a non-denominational primary school on the South Stirling Gateway housing development site;
- The creation of a new catchment area for the planned school;
- Interim arrangements for admission to Bannockburn Primary School until the first primary school becomes operational in August 2026.

Having had regard (in particular) to:

- Relevant written representations received by the Council (from any person) during the consultation period;
- Oral representations made to it (by any person) at the Public Meeting held on 06 February 2024;
- Education Scotland's report on the proposal.

2 Purpose of the Report

This is a Consultation Report prepared in compliance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The purpose of the Consultation Report is to:

- Provide a record of the total number of written representations made during the statutory consultation period;
- Provide a summary of the written representations;
- Provide a summary of oral representations made at the Public Meeting held on 06 February 2024;
- Provide a statement of Schools, Learning and Education responses to those written and oral representations;
- Provide the full text of Education Scotland's report and a statement of Schools, Learning and Education's response to this report;
- State how Stirling Council reviewed the above proposal following the representations received during the statutory consultation period and the report from Education Scotland;
- Provide details of any omission from, or inaccuracy in, the Proposal Paper and state how Stirling Council acted upon it.

This Consultation Report, together with any other relevant documentation, will be considered for decision by Stirling Council's Children and young People's Committee on 13 June 2024.

This Consultation Report is available from:

- Stirling Council's Engage Platform (www.engage.stirling.gov.uk)
- Bannockburn Primary School, Quakerfield, Bannockburn, Stirling FK7 8JA
- Bannockburn Library, Greenacre Place, Bannockburn, Stirling FK7 8PA
- Bannockburn Community Hub, 25 Quakerfield, Bannockburn, Stirling FK7 8JA

Copies can be requested by email via educ-comments@stirling.gov.uk

Please contact educ-comments@stirling.gov.uk to request this Consultation Report in an alternative format or translated into another language.

3 Background

The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 requires local authorities to secure adequate and efficient provision of school education and further education within their area for the current school population and future pattern of school demand.

Stirling Council's Housing Land Audit (HLA) 2022 highlights the approved development of 1100 residential homes on the South Stirling Gateway development site, located between Bannockburn and the Pirnhall M9 junction.

It is estimated that this level of development could generate around 300 primary school aged pupils upon completion of the full development site. This total volume of pupils could not be accommodated within a single established non-denominational primary school provision in the areas of Stirling which are close to the development site.

Families with children of pre-school age who move into the development in advance of the completion of the first proposed primary school, will be within the catchment area for Bannockburn Primary School. There are interim admission arrangements for Bannockburn Primary School until the first new primary school opens in August 2026.

The identified primary school solution is for a maximum 11 classroom primary school, initially developed as a 7 classroom school with the ability to extend by another 4 classrooms based on review of the pupil roll projections. Developer contributions have been secured towards the establishment of the education provision on the South Stirling Gateway site.

The proposed catchment area for the new primary school would cover the entirety of the South Stirling Gateway housing development. Families with children of pre-school age who move into the development in advance of the completion of the proposed primary school, will be within the catchment area for Bannockburn Primary School. These are interim admission arrangements for Bannockburn Primary School until the new primary school opens in August 2026. Once the development primary school building is operational, there will be no mandatory transfer of pupils to the new development primary school.

Secondary school provision will be available at Bannockburn High School. There is an additional housing development planned on a nearby site to South Stirling Gateway, which will also be within the catchment area for Bannockburn High School. Bannockburn High School currently has the capacity to accommodate secondary school pupils arising from these developments for approximately 7 academic years based on current projections. Discussions are ongoing as to how best mitigate capacity breaches that are projected in future.

Full background information, including the Educational Benefits Statement, can be found in the Proposal Document, attached as Appendix A.

4 Consultation Process

The School (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, sets out the statutory consultation requirements.

The statutory consultees for a proposal to establish a new school are prescribed as follows:

- the Parent Council or Combined Parent Council of any affected school
- the parents of the pupils at any affected school
- the parents of any children expected by the education authority to attend any affected school within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper
- the pupils at any affected school (in so far as the education authority considers them to be of a suitable age and maturity)
- the staff (teaching and other) at any affected school
- any trade union which appears to the education authority to be representative of the persons mentioned in bullet point above
- the community council (if any)
- the Community Planning Partnership (within the meaning of section 4(5) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 for the area of the local authority in which affected school is situated.
- any other community planning partnerships considered relevant by the Authority.
- any other education authority that the education authority considers relevant
- any other users of any affected school that the education authority considers relevant

The consultation period for this proposal ran from 10 January until 01 March 2024. This period allowed for the statutory minimum of 30 school days.

To communicate, the School, Learning and Education proposal information was delivered through the undernoted avenues:

- Stirling Council's Engage Platform
<https://engage.stirling.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/south-stirling-gateway-school-consultation-1>
- Stirling Council social media sites
- Hard copy available in Bannockburn Library
- QR code poster displayed in Bannockburn Community Hub

Those who wished to provide a response by an alternative method than those outlined above, or who required the consultation in an alternative format were directed to educatioinenquiries@stirling.gov.uk or 01786 233185.

All interested parties were invited to submit their comments by close of business on Friday 01 March 2024.

A public meeting was held in Bannockburn Primary School on 06 February 2024.

Minutes of the public meeting are attached as Appendix B.

5 Response to Statutory Consultation

A total of 38 written responses to the South Stirling Gateway Primary School Consultation were received, as follows:

- 37 online responses
- Response from Bannockburn Primary School pupils

No hard copy written or email representations were received during the consultation period.

6 Analysis of the Consultation Responses

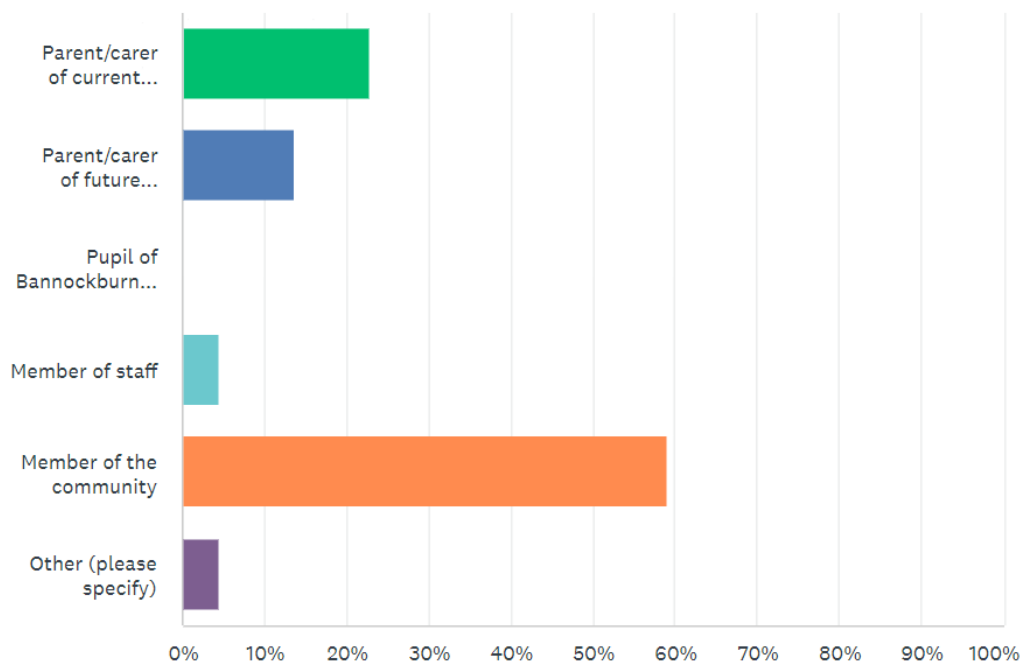
Online Responses

Online responses to the relocation consultation were gathered through Stirling's Engage Platform. There were 37 respondents to the consultation, however 10 chose not leave any comments. Figure 1 below shows the split of respondents by category type.

Figure 1: Respondents by category

I am commenting as a:

Answered: 22 Skipped: 0



The respondent who identified as 'Other' did not give a response to suggest how they would categorise themselves.

Respondents were asked if they had any comment to make regarding the planned establishment of the first primary school on the South Stirling Gateway development site. Many respondents were in favour of the proposal, highlighting the need for further school provision to accommodate projected pupils from the new development. However whilst response were largely positive, queries were raised regarding active travel plans, ASN and Nursery provision and concerns around current provision at Bannockburn Primary School. Responses to the main areas of concern can be found in Section 7.

Full details of the online responses submitted as attached as Appendix C.

Pupil Response from Bannockburn Primary School

Views of pupils from Bannockburn Primary School were gathered as part of the consultation process. A group of 6 senior pupils provided responses for this consultation – an example of the responses can be found below:

Bannockburn Primary School Pupil Views

The learners talked about why they think a new school was a positive move –

- *Would mean that people would not need to travel long distances to get to and from school*
- *Reduce class sizes in our current schools*
- *New houses would bring more people to Stirling*
- *Create more jobs*



The pupils raised questions regarding the building of the new schools regarding secondary school provision and closure of any existing schools. Answers will be conveyed to the pupils via the Link Officer. Their ideas regarding the facilities at the new primary school can be passed to the Infrastructure Team for their awareness and consideration.

Full details of the pupil responses submitted as attached as Appendix D.

7 Response to Areas of Concern Raised by Statutory Consultation

Written responses to the consultation share common queries with that raised at the public meeting relating to the school establishment on the South Stirling Gateway development site. This section will respond to these themes:

Concerns regarding the first planned primary school

Pupil capacity for the first planned primary school on the South Stirling Gateway development site has been projected using the most up to date data available. Projections involving pupils from new housing developments are calculated using a Pupil Projection Ratio (PPR). Officers within Schools, Learning and Education work in partnership with colleagues from other Council departments to ascertain numbers for both primary and secondary pupils living in competed new development sites; which in turn assists in the creation of the PPR. The PPR has therefore been applied to the South Stirling Gateway site in order to project the number of pupils expected from the development.

Based on the projected total of around 300 primary school aged pupils from this development, it has been planned that the primary school on South Stirling Gateway will initially be built with seven classrooms in the first instance, with the ability to extend by another four classrooms if the pupil projections show this is required. The footprint of the school grounds, along with internal ancillary spaces such as GP space, toilets and dining area will be designed around the 11 classroom model. Therefore, if the extension is required in future pupils and staff should experience minimal disruption whilst the building work takes place.

The South Stirling Gateway school site is identified on the latest planning application submitted by the developer and is accessed (by vehicles) from the proposed main distributor road through the housing development site.

The site allocated for the South Stirling Gateway primary school does not have any historical mineshafts based on the site investigation/surveys that have been carried out to date.

The robust planning process requires applicants to demonstrate that impact on wildlife and ecology etc. is considered, and appropriate construction methodology and mitigations are put in place. When Stirling Council submits planning applications for the South Stirling Gateway primary school, it will be supported by appropriate surveys and assessments undertaken by experts. Solutions that are sensitive to the local environment and habitat will be proposed.

There is no planning permission or indeed planning applications submitted for the proposed new school at this stage. Stirling Council has entered into legal agreements with both developers that compels them to make financial contributions towards education infrastructure within their development sites. Stirling Council will lead on the design and construction of the new schools and will consult widely on the new schools and submit planning applications at appropriate stage in the design process of the new primary school on this site.

Concerns relating to Bannockburn Primary School

Bannockburn Primary School offers pupils a flexible learning environment. There are two breakout spaces available as well as having multi-use gym and dining hall facilities. Two gym lessons per week are timetabled for each class in the gym hall however the dining hall also provides space for gym if required, for example if the gym hall is being used to rehearse for a school event. Both the gym hall and dining hall house the same folding tables and chairs used at lunch times, to allow the school to have two seating and serving areas.

Similar to all schools across the Stirling Council area, Bannockburn Primary School is surveyed at regular intervals to ensure the building meets an appropriate level in relation to condition and suitability. Whilst the most recent surveys do not highlight the need for work at this time, this does not exclude Bannockburn Primary School from any improvement works or future investment that may be required in the future as and when highlighted by the surveys.

Current data shows that Bannockburn Primary School has the capacity to accommodate the projected pupils from the South Stirling Gateway site until 2026, the year that the first planned school is expected to open. There are two figures looked at in relation to capacity – build capacity and optimum capacity. The build capacity is the maximum number of pupils the building is designed to hold; and optimum capacity is 87% of the build capacity. Using optimum capacity figures allows Schools, Learning and Education to appropriately manage the school roll to avoid going beyond the number the school building is designed to hold. It is the optimum capacity figure that shows there is space to accommodate projected pupils from the South Stirling Gateway development until the new school is operational.

Concerns relating to nearby school provision

The closest RC schools to the development are St Mary's RC Primary School and St Modan's High School. Data has been generated using a specific PPR which projects the number of pupils eligible to enrol at these schools from the South Stirling Gateway development. The PPR figure uses data from previous school enrolments to show the percentage of the total number eligible to enrol in an RC school. Applying the PPR to the number of homes due to be built at South Stirling Gateway suggests that based on the current figures; there is capacity at both schools to accommodate eligible children from the development.

The Education Authority is aware that there will be capacity issues in future at Bannockburn High School as a result of this development and another site nearby. However, current projections show that there is capacity in Bannockburn High School for up to 7 years before a breach occurs. This gives the Authority more time to continue to plan for the provision of secondary education that is able to accommodate the new pupils generated as a result of the housing development in the Bannockburn High catchment area.

At this time, there is no plan for the catchment area of schools near to this development site to be altered because of the South Stirling Gateway primary school becoming operational. However, once the precise location of the first planned primary school is determined a further consultation can be conducted regarding catchment areas if it is required.

Active Travel

Each individual school creates their own active travel plan, therefore cannot be created until built. Consideration regarding active, sustainable and safe routes to school will be given to ensure that walking, cycling and scooting to school is prioritised with appropriate pedestrian routes into the school provided, and suitable cycle and scooter storage within the school grounds is provided.

Community Facilities

Consideration will be given during the design phase of the first primary school on the South Stirling Gateway site to facilitating community access to relevant internal school accommodation and external facilities.

Provision of additional services to the new housing development such as health and refuse is out with the scope of this consultation.

Road Upgrades / Traffic

Although plans regarding road upgrades and traffic management are out with the scope of this consultation, it can be shared that the developers are responsible for the delivery of all wider infrastructure work or improvements that may be required as a part of their planning consents. Collaboration between Stirling Council Education Service, the school infrastructure delivery team, the developers and the Planning Authority will ensure that access routes into the new schools are suitable.

ASN / Nursery Provision

There are no plans for ASN or nursery provision at this time. It is expected that capacity within local authority and partner nurseries would accommodate the expected demand for nursery places initially. It is expected that the numbers of children who require specialist ASN placement will be very low initially, with alternative placements available, for example in Bannockburn Primary and Castleview School. This will be kept under regular review and there may be a requirement for ASN spaces to be considered in future years of the development across this project and Durieshill.

Public awareness of Consultation

Section 1.5 of this report outlines the statutory consultees that were notified of this consultation as prescribed by the Schools (Consultation) Scotland Act 2010. Stirling Council's Chief Education Officer also issued a communication to the following establishments, with an instruction to notify all parents via their preferred communication method to inform them the consultation was being carried out and how they could respond:

- Bannockburn Primary School
- Bannockburn Nursery
- Park Drive Nursery (Stirling Council establishment in Bannockburn Learning Community)
- The Meadows Nursery (Stirling Council Partner Nursery in Bannockburn Learning Community)

In addition Section 1.6 of this report provides information on additional sources of publicity for this consultation, and repeats information contained in the Proposal Document regarding alternative methods of submitting responses to the consultation.

8 Summary of Education Scotland Report and Response

In line with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, a report was provided by Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal to establish the first primary school on the South Stirling Gateway development site.

The full Education Scotland Report is attached as Appendix E.

In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- Attendance at the public meeting held on the 6th February 2024 in connection with the Council's proposal;
- 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;
- Visits to the following education establishments, including discussion with the relevant consultees:
 - Bannockburn Primary School
 - St Mary's RC Primary School
 - Bannockburn High School

Section 4 of the Education Scotland report summarises their findings and conclusions as follows:

HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has the potential to bring clear educational benefits for the children and wider community in the area. Should the proposal go ahead, the council should continue to work with all stakeholders to agree the specification and design of the new school. Parents and staff have identified a lack of ELC and after-school provision. In taking this proposal forward, the council should engage further with stakeholders to discuss these issues.

Stirling Council welcomes the report from Education Scotland and accepts its findings.

ELC provision was also raised by respondents to the statutory consultation and at the public meeting. As stated in Section 7 of this report and in the minute of the public meeting (Appendix B) although there are no plans for ELC provision at this time, it is the Education Authority's expectation that capacity within local authority and partner nurseries would accommodate the demand.

Further engagement will continue with stakeholders as part of the design phase of the build project.

9 Alleged Omissions or Inaccuracies

Section (10) (3) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 also places a requirement on the Council to provide details of any inaccuracy or omission within the Proposal Document which has either been identified by the Council or raised by consultees. This section of the 2010 Act also requires the Council to provide a statement on the action taken in respect of the inaccuracy or omission, or, if no action was taken, to state that fact and why.

To the best of the Education Authority's knowledge, there are no omissions or inaccuracies contained within the South Stirling Gateway proposal.

10 Compliance with Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 states that:

After the Education Authority has received Education Scotland's report, the Authority is to review the relevant proposal having regard (in particular) to:

- (i) Written representations received by the Authority (from any person) during the consultation period,*
- (ii) Oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting,*
- (iii) Education Scotland's report.*

Following receipt and consideration of 37 written responses during the consultation period, the oral representations made at the Public Meetings, and Education Scotland's report, officers reviewed the proposal.

Relevant Officers within the Council's Schools, Learning and Education and Infrastructure Delivery Service teams considered the feedback from the consultation. This ensured that the Council met the requirements of sections 9(1), 12 and 13(3) (b) of the 2010 Act.

Section 13 below highlights the steps taken to review the proposal following the consultation.

11 Legal Issues

The Council has complied in full with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 throughout this statutory consultation.

The Council is mindful of its duties in respect of equality and the Equality Impact Assessment did not identify that any parent, child or young person would be treated less favourably because of this proposal.

Under the terms of the Schools (Scotland) (Consultation) Act 2010, it is a legal requirement that the Council should not reach any formal decision without having reviewed the relevant proposal having regard, in particular, to:

- Relevant written representations received from any person during the consultation period;
- Oral representation made to it by any person at the Public Meeting held on 06 February 2024
- The Education Scotland report;
- Preparing a Consultation Report; and

- Waiting until a period of three weeks starting on the day on which this Consultation Report is published in electronic and printed form has expired.

It is the intention that this Consultation Report should be published, both electronically and in written form, in April 2024. This meets the statutory requirement to publish this report more than three weeks before consideration of the proposal by Stirling Council.

12 Personnel Issues

As this consultation relates to the establishment of a new school within the local authority, there are no personnel affected at this time. Recruitment of the required teaching and support staff will be carried out at an appropriate time in relation to the construction of the school.

13 Review of Proposal

Following the statutory period of consultation regarding the establishment of the first primary school on the South Stirling Gateway development site, Schools, Learning and Education reviewed the Proposal in light of representations received and Education Scotland's report as follows:

- It has given due consideration to the oral representations made at the Public Meeting, and to all the written representations received from parents, staff and members of the local community. These have been summarised, and responded to, in this Consultation Report.
- It has considered the points raised by pupils from Bannockburn Primary School.
- Schools, Learning and Education has considered the content of the report by Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the Proposal and are reassured of the educational and wider community benefits outlined in the Proposal Paper.

14 Conclusion

The Proposal regarding the establishment of the primary school on the South Stirling Gateway development site is being progressed due to:

- The Education Authority identifying that a primary school would be required to accommodate the number of children expected in the Bannockburn Primary School catchment area as a result of the housing development at South Stirling Gateway;
- Stirling Council approval of capital funding and securing financial contributions towards the project via the Section 75 legal agreement with the housing developer.

The statutory consultation process was robust and provided an opportunity for stakeholders to identify key issues of concern. These issues have been fully considered and Schools, Learning and Education's response is detailed in earlier sections of this report.

Education Scotland provided a report on the educational aspects of the Proposal. The benefits identified by Education Scotland concur with those identified by Stirling Council as in the Proposal Paper, and recognises that a primary school will support the establishment of a new community within the housing development.

15 Recommendation

Therefore as a result of:

- The Education Authority identifying that Bannockburn Primary School does not have the required capacity to accommodate the number of children expected from the new housing development at South Stirling Gateway;
- The educational benefits, which will accrue from the proposal to establish a non-denominational school on the South Stirling Gateway development site, identified by Schools, Learning and Education and endorsed by Education Scotland;

Stirling Council therefore recommends that:

- A non-denominational primary school is established on the South Stirling Gateway housing development site.
- The associated catchment area is created for the primary school.
- Bannockburn Primary School is designated as the catchment school for the development until the primary school becomes operational.

STIRLING COUNCIL

SCHOOLS, LEARNING AND EDUCATION

Establishment of a Non-Denominational Primary School and Associated Catchment Area at South Stirling Gateway Housing Development Consultation

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Proposal Paper – January 2024

1. Introduction

- This proposal paper is being published in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (“the Act”).
- The proposal outlined in this paper relates to the planned establishment of a non-denominational primary school and a new catchment area for the established primary school. The proposal includes an interim admission arrangement for Bannockburn Primary School until the new primary school opens, currently planned for August 2026.
- The principle purpose of the Act is to provide strong, accountable statutory consultation practices and procedures that local authorities must apply to their handling of relevant proposals relating to education provision as defined by the Act.
- The Act requires local authorities to prepare a proposal paper to set out the details of the relevant proposal or proposals. An Educational Benefits Statement must be prepared and published within the proposal paper. It should consider the likely effects of the proposal on current and future pupils of any affected school, any other users of the school’s facilities, and the pupils of other schools in the authority’s area. It should also state the effects of the proposal if implemented and explain how the local authority intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects of the proposal.
- This paper sets out the rationale for, and implications of, the proposal which seeks to create a new non-denominational primary school establishment within South Stirling Gateway. The paper also sets out the consultation process and the means and timescales for making representations.

2. Background

- The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 requires local authorities to secure adequate and efficient provision of school education and further education within their area for the current school population and future pattern of school demand.

- This paper proposes that a new non-denominational primary school be established within the South Stirling Gateway housing development. This proposal includes the establishment of a new primary school catchment area.
- Stirling Council's Housing Land Audit (HLA) 2022 highlights the approved development of 1100 residential homes on the South Stirling Gateway development site, located between Bannockburn and the Pirnhall M9 junction.
- It is estimated that this level of development could generate around 300 primary school aged pupils upon completion of the full development site. This total volume of pupils could not be accommodated within a single established non-denominational primary school provision in the areas of Stirling which are close to the development site.
- Stirling Council's Schools, Learning and Education Service has determined that additional primary school capacity is required to alleviate pressures on existing school capacity arising from the South Stirling Gateway development. Due to the size of the development, it has been determined that this should be facilitated through the establishment of a new non-denominational primary school within the site.
- Secondary school provision will be available at Bannockburn High School. There is an additional housing development planned on a nearby site to South Stirling Gateway which will also be within the catchment area for Bannockburn High School. Bannockburn High School currently has the capacity to accommodate secondary school pupils arising from these developments for approximately 7 academic years based on current projections. Discussions are ongoing as to how best mitigate capacity breaches that are projected in future.

3. Funding

- The proposed primary school solution has been developed during the negotiation of the Section 75 agreement, and in association with the development of Supplementary Guidance on Developer Contributions. The identified primary school solution is for a maximum 11 classroom primary school, initially developed as a 7 classroom school with the ability to extend by another 4 classrooms based on review of the pupil roll projections.
- The overall development cost for the proposed primary school has been assessed at £13.96M, over 11 years. This comprises the initial 7 classroom primary school and the potential 4 classroom extension, if required upon review of the pupil roll projections.
- Developer contributions, as identified in Stirling Council's Draft Supplementary Guidance for Developer contributions have been assessed to be £6.856M.

4. Site Location

- The precise location of the primary school within South Stirling Gateway housing development site is yet to be determined, although preferred sites have been identified.
- The phase of the building development which would include the school location has not yet been applied for. It is expected that the application will be made before the end of 2023.
- Once the application is approved, the Infrastructure Team will take forward the decision making process to determine the location of the primary school, which will be shared with the relevant consultees in due course.

5. Catchment Area

- The proposed catchment area for the new primary school would cover the entirety of the South Stirling Gateway housing development.
- This means that primary school aged children who are resident within the development will be entitled to enrol at the proposed primary school.
- There is capacity at nearby denominational primary schools to accommodate any pupils who are eligible to enrol there.
- Parents and carers of pupils resident within the development and within the catchment area of the new primary school will remain entitled to submit a Placing Request should they wish their child to attend an alternative primary school. Similarly, families out with the catchment area of the proposed school will also be entitled to submit a Placing Request for their child to attend the proposed school.
- Families with children of pre-school age who move into the development in advance of the completion of the proposed primary school, will be within the catchment area for Bannockburn Primary School. These are interim admission arrangements for Bannockburn Primary School until the new primary school opens in August 2026.
- Families with children of primary school age who move into the development in advance of the completion of the proposed primary school, will not be required to transfer their children out of their current school to either Bannockburn Primary School, or the proposed school upon its completion.
- Should families of current primary school aged children moving into the development before the completion of the proposed primary school chose for their children to attend the catchment school for their new home address, the catchment school will be Bannockburn Primary School until the proposed primary school is completed.

- Younger siblings of those pupils who either transferred to, or began education at Bannockburn Primary School before the completion of the proposed school and living within the proposed primary school catchment area, will retain catchment status of the older sibling provided they are still enrolled at Bannockburn Primary School. Those younger siblings will be permitted to attend Bannockburn Primary School if parents prefer their children to attend the same school.
- Families who move into the new development can chose for their children to continue in their original primary school relative to their previous address, even after the proposed primary school becomes operational. Once the proposed primary school is operational, this would become the catchment primary school for children due to begin P1. Siblings due to begin primary education would therefore require a placing request to attend the same school as their older sibling(s).
- Once the development primary school building is operational, there will be no mandatory transfer of pupils to the new development primary school.

6. Educational Benefits Statement

- This Educational Benefits Statement considers the educational benefits, should the proposal be implemented.
- Current and Future Pupils
 - It is anticipated that the provision of a primary school within the housing development will have a positive impact on the delivery of learning and teaching for future pupils. The new facility of high quality, modern learning and teaching spaces will be flexible, functional and future proof, creating an inspiring and innovative learning environment which will support the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence.
 - Building the proposed primary school creates primary education provision within the new housing development, allowing children and families the choice to be educated in their local community without the need to travel to nearby education provisions.
 - The internal and external facilities of the proposed primary school will meet all legislative requirements for the space requirements, design and delivery of a new build school building. This may include, but is not limited to:
 - Dining area
 - Break out spaces
 - General purpose rooms
 - Outdoor playground space
 - Grass playing field/pitch
 - The proposed school will be built in line with all current disability accessibility legislation. This will allow any potential pupils with disabilities or access requirements to be educated in their local community with their peers and neighbours, if this is best suited to their individual needs.

- Once the new school is completed, it will become operational at the start of the next academic year. The aim is that this will minimise disruption to pupils remaining in Bannockburn Primary School, assist teaching staff with preparation for the new school year and aid a smooth transition for those choosing to transfer to the newly opened school.
 - Parents will have the final decision on whether transferring to the newly opened school will be beneficial for their child, however children's views about this will also be of central importance. Pupils who do transfer will be supported with the transition by staff at the new primary school.
 - No negative implications are anticipated for current or future pupils.
- Parents and Carers
 - It is anticipated that the provision of primary education on the housing development site will be of benefit to parents and carers, as well as the pupils themselves. Benefits could include:
 - Ease of school drop off/pick up during the school day
 - Close proximity to housing provision to aid accessibility for families who may be economically disadvantaged
 - Development of community networks
 - Reduction of traffic, pollution and promotion of active travel
 - Aid parental engagement with school community
 - Parents and carers are an integral part of the school community and the provision of the new primary school will allow working partnerships between staff and families to develop, and drive the success of the new school.
 - No negative implications are anticipated for parents and carers of future pupils.
- Staff and School Management Arrangements
 - Recruitment for the required staff complement of teaching, management and support staff will take place in due course at appropriate timescales in relation to the completion of the building work.
- Travel and Transport
 - Active travel to the proposed school will be promoted and a travel plan will be developed upon completion of the build.
 - Stirling Council's School Transport Policy will apply.
- Local Community
 - It is anticipated that having primary school provision on site will help to develop a community within the new housing development as residents who are primary school age will attend the proposed school. Parents and carers will have the opportunity to meet other residents within the housing development during drop off, collection and school events.
 - Community groups seeking to establish provision within the new housing development may be able to book space in the primary school building to use for their specific purpose. It is yet to be decided if this school will be able to be used as a bookable space for community groups, however there is a precedent for this within some schools in the authority.

- Having a new school located in the community means that it is more accessible for those who may be economically disadvantaged.

7. Consultation Process

The consultation process will be carried out in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and a summary is shown below:

Process	Indicative Date
Consultation document issued to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Parent Council or Combined Parent Council of any affected school, • the parents of the pupils at any affected school, • the parents of any children expected by the education authority to attend any affected school within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper, • the pupils at any affected school (in so far as the education authority considers them to be of a suitable age and maturity), • the staff (teaching and other) at any affected school, • any trade union which appears to the education authority to be representative of the persons mentioned in sub-paragraph (e), • the community council (if any), • the community planning partnership (within the meaning of section 4(5) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015) for the area of the local authority in which any affected school is situated, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ any other community planning partnership that the education authority considers relevant • i) any other education authority that the education authority considers relevant. 	10 January 2024
Consultation begins through the Engage platform.	10 January 2024
Promotion advising the public of the consultation and date of the public meeting.	10 January 2024
Public consultation meeting to be held on Tuesday 6 th February 2024 in Bannockburn Primary School.	06 February 2024
Public consultation ends (at least 6 weeks after the public consultation begins, excluding school holidays).	01 March 2024
Report to Education Scotland on the outcome of the consultation.	08 March 2024

Response from Education Scotland on the outcome of the consultation.	29 March 2024
Consultation response report prepared and published by the authority.	April 2024
Consultation report submitted to the relevant Committee or full Council as appropriate with final recommendations for consideration.	May 2024

8. Responding to the Proposal

Engage Stirling is the council's consultation and engagement platform. We now host all of our consultations and engagement projects in one place to make it easy for everyone to access all of our live consultations and petitions. This also ensures that we can provide easy to access updates so everyone can see how their views influence policy and practice within the council.

Engage Stirling is open to everyone over the age of thirteen. They can access Engage from any device and create an account by following the on screen prompts. Users are only asked to sign up once and when this is done, they can access all of our live consultations and petitions hosted on the site.

The consultation period will run from 10 January 2024 to 01 March 2024.

A public consultation meeting will take place on Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 6.30pm in Bannockburn Primary School.

To submit a response using an alternative method please contact educationenquiries@stirling.gov.uk or call 01786 233185.

9. Data Protection

The information you provide in the survey will be treated as confidential and in adherence with the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018. To find out more about your data protection rights and how we will use your data please see this Privacy Notice.

APPENDIX B – MINUTE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Minute of Public Meeting relating to the Consultation on the planned establishment of non-denominational primary schools on the South Stirling Gateway and Durieshill housing developments

Tuesday 6th February 2024, Bannockburn Primary School

In attendance from Stirling Council:

- Bryony Monaghan – Chief Education Officer
- Aileen More – Service Manager, Business Improvement; Schools, Learning and Education
- Tracey Henderson – Service Manager, Schools
- Zoe Tetstall – Forward Planning Officer (minutes)

Meeting attendees:

- 23 members of the public, all of whom signed in as members of the local community
- 1 Education Scotland attendee

Bryony welcomed the group to the meeting and staff from Stirling Council introduced themselves.

Bryony thanked everyone for attending the meeting and outlined the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the educational benefits of establishing the primary schools on the South Stirling Gateway and Durieshill housing developments, in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

Bryony invited the group to share their views and ask any questions they had.

A member of the group raised their concerns about the social and economic impact of the developments, as well as the impact on the local wildlife. This was closely followed by an additional question by another member of the group to ask if the building at Durieshill was going ahead, as they had received communication from Stirling Council's planning department stating the planning application has been withdrawn.

Bryony thanked the member of the group for sharing this information with the staff present (a photograph of the communication received by the member of the group had been shown to Bryony and Aileen on his mobile phone prior to the start of the meeting). Bryony stated that as far as the staff present were concerned, the building at Durieshill was going ahead as we have not had any communication to suggest otherwise. She asked that we move on with the meeting as planned, and that staff would find out further information regarding the withdrawn application from planning colleagues which would be shared as part of the feedback process.

Throughout the meeting separate questions were raised relating to the location of the schools within the respective development sites. Aileen confirmed the location of the development sites with the group and stated that the schools' precise location within these sites is yet to be determined. At South Stirling Gateway, as the building work is being carried out by different developers in separate phases, Zoe made the group aware that the planning application for the phase of the development that highlights the school site has now been submitted and is available to view on Stirling Council's planning portal. During the discussion on school location a member of the group raised concern that the developments are close to busy main roads and wondered where the schools would be placed in relation to this. Bryony

stated that this is something that will be taken into consideration by planning officers when working with developers on topics such as the location of a primary school. Bryony also stated that in time planning would also have their own consultation regarding the building of the schools which members of the group would also be able to feed into. An attendee also raised how the schools will be accessed, as they live close to one of the the development sites on a private road. Aileen confirmed that safe walking routes to the schools would be in place before the schools become operational.

Questions were asked by the group regarding the funding for the schools at both developments, and given the current financial pressures facing Stirling Council would the funding for the projects be cut. Aileen stated that the funding for both schools is a mixture of developer contributions and Stirling Council funding. Bryony added that it is the responsibility of the Council to educate children and young people in living within the authority, therefore the building of schools on both development sites is contained within Stirling Council's 5-year capital plan. She continued by adding the capital commitment by Stirling Council to school building projects on both development sites relates to the data we currently have available; highlighting that there is no precise guarantee of the numbers of pupils that may be generated by these developments as figures can change because of the number of babies born or the number of homes build by the developers, for example.

Members of the group asked questions relating to when the schools will be required and what the timescale for building them would be. Aileen stated that schools on both development sites are required to open at the same time, in August 2026, and that building work for both schools is expected to commence in 2024-25.

Separate questions were raised by attendees on the topic of plans for the existing Bannockburn Primary School, and if any improvements will be made to the school to manage the additional pupils expected. One attendee felt that the school had reached capacity when previous new housing developments were completed in the area, and the other was concerned that Bannockburn Primary may be affected as parents of catchment pupils may apply for their children to attend the newly build school rather than attend Bannockburn Primary. Bryony explained that while Bannockburn will be the catchment school for the developments until the new schools are operational, Bannockburn Primary has the capacity to accept the additional pupils until this time. The additional capacity is projected to be available until the 2026 academic year, which is the time both new primary schools are due to become operational. Attendees were made aware that all schools in the area are part of a regular programme of surveys relating to their condition and suitability, and, whilst no work is planned at the moment that does not exclude the school from future improvements if and when highlighted by these surveys. Bryony then confirmed that once the new schools were complete, parents across Stirling could indeed submit a placing request to attend either of the new schools in line with the placing request process.

Discussion then progressed to plans for secondary school provision. A member of the group felt the secondary schools were at capacity, so the wider group were keen to know the plans for secondary schools. Bryony informed the group that although the plans for Bannockburn High School were not as far forward as the primary schools, the team involved were aware that the number of secondary school age pupils in the Bannockburn area will increase as a result of the developments and that plans will be confirmed to accommodate the increased pupil numbers. Aileen added that the projections showed us that more time is available to us to make plans to mitigate a breach in capacity Bannockburn High School.

The group asked if the projections we use in our planning are available to view. Aileen stated that the projections are not available on a public website. Aileen continued by explaining that Education works closely with colleagues in other Council departments to develop a Pupil Product Ratio (PPR), and how this number is used to project how many pupils may be

generated from new housing developments. Zoe explained how the projections are calculated to the group, stating that the most up to date data relating to birth rates, school rolls and the PPR is used in tandem to project school capacity. Aileen concluded by sharing with the group the difference in a schools' build capacity (i.e. the maximum number of pupils a school building is designed to accommodate) and the optimum capacity (i.e. the ideal operational number of pupils for the school building), and how all projections use the optimum capacity number in order to create the best learning environment for pupils during times when the school roll is higher.

A member of the group then mentioned the absence of any representatives from the local denominational school (St Mary's RC Primary School) and how there has been no mention of the school by the Council officers present. Zoe explained how school roll data is used to calculate the split in school enrolments between denominational and non-denominational schools, and that this figure can be applied to create a PPR for denominational schools that is applied to new housing developments. Having done this for both South Stirling Gateway and Durieshill Zoe confirmed that St Mary's has adequate capacity to accommodate any pupils entitled to enrol there, therefore no representation for St Mary's was required.

An attendee asked if there were any plans for ASN provision at either of the planned schools. Bryony stated that there were no concrete plans for any ASN provision at this time.

A member of the group asked what size each of the planned schools would be. Referring to the Proposal Documents for both consultations, Tracey shared that school on South Stirling Gateway is to be built with 7 classrooms in the first instance, with the ability to extend by another 4 classrooms if the pupil projections show this is required; and that the first Durieshill school will be comprised of 10 classrooms with a 4 classroom extension at a later stage of the development.

An attendee then asked how the developments got to this stage in the planning process without any planning permission for schools. Bryony shared some information relating to the process thus far, highlighting that although there are no definitive locations for the schools at this time legal agreements have been reached with the developers regarding their financial contribution to the building of the schools. This is resulting from the projections that the team involved have carried out; confirming new schools are required to cope with the pupils moving into the developments. By again referring to the Proposal Documents for both consultations, Tracey was able to share the developer contributions for South Stirling Gateway (£6.856m) and Durieshill (£48.862m over 24 years).

Separate concerns were raised by members of the group regarding the disused coal mines present underneath the South Stirling Gateway site. The members of the group were concerned that if issues with the mines were found that the house building would stop and that the site would be left unfinished. They were also concerned that if the site was deemed unsuitable that no school would be built at all, highlighting that it was there understanding that the previous school site was rejected because of the mines. Bryony stated that all considerations have been taken into account during the planning process, and due process would have been followed regarding the mines on site. Bryony confirmed that planning and education work together to ensure education provision is planned for appropriately, confirming that a school will be built on the South Stirling Gateway site.

An attendee then followed this up by asking why the original school site was rejected, to which Bryony replied that this was due to the finding of ground surveys undertaken by the teams on site.

A member of the group queried the lack of information around any addition to the health services in the Bannockburn area, with Bryony stating that was a question we were unable to answer at this time as it is not the area of the officers present.

An attendee stated that there appeared to be plans for a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on the South Stirling Gateway planning application highlighting the school site. They asked if the officers were able to share any more information about this. Aileen confirmed that there will be a process of stakeholder engagement undertaken to consult upon the design of the school and the external spaces, but that would be the intention for a MUGA to be provided for the school and indeed the wider community to use. Bryony stated that she understood the importance of being included in the design phase to the attendees and that we would feed this back to planning colleagues.

A member of the group stated they operated a nursery school close to one of the development sites and asked if this would be impacted by the housing development. Aileen and Bryony provided a joint response stating that the developer contributions previously mentioned do not include funding towards nursery provision, therefore the Authority would fully intend to utilise all existing pre-school providers, including partner nurseries, in the areas surrounding the developments.

An attendee queried the catchment areas for the first Durieshill school, as they live close to the development site however are in the catchment area for another primary school nearby. Aileen and Zoe replied to state that any changes to catchment area can be looked at once the location of the Durieshill schools are confirmed, and may be consulted upon if appropriate.

A member of the group mentioned access roads around the Durieshill site are narrow, and asked if there will be any work undertaken to improve access so homes and businesses are not affected. Bryony stated the officers present had no detail of any planned work so would therefore note the concern for relevant colleagues.

An attendee asked if all of the planned primary schools would be owned by Stirling Council, to which Bryony confirmed they would.

A member of the group asked where the best place would be to receive up to date information on this consultation, as they stated they would not have known anything about it if they had not been informed about it by a local nursery. Bryony and Aileen directed all present to the Engage Platform, and Zoe was able to share more information about the analysis and feedback phases of the consultation. Zoe informed the group that relevant reports following the conclusion of the consultation would be uploaded there, and made available in the community in hard copy format.

Aileen confirmed that the consultation remained open until the 1st March 2024 and encouraged those who had not already submitted a response to do so. With no further questions from the group, Bryony concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

APPENDIX C – ONLINE CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Online responses to the relocation consultation were gathered through Stirling’s Engage Platform. There were 37 respondents to the consultation, however 10 chose not to leave any comments.

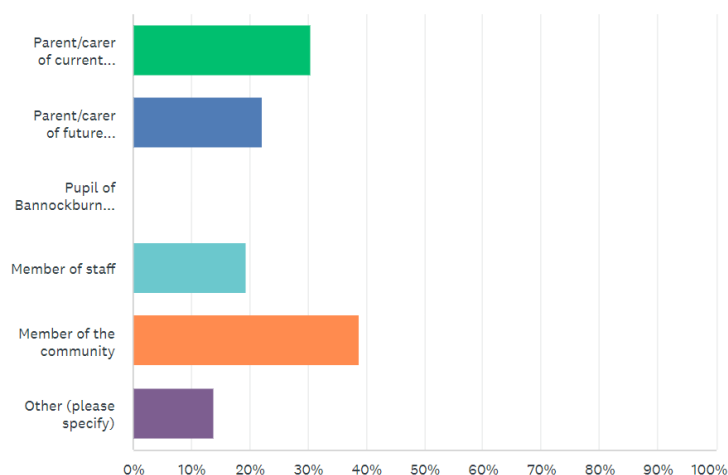
Figure 1 below shows the split of respondents by category type. Of those who answered ‘Other’, they stated they were commenting as a:

- Community volunteer in active and sustainable travel
- Parent of children at Bannockburn Nursery
- Parent of child at Park Drive Nursery
- Teacher in Falkirk Council
- One did not specify their response

Figure 1: Respondents by category

I am commenting as a:

Answered: 36 Skipped: 1



Respondents were asked if they had any comment to make regarding the planned establishment of the primary school on the South Stirling Gateway development site. Many respondents were in favour of the proposal, highlighting the need for further school provision to accommodate projected pupils from the new development. However whilst responses were largely positive, queries were raised regarding active travel plans, ASN and Nursery provision and concerns around current provision at Bannockburn Primary School.

Q: Do you have any comment to make regarding the planned establishment of a primary school on the South Stirling Gateway housing development site?

1. Bannockburn Primary is very old and in need of major investment. It would be best and most economical that a new community campus is built for both new residents and existing. This could provide valuable facilities for the local community (eg. Astro pitch, sports hall, gym etc). It would help the Council balance up investment in this

area since it has generally been neglected compared to other Stirling areas (eg. Raploch getting major investment, bannockburn high not being renewed, cycle improvement investment in other areas). The existing site could be a nice housing development providing affordable housing.

24/02/2024 14:50

2. Existing facilities do not have scope to accept the increased head count anticipated from this development
22/02/2024 19:01
3. Any primary should be built prior to development being complete developers should be provide additional funding to faith schools to accommodate additional students there Developers should provide Funding to support extension of existing high schools as they will also need to accommodate additional children- it is short sighted to believe on primary school affected and not high school, gps or hospital
22/02/2024 17:16
4. It is important that all children living in this major development are able to walk or wheel safely to school without multiple road crossings, which is unfortunately the designs of the first phases I have looked at in detail. Priority needs to be given to active and sustainable travel within the whole site, and around it via the old heritage tracks for functional and recreational journeys, to reduce the built in tendency for car dependence. Presumably the school will need to have community facilities available since there are none nearby and the main play area is next to the school.
07/02/2024 21:20
5. The project plan states "Active travel to the proposed school will be promoted and a travel plan will be developed upon completion of the build." This is entirely innaproppriate for active travel to be an afterthought to be completed after the build. Active travel should be entirely integrated and budgeted for from the project outset.
05/02/2024 13:33
6. X
22/01/2024 07:20
7. Traffic is already problematic in this area at peak 'drop off and pick up' times. Please can you ensure that appropriate road upgrades and pedestrian access are considered.
20/01/2024 05:50
8. I think it is a very good idea!
18/01/2024 19:40
9. What about the children in Plean, why aren't they included in the catchment considering it's close to the village which is already full at the school
18/01/2024 16:23
10. This is absolutely required to support the education of the families being housed in such a large developments. I am the parent of a child at another local school and feel this will have an impact on class sizes around the Stirling area if sufficient schools

are not built.

18/01/2024 13:59

11. This is absolutely required to support the education of the families being housed in such a large developments. I am the parent of a child at another local school and feel this will have an impact on class sizes around the Stirling area if sufficient schools are not built.

18/01/2024 13:59

12. The proposed new school should have additional capacity to that than just the new development the current Bannockburn primary building and it's construction will need works completed in future years. As a result having a new school in south gateway should have additional scope and capacity to allow works to be undertaken at the current premises and relocate children rather than huts or temporary units like we have seen in previous refurbishments.

18/01/2024 12:23

13. I hope it includes a provision that supports children with additional support needs, to ensure complete inclusion

15/01/2024 09:30

14. It should never be happening in the area selected There is better space with areas of Stirling needing redevelopment. There is more than 5 other housing sites close by building house etc etc. This project should be under investigation, Mr Springfield, hands SNP 600k donations and boom , planning past. All over the Sunday Mail Mine shafts all over But some just see pound notes Wild life Great farm land All sold due to one man's greed

14/01/2024 09:42

15. I think there needs to be a purpose built provision with the school. There is a long waiting list for children who need access to an autism provision and there isn't enough room at the moment .

13/01/2024 15:28

16. There doesn't seem to be any plans or consideration of bannockburn nursery and surrounding catchment nurseries. There are already limited spaces and huge waiting lists all over stirling council (for both Local Authority and private institutions), and a lack of council places for under 3s. The new building site will add to the pressures of bannockburn nursery and their ability to accommodate - especially parental session choice of 2/3/4 years olds who are not pre school year. The intern to accommodate new families at bannockburn primary until the new school is ready will see alot of classes hit their capacity - increasing teacher work load, reducing 1-1 teaching time and stretch resources. Will there be funding for bannockburn primary to accommodate the influx?

13/01/2024 06:33

17. Just size... Needs to have large playground that can accommodate future increases. I dare say land around the Pirnhall will eventually be sold for housing. Don't get caught out like Kinnaird, Larbert did, with nowhere to expand into!!

13/01/2024 00:18

18. I have completed concerns about the number of children in each class. There are now many children with ASN and at the moment we have very limited support staff. Many teachers are struggling with their classes and some only have 19 children in their classes. Increasing the number will make it more challenging! Our school at the moment does not have dedicated break out spaces and we struggle to find places to keep all the children safe at the moment
12/01/2024 16:48
19. I think the provision of a new school in the South Stirling Gateway is a good thing but the allocation of pupils temporarily to Bannockburn Primary School is not good. My children currently attend this school and the provision is already at over capacity. The classroom space is already inadequate for the pupils who already attend and for example they are currently having to eat lunch in gym hall and take PE lessons in dining hall. The staffing and funding are also already stretched and the provision of lessons and resources is at breaking point already without adding extra pupils into the mix. There is no mention of extra funding/staffing being given to Bannockburn Primary to be able to cope with this influx of pupils and this worries me that my children's education will in turn suffer due to the additional education needs of these other pupils.
12/01/2024 15:37
20. I think the provision of a new school in the South Stirling Gateway is a good thing but the allocation of pupils temporarily to Bannockburn Primary School is not good. My children currently attend this school and the provision is already at over capacity. The classroom space is already inadequate for the pupils who already attend and for example they are currently having to eat lunch in gym hall and take PE lessons in dining hall. The staffing and funding are also already stretched and the provision of lessons and resources is at breaking point already without adding extra pupils into the mix. There is no mention of extra funding/staffing being given to Bannockburn Primary to be able to cope with this influx of pupils and this worries me that my children's education will in turn suffer due to the additional education needs of these other pupils.
12/01/2024 15:34
21. No
12/01/2024 10:13
22. Definitely needed when other schools in the area are already busy. Lovely to have a new school, however it being primarily aimed at those fortunate enough to afford a house in the new estate will make it non central to the surrounding area. Those with money attending a fancy new school when Bannockburn Primary could really also do with some upgrades.
12/01/2024 10:08
23. I think a new school is required for the number of planned houses in the area.
12/01/2024 09:33
24. Will there be an ASN provision?
12/01/2024 09:30

25. I support this as it remove the strain from Bannockburn Primary
12/01/2024 09:30

26. No funding or potential funding should be removed from the current bannockburn primary and this should still be developed as required.
12/01/2024 09:22

27. I live in Bannockburn and have just had a baby, thus will be due to attend primary school in the area in 5 yrs. I would expect the new school to properly plan for the numbers of children likely to attend. I have heard of other council areas vastly underestimating the pupil numbers for schools built on new estates and finding themselves having to build a second one. Given the new builds are vast in the numbers and it's highly likely to attract young , first time buyers with or starting families in the new builds this needs to be considered carefully. Perhaps the developers can assist with asking for buyers to share if they have dependants or may plan to in 5 years to give an idea.
12/01/2024 08:31

APPENDIX D – PUPIL CONSULTATION RESPONSES

A group of 6 senior children took part in a task in relation to their thoughts on the proposal of the new schools.

They were keen that inside of the school had the following –

- Library
- Open areas and breakout spaces
- Seating in the communal and corridor areas
- Access to the outdoors from each classroom (for outdoor learning opportunities)
- STEM Studio
- Stage and Performance area
- Computer lab
- Gym hall with equipment
- Nurture spaces



The would like the following to be considered for the outdoor area –

- Accessible parking close to the school
- Cycle path
- Bike rack
- Walking path
- Road marking in the playground for bikeability
- Eco area with bug hotel
- Outdoor classroom
- Picnic area
- MUGA

The learners talked about why they think a new school was a positive move –

- Would mean that people would not need to travel long distances to get to and from school
- Reduce class sizes in our current schools
- New houses would more people to Stirling
- Create more jobs

They had a few questions/concerns that they would like to be considered –

- Will the current high school be big enough for 2 more schools?
- Would any of the existing school close?



Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Stirling Council to establish a non-denominational primary school and associated catchment area at South Stirling Gateway housing development.

March 2024

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of a proposal from Stirling Council to establish a non-denominational primary school and associated catchment area at South Stirling Gateway housing development. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant 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 this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the schools; 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;
- 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
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 6 February 2024 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; and
- visits to the site of Bannockburn Primary School, Bannockburn High School and St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary school.

2. Consultation process

2.1 Stirling Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#). This consultation was carried out alongside a similar proposal for a new school at Durieshill. Although there was a separate survey for each proposal, the public meeting and engagement with children was completed jointly.

2.2 The consultation period ran from 10 January 2024 to 1 March 2024. The proposal document was sent to key stakeholders, including parents of pupils at any affected school, staff, trade unions, the community council and community planning partnership. The document was also made available in hard copy at Bannockburn Library and through Stirling Council's social media channels. An online survey received 37 responses. A public meeting was held on 6 February 2024 with 23 attendees. As part of the consultation, a group of six children from Bannockburn Primary

School worked with staff to contribute their views. At the time of the consultation, the site of the new school was still to be confirmed.

2.3 The online survey did not ask directly if respondents agreed with the proposal. Support is clear in seven out of 27 comments. Other comments refer to the impact on the environment, provision for nursery and additional support needs (ASN), travel routes and investment in other schools. One third of respondents are concerned about the future capacity of Bannockburn Primary School. Attendees at the public meeting asked similar questions to those responding to the survey. They also asked about the location of the school, how it will be financed and about the impact on secondary school provision. Children, responding to the consultation, agree with the proposal. In a new school, they would like to see a range of spaces for science, creative learning and play.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 Overall, HM Inspectors agree with the educational benefits of the proposal. The current catchment area for the South Stirling Gateway development is Bannockburn Primary School. It does not have the capacity to meet future demand. The proposed new school will allow for active travel and supports the development of a new community. A modern and accessible new building has the potential to create a positive learning environment for all children, including those with ASN. Plans for the new school are not yet finalised. However, the commitment to include outdoor play and learning spaces, general purpose rooms and break out areas should create a positive environment to deliver Curriculum for Excellence. The council plans to give parents a choice about whether to move children within the new catchment area, to the new school. This should help to minimise disruption to learning if children choose to stay at their existing primary school.

3.2 Almost all stakeholders, who met with HM Inspectors understand the need for a new primary school in the area. All stakeholders agree that it is important that schools are located in safe areas, preferably within walking and wheeling distance of home. Staff and parents raised specific issues about the lack of early learning and childcare (ELC) provision in the area. They are concerned that the new school will increase demand for ELC provision that cannot be met.

3.3 Staff who met with HM Inspectors raised concerns about the future capacity of Bannockburn Primary School if the new school is not built within the proposed timescale. Staff at Bannockburn Primary School do not think there is enough space, at present. For example, they think that there are not enough toilets for children. They would like to see further investment in Bannockburn Primary School to ensure an equitable learning experience for all children in the area. They are concerned that their school roll would drop if families make placing requests for the newly built school. Staff at St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School agree that the new housing may result in an increased roll from families choosing to send their child to the school. They are concerned that if a new school is not built, this would result in further capacity issues. Staff at Bannockburn High School, welcome the opportunity to increase the roll at the school.

3.4 Parents agree there is a need for a new school if all the planned housing is built. They are concerned that the existing primary schools will be less valued in the community, when the new one, with brand new facilities, is opened. They would like to see investment in the existing primary schools. After-school care places and access to childminding is currently an issue for parents, with few services available locally. Parents are concerned that the new housing will increase the demand and waiting lists for these services.

3.5 Children and young people are ready to welcome new people in to their existing schools. However, they do not want to see class sizes become too large. They feel this would impact on how well their teachers know and support them. Children and young people agree that schools

should be located close to people's homes. This allows for less car and bus travel, which is better for the environment. They would like to see a bright and welcoming new school with good outdoor and indoor space to support a wide range of learning opportunities.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has the potential to bring clear educational benefits for the children and wider community in the area. Should the proposal go ahead, the council should continue to work with all stakeholders to agree the specification and design of the new school. Parents and staff have identified a lack of ELC and after-school provision. In taking this proposal forward, the council should engage further with stakeholders to discuss these issues.

HM Inspectors
March 2024