

EDUCATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 As of April 2021 there were no pupils attending Southend Primary School. Pupils residing within the Southend catchment area were attending schools within the Campbeltown area. The pre-school age children within the catchment area were also attending nursery settings in Campbeltown. There were no Primary 1 pupils registered to attend Southend Primary School in session 2021-As A1 (ou)1 (t)-3omhe Sunn t io at21

The 2010 Act makes special arrangements in regard to rural schools that is in effect a presumption against their closure. There is a requirement to have special regard to the rural schools factors prior to formulating a proposal to close a rural school. In particular, it is necessary to consider any reasonable alternatives before considering closure. It is also necessary to consider the impact on the wider community of a potential closure and the impact of any different travel arrangements. These factors have been considered in this Options Appraisal.

for everyone. Our Council along with our Community Planning Partners, is committed to ensuring that Argyll and Bute's Economic Success is built on a Growing Population.

This strategic approach embraces the vision for our area, our communities and our people as outlined in the Corporate Plan. Our key service priorities support the delivery of our commitments in the plans, helping to focus on local outcomes that will achieve meaningful improvements for the area, our local communities and our citizens.

Councils have a statutory responsibility in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 to achieve best value. Our Community Services Asset Management Plan provides a review of the property assets used to deliver services. It incorporates the School Estate Management Plan which reflects the local implementation of Building Better Schools: Investing in Scotland's Future, the national school estate strategy developed by the Scottish Government in conjunction with local authorities.

The aspirations, guiding principles and objectives contained within Building Better Schools are reflected throughout Education and Children's Services Asset Management Plan (SAMP) for schools and public buildings, both in the management of the existing assets and in the design and construction of developments.

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3.2 **Our Children Their Future**

Councils, as an Education Authority, have a statutory duty in terms of the *Education (Scotland) Act 1980* to make adequate and efficient provision of school education across their entire area for the current school population and future pattern of demand. This is reflected in Our Children, Their Future: Education Vision and Strategy.

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3.4 The School within the Community

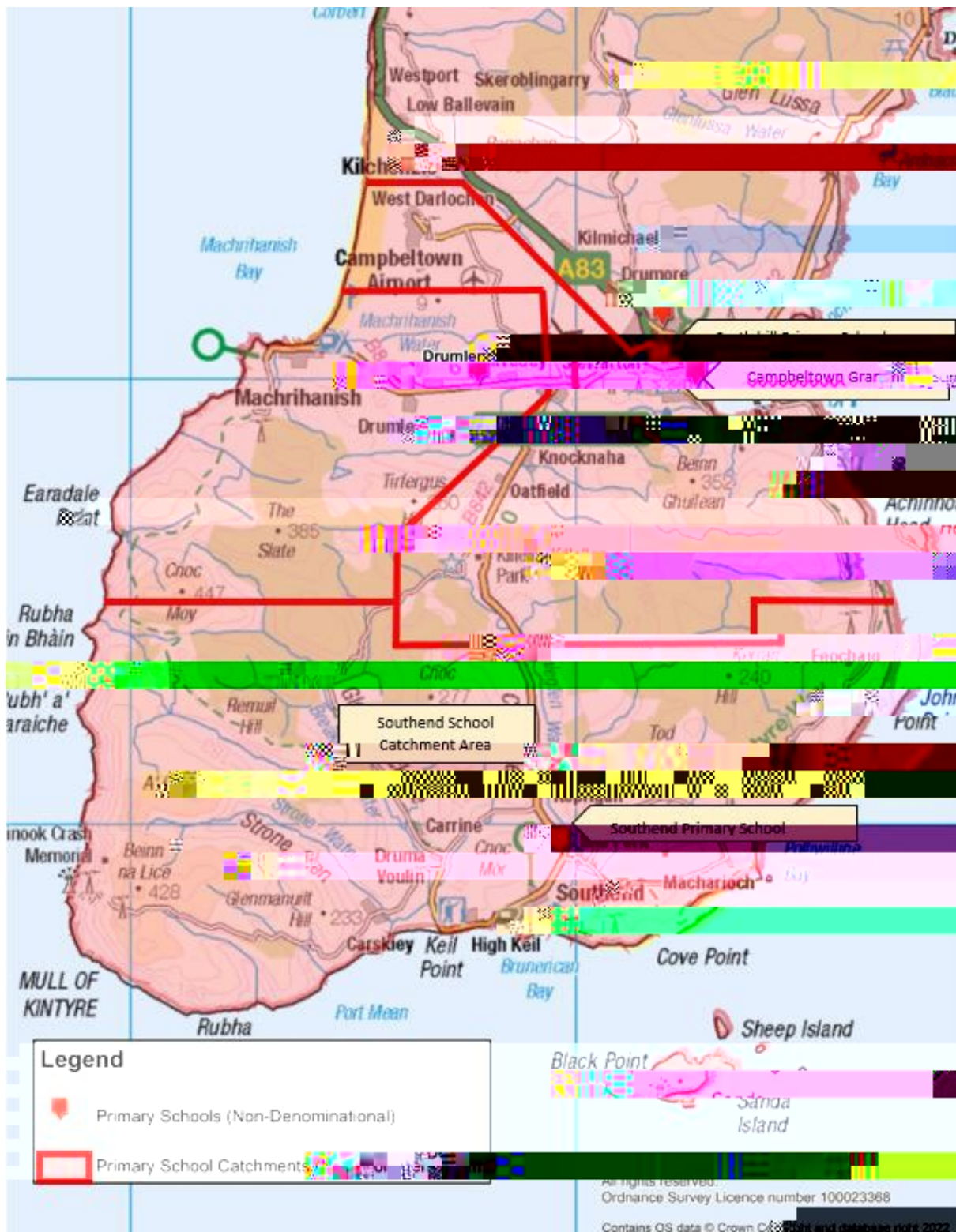
against which planning applications for new development proposals should be assessed. This is supported by the proposals maps which show the range of development opportunities and constraints within the area, for example:

- the key development areas i.e. the allocations for housing, industry and business, community facilities and infrastructure;
 - the potential areas for future development (Potential Development Areas);
 - areas requiring actions such as environmental improvement or regeneration (Areas for Action); and
 - environmental designations such as national Scenic Areas, Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Protection Areas and Local Nature Conservation Sites.
- *Appendix 1* shows the LDP2 for Southend
 - *Appendix 2* shows the LDP2 for Castlehill
 - *Appendix 3* provides the key for Local Development Plans.

3.7 Southend Primary School

Southend Primary School is situated outside of the village of Southend and was

Following the mothballing of Southend Primary School, children from the Southend catchment area attended Castlehill Primary School. Castlehill



3.9 Pupil Numbers

Pupil projections, and data for 2023-24 are based on the 2022 pupil census, a return prepared annually for the Scottish Government. Past pupil numbers are historic data from past pupil censuses. Pupil projections are based on 3/5 years intake and updated post P1 registration.

Table 2 shows the historic and current pupil numbers for both Southend and Castlehill Primary schools:

school because parents chose to send their children to schools within the Campbeltown area.

4.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

4.1 Meetings

A Community Engagement Meeting was held in Southend Primary School, on 17th November, 2022 from 09:00-18:00 hours. This was to seek the views of the community on the future of Southend Primary School. This meeting was attended by 43 people. There was also a meeting in Dalintober Primary School to gather opinions from parents who will be impacted by any decision that is made in relation to Southend Primary School. Dalintober Primary School have 3 members of staff re-deployed from Southend PS to Dalintober PS. Virtual meetings took place with a young person from Campbeltown Grammar School who was impacted by the mothballing of Southend Primary School and the Head Teacher of Southend Primary School who currently teaches at Dalintober Primary School. The Head Teacher at Dalintober Primary School took part in a virtual meeting. Meetings were also offered to Castlehill and Drumlemble Parent Councils. Three secondary aged young people and one primary aged young person participated in the Community Engagement Meeting. The parent and toddler group within Southend were contacted on two occasions to be given the opportunity to feed into the preliminary engagement exercise. An email contact was also given to individuals during the Community Engagement event to encourage more feedback from this group. No response was received.

4.2 Content of Meetings

Attendees at the meetings were given an overview of the information that the Council would be using in this Options Appraisal, this included pupil projections, development information and local services and facilities.

The questions were as follows:

Over the last three years, what has been the effect of mothballing Southend School on you, your family and community?

In your view what are the pros/cons of the following options:

- *Continue with mothballing*
- *Re-open the school*
- *Close the school*
- *Re-open the school but widen the catchment area*

Attendees also noted questions regarding the future of the school, and points of information that should be considered in the Options Appraisal.

4.3 Feedback

There was a range of viewpoints on the future of Southend School:

- **Community and Parents**

The majority of the community felt that continuing to mothball the school was not an option. It was felt that a decision should be made as the building would only continue to deteriorate. A small number felt this might be beneficial to allow pre 5 children in the area to get to the stage where they were ready to attend school. The majority of the community believed that the most viable option is to formally close the school as decline in school roll at the school had been as a result of parents choosing to send their children to schools within the Campbeltown area. There was a small percentage of -3 (a5(.7j o)5 u Neith

General Comments:

“We would like to see parents choosing the school.”

“My child attends school in town and this has been good for her socially. My youngest is likely to follow her to the same school as opposed to attending Southend Primary”

“The school didn’t close due to lack of children, it closed due to parental choice.”

“We would only send our child to the school if numbers permitted.”

“Individual communities will be lost if there is an amalgamation (new large school campus). Communities are all diverse.”

“There is a lot of potential through the Pre 5 group.”

“In an ideal world it is great to see small schools but difficult to get staff.”

“We think it won’t re-open if we are being realistic. Can it be staffed?”

“Realistically, I can’t see it re-opening”

“The longer it is left mothballed, the more it will deteriorate.”

“I personally can’t see me moving my children if the school re-opened. I value the standardisation, social aspect and social contact in a big school. Schools in town have capacity to take increased numbers.”

5.0 THE PROPOSAL AND REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSAL AS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Southend Primary School has been mothballed for almost 2 years. The school roll had dramatically declined after 2017. Although the census information illustrates that in 2019-20 the school roll was 7 pupils (see Table 2, above), this reduced to 3 (2 of which were siblings) over the course of the year. Discussion took place with the Head Teacher and parent community at the time, who all acknowledged the limitations that pupil numbers were placing on the opportunity for social interaction. The decision was made by the relevant parents that the pupils would have the opportunity for increased social interaction at Castlehill Primary School. The decline in pupil numbers at Southend Primary School was as a result of placing requests to Castlehill Primary School, with a small number also choosing to attend Drumlemble

Primary School and Dalintober Primary School. A small number of parents with pre-school children are supportive of the school re-opening. Parents with children at Castlehill Primary School wished current arrangements to continue and reported that siblings would be attending Castlehill Primary School. There is very limited support for the reopening of Southend Primary School.

Whilst the building is mothballed it continues to deteriorate. The Community is very proactive and have positive suggestions as to how the building could be used. Along with several other rural councils, Argyll and Bute is facing increasing challenges in recruiting staff. In January 2023 there were 15.9 fte vacancies for both Head Teachers and Teachers. Recruitment in the South Kintyre area is challenging due to the rural location.

The Council is required to consider the future of Southend Primary School. The following options are explored within this paper:

- a) Re-open Southend Primary School.
- b) Continued Mothballing of Southend Primary with the pupils zoned to Castlehill Primary School.
- c) Re-open Southend Primary School and realign its catchment area.
- d) Close Southend Primary School and realign its catchment area to Castlehill Primary School.

6.0 OPTION A: RE-OPEN SOUTHEND PRIMARY SCHOOL

6.1 Community Feedback

If the school were to re-open sustainability may not be viable due to the fact that pupil numbers over the next four years are not predicted to rise and are well below the capacity of the school building. It has also been stated that parents would choose to place their children in a school within Campbeltown as older siblings were already attending school there or because it is more convenient for after school clubs.

Parents felt that the ELC may be beneficial to the area and that this may grow numbers for the school in the longer term. The ELC had previously been open part time. Four Children attended the ELC on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. During the pandemic, parents had to choose between Southend EL(t)-c

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6.4.1 Community Impact

The reopening of the school would enable the premises to be used by the community. It would also be a possibility that the school pupils would invite the community to specific events. The presence of a school and the facilities/activities that may be offered could make the area a more attractive place to live. Reopening the school may therefore encourage families with school age children to move to the community. This in turn may make the community more sustainable.

However the community have demonstrated that there is a limited desire for the school to reopen. The majority who attended the community engagement indicated the need for the school to become a facility for the community or local tourism to use rather than an educational establishment.

As Southend has an established community hall, Southend Primary School has not been used for community use since it has been mothballed. Respondents noted the negative impact of the school

There are no specific educational benefits from reopening the school as all schools implement Curriculum for Excellence ensuring effective learning and teaching which is matched to the needs of children.

When considering the above alongside projected low pupil numbers, the challenges in recruiting teaching staff and the expenditure needed to bring the building up to standard and the limited local support for reopening Southend Primary School this is not considered to be a reasonable option.

7.0 OPTION B: CONTINUED MOTHBALLING OF SOUTHEND PRIMARY SCHOOL WITH PUPILS ZONED TO CASTLEHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Statutory Guidance for the 2010 Act, in relation to mothballing, states *“the maximum length of its duration is likely to depend on the location of the school and the desirability of maintaining capacity to re-open a school there, but it is unlikely that it should exceed 3 years in areas that are not very remote.”* Southend Primary School has been mothballed for 2 years.

7.1 Community Feedback

There are many ideas for the future of the building being discussed by the community as base for outdoor activities, gym and tourism facility. Only one person voiced that mothballing would not bother them as their child was not of school age yet. Everyone else at the community meeting felt that mothballing the school over a long period is wasteful due to deterioration of the property and should not be prolonged:

“As long as it’s maintained, we don’t care what happens to it.”

“The longer it is left mothballed, the more it will deteriorate.”

“Not viable. Decision needs to be made.”

“I don’t think there is any point to continuing to mothball the schools.” (Young Person)

“This wouldn’t bother me as my child isn’t quite ready to go to school.”

7.2 Pupil Numbers

Pupil numbers are not projected to increase over the next 4 years, as per Table 4 above.

7.3 Financial Information

The current annual cost (2022/23) to the Council of the mothballed Southend Primary School is £

account the cost to bring the property to an acceptable standard to re-open the school which is **£7,300**. There is no current annual transport cost of taking pupils to alternative schools.

7.4 **Assessment of Rural Factors**

The reasons why the future of Southend Primary School is being considered are as stated at Section 2 of this Report. There is no expectation for the pupil numbers at Southend Primary School to increase. Southend Primary School is currently mothballed. Only a small number of parents whose children are within the catchment area attended the community engagement event. No parents planned on moving their child to Southend PS should the school re-open. To reopen the school would not in itself increase the pupil numbers.

7.4.1 Community Impact

If pupils are to continue their education in Castlehill Primary School there would be no change to the current impact on the community. If the mothballing of Southend was to continue the building would deteriorate further and eventually become unavailable. There is concern with regards to the deterioration of the property and the impact of this on the neighbouring residential property that has a shared wall. This could have a detrimental effect on the sustainability of the Southend community. As the school is situated outside of the village of Southend, the building and grounds are currently not being used. There were some signs of minor vandalism of outside planters on the school property. The community view the buildings and grounds as an opportunity to develop an outdoor learning facility for residential use or a bunk house/youth hostel accommodation. As the Kintyre Way is a popular tourist destination and the area lends itself to the active tourism industry, the community felt that this use may continue to benefit young people as well as attract tourism into the local economy. This may make the area a more attractive place to live.

7.4.2 Travel Arrangements

There is no change to the travel arrangements soar to.1 artifact BMC 147-3 (s)-1 13 ()TJ

The principles of Curriculum for Excellence recognise the professionalism of teachers and the importance of this in exercising the freedom and responsibility associated with broader guidance. This means that schools are able to design their curriculum to meet the specific needs of their children and community. There are no specific educational benefits from reopening the school as all schools implement Curriculum for Excellence ensuring effective learning and teaching which is matched to the needs of children.

Southend Primary School is a remote rural school, Castlehill Primary School has a central location and is therefore not classified as a rural school (Scottish Government classification). Children from Southend area, attending Castlehill Primary School are benefitting from learning with a number of peers at the same age and stage as themselves as opposed to a single classroom/multi composite classrooms. Pupils also benefit from increased friendship groups that a large school can offer. Outdoor learning is currently provided at Castlehill Primary.

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There are no specific educational benefits from continuing the mothballing of Southend Primary school.

On the basis that pupil numbers are not expected to increase and the building's mothballing is not of benefit to the community or the Council, continued mothballing of Southend Primary School is not viewed as a reasonable option.

8.0 OPTION C: RE-OPEN SOUTHEND PRIMARY SCHOOL AND EXTEND ITS CATCHMENT AREA

8.1 Community Feedback

The existing catchment area for Southend Primary School is very rural and very sparsely populated. It already covers a broad area.

When considering the option to realign the catchment area of Southend, the map within Section 3.8, above, demonstrates that the boundary could only be moved closer to Campbeltown. Everyone within the community engagement event felt that this was an unrealistic proposal for Southend Primary School. They did not believe a change of boundary would make any difference. The community felt that by moving the boundary closer to town, you would be increasing transport time for pupils who already attended school within the Campbeltown area. Transport would go against the direction of travel for parents who were working within the Campbeltown area and where many after school clubs are based. Extension of any boundary into the Drumlemble catchment area would require an additional bus service and would impact on pupil numbers of another remote and rural school.

Community views are:

"Not viable"

"Cost of fuel needs to be considered"

8.2 Pupil Numbers

The pupil numbers within this new catchment area would not increase the roll significantly. As part of any possible forthcoming consultation, there would be discussions with the parent body of Castlehill Primary School regarding the future of Southend Primary School. During the preliminary engagement exercise there were views represented from the Parent Councils of Drumlemble and Dalintober Primary Schools. Both schools expressed their concern over the staffing of schools within the area. There was no representation from the Parent Council of Castlehill Primary School at the Options Appraisal Meeting or following. They were approached to give their views. It was felt by attendees at the meeting that moving the catchment area of Southend Primary School was not an option due to the remote nature of the location, the road and accepted direction of travel.

8.3 Financial Information

The total amount including employee; premises; supplies and services and catering consideration to re-open the school is **£139,024**.

The cost to bring the property to an acceptable standard to re-open the school is **£7,300**.

There would also be a financial cost associated with the recruitment of additional staff and ongoing associated costs.

8.4 Assessment of Rural Factors

The reasons why the future of Southend Primary School is being reviewed are as stated at Section 2 of this Report. There is no expectation for the pupil numbers at Southend Primary School to increase. Southend Primary School is currently mothballed and the pupils are rezoned to Castlehill Primary School.

To reopen Southend Primary School **and** realign its catchment area could increase the pupil numbers if families were to send their children to Southend Primary School however the geography of the local area and existing wide catchment area does not lend itself to this option.

8.4.1 Community Impact

The reopening of the school with a larger catchment area would enable the premises to be used by the community. It would also be a possibility that the school pupils would invite the community in to specific events. The presence of a school and the facilities/activities that may be offered could make the area a more attractive place to live. Reopening the school may therefore encourage families with school age children to move to the community. This in turn may make the community more sustainable. However, the community has given no support for this option.

If the school were to reopen as an educational establishment there would be an economic impact with respect to the expenditure needed to bring the building up to standard. There would also be costs relating

years.

There are financial implications if the school is to be reopened. The total amount including employee; premises; supplies and services and catering consideration to re-open the school is **£139,024**. The cost to bring the property to an acceptable standard to re-open the school is **£7,300**. There would also be a financial cost associated with the recruitment of additional staff and ongoing associated costs.

If the School was to be reopened, the premises would be able to be used by the community, in addition to its use as an educational facility. The reopening of the school may encourage families with school age children to move to the community, which may make the community more sustainable.

The travel distance (AA route finder) from Southend Primary to Castlehill Primary is 8.7 miles via the B842. Travel time is approximately 14 minutes. The travel arrangements have been in place for almost two years. Any change in boundary would require a new bus route with expenditure associated with it.

There are no specific educational benefits from reopening the school as all schools implement Curriculum for Excellence ensuring effective learning and teaching which is matched to the needs of children.

Due to the geographic location of this very remote rural primary school it is unlikely that the catchment area could be made more sustainable. While this option could in theory contribute to sustainability of the community that may not be the case as most pupils in the neighbouring catchment area travel in the direction of Campbeltown, towards the larger centre of population, and not towards Southend. It would require pupils who may have already settled in Castlehill Primary School and Dalintober Primary School to move to Southend Primary School. Many Southend families have stated they would not move their children back to Southend as their children are currently settled in school. All families would be entitled to submit a placing request to attend Castlehill Primary School, Dalintober Primary School or Drumlemble Primary School. It is unlikely that pupil numbers would increase significantly.

When considering the above, alongside the challenges in recruiting teaching staff, the considerable expenditure needed to bring the building up to sta (t)-3 (ur)-3 D6(ur51

“Socially, I feel it is better for children to be in a larger social group”

A number of parents commented on the wish for there to be an ELC or pre 5 facility. Members of the community commented that it was sad to see the building not being used at all and that a re-purposing of the building would be better for the community. Suggestions included for residential trips, bunk house or youth hostel type facility that would make use of the local environment for active tourism.

9.2 Pupil Numbers

Table 5: Schools Occupancy:

<i>Primary</i>	<i>2023/24</i>	<i>2024/25</i>
<i>Approved Capacity Castlehill Primary</i>	459	459
<i>Projected Roll Castlehill Primary</i>	185	180
<i>Southend Projected Roll</i>	8	8
<i>Total Roll Projection Castlehill Primary</i>	193	189
<i>Occupancy</i>	42%	41%

Pupils from Southend

The reasons why the future of Southend Primary School is being reviewed are as stated at Section 2 of this Report. There is no expectation for the pupil numbers at Southend Primary School to increase. Southend Primary School is currently mothballed and were there pupils they would be rezoned to other schools. To reopen the school would not increase the pupil numbers.

9.4.1 Community Impact

There was support in the community for the closure of the school. The community were realistic that given the current financial climate, the building may be sold off. Within Southend there is a village hall. The majority of those who attended stated the school building should be used to benefit young people in the area, support the local economy and not fall into further disrepair, as that would adversely impact on the visual impact of the village. While it is accepted that school closure may have an adverse effect on community sustainability to a degree, it was felt that the mothballing of the school and the building not being used at all was a bigger negative impact to the community. Southend community felt that they benefitted greatly from vibrant use of their local hall. A re-purposing of the building could potentially have a very positive impact on the sustainability of the community if this option were to progress. The buildings forming the school premises are situated within walking distance of the village. If the building was re-purposed for residential or tourism use, this would have a positive impact on the sustainability of the village. Formal closure of the school would mean that these plans could potentially be progressed.

9.4.2 Travel Arrangements

The travel distance (AA route finder) from Southend Primary to Castlehill Primary is 8.7 miles via the B842. Travel time is approximately 14 minutes. The travel arrangements have been in place for almost two years. Travel is an accepted aspect of living in the Southend community. This option would have no effect on the current travel arrangements of staff and pupils. The closure of Southend Primary School, in terms of travel would have a neutral effect on the environment. There is currently no annual transport cost for pupils to travel to Castlehill Primary School and the use of the existing West Coast Motors service bus would not incur additional costs in the immediate future.

9.5 **Educational Benefits**

The principles of Curriculum for Excellence recognise the professionalism of teachers and the importance of this in exercising the freedom and responsibility associated with broader guidance. This means that schools are able to design their curriculum to meet the specific needs of their children and community. There are no specific educational benefits as all schools implement Curriculum for Excellence ensuring effective learning and teaching which is matched to the needs of children.

Southend Primary School is a remote rural school, Castlehill Primary School has a central location and is therefore not classified as a rural school (Scottish Government classification). Children from Southend area, attending Castlehill Primary School are benefitting from learning with a number of peers at the same age and stage as themselves as opposed to single classroom/multi composite classrooms. Pupils also benefit from increased friendship groups that a large school can offer. Outdoor learning is currently provided at Castlehill Primary. The pupils would be transitioning to Campbeltown Grammar School with an established friendship group.

In Castlehill Primary School children benefit from being part of a social context in which they can build relationships with different groups and individuals, develop social skills, meet challenges and exercise responsibilities as members

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This has been identified as a reasonable option for further consideration.

10.0 OVERVIEW OF OPTIONS

Option	Option Description	Outcome
A	Re-open Southend Primary School with the existing catchment area.	Not a reasonable option.
B	Continued Mothballing of Southend Primary School with the pupils zoned to Castlehill Primary School.	Not a reasonable option.
C	Re-open Southend Primary School and extend its catchment area.	Not a reasonable option
D	Close Southend Primary School and realign the catchment area of Castlehill Primary School to include the current catchment area for Southend Primary School.	A reasonable option with strong representation that the school becomes a facility the community can develop.

11. DETAILED ANALYSIS OF REASONABLE OPTION: CLOSE SOUTHEND PRIMARY SCHOOL AND REALIGN THE CATCHMENT AREA FOR CASTLEHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL TO INCLUDE THE CURRENT SOUTHEND CATCHMENT AREA

11.1 Pupil Projections

<i>Primary</i>	<i>2023/24</i>	<i>2024/25</i>
<i>Castlehill Primary Approved Capacity</i>	<i>459</i>	<i>459</i>
<i>Castlehill Primary Projected Roll</i>	<i>185</i>	<i>180</i>
<i>Southend Primary Projected Roll</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Total Roll Projection</i>	<i>193</i>	<i>189</i>
<i>Occupancy</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>41%</i>

11.2 Educational Benefits

This statement focusses on Castlehill Primary School, which is the school most Southend Pupils have been attending since May 2021.

11.2.1 Learning and Teaching

The curriculum includes a broad range of experiences which are planned for children and young people through their education, to help every child and young person to develop knowledge, skills and attributes for success in learning, life and work.

In Castlehill Primary School, children are encouraged to be eager and active participants who are engaged, resilient and highly motivated during their learning. Children know that their views are sought, valued and acted upon. The learning environment encourages a high level of achievement, providing a wide range of opportunities for children to achieve their full potential within the four contexts of learning.

In Castlehill Primary School children may be taught in single year group classes or composite classes composed of children from no more than two year groups. Children benefit from being part of a social context in which they can build relationships with different groups and individuals, develop social skills, meet challenges and exercise responsibilities as members of a social group. They are able to interact and socialise with groups of children through a variety of learning activities as well as take part in team activities and move with their peers to secondary school.

There is a continual challenge for all schools to deliver a school improvement agenda and deliver effectively the principles and outcomes of curriculum for excellence. The National Improvement Framework priorities include raising attainment for all, and closing the gap between the most and least disadvantaged children.

The principles of Curriculum for Excellence recognise the professionalism of teachers and the importance of this in exercising the freedom and responsibility associated with broader guidance. This means that schools are able to design their curriculum to meet the specific needs of their children and community. At Castlehill Primary School, staff are challenged and supported through a range of continuous professional development and review opportunities gained by working and learning with a range of colleagues. The school is part of a leadership structure arrangement in which the Head Teacher is responsible for three schools Castlehill Primary School, Drumlemble Primary School and Carradale Primary School. There is a Depute Head Teacher and Principal Teacher appointed to each of the three Primary Schools to support this

leadership structure. This structure provides increased opportunity for collegiate working. Castlehill Primary School is part of the Kintyre Schools Cluster and MAKI cluster, which means that staff can be supported to work together, moderation and tracking of pupil progress is enabled and staff work across stage appropriate groups. Colleagues within Castlehill Primary School are able to support and challenge each other on a daily basis. The whole staff are able to bring a range of talents and skills to benefit outcomes for learners.

Castlehill Primary School has been focussing on the development of Nurture and Rights Respecting Schools approach, both taking into consideration the incorporation of UNCRC into Scottish law. The focus on wellbeing and nurture is evident in activities such as reflection afternoons for pupils and parents. The impact of these approaches has been evidenced using SHANNARI webs. Castlehill Primary School encourages outdoor learning activities and learning through play. Partnership working with local employers and the Parent Council has helped to develop resources and outdoor learning zones to support this approach.

Castlehill Primary School is in a central location within Campbeltown, unlike Southend Primary which is a very remote rural school. However, as the Head Teacher is responsible for Carradale Primary and Drumlemble Primary, both of which are remote rural schools (Scottish Government classification), there is a strong understanding of the rural communities that the school serves.

The school has strong links with Campbeltown Nursery, with which it coordinates an active transition calendar, and with Campbeltown Grammar School with which it liaises, alongside all other South Kintyre schools, throughout the year to ensure a smooth transition for P7 pupils into S1.

11.2.2 Outcomes

Through the GIRFEC practice model, meeting the needs of every child continues to be a priority and teachers carefully plan and assess to ensure each child has the opportunity to reach their potential. Careful tracking and monitoring procedures are in place to evidence pupil progress. This includes professional dialogue with teachers, learning discussions with children, classroom observations, assessment and looking at pupil work. Planning for Progress meetings are being further strengthened. These discussions between home and school improve parental engagement whilst focussing on next steps for learning. Where appropriate, intervention is put in place, while working effectively with other agencies and parents to ensure the needs of each child are met.

In Castlehill Primary, like other schools in the Kintyre area, standards of attainment have been impacted by the pandemic. While

village. It is accepted that a school closure may have an adverse effect on community sustainability, but a change of use could be an asset to the community. The school premises are situated within walking distance of the village. If the local plans for the building progress, this would have a positive impact on the sustainability of the village. Formal closure of the school would mean that these plans could potentially be progressed.

11.3.2 Travel Arrangements

The travel distance (AA route finder) from Southend Primary to Castlehill Primary is 8.7 miles via the B842. Travel time is approximately 14 minutes. The travel arrangements have been in place for almost two years. Travel is an accepted aspect of living in the Southend community. Pupils will travel on the existing West Coast Motors service bus and eventually all the pupils will travel to Castlehill Primary School. The environmental impact of travel will be minimal, as these arrangements are currently in place due to the mothballing of Southend Primary School. The closure of Southend Primary School, in terms of travel would have a neutral effect on the environment. There is currently no annual transport cost for pupils to travel to Castlehill Primary School as the route was already in place and the use of the existing West Coast Motors service bus would not incur additional costs in the immediate future.

11.4 **Assessment of Rural Factors**

The reasons why the future of Southend Primary School is being reviewed are stated at Section 2 of this report. There is currently no expectation for the pupil numbers to increase at the School. Southend Primary School is mothballed with no current pupils. Having considered all the alternatives above, the option to close Southend Primary School and realign the catchment area for Castlehill Primary School to include the former Southend Primary School catchment area is considered the most reasonable means to address the reasons identified at Section 2 of this report.

11.5 **Financial Impact**

The main elements included within a school budget are Teacher employment costs (i.e. basic salary costs plus related employer's National Insurance and Superannuation contributions plus any relevant individual allowances); Local Government employee costs and an allocation for discretionary expenditure incurred by the school (i.e. educational equipment, materials, staff travel, etc.). Teacher staffing budgets are calculated on an annual basis and within the Primary sector are determined, taking cognisance of the SNCT class size maxima, by the number of classes required to provide for the specific number and age of the pupils in each school. When a school ceases to be operational

the Teacher staffing budget is adjusted (at the appropriate time), per entitlement information from Education HR, with the staffing budget resulting in a nil value. As a result of the authority's policy for no Teacher redundancies it is presumed that the staff are deployed elsewhere within the authority and therefore their salary costs still exist with an increase to the receiving school's budget. This is also in line with the national priority of maintaining teacher numbers. This methodology also applies to the school's discretionary budget which again is formula based. The budget of the receiving school, in terms of any pupils being transferred, will have increased. The figures outlined below take account of the fact that the staffing and discretionary budgets have been adjusted to nil.

The annual running costs during mothballing of Southend Primary School are a total of **£5,936**.

Annual savings generated through closing Southend Primary School would be **£5,936**.

The costs/savings outlined above assumes all revenue expenditure would cease. This includes non-domestic rates, utility costs, insurances, etc. If the school was to be formally closed, this would allow the council to take steps towards selling the school premises to a third party or local community groups.

11.6 Environmental Impact

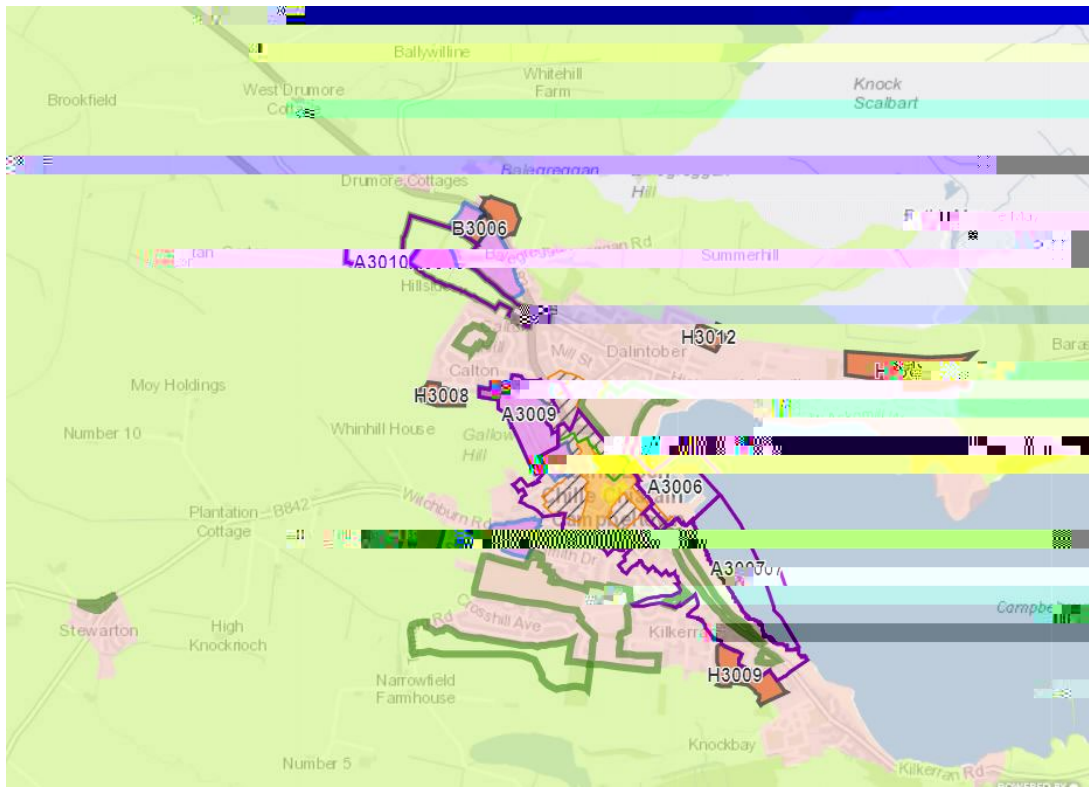
Pupils are currently travelling to Castlehill Primary School. However this option would have a neutral environmental impact on the current position and would have no impact on the current travel arrangements for staff and pupils. The journey to Castlehill Primary is a relatively short journey. Travel is an accepted aspect of rural life.

12.0 CONCLUSION

Four alternative options have been reviewed in considering the future of Southend Primary School. For each option, information was collated and consideration was given to:

- Community feedback;
- Pupil numbers;
- Financial Information;
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Appendix 2



Appendix 3

<p>Transport Infrastructure</p> <p>Area for Action</p> <p>Strategic Economic Investment Location</p> <p>Open Space Potential Area</p> <p>Strategic Masterplan</p>	<p>Allocations</p> <p>Potential Development Area</p> <p>Conservation Area</p> <p>Local Landscape Area</p>	<p>Wild Land</p> <p>Garden Design Landscape</p> <p>National Nature Reserve</p> <p>Special Area of Conservation</p> <p>Ramsar</p>	<p>National Scenic Area</p> <p>Site of Special Scientific Interest</p> <p>Special Protection Area</p> <p>Established Business and Industry Area</p>	<p>Tourism Infrastructure</p> <p>Core Shopping Area</p> <p>Main Town Centre</p> <p>Edge of Town Centre</p> <p>Waste Management Site</p>	<p>Marine Consultation Area</p> <p>Settlement & Spatial Strategy Areas</p> <p>Settlement Area</p> <p>Greenbelt</p> <p>Countryside Area</p> <p>Remote Countryside Area</p>
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Appendix 4



Appendix 5

