

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Perth and Kinross Council to close the original site of City of Perth Early Childhood Centre and formalise the delivery of the service from the current site at Goodlyburn Primary School.

June 2025

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 by Perth and Kinross Council to close the original site of City of Perth Early Childhood Centre and formalise the delivery of the service from the current site at Goodlyburn Primary School. 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' view. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it alongside any relevant considerations the council received and then prepare its consultation report. The council's 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 consultation report at least three weeks before it takes its final decision. With all proposals the council needs to follow all statutory obligations set out in the 2010 Act. Where a council is proposing to close a school, there are specific additional obligations. These include notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children of the setting; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children 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 22 May 2025 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 Goodlyburn Primary School and the former site of City of Perth Early Childhood Centre (CoPECC), including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

2.1 Perth and Kinross Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#).

2.2 The statutory consultation ran from 24 April to 6 June 2025. The proposal paper was published on the council's website and distributed to key stakeholders. The council made copies of the proposal paper in public buildings. The council invited consultees to submit their views on the proposal via an online form or by email. A public meeting was held on 22 May 2025, which was

attended by two members of staff from Goodlyburn and City of Perth Early Childhood Centre. No members of the public attended the meeting. The council received 13 online response forms, two of which agreed with the proposal and 11 disagreed. However, the council viewed eight of these responses invalid as they failed to provide a required name, address or email address to validate the response. Of the five validated responses, most of these were received from staff, with four respondents disagreeing with the council's proposal. The council received no responses to the consultation from parents. Children from Goodlyburn Primary School and Goodlyburn and City of Perth Early Childhood Centre were also consulted. The majority of children supported the closure of CoPECC. They recognised the difficulties that the former site had with flooding.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 HM Inspectors agree with the educational benefits outlined by Perth and Kinross Council. The original building was affected by floods in 2002, 2010 and 2020. The extent of the flood damage in August 2020 resulted in CoPECC being deemed uninsurable. Therefore, the council were not able to develop this site with any permanent structure. At this time, the council temporarily relocated the provision to the community wing of Perth Grammar School. Following significant vandalism in 2021, the council agreed that the CoPECC building should be demolished. As a result, CoPECC can no longer be located on the original site at McCallum Court. In April 2022, the council made an interim arrangement to combine CoPECC with the nursery located at Goodlyburn Primary School, known as Goodlyburn and City of Perth Early Childhood Centre. If the proposal is agreed, children will not experience any disruption as they already benefit from attending the setting at Goodlyburn Primary School.

3.2 HM Inspectors met with children who previously attended CoPECC. They talked positively about their experience in the former setting. However, they believe that the proposal may result in more children choosing to attend Goodlyburn Primary School.

3.3 All parents and staff who met with HM Inspectors agree with the proposal. They believe that Goodlyburn and City of Perth Early Childhood Centre is providing a positive and nurturing learning environment. Although parents and a few staff expressed sadness about the loss of local provision. They all agreed that children are happy and settled into the existing setting. They believe that children's needs are supported very well.

3.4 Parents and staff believe that the existing provision at Goodlyburn Primary School would benefit from adaptations, including improvement to some toilet facilities. Although staff make good use of the outdoor space available, including an outdoor classroom, not all classrooms have direct access to the outdoors. The council should ensure that children's access to free flow play is not restricted due to the design of the building. If the council proceeds with the proposal, it should engage further with stakeholders to consider potential improvement of the current setting.

3.5 All parents who met with HM Inspectors expressed concern about the current use of the former site at McCallum Court. They are concerned that the site has become overgrown. All parents would like clarity on the future use of this land. Parents and staff believe that the former site should be redeveloped to benefit the children and families of the local community. If the council proceeds with the proposal, it should engage further with stakeholders to consider future uses of the former site.

3.6 All stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors believe that if the council agrees to close CoPECC, it will help create a clearer sense of identity for the early years provision at Goodlyburn Primary School. This will be in line with other early years provision in the local area.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree with the educational benefits outlined in this proposal. The provision at Goodlyburn Primary School is currently meeting the needs of children. Although a few parents expressed sadness about the loss of CoPECC, all stakeholders understand and agree with the education benefits of the proposal. Parents and staff believe that the current setting would benefit from some improvement to facilities. They also believe the former site of CoPECC should be redeveloped to benefit children and families from the local area. In taking forward the proposal, the council should continue to engage with stakeholders to address these concerns.

HM Inspectors
June 2025