**Educational Services – September 2023**

**A PROPOSAL PAPER**

**Proposed Relocation of the North Ayr Extended Learning Facility**

**The following schools are affected by this proposal paper;**

**Dalmilling Primary School & Heathfield Primary School**

This document has been issued by South Ayrshire Council’s Cabinet for consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

**1. Purpose of the paper**

1.1 This proposal paper is being published in accordance with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. Following approval of this document by South Ayrshire Council’s Cabinet on 29 August 2023, the Council is now seeking views from interested individuals and parties on the school proposals that are explained in this document.

**2. The Proposal**

The proposal is:

* 1. to relocate the additional support needs education provision within the North Ayr Extended Learning Facility at Dalmilling Primary School (Harthall, Ayr, KA8 0PD), to a new and larger facility within Heathfield Primary School (Heathfield Rd, Ayr KA8 9DR), and;
  2. that the relocation will take effect on the completion of alterations to Heathfield Primary School which are expected to be completed by the summer of 2024 for the new school session starting that August.

**3. Background**

3.1 The Scottish Government and South Ayrshire Council are fully committed to improving the school estate in South Ayrshire. Significant improvements have already been made since the publication of the Scottish Governments vision document “Building Better Schools” in 2009 with a large number of new schools being built, modernised or extended in recent years.

3.2 In the last six years alone the Council has built new education facilities for Ayr Academy, Invergarven School, Queen Margaret Academy, Ayr Grammar Primary, the Prestwick North Education Campus, including St Ninian’s Primary and Glenburn Primary, along with Sacred Heart Primary in Girvan.

3.3 New build projects underway include the Maybole Community Campus due for completion in the summer of 2024, which will be the home of Carrick Academy, St Cuthbert’s Primary and Culzean Primary. A new Girvan Primary School will also be built, due for completion in 2026.

3.4 To continue this work and to highlight the commitment to improving the school estate, over the next decade the Council will invest more than one hundred and ten million pounds in our school buildings.

3.5 As part of this ongoing modernisation strategy for schools, Educational Services consider the suitability of the school estate, including capacity pressures brought from the development of new housing.

**4. Education in South Ayrshire Council**

4.1 Education provision within South Ayrshire is currently delivered through 8 secondary schools, 41 primary schools, 2 special schools and integrated specialist provision within a number of schools for children and young people with additional support needs. Early Years provision is delivered through 35 Council operated early years centres and a number of partnership centres.

4.2 South Ayrshire Council’s annual Educational Services Standards and Quality Report confirms the commitment to provide a positive learning environment that motivates children and young people. Improving the school estate is central to our Vision, Values and Purpose.

4.3 A high quality of learning and teaching is delivered in South Ayrshire and this has been highlighted in many school inspections carried out by Education Scotland. During session 2022/23 Education Scotland resumed inspection visits to schools following a suspension during the Pandemic. All South Ayrshire schools visited by inspection teams during the last session received positive feedback with learning and teaching rated as either good or very good.

**5. Details of Existing Provision** **at Dalmilling Primary School**

5.1 Dalmilling Primary School is a non-denominational school for primary-aged children and young people. The school serves a catchment area in North Ayr and provides education for primary-aged children in mainstream education. The North Ayr Extended Learning Facility, which is for young people of primary age with additional support needs, from throughout South Ayrshire, is an integrated specialist facility located within Dalmilling Primary School and utilises three classrooms within the school.

5.2 The school was built in 1959 and was completely refurbished in 2009. The school has a planning capacity for 342 pupils and at the September 2022 census there were 340 children and young people on the roll, indicating that the school is full.

5.3 The condition of the Dalmilling Primary School building has been assessed in accordance with Scottish Government guidelines and is considered to be Satisfactory. It has been given a B rating which means the building is performing well and generally supports the delivery of services to children and the community.

5.4 The suitability of the present school building has also been assessed using the Scottish Government’s guidelines. The school has also been given a B rating for suitability indicating that it is performing adequately, with feasibility studies currently being undertaken, investigating potential improvements to the internal layout of the building, which will help the school meet the future needs of an increasing roll.

5.5 The projected pupil roll for the 2023/24 school session at Dalmilling Primary School is 325 pupils, or 95% of capacity, and this includes 27 pupils, from throughout South Ayrshire, attending the three classroom Extended Learning Facility. This number is up from 22 pupils in the 2022/23 school session.

5.6 The requirement to consider a proposed relocation of the North Ayr Extended Learning Facility, currently situated within Dalmilling Primary School, has been prompted by capacity pressures at the school in recent years and the projected impact of new affordable housing being built on the site of the former Mainholm Academy in Ayr, which is located within the catchment area of the school.

5.7 There are 160 new houses being built on the site, and Educational Services anticipate these new homes will produce circa 40 additional pupils likely to attend Dalmilling Primary School as their non-denominational catchment primary school.

5.8 Educational Services expect the school’s capacity to be compromised from the 2024/25 school session onward and therefore, with both the impact of new housing and the increasing Extended Learning Facility roll, consultation is required on measures to mitigate the pressures on capacity at the school.

**6. Details of the Proposal to relocate the additional support needs education provision within the North Ayr Extended Learning Facility at Dalmilling Primary School, to a new and larger facility within Heathfield Primary School.**

6.1 Heathfield Primary School, also in North Ayr, was built in 1931 and was completely refurbished and extended in 2011.

6.2 The school has a planning capacity for 635 pupils. The projected pupil roll for the 2023/24 school session at Heathfield Primary School is 422, 66% of capacity and 25 less than the 2022/23 school session. The school roll has been in decline for the past seven years, peaking at 560 in 2016/17.

6.2 As there is sufficient space now within Heathfield Primary School, an area of the school has been identified for a proposed alteration to create a larger, more modern and fit for purpose, 4 classroom Extended Learning Facility.

6.3 This will increase the capacity of the specialist education provision in North Ayr and the proposed facilities would include a dedicated, secure play space and support accommodation.

6.4 The condition of the Heathfield Primary School building has been assessed in accordance with Scottish Government guidelines and is considered to be Satisfactory. It has been given a B rating which means the building is performing well and generally supports the delivery of services to children and the community.

6.5 The suitability of the present school building has also been assessed using the Scottish Government’s guidelines. The school has been given a ‘Good’ A rating for suitability indicating that it is performing well and operating effectively.

**7. Educational Benefits Statement of the Proposal**

7.1 The vision for the proposed relocated North Ayr Extended Learning Facility at Heathfield Primary School is that it will be a modern learning centre for children and young people with additional support needs which will enhance learning experiences and outcomes.

1. What will be the impact on children and young people from any affected schools?

This proposal will allow Dalmilling Primary School to reconfigure space currently used by the Extended Learning Facility to ensure children within the catchment area are able to attend the school for the foreseeable future.

The proposal will ensure that children and young people attending the North Ayr Extended Learning Provision will have access to a bespoke learning environment, designed specifically to meet the wide range of learner’s needs. Learning spaces will incorporate quiet zones which will allow children and young people the space and privacy to regulate their emotions without leaving the learning zone. The provision will create a safe, nurturing environment with a safe and secure outdoor space. Children currently attending the North Ayr Extended Learning Provision will have the opportunity to take part in an extended transition to the relocated provision.

There will be no impact for mainstream children at Heathfield Primary as the school has sufficient capacity.

1. How will the proposal impact on future learners?

This proposal will ensure that future learners at a North Ayr Extended Learning Facility located at Heathfield Primary School will have access to modern accommodation, facilities and resources which can best support their learning needs. They will have access to a building and resources that enable them to fully participate in all areas of the curriculum. The learning experiences gained will contribute fully to a broad curricular programme progressing to a senior phase of learning that will ensure the reaching of their full potential and their transition into a long-term sustainable destination.

The long-term benefit for future learners at Dalmilling Primary School is that there will be additional capacity to accommodate the projected increase in roll, including all future learners anticipated to arise from housing development progressing within the school’s catchment area. This will mitigate any re-directions having to take place and increase the likelihood of non-catchment placement requests into the school being accepted.

1. What is the community impact of the proposal?

South Ayrshire Council places a strong emphasis on school/community partnerships. Heathfield Primary School already has an excellent relationship with its parents and the wider community and the alterations to the school will provide them with opportunities to build on this further. The specialist facilities will help encourage greater use of the school, particularly by parents of children and young people with additional support needs. It is envisaged that the new classrooms will become an active and vibrant addition to the learning and activities across the whole community.

1. What is the impact of the proposal on other children and young people in the Council area?

The relocated Extended Learning Facility will be better placed to meet the needs of children and young people requiring specialist education provision in South Ayrshire. The facilities will encourage greater use of the school. The proposal is to establish a larger, more modern and fit for purpose, 4 classroom Extended Learning Facility, increasing the capacity of Stage 4 education provision in North Ayr, more in line with increasing needs for such education. Creating more spaces within a new Extended Learning Facility will positively impact the children and young people of Ayr who, with Dalmilling Primary School being at capacity, may have had to be transported for their specialist education elsewhere throughout South Ayrshire.

1. Are there any other likely effects of the proposal?

The proposed site for the new provision is within existing learning spaces at Heathfield Primary and these will be relocated to elsewhere within the school. Owing to the school having a planning capacity for 635 pupils and a projected roll of 422 for the forthcoming 2023/24 school session, it is not anticipated that this will cause any operational issues. All of this will be discussed through consultation with the Heathfield Primary community and other stakeholders.

1. How does the authority intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal?

The Council has a good history of working with staff, parents, children and young people and the wider community to identify and overcome issues relating to major proposals such as the relocation of education provision. All stakeholders will be given an opportunity to inform and participate in the development of the proposed project.

Young people currently attending the North Ayr Extended Learning Provision will have the opportunity to take part in planned transition events to minimise any distress the move may cause.

1. Summary of benefits which the authority believes will result from implementation of the proposal:
2. Young people and the community will benefit from a better-quality learning and teaching environment that meets the needs of learners in the 21st century through purpose built learning spaces that take account of Curriculum for Excellence, the sensory curriculum, moving and handling and the development of life skills and transitions to employment, education or further training. The relocated North Ayr Extended Learning Facility will be bright, stimulating and a safe environment for learning and teaching, designed specifically to meet the needs of children and young people with additional support needs.
3. The learning environment will support the education and emotional needs of children and young people with additional support needs by ensuring that quiet, safe and calm areas are available within each learning setting.
4. Young people with additional support needs will benefit from direct access to a dedicated, secure outdoor play space specifically for the Extended Learning Facility.
5. The community will benefit from a learning hub which is specifically designed to meet the needs of children with additional support needs.
6. Children and young people will benefit from increased confidence and a sense of being valued sufficiently to merit a significant investment in their learning.
7. This proposal will ensure that Dalmilling Primary School is able to accommodate more children and young people from within the catchment area of the school.

**8. Transport**

8.1 The present transport arrangements for the North Ayr Extended Learning Facility would not be affected by this proposal. Transport will be provided to pupils with additional support needs in accordance with the Authority’s guidelines on Additional Support Needs transport.

**9. Staff**

9.1 The implications for employees arising from this proposal are that any required relocation of staff will be implemented in accordance with agreed national and local SNCT/JNCT circulars (teaching staff) or the Council’s Framework for Managing Workforce Change (School Assistants and support staff). Any change of location required will involve full consultation and discussion with individual employees and relevant trade union representatives.

9.2 The basic staffing entitlement for the affected schools will continue to be set in accordance with the Council’s approved, Devolved School Management Scheme and agreed national and local SNCT/JNCT circulars.

**10. Future of existing Dalmilling Primary School**

10.1 The 3 classrooms currently dedicated to specialist education provision within Dalmilling Primary School will be reconfigured for use as mainstream classrooms, increasing the capacity of the school to accommodate the projected increase in pupil roll arising from the development of new, affordable housing being built on the site of the former Mainholm Academy in Ayr, which is located within the catchment area of the school.

10.2 Along with the proposed reconfiguration of classrooms back to mainstream education provision, a feasibility study will be undertaken on plans to extend the gym hall and dining accommodation at the school, also to accommodate the projected increase in pupil roll.

**11. Financial Implications**

11.1 The capital budget for the proposed alterations are not known at present, however, the cost of making any proposed alterations required to Heathfield Primary School and Dalmilling Primary School will be funded from the Schools Refurbishment Budget for financial year 2024-25 and 2025-26, as approved in the Council’s Capital Investment Programme: Expenditure 2023-24 to 2034-35.

11.2 School revenue budgets within South Ayrshire Council are calculated in accordance with the Council’s framework for devolved school management set out in the Scheme of Delegation for Schools.

**12. Consultation Process**

12.1 This proposal is being issued for consideration under the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010 and the following stages are covered by the Act.

**13. Consideration by Cabinet with the responsibility for education**

13.1 The decision to publish this proposal document and follow the consultation procedures set out in the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010 was taken by the Council’s Cabinet on 29 August 2023.

**14. Consultees and distribution of the Proposal Document**

14.1 The proposal document will be placed on the Council’s web site at [www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/consultationsk](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/consultationsk) and copies of the proposal document will be made available to the consultees listed below, free of charge, as prescribed by the Act. Copies of the documents will also be placed in the Council’s County Buildings, in Dalmilling Primary School and in Heathfield Primary School, Ayr.

* The Parent Councils of both schools
* The parents of children and young people at both schools
* Parents of children expected to attend an affected school within 2 years of the date of publication of this proposal document
* The teaching and support staff at the schools
* The trade union representatives of the above staff
* The Community Councils
* Community Associations
* Local Elected Members
* The constituency MSP
* List MSP’s for the area
* The Constituency MP
* Religious representatives associated with the schools
* Chief Executive, NHS Ayrshire and Arran

**15. Length of Consultation Period**

15.1 The consultation process will begin with an advert being placed in the appropriate local newspapers by Monday 04 September 2023 and will cease on Wednesday 25 October 2023. This allows for a consultation period in excess of 30 school days, as required by statute.

**16. Public Meetings**

16.1 The following public meeting has been arranged at which officers from the Council will be available to explain the proposal and offer an opportunity to attendees to ask any questions, state their views or raise points of clarification.

* **Ayr Academy, University Avenue, Ayr KA8 0SZ - Wednesday 04 October - 7.00pm**

16.2 A note of the views expressed at the public meeting will be recorded as part of the consultation process.

**17. Involvement of Education Scotland**

17.1 A copy of the proposal paper and the date of the public meeting have been sent to Education Scotland, who are responsible for inspection and review of schools. Education Scotland will also receive a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Council from any person during the consultation period or, if Education Scotland agree, a summary of them. Education Scotland will also receive a summary of any points made to the Council at the public meeting that will be held and, as available (and so far as otherwise practicable), a copy of any other relevant documentation. Education Scotland will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal not later than 3 weeks after the Council has sent them all representations and documents mentioned above. However, for the avoidance of doubt, the 3 week period will not start until after the consultation period has ended. In preparing their report, Education Scotland may visit the affected schools and speak to staff, children and young people, parents and other people as they consider appropriate.

**18. Note on Corrections**

18.1 If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this proposal document either by the Council or any person, the Council will determine if relevant information has been omitted or, there has been an inaccuracy. It will then take appropriate action which may include the issue of a correction or the reissuing of the proposal paper or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period if appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and Education Scotland will be advised.

**19. Preparation of the Consultation Report**

19.1 After following the consultation process described above the proposal will then be reviewed by the Educational Services directorate, taking into account the Education Scotland report, written representations received and oral representations made by any person at the public meetings. A consultation report containing the information required by Section 10 of the 2010 Act will be prepared. The report will include a record of the total number of written representations made during the consultation period, a summary of the written representations, a summary of the oral representations made at the public meeting, the Council’s response to the Education Scotland report as well as any written or oral representations it has received, together with a copy of the Education Scotland Report and any other relevant information, including details of any alleged inaccuracies or omissions and how these have been dealt with. The report will also contain a statement explaining how it complies with the requirement to review the proposal in light of the Education Scotland report and representations (both written and oral) that the Council received.

19.2 The consultation report will be published on the Council’s website and made available for further consideration for a period of 3 weeks. The publication of this report is required under the consultation legislation but is not available for comment or further response.

**20. Decision**

20.1 This report will be submitted to a future meeting of the Council’s Cabinet for consideration and the Elected Members will decide whether or not to implement the proposal in whole or in part. The decision may be subject to the Council’s scrutiny process.

**21. Responding to the Proposal**

21.1 Interested parties are invited to respond to the proposal and send any written submissions to the Director of Education, South Ayrshire Council, Wellington Square, Ayr KA7 1DR or by e-mail to;

[NorthAyrELF.Consultation@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:NorthAyrELF.Consultation@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

no later than Wednesday 25 October 2023. A response form is attached at Appendix 1 and can also be accessed at [www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/consultations) and completed online.

**22.** **Data Protection Act 2018**

22.1 Those sending in a response, whether by letter or electronically should note that personal information i.e. name, address and contact details will not be made available publicly. Only staff involved in the management and administration of the consultation exercise, including Education Scotland and the Elected Members of the Council will be given access to that information. An anonymised summary of the responses will be published on the Council’s website for information.

**23. Other Languages**

23.1 This document can also be made available in other formats languages.

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| Lyndsay McRoberts  Director of Education County Buildings  Wellington square  Ayr  KA7 1DR |  | **Appendix 1** |  |

**Proposed Relocation of the North Ayr Extended Learning Facility**

**RESPONSE FORM**

This form can be completed online at [www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/consultations) or sent to the above address no later than Wednesday 25 October 2023.

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| Please place an X in the appropriate box below which indicates your preferred response. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  | |  | |
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| **Dalmilling Primary School** | |  | Parent/Carer |  | Staff | |  | | Young person | | | | |  | | Other | |  | |  | |
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| **Heathfield Primary School** | |  | Parent/Carer |  | Staff | |  | | Young person | | | | |  | | Other | |  | |  | |
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| **Summary of proposal** *(Please refer to the proposal document for full details)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| It is proposed to relocate the additional support needs education provision within the North Ayr Extended Learning Facility at Dalmilling Primary School, to a relocated and expanded facility within Heathfield Primary School. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Do you agree with the proposal to relocate the additional support needs education provision within the North Ayr Extended Learning Facility at Dalmilling Primary School, to a relocated and expanded facility within Heathfield Primary School? | | | | | | | | | |  | |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
|  | | Yes |  | |  | | No | |  | |  | |
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| **Please use this space for any additional comments** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| *Data Protection Act 2018. Your response may form part of the report to the Council for consideration and therefore the details of your response may be made available for public inspection. Your personal details (name, address and contact details) will not be made available.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |