**Stakeholder Briefing: Monifieth Cluster Options Appraisal**

**05 October 2018**

The Angus Schools for the Future programme is the most ambitious plan we have ever had for the sustainable development of our schools. We want all schools in Angus to be great places to learn and well-used, community spaces, helping to give all of our children and young people a fantastic start in life.

It is guided by our statement of ambition and our core principles of:

* equity of access,
* nurture and inclusion;
* sustainability
* value for money;
* community;
* well-maintained, flexible spaces;
* transparency and fairness in decision-making.

But we must also make the best use of scarce resources – we need schools that are better and more sustainable, and we will need to have less of them.

**Update on Monifieth Cluster Options appraisal agreed by Angus Council**

This paper provides an update on the progress of the Monifieth Cluster Options Appraisal, as part of the Angus Schools for the Future Programme.

On 19 April 2018 Angus Council approved Committee report [130/18](http://www.angus.gov.uk/sites/angus-cms/files/2018-04/130.pdf) which recommended a range of options for officers to engage with children, young people, families, staff and citizens about Monifieth High School and all primary schools within the Monifieth cluster including the provision of leisure facilities.

On Thursday 14 June, Angus Council approved the recommendation ([Report 189/18](https://www.angus.gov.uk/media/agenda_item_no_5_report_no_18918_monifieth_schools_cluster_options_appraisal_update)) to expand the scope of the Monifieth Options Appraisal to include the option to work in partnership with Perth and Kinross and Dundee City Councils to create a joint integrated community campus serving the south Angus area.

**Reasons for Change**

In June 2017 Angus Council started a major review of our whole school estate including a pre-consultation process.

In January 2018 we agreed the programme to address the greatest needs first. However, some schools which met our standards are also impacted by changes to those which do not so it is important that we review areas as a whole, considering longer term impact across the whole catchment and beyond.

As a result we identified priority projects and one of these is the Monifieth cluster.

We are exploring a number of options to update the school estate within the Monifieth cluster because:

Monifieth High School is too full and it has been assessed as C for suitability. Our target is for all schools to be at B or above.

Auchterhouse Primary School has too few pupils (it has capacity for 67 children and in September 2017 it had 36 pupils. The roll is projected to fall to 26 by 2023).

Grange Primary School needs £848,500 spent on it to keep it to an acceptable standard (level B).

Liff Primary School has some capacity issues (it was at 83% of capacity September 2017) and is projected be at 85% by 2023). However, it has also been assessed as C for suitability.

Mattocks Primary School was at 95% of capacity in September 2017 and we expect that to increase to 103% by 2023.

**Current Progress of the Monifieth Options Appraisal**

Angus Council is now looking to engage with everybody concerned with the Monifieth cluster. We know that some of these options will also impact on neighbouring Newtyle, Tealing and Strathmartine Primary schools so we are including those communities in our conversations too.

We will be doing this in a mixture of workshops, briefings and sharing information online and in social media. Everybody concerned will be invited to share their views on the proposed options via an online survey which will be open from Friday 12 October 2018 to Friday 26 October 2018.

**Monifieth Options Appraisal: 8 Options**

We would like to discuss the following eight 8 options but we are also open to any other suggestions that the community may have.

**Option 1 - Do Nothing**

This is not recommended because of the capacity issues in Monifieth High School and Mattocks Primary, suitability ratings for Monifieth High School and Liff Primary School and the level of identified planned maintenance at Grange primary school.

**Option 2 - Review Secondary catchment areas**

There are a large number of children and young people who travel from Auchterhouse, Birkhill and Liff to Monifieth High, their catchment school. This journey can take up to 45 minutes each way. Children who attend Newtyle Primary School also have an option to choose Monifieth High School. Monifieth High School is currently overcapacity and a large number of new houses are being built in the catchment area. A possible option is to review the catchment areas of the secondary schools including Monifieth High School, Webster’s High School in Kirriemuir, Forfar Academy and Carnoustie High School. This may result in the capacity across the secondary schools being more evenly distributed.

**Option 3 - Extend Monifieth High School, Mattocks Primary School and refurbish Grange and Liff Primary Schools**

This option would look at how the extension of Monifieth could improve their suitability rating as well as meeting increased demand there, and at Mattocks Primary School. It would also address the planned maintenance issues at Grange and the suitability at Liff.

**Option 4 - Replace Monifieth High and Grange Primary School with an all-through school**

In developing standards for Angus schools, we identified some possible advantages of all-through schools: - easier transitions; increased availability of staff, particularly specialists; and maximising the available resources. As part of our School Investment Strategy it was recognised that an all-through school may mean 0 to 18 years plus, or a combination of age groups. We are keen to look at ‘stage not age’ when delivering learning for individuals and this could be accommodated more easily in an all-through school.

Part of the consultation on this option would include the age groups that could be accommodated in an all-through school.

**Option 5 - Replace Monifieth High and Grange Primary School with an all-through school with additional community leisure facilities**

One of our key objectives is to encourage engagement with schools for all of our children, young people and their families and carers. A community campus becomes an important part of the community it serves, with children and young people making use of community facilities and communities accessing school facilities. A community campus should not be a “one size fits all”. It should be designed to service its community.

**Option 6 - Work in partnership with Perth and Kinross and Dundee City Councils to create a joint integrated community campus serving the south Angus area**

At present there are approximately 300 children and young people travelling from the Birkhill area to Monifieth High School but a secondary school of 300 pupils would not be large enough to deliver a full curriculum through to the senior phase. A larger shared campus with neighbouring authorities would be required to deliver this.

A number of young people in neighbouring Primary School catchments currently travel to Forfar Academy or Websters High School. These schools will also be considered as part of a joint integrated community campus.

**Option 7 – Combination of refurbishing and increasing the capacity at Mattocks and Liff Primary Schools and developing an All Through School to accommodate Monifieth High and Grange Primary School.**

In developing this option we would also include the impact of additional early years provision on Mattocks and Liff Primary schools.

**Option 8 - Develop Monifieth High School to include community leisure facilities**

This option would involve replacing Monifieth High school without a primary element, but with community facilities.

**Updates**

We have already done some work with the Monifieth Learning Council, which includes children and young people from all schools in the Monifieth cluster to gather their views and we have met with the Parent Council Chairs.

We will be launching a survey to gather views on the various options on Friday 12 October 2018. This will run until midnight on Friday 26 October 2018.

At the same time we will meet with community groups from the Monifieth and Sidlaw area to discuss possible community needs.

The survey will be available from Friday 12 October 2018 on the Schools for the Future website: -

<https://www.angus.gov.uk/schools_and_young_people/angus_schools_for_the_future/monifieth_cluster_proposals>

We are committed to being open and transparent in making our decisions so we will be sharing all of the relevant data we collect during this project. All of this information will be shared on Angus Councils webpage under ‘Schools for the Future’:

<https://www.angus.gov.uk/schools_and_young_people/angus_schools_for_the_future>