

## Killlearn Community Council – PBB response to Stirling Council – January 2015

Ref	Title	Description	Killlearn CC response
EDU037	Re-design of Nursery Teaching Provision (Pre - School)	<p>The Council employs a central team of 7 full time equivalent nursery teachers, who provide all three and four year olds at nursery access to a fully qualified teacher. The team covers all 11 extended day nurseries, 18 nursery classes and 15 private and voluntary providers. At the moment, each establishment is visited by a teacher for a block of 4 weeks per academic year. Teachers are not part of the adult: child ratios in nursery, so they are in addition to the minimum complement of staff in nurseries. This option looks to redesign the way in which three and four year olds receive access to a nursery teacher by reducing the number of teachers in the central team. Given the level of redesign required, it is anticipated that any savings will be realised from August 2016.</p>	<p>This proposal reflects the Council's commitment to involving teachers in the education of pre-school children. It is to be hoped that the redesign of teacher involvement will be imaginative and ensure teacher input in planning collaboratively with other nursery staff to develop educationally worthwhile activities. To achieve this, we would advocate: a very high level of forward planning; very close communication between all concerned; very thorough supervision and assurance that the planned curriculum is being delivered as planned; understanding of individual needs regarding the delivery of the curriculum and good record keeping charting individual development.</p>
EDU054	Review delivery of the Music Service in Primary Schools	<p>This proposal seeks to support class teachers to deliver a quality music experience for all primary pupils that will ensure a structured and coherent programme is in place for children across all curricular areas in primary schools. It is the role of the individual primary class teachers to design the curriculum for each of their pupils, including the delivery of music. In the proposed revised model, music would be taught by class teachers, as with the other components of Expressive Arts - for example, art and drama. Already, many class teachers include music within their learning and teaching programmes, with visiting specialists providing additional support. Class teachers have access to curriculum guidance, a range of resources and exemplification of standards for all curriculum areas including the Expressive Arts subjects to support them in their professional duties. Savings will be achieved by the re-deployment of the specialist team of Music practitioners, ensuring that skills will be maximised within their respective schools and learning communities.</p>	<p>We are concerned that specialist music teaching in primary schools has been declining over the last few years. The teaching of music has spin offs in: learning to read, learning to listen and in developing coordination, as well as in the aesthetic development and individual expression of the child. Stirling Council appears to recognise this in its very significant funding for the Big Noise project. It seems regrettable that while this project continues to flourish, music in primary schools seems to be in gradual decline. We have doubts as to whether class teachers, even with enhanced resources and support will be able to attain the level of expertise of a specialist. However, we recognise that a positive result may be the integration of musical experiences with other curricular areas where the class teacher is best able to judge where such links would be appropriate. We note that this is the second year that an option of this type has appeared and believe that is unfair for specialist staff to undergo this uncertainty year after year.</p>

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EDU055	Review delivery of the Physical Education Service in Primary Schools	<p>This proposal seeks to upskill class teachers to deliver a quality physical education (PE) experience for primary pupils, thereby ensuring a structured and coherent programme is in place. It is the role of the individual primary class teacher to design the learning intentions for each of their pupils with regards to the delivery of physical education. Through the national PE initiative, class teachers will be upskilled by helping them to timetable 2 hours of quality PE. The process will be driven by Education's PE Manager, who will ensure class teachers have the necessary skills to deliver a robust and exciting physical education programme. Savings will be achieved by the re-deployment of the specialist team of PE practitioners ensuring that skills will be maximised within their respective schools and learning communities.</p>	<p>To a degree, the same arguments that we made under EDU054 also apply here. In the light of current emphasis on fitness and appropriate weight for good health, we believe that any changes here should be very carefully monitored and evaluated. However, given adequate curricular support and adherence to the national PE curriculum we think that it should be possible to deliver the curriculum to an acceptable standard, providing the teacher's level of personal fitness is appropriate. Collaborative working between specialists and generalists provides potential professional development opportunities for all concerned, which we support</p>
EDU069	Transforming approach to Secondary Education	<p>This is a proposal for Transformational Change based on a review of the Senior Phase timetables to enable consortia working thus affording greater personalisation and choice for young people. It enables a focussed delivery of the Wood Report findings (Education Working For All) through better facilitation of work based learning opportunities/apprenticeships as well as vocational training opportunities. It will enable the delivery of a more efficient timetable model which will maximise teacher contact time, leading to staff savings as well as providing the entitlements to Physical Education, Religious Education and Personal &amp; Social Education. This also enables flexible learning via IT solutions which will further support curricular personalisation and choice for young people.</p>	<p>We support this option</p>

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EDU073	Reduction of Additional Support Needs Teachers in Secondary Schools	The central Additional Support Needs (ASN) budget currently supports 10.6 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) ASN teachers within Secondary Schools, helping to fulfil the commitment to mainstream education for all children and young people. This option proposes to reduce the current allocation of 10.6 FTE to 8.6 FTE across the Secondary Schools.	We assume that there is no over provision at the moment. The reduction is quite a high proportion of the weekly timetable. We are very concerned that cutting support to young people who have particular needs will lead to their being further disadvantaged. Unless there is evidence that pupils will receive the level of support that they currently have, we are very opposed to this proposal.
EDU086	Additional Support Needs Outreach Service – Shared Services	This option proposes to combine and develop the current Outreach Services model within the Shared Services. It seeks to increase opportunities for further shared services to enable Education to continue to meet the needs of children and young people with additional support needs (ASN), specifically for those who benefit from ASN Outreach Services. Within a shared services model there are opportunities to unify systems and processes; thereby, providing greater scope for staff to maximise their skills, knowledge and experience. This option would enable strategic developments with other services to be utilised fully and therefore would achieve best value.	We understand that this applies to sharing services between Stirling Council and Clackmannan Council. If this is the case, we support this option.
EDU096	Re-Design of Summer Provision for 0-5s	Data gathered, by the Education Service, from all nine extended day nurseries of childcare during the summer, for children aged 0-5 years, demonstrates a relatively low uptake for the provision. Whilst there has already been a reduction in this area previously, there are still opportunities for further efficiencies by re-designing the provision.	We support this option
SOC022	Introduction of Charging Policy for Children's Services	This would involve financial assessment of parents and carers taking into account income, including benefits provided in relation to care needs. This might include contribution towards the cost of respite, including meal costs and transport and other care and support offered to children such as care at home.	We are concerned that these charges would affect people who already may have a very heavy burden with regard to the care of children with very significant needs. We would ask that the Council looks very carefully at this as the savings are relatively modest.

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ENV034	Review / Optimisation of Winter Service Priority 1 Routes	This option seeks to raise the current threshold for Priority 1 treatment (precautionary salt treatment and clearance of snow and ice accumulations 24hrs per day) from 800 vehicles per day. This continues to ensure that the most heavily trafficked routes receive the highest level of priority treatment. The exact locations and lengths of carriageway this will affect cannot be determined until a full optimisation exercise is undertaken by the Service but the reduction in treatment will be greatest on Rural roads because they have lower traffic flows.	<p><b>We find it unacceptable that councillors will be asked to take a decision on this option without knowledge of the impact it may have on the communities that they represent.</b></p> <p>Considerable opposition was voiced to this option. It is felt that this would have a disproportionate effect in rural areas. Although the level of traffic must be an important criterion, we believe that there others which should be taken into account e.g. the importance of rural roads for commuter traffic. In general, public transport in rural areas is very poor and frequently travel by private car is the only option. Scottish Government statistics show that most accidents occur on rural roads, so cutting back on gritting/salting would make them even more dangerous. In rural areas using an alternative, treated road is unlikely to be an option.</p> <p>It would be vital to make the results of the optimisation process subject to full consultation, so that potential problems and dangerous issues could be identified by the people who use rural roads.</p>
ENV035	Capital Investment in Road Surfacing to reduce spend on temporary repairs	This proposal is to increase the capital investment in road surfacing from £4m to £5.5m per annum to reduce the revenue budget for roads maintenance activities. This proposal uses the National Budget Forecasting Model and Road Maintenance Condition Survey as the base criteria. The current capital budget for Roads is £3.979m, which only manages to maintain the road network at current condition levels. By investing a further £1.521m, this would allow a positive improvement to the condition of the network thus reducing road repair costs.	We understand that the additional funding for this capital investment would come from the Council's capital allocation and there would be no intention of reducing the level of routine service maintenance. We think that increasing capital investment, resulting in less requirement for maintenance, makes very good sense and we are very supportive. However as we do not know what the competing demands might be, we find it difficult to say exactly how high on the priority list this should be.

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ENV037	Review / Optimisation of Winter Service Priority Routes 2, 3 & Footways	This option seeks to raise the current threshold for Priority 2 & 3 treatment from 600 and 400 vehicles per day respectively to reduce treatment route lengths by 50%. The impact of doing this will be greatest on Rural roads because they have lower traffic flows. This option also considers reduction in footway treatment of 40%. A full route review and optimisation exercise will be undertaken by the Service.	<p>The same comments apply to this as to ENV034.</p> <p>The reduction in footway treatment by 40% seems very high. In Killlearn very few footways are treated. Would this reduction mean that none of our footways would be treated? As for ENV034, full local consultation would be required. We should also like to point out that untreated footways would inevitably mean a greater number of falls and it may be that the total cost to the NHS would be greater than the savings gained. Of course these are quite separate budgets, but a risk assessment should be undertaken prior to decisions being taken.</p>
ENV005	Introduction of road end collection policy	This proposal is to reduce the number of locations where waste collections are made on private roads. This would limit the majority of domestic waste collections to the nearest point on the public road. Residents who live along private roads would require to take their waste to be collected at the designated point near the public road.	<p>We have received conflicting information as to whether or not this would affect the rural villages. This response outlines the issues were this option to be applied in Killlearn. We have several private roads, at least two of which are quite long i.e. Ibert Rd and Endrick Rd, each of which has 10 to 15 houses. There would therefore be around 30 to 40 bins and boxes to collect each week. At the point where these roads meet the main road there is absolutely nowhere safe to leave this number of containers. It takes around 15 minutes to walk from the main road to the last house on Ibert Rd. At least four trips would normally be required to transport bins etc i.e. a total of two hours each week. This would be arduous even for a fit person as there is a very steep hill involved. We are therefore completely opposed to this option being applied in Killlearn. If Stirling Council does intend to proceed it would be essential that a consultation letter be sent to each household on the private roads prior to implementation.</p>

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ENV074	Remove Special Uplift Concessions	The Special Uplift service currently allow concessions to OAP's. This option would remove all concessions from the service and allow the service to move towards a full cost recovery level.	We understand that means testing is not difficult for Stirling Council. If that is the case we believe that it should be applied in this option so that people in genuine need continue to have the free service. Perhaps this could be offset by a small increase in the fee for others. However, it would be important not to raise this too high to ensure that fly tipping does not become the more attractive option.
ENV076	Mixed Plastic Segregation for Grey Bins	This pilot option would see mixed plastics being source separated by householders, in line with the Producer Responsibility Principle. Initially householders would be asked to collect mixed plastics in a clear bag to be added into their grey bin. The grey bin would continue to be collected on its normal two weekly cycle. The clear bags could then be easily removed at the Polmaise Material Recycling Facility (MRF) picking line and sent to a low value market, gaining income and saving landfill costs. There is potential for the pilot to be extended to other bagged options such as absorbent hygiene products (AHPs) and vacuum cleaner dust. It is proposed that this option is trialled as an 'opt-in' for householders in a specific area (to be determined) to measure the potential impacts and benefits.	In general, this was supported. However, it is important to note that 'recycling fatigue' may set in. It already takes householders a significant amount of time to sort their rubbish, and there may be some resistance to further requirements. We believe, therefore that it is very important to quantify the benefits for the Council (and hence for tax payers) of going down this route. It seems sensible, therefore, to pilot this on an 'opt in' basis and then publicise the results generally. We would be willing to discuss becoming involved in any such schemes.

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ENV077	4 Weekly Brown Bin Collection (Trial)	This option proposes to introduce a brown bin collection pilot in a representative area of Stirling to provide management data. This data would be used to determine whether or not the pilot could be rolled out across the whole of Stirling. The pilot would choose a select area (rural and urban) and see the collection of brown bin reduced to a 4 weekly collection over the 9 month season. The pilot would run for a 1 year period to inform a possible future PBB option.	There is likely to be very strong local opposition to this. People with even modest gardens make full use of their two bins per fortnight allocation. It may be that people will resort to fly dumping and to putting garden waste, suitably hidden, into their grey bins. Could there be different solutions for urban and rural areas? In the event of 4 weekly collections would an allocation of four bins per household be possible? The acquisition of extra bins could be an 'opt in' with a charge being made for the additional bin(s). This might help to minimise the extra bins to those households which really feel in need of them. If a large number of people started to use the Balfron facility for garden rubbish, could it cope?
EPR049	Review of Pest Control Concessions (to remove number of concessions)	To review the concession policy for pest control visits / treatments with a view to reduce or eliminate the number of concessions currently applied. In financial year 2013/14, 60% of customers requesting a pest control service claimed a concession and obtained the service free of charge.	We understand that means testing is not difficult for Stirling Council. If this is the case, we believe that it should be applied in this instance. It would be important not to remove the free service for people genuinely in need, as neglect of control might lead to greater and more widespread problems.
ENV011	Pilot for the use of Solar Compactor Litter Bins	This proposal is for the introduction of a pilot for the use of 20 solar compactor litter bins within the rural area. These litter bins mechanically compact the litter within the bin, maximising the capacity of the litter bin and reducing the frequency of emptying the litter bins. The litter bins are fitted with remote monitoring which analyses the usage of the bin. This information can be used by the service to maximise the efficiency of the collection routes in real time.	We understand that this applies to bins in public areas e.g. parks. We support this pilot proposal.

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### General points

- We made a number of general points last year in our response. We have received no feedback on these, and few, if any, seem to have been acted on
- There needs to be much more publicity eg in local newspapers
- The main document and the meeting in Balfron came too late for us. Our final meeting of the year is in the week before Christmas and it proved very difficult to get feedback from residents between then and the production of this response.
- The main document is far too long for the average person to print out. There needs to be an abbreviated version for general consumption.
- Some of the options were very difficult to understand. A 'Plain English' approach is needed.
- Stirling Council needs to differentiate between rural and urban areas when drafting options.
- Assumptions seem to have been made that everyone involved this year knew the background. This was not the case. There will always be people coming to this for the first time and their needs should be catered for.
- There was insufficient publicity for the fact the [shapingstirlingsfuture@](mailto:shapingstirlingsfuture@) would pass queries on to the relevant SC officer. After we discovered this, we found it very helpful.
- We are concerned that there is no standard way of comparing the strategic priorities of the Council. A set of criteria should be developed to allow priorities to be ranked on a consistent basis both within and between sectors. We would then be able to understand what programme/project is not a priority, but also why. At present the only way of knowing what the priorities are is to see which services are not being cut. There is no attempt to explain why one programme is more important than another.