

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED SITE FOR NEW  
CARRONGRANGE SCHOOL**  
**Meeting: EDUCATION EXECUTIVE**  
**Date: 27 August 2013**  
**Author: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

**1. BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 At the Education Executive meeting on 28 May 2013 members endorsed that the two sites, at Moray Primary School and Weedingshall, identified as potential locations for the new Carrongrange School, be further considered by the Site Selection Team prior to formally progressing to a full consultation.

The Site Selection Team met on 16 June 2013 and unanimously agreed that both sites should be considered as a possible location for the new school.

- 1.2 In view of the above, a formal consultation in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 is required to be undertake for any proposal to relocate a school.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to :
- provide the Education Executive with details of the proposal and consultation process
  - request permission to proceed to formal consultation.

**2. DETAIL OF PROPOSAL**

- 2.1 It is proposed that Carrongrange School is relocated to one of two locations:
- (i) Land alongside Moray PS in Grangemouth
  - (ii) Weedingshall in Polmont
- 2.2 The new school will be purpose built on the chosen site and it is planned that it will open in August 2016.

**3. DETAILS OF PROPOSED CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 Statutory Requirements  
A formal consultation is required for any proposal to relocate a school. The consultation will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

### 3.2 Consultation Period

It is proposed that the consultation takes place for a period of 6½ weeks between 28 August 2013 and 11 October 2013. This exceeds the legislative minimum period of 30 term-time days.

### 3.3 Publicity

To initiate the consultation process, and in accordance with the legislation, a statutory notice will be placed in the Falkirk Herald, the Falkirk Advertiser and the Bo'ness Journal. In addition, the Council website will carry information on the consultation process.

### 3.4 Public Meetings

Public meetings are proposed as follows:

- Moray Primary School on Tuesday 17 September 2013 at 7.00 pm.
- Carrongrange School on Tuesday 24 September 2013 at 7.00 pm.

In addition to the above, public access to both sites for informed visits will be facilitated on the evening of the public meeting at Moray Primary School as follows:

- Weedingshall Site: 5:00pm to 6.00 pm.
- Moray Primary School Site: 6:00pm to 7.00 pm.

### 3.5 Consultative Document

The **consultative document** with a pro forma response form is attached as Appendix 1. This will be sent to all statutory consultees (see below) and will also be made available during the consultation period on the Council website and at the following locations:

- schools
- council offices
- libraries
- one-stop shops
- online on the council's website
- Education Services headquarters (Sealock House).

### 3.6 Statutory Consultees

At the start of the consultation period, the consultative document with a covering letter will be sent to:

- (i) Parents and carers of all Carrongrange School pupils.
- (ii) Parents and carers of all pupils currently attending primary school Additional Support Needs provision (Enhance Provision (15 schools), Ladeside ASD Base, Kinnaird Primary School Thistle Wing, Maddiston Primary School Timezone, Windsor Park School).
- (iii) Parent councils at Carrongrange School, Kinnaird Primary School, Maddiston Primary School, Moray Primary School and Windsor Park School.
- (iv) Pupils at Carrongrange School
- (v) School staff and trade unions
- (vi) All local community councils.
- (vii) All local elected members
- (viii) Education Scotland
- (ix) Other local authorities with pupils currently attending Carrongrange School

3.7 Educational Benefits Statement

Each proposal must be accompanied by an Educational Benefits Statement that assesses the likely benefits for pupils that would be affected. The Educational Benefits Statement is contained within the Consultative Document which attached as Appendix 1.

3.8 Involvement of Education Scotland

The involvement of Education Scotland is a requirement of the 2010 Act.

Education Scotland will be invited to attend the public meetings and to discuss proposals with Education Services officers during the consultation period.

At the end of the consultation period, and in accordance with the requirements of the legislation, a copy of all representations received will be forwarded to Education Scotland who are then required to submit a report back to the council within 3 weeks.

3.9 Preparation and Publication of The Consultation Report

Following receipt of the Education Scotland report, Education Services will then prepare and publish a Consultation Report which will detail all responses to the consultation and include:

- letters and e-mails received
- a summary of pro forma responses
- minutes of the public meetings held
- the report from Education Scotland.

The consultation report will be published on the Falkirk Council website and respondents to the consultation made aware of it at least 3 weeks before a decision to proceed with any changes (as proposed) is made.

**4. REPORT BACK ON CONSULTATION TO THE EDUCATION EXECUTIVE**

- 4.1 Following the consultation and the publication of the consultation report a report will be brought back to the Education Executive to recommend a preferred site.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 Education Executive are asked to agree that:**

- (i) a formal consultation process takes place as detailed in this report on the proposal to relocate Carrongrange School to one of two possible sites, at Moray Primary school or Weedingshall**
- (ii) that a report back from this consultation will come to a future meeting of the Education Executive for a decision on the preferred site.**

.....  
**Director of Education**

**Date:** 16 August 2013

**Contact Officer:** Richard Teed, ext 6621.

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Education Executive Report ("New Carrongrange School – Progress Update" (28 May 2013)



# **PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE CARRONGRANGE SCHOOL**

## **A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT**

### **CONTENTS**

1	PROPOSAL	6
2	EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT	8
3	LAND AT MORAY PRIMARY SCHOOL, GRANGEMOUTH	9
4	WEEDINGSHALL, POLMONT	10
5	CONSULTATION	11
6	RESPONSE FORM	14



---

## PROPOSAL

---

**Background** Carrongrange School opened in 2000 to replace Dawson Park School in a new purpose built facility. Dawson Park School was for children of all ages (primary and secondary) who had moderate learning difficulties and Carrongrange School was built to serve this purpose.

In 2002, Rossvail School in Camelon, which was a secondary school for children with severe and complex needs, was closed and amalgamated with Carrongrange School which underwent minor adaptations to meet the needs of these pupils.

The 2000 Standards in Schools Act introduced the “presumption of mainstream” for pupils with additional support needs which has resulted in the increasing provision of supported inclusion in mainstream primaries and secondary schools. This has, in turn, contributed to a reduced school roll and also led to a changing profile of pupils at Carrongrange School.

The outcome of these changes means that the school no longer caters for primary age children and today it is a secondary school for pupils with a very wide range of learning difficulties and physical needs. Although the school was built for around 250 pupils, there are now around 170 pupils at Carrongrange.

**Funding to build a new school** In 2012, the Scottish Government approved a bid for funding to rebuild Carrongrange School on a new site as part of their “Schools for the Future” programme. This means that Falkirk Council can deliver a new single-storey secondary school that will be purpose-built from the outset for the pupils that the school now serves. It is planned to open the new school in August 2016.

One factor that has made this exciting project possible is the additional benefit that Larbert High School can now expand into the existing Carrongrange School building to meet the increasing pupil roll that it is facing over the next 5-10 years due to ongoing new housing development.

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 requires that a formal consultation is carried out with all interested parties for any proposal to relocate a school. In preparation for this consultation, two potential locations for the new school have been identified as suitable for the new school. These sites are:

- Land alongside Moray Primary School in Grangemouth.
- Weedingshall in Polmont

Both sites are very different and have different strengths and Education Services do not currently have a preference. For this reason we are seeking the views of all interested parties during this consultation to determine which location should be chosen.

**Proposal**

It is proposed that the Carrongrange School is relocated to one of two locations:

1. Land alongside Moray Primary School in Grangemouth.
2. Weedingshall in Polmont

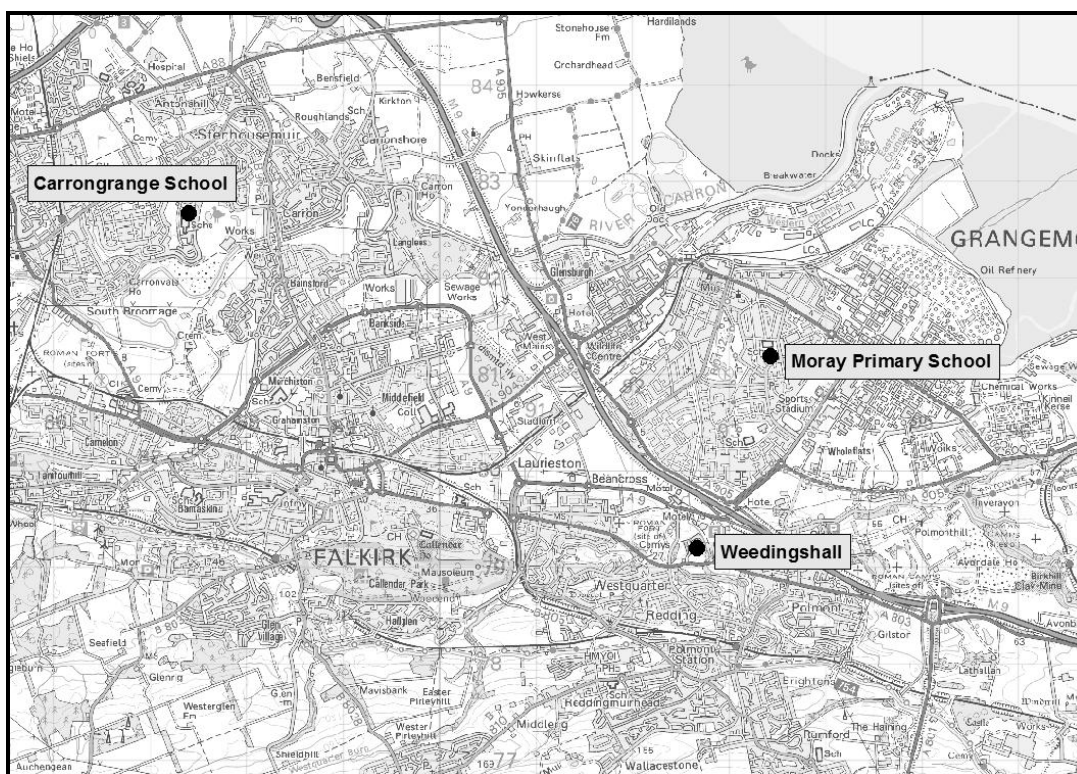
**Who would be affected?**

- All pupils (and their families) who will be attending Carrongrange School from August 2016 onwards
- School staff

**Date of change**

It is planned that the new school will open for school session 2016/2017.

**Map of proposed locations**



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. All rights reserved. OS Licence number 100023384



---

## EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

---

<b>New “State of the Art” School</b>	Rebuilding Carrongrange to meet current design standards and reflect best practice in this area provides the opportunity to deliver a school that is better designed, configured and equipped to meet the needs of its current and future pupil cohort. The current school was not originally built for pupils with severe and complex needs, and the profile of pupils with moderate learning difficulties has changed significantly in the last 13 years.
<b>Designed for “Curriculum for Excellence”</b>	There will be an opportunity to design a new school with a rich, accessible and interactive learning environment that can deliver a Curriculum for Excellence for all pupils with additional support needs. The design of the new school will be based on the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence, with specialist subject teaching areas and appropriate adaptations from the outset. Visits to recently built special schools are already under way in order to identify best practice and incorporate tried and tested state of the art facilities. All interested parties (parents, pupils and staff) will have the opportunity to contribute during the design process.
<b>More Accessible Teaching Areas</b>	The new school will significantly improve access to teaching areas. Carrongrange School currently has teaching areas on both the ground floor and the first floor. Because of this, the first floor currently presents access challenges for pupils with physical difficulties and visual impairments and this has an impact on curricular delivery. There would be no such restrictions in the new school building which will have all teaching areas on the ground floor.
<b>Embracing New Technology</b>	The new school will have recent technological improvements and innovations included as an integral part of the design of the school to maximise the educational benefits which they can bring.
<b>Outdoor Learning, Enterprise and Community Links</b>	The current location of Carrongrange School allows access to a range of local amenities that are integral to the delivery of life/independence skills: e.g. supermarkets, cafes etc. This important aspect of the curriculum will be continued in the new school, and consideration given to accessing these amenities in the new location. Similarly, the development of Enterprise Education and outdoor learning, including cycling for all pupils (using specially adapted bicycles) will continue to be a high priority.
<b>Wider Accessibility to Local Pupils with ASN</b>	There is also the potential to reduce the number of pupils living in the Falkirk Council area that have to travel some distance to attend more specialist, out-of-authority schools.



---

## LAND AT MORAY PRIMARY SCHOOL, GRANGEMOUTH

---

### Aerial plan



### Site description

There are 2.9 hectares of level ground alongside Moray Primary School. This area is currently grassed and is mostly surplus to the primary school's requirements. The new school will require around 2 hectares of this land and there would be the opportunity to share playing fields with Moray Primary School.

This location is in the heart of Grangemouth, close to Zetland Park (200 metres), Grangemouth High School (1km), Grangemouth Stadium (750m) and Grangemouth Town Centre (1km).

### Area around this location

- Central location with easy access to Grangemouth town centre
- Adjacent and nearby to a number of educational, sports and recreational facilities
- Level site with easy access

### Particular strengths of this location

The site falls within the Outer Consultation Zone with respect to nearby industry. This means that any plans for building a new school are very likely to be referred to the Scottish Government for final approval.

### Potential drawbacks with this location



# WEEDINGSHALL, POLMONT

Aerial plan



Note: The larger building has been demolished since this aerial photograph was taken

Weedingshall is currently used for the Educational Assessment Unit which teaches secondary age pupils with behavioural and emotional difficulties. This unit is being merged with the Falkirk Day Unit in Camelon and Weedingshall is no longer required for this purpose.

Site description

If chosen, the building itself would be demolished to provide the site for a new Carrongrange School building which would also use the level ground remaining from the demolition of the other larger building shown in the plan above.

There are over 4 hectares of grounds around Weedingshall with mature trees and parkland remaining from when the hall was the main house within a much larger country estate.

Weedingshall is set in the greenbelt between Laurieston and Polmont to the East of Falkirk. Graeme, Braes and Grangemouth High Schools are all within 2 miles and it is reasonably close to the Helix and all of the facilities in and around Falkirk Town Centre.

Area around this location

- Central location with easy access to Falkirk town centre and excellent nearby transport links
- Extensive and picturesque grounds that would enhance design and provide range of educational and recreational opportunities
- Quiet, peaceful setting

Particular strengths of this location

Although this is a very central location it is in an isolated position and does not have easy pedestrian access to nearby facilities when compared with the other site at Moray Primary School.

Potential



---

drawbacks  
with this  
location

CONSULTATION

---

## Consultative Document

<b>Legislation</b>	<p><b>Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010</b></p> <p>A formal consultation is required for any proposal to relocate a school. This consultation fully accords with the requirements of this legislation.</p>
<b>Consultees</b>	<p>During the consultation period, in accordance with legislative requirements, views are being sought from a range of interested parties including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents of all Carrongrange School pupils</li> <li>• Parents of all pupils currently attending primary school additional support needs provision (Enhanced Provision (15 schools), Ladeside ASD Base, Kinnaird Primary School Thistle Wing, Maddiston Primary School Timezone, Windsor Park School)</li> <li>• The parent councils of Carrongrange School, Kinnaird Primary School, Maddiston Primary School, Moray Primary School and Windsor Park School</li> <li>• Pupils at Carrongrange School</li> <li>• School staff and trade unions</li> <li>• All community councils</li> <li>• All elected members</li> <li>• Education Scotland</li> <li>• Other local authorities with pupils currently attending Carrongrange School</li> </ul>
<b>Consultation period</b>	<p>The consultation is taking place over a 6½ week period between 28<sup>th</sup> August and 11<sup>th</sup> October 2013</p>
<b>Public meetings</b>	<p>Two public meetings to discuss the proposal will be held as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Moray Primary School on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at 7pm</b> (Preceded by site visit opportunities – see below)</li> <li>• <b>Carrongrange School on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at 7pm</b></li> </ul>
<b>Who can attend?</b>	<p>Everyone is welcome to attend both meetings.</p>
<b>Officers in attendance and format of the meeting</b>	<p>Officers of the Council will be present to discuss the proposal and there will be an opportunity to ask questions at the meetings. We appreciate, however, that there may be limited time at the meetings to discuss everything fully and not everyone is comfortable with speaking in a public meeting.</p> <p>To make sure all issues are covered and everyone gets the opportunity to contribute to the discussion, we are happy to accept advance notice of specific questions or issues you would like to raise at these meetings. Advance questions will be accepted <u>in writing only</u> up to 2 days in advance of each meeting (see contact details below). Please let us know how the proposals would affect you and your family, and whether you would like to be named at the meeting as asking the particular question you submit.</p>
<b>Site visit opportunities</b>	<p>Access to both sites for visits will be given on the evening of the public meeting at Moray Primary School on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Officers will be on site to answer any questions during the following times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Weedingshall - 5pm to 6pm</b></li> <li>• <b>Moray Primary School - 6pm to 7pm</b></li> </ul>

## Consultative Document

---

**How to respond**

Interested parties are encouraged to complete and return the pro-forma attached with this proposal document. Separate written submissions regarding this proposal will also be accepted by letter or e-mail until Friday 11th October 2013 when the consultation period ends.

We will be happy to discuss the proposal on the phone, but telephone conversations will not be recorded as part of the consultation and all submissions should be in writing.

**Following the consultation**

Education Scotland will receive details of consultation responses and the public meeting and will provide Education Services with a report within 3 weeks of the consultation end date.

Education Services will then prepare a **consultation report** which will be published mid-November on the council website and it will also be made available to read at libraries and at Education Services HQ (Sealock House in Grangemouth).

The consultation report will be discussed by councillors at the appropriate Committee and will be used as the basis for determining the location for the new school.

**Contact details**

If you would like to discuss these proposals or have any queries regarding the consultation process, please phone us on 01324 506621 or 01324 506608.

When completed, please return the attached pro-forma and any further written submission regarding these proposals to *Carrongrange Relocation Consultation, Education Services, Sealock House, 2 Inchyra Road, Grangemouth, FK3 9XB* or by e-mail to [educ.consultation@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:educ.consultation@falkirk.gov.uk)



## RESPONSE FORM

### PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE CARRONGRANGE SCHOOL

Name:

-----

Address:

-----

-----

Contact Telephone Number:

-----

Contact Email Address:

-----

Name of Pupil(s) Concerned:  
(if relevant)

-----

Name of School(s) Attended:  
(if relevant)

-----

Which site would you prefer for the location of  
the new Carrongrange School?

☐

Land adjacent to Moray Primary School in Grangemouth

☐

Weedingshall in Polmont

Please use the space below if you would like to explain why you prefer this location and for any other comments you have on the proposal to relocate Carrongrange School? (please continue overleaf if necessary)

Please complete and return this form by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2013 to:

Carrongrange School Relocation Consultation  
Education Services  
Sealock House, 2 Inchyra Road  
Grangemouth FK3 9XB

Or by e-mail to: [educ.consultation@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:educ.consultation@falkirk.gov.uk)