



Statutory Consultation on a proposal to close Kirkton of Largo Primary School and to rezone the primary catchment area of Lundin Mill Primary School.

Public Meeting

Durham Hall, Lower Largo

Monday 9 February 2026 from 6-7 pm

Shelagh McLean



Agenda

Background, rationale and implications in respect of the proposal to close Kirkton of Largo Primary School and to rezone the primary catchment area of Lundin Mill Primary School.

Educational Benefits

Consultation Process and Timeline

Questions



Context

- Statutory duty to ensure adequate and efficient provision of education and a statutory duty of 'Best Value in Public Services'
- Improving the learning environment is one of the key priorities for the Education Directorate and the status of Kirkton of Largo Primary School creates challenges for officers, as the building has not been operational for 3 academic sessions.
- Our ambition is to manage schools that are fit for purpose, with suitable and efficient learning environments for children, young people and other learners now and in the future.



Guiding Principles

In October 2012, and August 2018, the former Executive Committee and Education & Children's Services Committee agreed Guiding Principles in relation to the school estate:

- Every school should be rated as “A” or “B” for both condition and suitability, to include a number of accessible schools in each geographical area,
- Schools should have an occupancy rate greater than 60% of capacity and should have a minimum of 3 classes, where possible,
- A strategy for a sustainable school estate should support the progressive reduction in the overall carbon footprint for the Council.

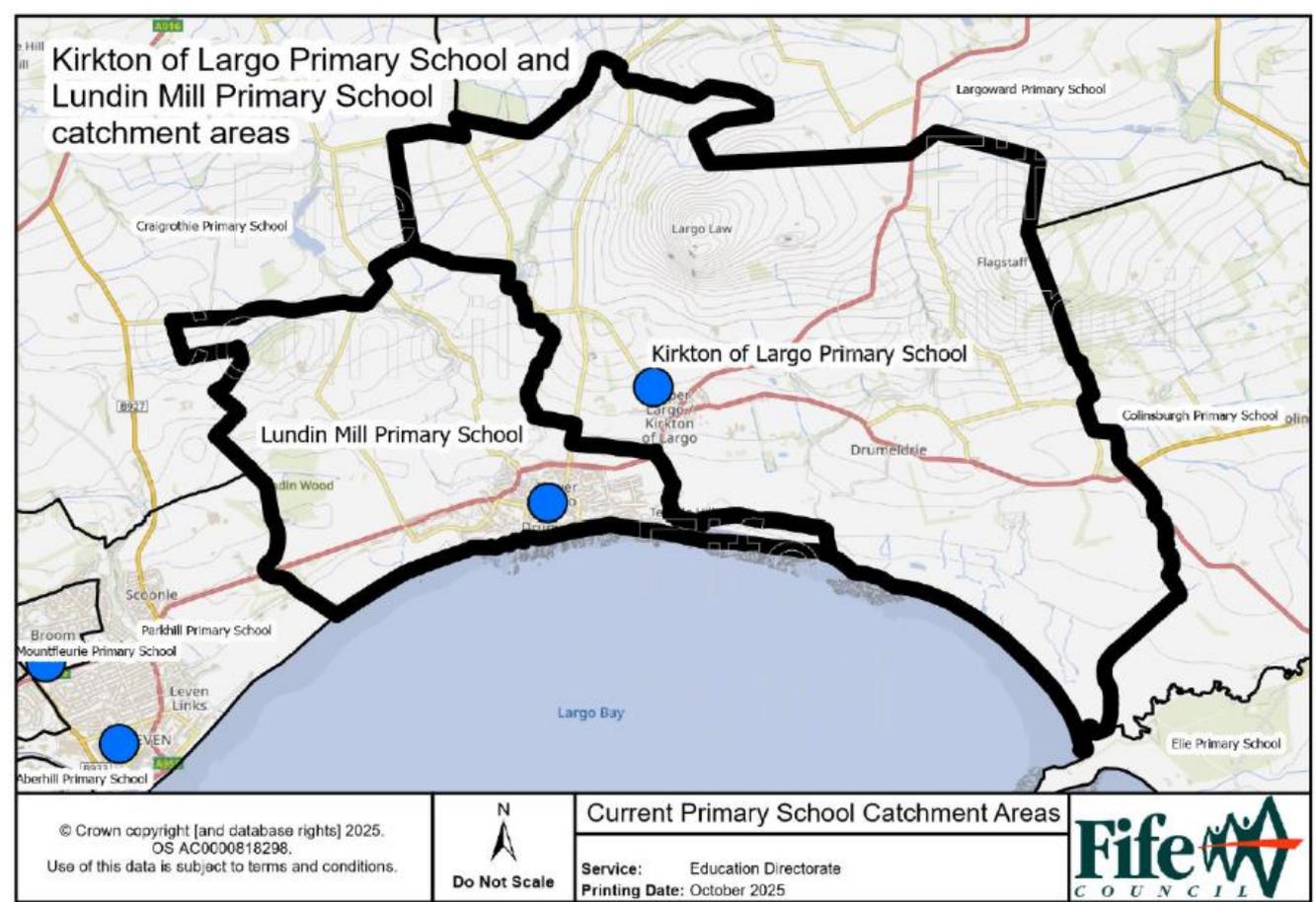


The Proposal

- Close Kirkton of Largo Primary School from Monday 17 August 2026
- Rezone the catchment area of Lundin Mill PS to incorporate the current catchment area of Kirkton of Largo PS, from Monday 17 August 2026.
- Seek alternative uses for the Kirkton of Largo Primary School site.
- If the proposal is approved in full, there will be no impact on pupils currently enrolled in Lundin Mill PS including those enrolled to begin Primary One in August 2026.
- The catchment changes will apply to enrolments (including placing requests) made from Monday 17 August 2026.



Map of existing catchment areas – Kirkton of Largo and Lundin Mill Primary Schools





Rural School Requirements within the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

As Kirkton of Largo PS is a rural school, when formulating this proposal, the Council was required to:

- (i) identify and explain the reasons for formulating the proposal,
- (ii) describe what steps (if any) it took to address those reasons before formulating the proposal or if it took no such steps, explain why it did not do so, and
- (iii) consider whether there are any reasonable alternatives to the proposal as a response to those reasons.

As Kirkton of Largo PS is a rural school, in the proposal the Council must also have special regard to:

- (i) the likely effect on the local community in consequence of the proposal (if implemented) and,
- (ii) the likely effect caused by any different travelling arrangements that may be required in consequence of the proposal.



Reasons for Formulating the Proposal

- Kirkton of Largo PS is a rural school with a capacity for 50 pupils
- During session 2022/23, the school operated with a single teacher. The class teacher was then successful in obtaining another post and the families of the remaining 6 pupils were advised there would be a new class teacher for 2023/24.
- All parents/carers decided to make placing requests to Lundin Mill PS and were accommodated there from August 2023.
- For sessions 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 there have been no pupils enrolled at Kirkton of Largo PS.
- The school has been 'mothballed' (closed temporarily) formally since January 2025 and not in operation for 2 years prior to this “mothballing” decision.
- Updated birth information has shown that births in the catchment area have not significantly increased in the last 4 years – these remain <5 per year. From the current nursery information, there are fewer than 5 pupils enrolled in nursery provision from the Kirkton of Largo Primary School catchment area.



Steps taken to address those reasons before formulating the proposal

- When the school roll fell to zero in 2023, and the school was no longer operational, the authority monitored relevant factors including the number of primary age children, the number of births and housebuilding in the catchment area to establish whether the position might change.
- When the school roll remained zero in 2025, as an alternative to proceeding with a closure proposal at that stage, the authority mothballed the school to allow a further opportunity to monitor these factors.
- The mothballing of the school was reviewed later in 2025. The authority reviewed the relevant factors on each of these occasions. The authority also held an engagement session with affected parties to gather their views.
- The outcome of the review led to this proposal.



Any reasonable alternatives to the proposal

1. **Continued Temporary Closure (formerly known as Mothballing) of Kirkton of Largo Primary School.**

- Temporary Closure (Mothballing) is an alternative to closure for local authorities and is only appropriate for a time limited period. It should not normally exceed 3 years.
- Council agreed to the mothballing of the school on 9 January 2025.
- The decision to mothball Kirkton of Largo Primary School was as an alternative to proceeding with a closure proposal. Closure requires a statutory consultation in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and a decision by Fife Council's Cabinet Committee, following the consultation.
- It is not in the best interests of the Council to maintain and retain an empty building, undertake repairs and sustain maintenance. Where the school is not very remote, the school roll is zero and there is no realistic prospect of the school roll increasing sufficiently to justify reopening the school, continued temporary closure ("mothballing") of the school is not justified and would be contrary to the terms of the
- Statutory Guidance referred to.



Any reasonable alternatives to the proposal (2)

2. Kirkton of Largo Primary School to reopen

- Not in the best interests of pupils and wider community as projected pupil roll, based on birth rates and known pupils in the catchment area, falls short of one of the guiding principles (<60% occupancy)
- If all catchment children attended, the educational experience would be different to other schools with a higher occupancy and larger peer groups
- Catchment pupils attending Lundin Mill PS are benefitting from being part of a larger school.
- Catchment pupils attending other primary schools may not wish to move schools to enrol in Kirkton of Largo Primary School
- There would be only one pupil at 2 different stages and one class with all pupils taught in a composite class ranging from P1 to P7.
- Minimum staffing costs of £140,000 and school would require some level of refurbishment and resources – total budget requirement in the region of £290,000



Any reasonable alternatives to the proposal (3)

3. Consideration of the rezoning of the nearest primary schools' catchment areas

- 4 Primary Schools were considered.
- All fewer than 6 miles from Kirkton of Largo Primary School.
- All accessible rural schools
- A reduction in their pupil roll would impact on the long-term sustainability
- Increased need for pupil transport
- A number of rezoned pupils would have to travel past their existing catchment school to attend Kirkton of Largo.



Any reasonable alternatives to the proposal (4)

a) **Lundin Mill Primary School**

- Situated 1.4 miles from Kirkton of Largo
- Removing around 30 pupils would drop the occupancy to around 60%
- Increased range of composite classes (a few spanning 3 or more school years)

b) **Colinsburgh Primary School**

- Situated 3.7 miles from Kirkton of Largo Primary School
- Removing around 30 pupils would drop the occupancy to below 60%
- Likely resulting in 1 class of P1 - P7 pupils

c) **Largoward Primary School**

- Situated 4.5 miles from Kirkton of Largo Primary School
- Largoward PS is part of a different secondary school cluster
- Not enough pupils attending to support an increase of 30 pupils at Kirkton of Largo.
- School already operating with one class

d) **Elie Primary School**

- Situated 5.2 miles from Kirkton of Largo Primary School
- Not enough pupils attending to support an increase of 30 pupils at Kirkton of Largo.
- School already operating with one class

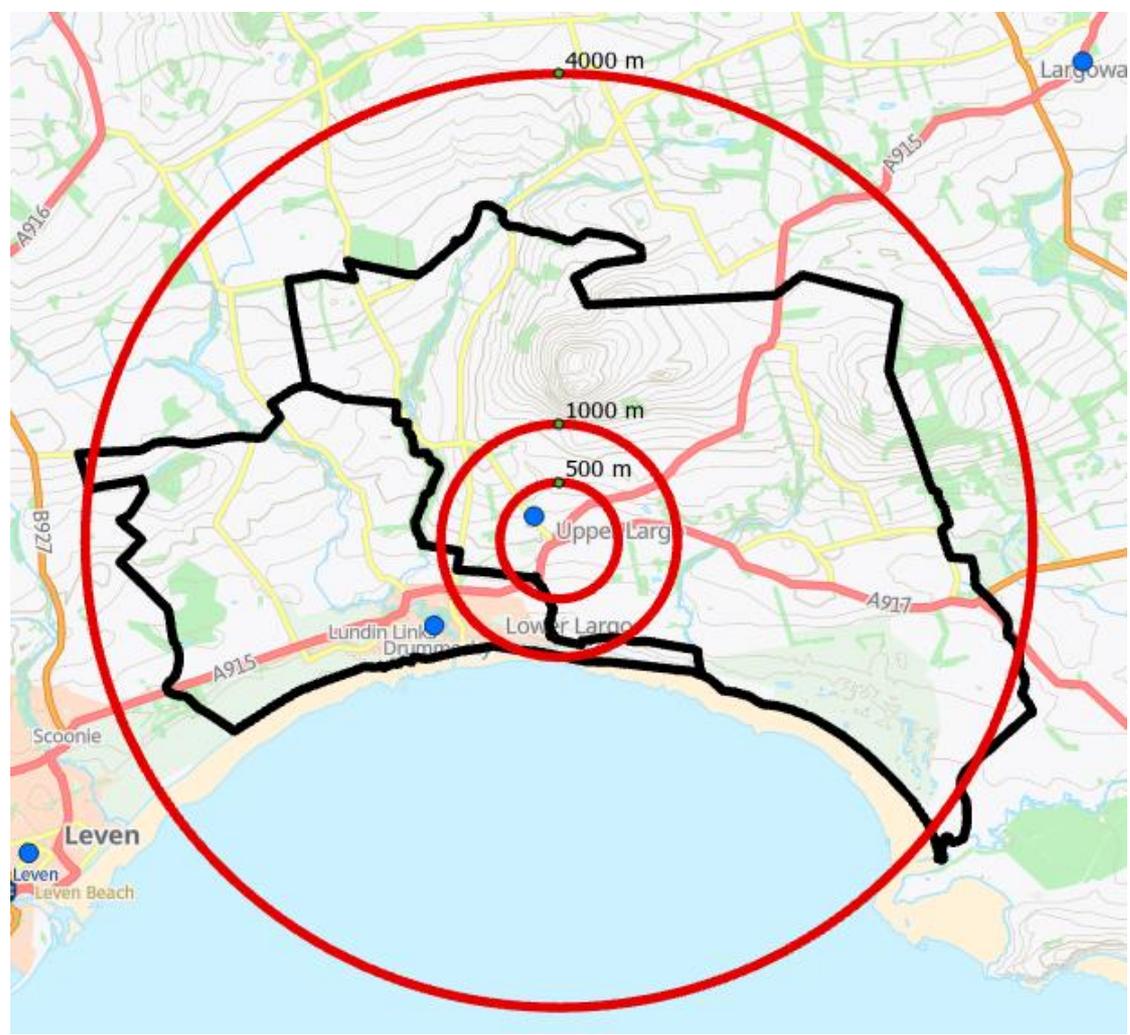


Special Regard to the likely effect on the local community

- school community already part of a larger, sustainable school community
- Upper Largo community made no use of the school building for community activities. The Church and associated halls in Upper and Lower Largo are utilised by the community.
- No impact on holding community events in the village
- Council believes that the sustainability of the Upper Largo village community will not be affected as pupils will attend a school fewer than 2 miles from their existing school



School Community and Wider Community



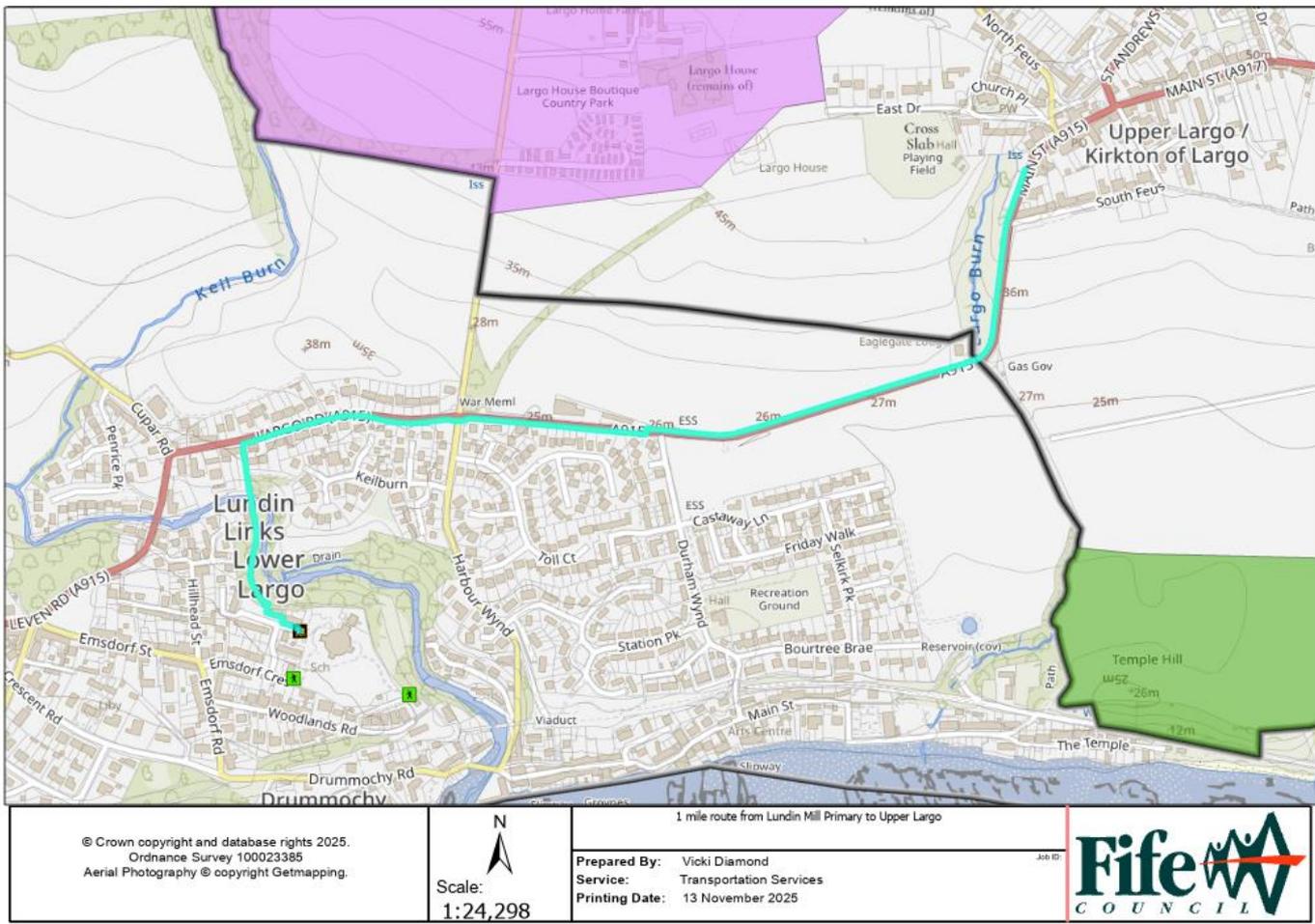


Special Regard to the likely effect caused by any different travelling arrangements

- pupils living in the Kirkton of Largo PS catchment area who are attending Lundin Mill PS are eligible to receive free transport
- journey time is less than 10 minutes by car or taxi
- small environmental impact of transporting the Kirkton of Largo PS pupils who may have previously walked
- unlikely to be any environmental impact arising from the arrangements staff make to get to school



Travel route currently in use by pupils being transported from Kirkton of Largo catchment area to Lundin Mill Primary School





Educational Benefits

As part of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, the education authority must prepare an educational benefits statement which includes the likely effects of the proposal.

The educational benefits of this proposal include:

1. pupils from Kirkton of Largo catchment area attending Lundin Mill PS will continue to benefit from an improved range of curricular experiences, providing more opportunities to become Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Effective Contributors and Responsible Citizens
2. learners will have more opportunities to learn from their peers and more opportunity to develop wider relationships and friendships
3. pupils will be educated in classes organised in narrower range of school years e.g. P1/2 instead of P1- P7
4. greater number of staff at Lundin Mill PS and opportunities for greater collaborative working
5. pupils will have access to any lunchtime and after school clubs that are run by school staff
6. opportunity for parents to become involved in a larger parent community
7. flexibility of space within the Lundin Mill PS accommodation.



Consultation Process

Statutory consultation in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Council required to consult for a minimum of 30 school days

Statutory consultation period – Wednesday 21 January 2026 to Tuesday 10 March 2026

Pupil consultation with a range of pupils from P4-P7

Education Scotland involvement

Consultation Report

Decision by Cabinet Committee around 28 May 2026



Thursday 8 January 2026	Consultation proposal considered by Fife Council 's Cabinet Committee
Tuesday 20 January 2026	Parents and other statutory consultees issued with Consultation Notice informing them of relevant dates and information about the statutory consultation
Wednesday 21 January 2026 – Tuesday 10 March 2026	Consultation live
Wednesday 11 – Friday 13 February 2026	School INSET and School holidays
	Public meeting held on: Durham Hall, Lower Largo, on Monday 9 February 2026 from 6-7 pm Drop-in sessions at: Lundin Mill PS on 3 February 2026 from 8.45 - 9.30am and 2.30 to 3.15pm
Tuesday 10 March 2026	Consultation Close
Friday 13 March 2026	Report on consultation process is submitted to Education Scotland
Monday 16 March – Friday 3 April 2026	Education Scotland 3-week review
Friday 3 April – Friday 17 April 2026	School holidays
Tuesday 21 April 2026	Education Directorate receive report from Education Scotland
Friday 24 April 2026	Sign off Education Scotland report
Tuesday 5 May 2026	Consultation Report published 3 weeks before the Cabinet Committee
Thursday 28 May 2026	Report submitted to the Cabinet Committee
Thursday 4 June 2026	Estimated end of Fife Council's internal Call-In Period
Friday 14 August 2026	Estimated end of Scottish Government Call-In Period
Monday 17 August 2026	Proposed date of implementation



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or

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Sustainablestate.enquiries@fife.gov.uk

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