

**COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR**

**Department of Education**

Sandwick Road, Stornoway. HS1 2BW  
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**Education Provision  
Consultation Document – January 2009**

**Proposal to change the location of  
Balivanich Primary School  
Benbecula**

**Roinn an Fhoghlaim**



## EDUCATIONAL PROVISION: CONSULTATION DOCUMENT - JANUARY 2008

### PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE LOCATION OF BALIVANICH PRIMARY SCHOOL

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Comhairle proposes to change the current location of Balivanich Primary School to a new building which will be constructed on an area of ground earmarked for this purpose by the amalgamation of the Old Balivanich School site and specially acquired adjacent croft land. This proposal is subject to the necessary statutory consultation with the parents of the pupils concerned and all other interested parties in terms of Section 22(a) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 as amended.

#### BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following the storm of 11 January 2005 which badly damaged the current Balivanich Primary School the Comhairle made a special application to the Scottish Executive for dedicated funding to enable the construction of a new Primary School to serve the catchment area of Balivanich School. This was driven by factors such as the condition of the current building and the vulnerability of its location.
- 2.2 The Scottish Executive's decision, following consideration of the Comhairle's request, was that the Western Isles Schools Project, which was at that time a four school Private Public Partnership project, should be enlarged to a five school project to enable the inclusion of a new school for Balivanich. To do this the project had to be restarted and a completely new Outline Business Case had to be submitted. Earlier proposals for a new site had to be abandoned as the negotiations with the landowner were unsuccessful.

#### THE CURRENT PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The current proposal marks the culmination of an option appraisal exercise which included a number of sites. Three further sites were subsequently shortlisted and Civil Engineering consultants were engaged by the Comhairle to carry out ground investigations and other survey works to the suitability of nominated sites. Following consideration of a number of factors, including proximity to necessary utilities and services, planning and statutory issues, a decision was taken to propose Balivanich Old School site as the appropriate location for the new school, and to undertake statutory consultation on that proposal. The other two sites considered were located at: a) 11 Balivanich and the Commercial Development site; and b) 13-15 Aird, Benbecula.

#### CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

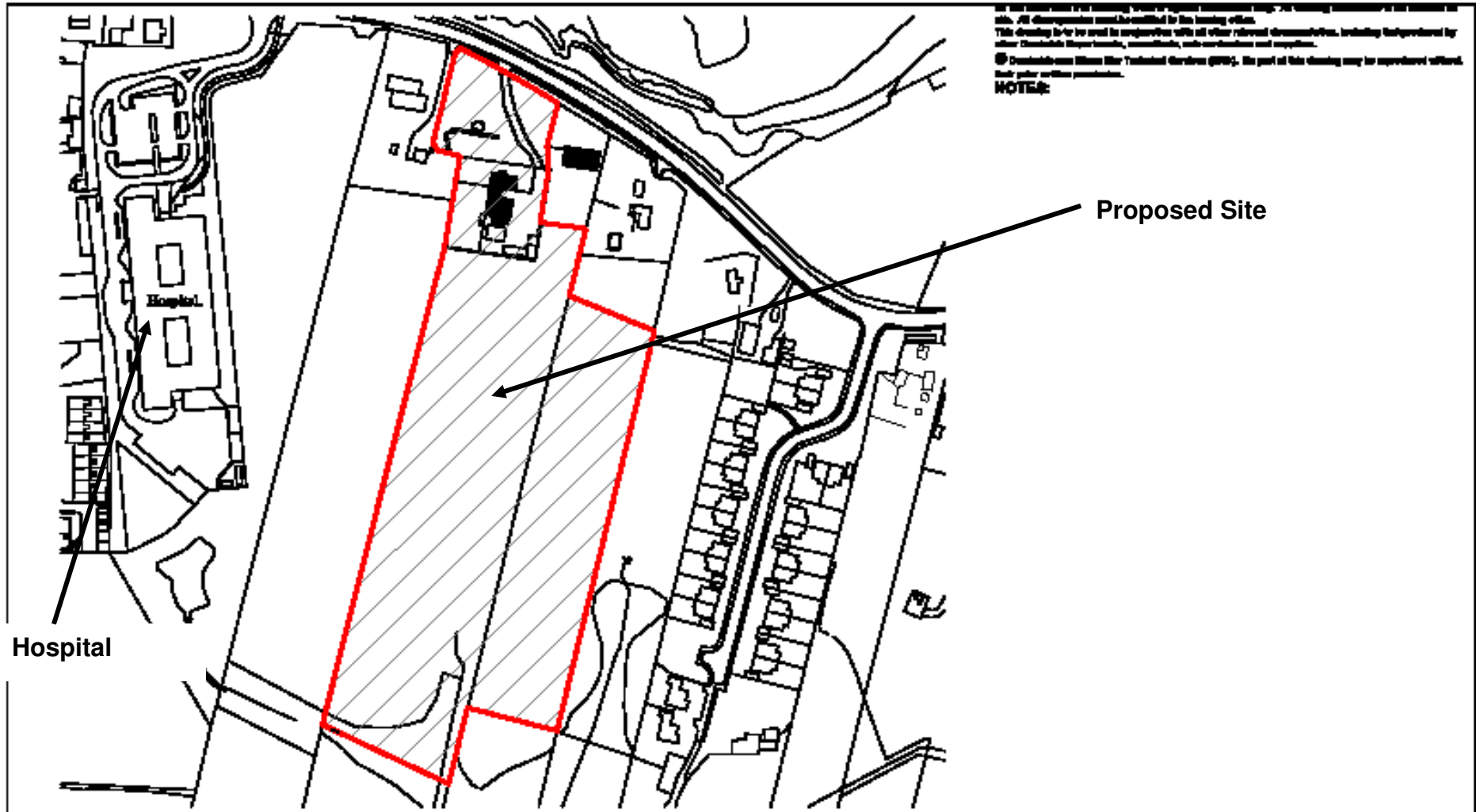
- 4.1 This document outlines the background to the Comhairle's proposals. The procedure to be adopted and persons to be consulted are detailed in the Education (Publication and Consultation Etc.)(Scotland) Regulations 1981 as amended. The Regulations require that an education authority either (a) invites written representations to be made within a specified period or (b) holds a public meeting to discuss the proposals. In line with previous practice both options are being made available and written representations will be considered by the Comhairle together with the note of the consultation meeting as part of the Report detailing the outcome of the consultation exercise prior to a decision being taken.
- 4.2 Consultation with parents will take the form of a **Public Meeting in Balivanich Primary School at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 28 January 2009**, at which the Council's proposals will be explained in detail, and to which parents concerned are invited. The Council will also take into consideration any written representations on the proposals, which may be submitted to the **Chief Executive at the Council Offices, Stornoway, by 4.00pm on Wednesday 11 February 2009**.

#### PROPOSAL

- 5.1 It is proposed that Balivanich Primary school be relocated from its current location to a new building to be constructed on the Old Balivanich School site and adjacent croft land as shown on the appendix to this document.

MML/DS  
09 January 2009


Balivanich Primary School  
Consultation Document: January 2009



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Hospital

Proposed Site

 <p><b>DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND HERITAGE</b> <b>TECHNICAL SERVICE:</b></p>	Project No: TBCSL776887 Project: Balivanich School PPP	Scale: 1 : 500 Original Size: A4	Date: 18.11.2009 Drawn: UED Checked:	Drawn: [ ] Date: [ ]
	Drawing: Proposed Site A Site Boundary	DRAWING No. TBCSL77688801 Rev:		

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