



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

Department of Education

Sandwick Road, Stornoway. HS1 2BW
Rathad Shanndabhaig, Steornabhagh. HS1 2BW

Education Provision Consultation Document – February 2006

**Proposal to change the planned location of the
new Westside Primary School
Isle of Lewis**

Roinn an Fhoghlaim

EDUCATIONAL PROVISION: CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT - FEBRUARY 2006**PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE PLANNED LOCATION OF THE NEW WESTSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL****INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Comhairle, at its Meeting on 15 December 2005, authorised the Director of Education to proceed to undertake the necessary statutory consultations with parents of pupils concerned and the appropriate School Boards in terms of Section 22(A) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, as amended, on a proposal to change the planned location of the new Westside School from the Tulloch Ard site at Upper Barvas to the Barvas Hall site.

BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Approximately three years ago the Comhairle, following extensive dialogue with the local community, decided to locate the proposed Westside Primary school at the Tulloch Ard site, Upper Barvas. This decision had been taken after
- a) the Comhairle's Technical Services Department had commissioned tests to confirm that the ground was capable of taking such a building; and
 - b) Legal Services had ascertained that the landowner was willing to sell the site for the purpose of providing a new school.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- 3.1 More recently, further dialogue has taken place at a local level, particularly through collaboration by the two School Boards. This resulted in a request that the Comhairle commission further tests to assess the relative merits of three sites, i.e. Tulloch Ard site, Borve Hall site and Barvas Hall site.
- 3.2 The Technical Services Department commissioned Harley Haddow, Consulting Engineers, to carry out this work and the results of this are set out in the appendix to this report. A meeting, involving the Education and Technical Services Departments and the joint School Boards, was held on 14 November 2005 when the results of the site investigations were reported. Arising from this it was decided that the Comhairle be asked to undertake statutory consultations on changing the proposed site for the new school from Tulloch Ard to the Barvas Hall site which is located near the Barvas junction.
- 3.3 The analysis of the features of the respective sites, as determined by the Consulting Engineers, is set out in Appendix A. The proposed location is set out in Appendix B.

CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

- 4.1 This document outlines the background to the Council'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. 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 The relevant School Boards are also being consulted and consultation with parents will take the form of Public **Meetings in Airidhantuim and Barvas Primary Schools at 7.30pm and 9.00pm respectively on Wednesday, 1 March 2006**, 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 **Director of Corporate Services at the Council Offices, Stornoway, by 4.00pm on Monday, 13 March 2006**.

PROPOSAL

- 5.1 It is proposed that the new Westside Primary School be located at the Barvas Hall site as identified in Appendix B of this document.

MML/DS
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