



**COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR**  
Education and Children's Services Department

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

Education Provision  
PROPOSAL DOCUMENT – MAY 2010

**Review of Education Provision**

**BALALLAN SCHOOL**  
Isle of Lewis

Roinn an Fhoghlaim is Seirbheisean Chloinne

**COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR**  
**Education and Children's Services Department**

**Review of Education Provision - May 2010**

**PROPOSAL DOCUMENT FOR BALALLAN SCHOOL**  
**Isle of Lewis**

## **Index**

### **Section:**

	Proposal
1	Introduction
2	Consultative Process – Summary of Process for this Proposal Document
3	Public Meeting
4	General Background to the need for a school estate review
5	Comhairle Aspirations
6	Key Factors
	Demographic Trends and School Rolls
	Travel
7	Consultation Proposal
8	Educational Benefits Statement
9	Consideration of Factors Affecting Rural Schools
10	Other Factors
	Pupil Costs
	Staffing
11	Conclusion
Appendices:	
	1. Consultees
	2. School Rolls – Western Isles
	3. Financial Information

# Review of Education Provision: May 2010 Balallan School, Isle of Lewis

## Report by the Director of Education and Children's Services

### PROPOSAL

#### It is proposed that:

- **Education provision at Balallan Primary School be discontinued with effect from 29 June 2012.**
- **That the pupils of Balallan Primary School continue their education at Sgoil nan Loch, from 16 August 2012.**
- **That the catchment area of Sgoil nan Loch be extended to include the current catchment area of Balallan Primary School.**

### INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Comhairle nan Eilean Siar aims to allocate resources in a way which will secure the best possible educational experience for pupils in the Western Isles. Implicit in this key objective is the effective deployment of resources in order to secure continuous improvement in educational achievement and attainment, and to provide better facilities in the most viable settings.
- 1.2 The Comhairle took a decision in February 2009 to undertake a community information and engagement exercise prior to bringing a further report to the Education and Children's Services Committee. The Comhairle then decided to undertake a series of Community Conversations to enable it to decide whether any schools would become the subject of a statutory consultation process.
- 1.3 The Comhairle, at its Meeting on 29 April 2010, authorised the Director of Education and Children's Services to proceed to undertake the necessary statutory consultation with parents, staff, pupils and other interested parties affected by the proposal regarding the closure of Balallan School as required by the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010.
- 1.4 This document relates to a proposal to close the Primary School at Balallan with effect from 29 June 2012 on the basis of the transfer of the pupils to Sgoil nan Loch on 16 August 2012.

### CONSULTATIVE PROCESS - SUMMARY OF PROCESS FOR THIS PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

#### Consideration by the Education and Children's Services Committee

- 2.1 This Proposal Document has been issued as a result of a decision approved by the Comhairle. This is to seek views on the proposal in this paper.

#### Proposal Document issued to consultees and published on Comhairle Web-site

- 2.2 A copy of this document will be issued free of charge to the consultees listed at appendix A, and it will also be published on the Comhairle website: [www.cne-siar.gov.uk](http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk)

### **Publication of advertisement in local newspapers**

- 2.3 An advertisement will be placed in the Stornoway Gazette and the West Highland Free Press. In addition, there will be announcements related to the Consultation process on the local radio station, Isles FM and Radio nan Gaidheal.

### **Length of Consultation period**

- 2.4 An advertisement will be placed in local newspapers on Thursday, 13 May 2010. The consultation will thereafter run until close of business on 30 June 2010, which includes a period of 34 school days.

### **Public meeting**

- 2.5 A public meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 2 June 2010**, the details of which are given in this Document.

### **Involvement of HMle**

- 2.6 When the Proposal Document is published, a copy will also be sent to HMle by the Comhairle. HMle will also receive a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Comhairle from any person during the consultation period or, if HMle agree, a summary of them. HMle will further receive a summary of any oral representation made to the Comhairle at the public meeting that will be held and, as available (and so far as otherwise practicable), a copy of any other relevant documentation. HMle will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal not later than 20 August 2010 after the Comhairle has sent them all representations and documents as mentioned above. In preparing their report, HMle may visit the affected schools and make such reasonable enquiries of such people there, as they consider appropriate, and may make such reasonable enquiries of such other people as they consider appropriate.

### **Preparation of Consultation Report**

- 2.7 The Comhairle will review the proposal having regard to the HMle Report, written representations that it has received and oral representations made to it by any person at the public meeting. It will then prepare a Consultation Report. This report will be published in electronic and printed formats and will be advertised in local newspapers. It will be available on the Comhairle web-site and from Comhairle Headquarters, as well as at the affected schools, free of charge. Anyone who has made written representations during the consultation period will also be informed about the report. The report will include a record of the total number of written representations made during the consultation period, a summary of the written representations, a summary of the oral representations made at the public meeting, the Authority's response to the HMle Report as well as any written or oral representations it has received, together with a copy of the HMle Report and any other relevant information, including details of any alleged inaccuracies and how these have been handled. The Report will also contain a statement explaining how it complied with the requirement to review the proposal in light of the HMle Report and representations (both written and oral) that it received. The Consultation Report will be published at least 3 weeks prior to the Comhairle making a decision.

### **Decision**

- 2.8 This Consultation Report together with any other relevant documentation will be considered by the Education and Children's Services Committee who will make a recommendation. This recommendation will then be subject to the approval of the Comhairle.

### **Scottish Ministers Call-in**

- 2.9 In the event that the Comhairle decides to close the school at this stage, it is required to notify the Scottish Ministers of that decision and provide them with a copy of the Proposal Document and Consultation Report in accordance with the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010 within 6 working days of the decision being made. The Scottish Ministers have a 6 week period from the date of that final decision to decide if they will **call-in** the proposal. If the Scottish Ministers call-in the proposal they may refuse to consent to the proposal or grant their consent to the proposal subject to conditions or unconditionally. Within the first 3 weeks of the 6 week period, the Scottish Ministers will take account of any relevant representations made to them by any person. Until the outcome of the 6 week call-in process has been notified to the Comhairle, the Comhairle will not proceed to implement the proposal.

### **Note on Corrections**

- 2.10 If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this Proposal Document either by the Comhairle or any person, the Comhairle will determine if relevant information has been omitted or, if there has been an inaccuracy. The Comhairle will then take appropriate action which may include the issue of a correction or the reissuing of the Proposal paper or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period if appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and HMle will be advised.

### **PUBLIC MEETING**

- 3.1 A Public Meeting will be held to discuss the proposal. Anyone wishing to attend the public meeting is invited to do so. The meeting will be convened by the Comhairle and will be addressed by representatives of the Education and Children's Services Department and other senior officers of the Comhairle.
- 3.2 The meeting will be an opportunity to:
- Hear more about the proposal
  - Ask questions about the proposal
  - Have the views of all stakeholders recorded so that they can be taken into account as part of the Proposal process.
- 3.3 Arrangements for the meeting are as follows:
- **Venue: Balallan Primary School**
  - **Date: Wednesday, 2 June 2010**
  - **Time: 7.30pm – 9.30pm**
- 3.4 A note will be taken at the meeting of questions and views. This note will be published on the Comhairle web-site, and a copy will be made available on request. The meeting will also be recorded.
- 3.5 The Comhairle will also take into consideration any written or electronic submissions on the proposal, which may be submitted to [schoolconsultations@cne-siar.gov.uk](mailto:schoolconsultations@cne-siar.gov.uk) or to the **Chief Executive at the Comhairle Offices, Sandwick Road, Stornoway HS1 2BW, to arrive not later than 5.00pm on Wednesday, 30 June 2010.**

### **GENERAL BACKGROUND TO THE NEED FOR A SCHOOL ESTATE REVIEW**

- 4.1 The Comhairle is charged to provide its statutory services as effectively and efficiently as possible. It is therefore necessary to be strategic in the delivery of education to ensure Best Value. School rolls in the authority as a whole have been falling year on year for the last thirty years and, as far as can be seen, this is a continuing trend. There are more buildings in the school estate than are considered necessary for the delivery of high quality education.
- 4.2 The problems relating to the existing education provision within the Western Isles can be briefly stated-
- a) There are too many schools for the size of the pupil population.
  - b) Many schools are costly to maintain.
  - c) Many schools are neither designed nor equipped to offer high quality education across all aspects of the curriculum in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
  - d) The pupil costs, relating as they do to pupil numbers, are very high.
  - e) The staffing costs, relating to pupil numbers, are very high.
  - f) Education Grant-Aided Expenditure, with pupil numbers as a primary indicator, continues to diminish in line with falling pupil numbers, having a severe impact on the Comhairle's budget.

- 4.3 The requirements which have to be addressed by the Comhairle are-
- a) to provide a quality education service for children and young people aged 3-18.
  - b) to adjust the school provision within the Western Isles to reflect the present and projected pupil numbers.
  - c) to enhance the facilities available to all pupils aged 3-18
  - d) to bring the costs of the education provision to a level which the Comhairle can afford while aspiring to enhance the quality of Learning and Teaching environments.

## COMHAIRLE ASPIRATIONS

- 5.1 In order to address the requirements in a rational and fair way throughout the Western Isles the Comhairle is;
- a) committed to providing the highest quality of educational opportunity and experience for school pupils within available resources;
  - b) committed to consultation procedures which communicate accurate information about the benefits of change;
  - c) committed to change which is carefully planned, adequately resourced, and phased appropriately;
  - d) committed to ensuring that receiving schools are properly resourced to provide a better environment for learning and teaching;
  - e) committed to the view that projects linked to the School Estate Review should have priority within its programmes of Capital and Revenue expenditure.
- 5.2 This will be done by –
- reducing surplus capacity in schools
  - improving the condition and suitability rating of schools through capital projects and addressing maintenance issues
  - improving property flexibility
  - meeting statutory requirements of Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA).
- 5.3 The Scottish Government issued its 'Building Better Schools: Investing in Scotland's Future' document in September 2009. The document sets out the Government's aspirations for the school estate and states:
- "All children and young people will be educated in, and community users will use, schools that are 'fit for purpose' in terms of condition, suitability and sufficiency;
  - Schools are well-designed, accessible, inclusive learning environments that inspire and drive new thinking and change and which support the delivery of high quality educational experiences through *Curriculum for Excellence*;
  - Schools are integral parts of the communities they serve, with pupils making use of community facilities and communities accessing school facilities;
  - Schools accommodate and provide a range of services, activities and facilities that make a difference to people's health and well being, to sustaining economic growth and to the strength and vibrancy of communities;
  - A sustainable school estate whose design, construction and operation is environmentally and energy efficient; contributes directly to delivering the year-on-year reductions in greenhouse gas emissions introduced by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, which is resilient to the impact of climate change and which leads by example in matters of environmental performance;
  - A school estate that is efficiently run and that delivers maximum value for money;
  - A school estate which is flexible and responsive - both to changes in demand for school places and to learners' and teachers' requirements and wishes, and where the beneficial impact of change is maximised by thorough consultation and engagement with users and stakeholders".
- 5.4 Through consultation, there is already agreement for amalgamations of schools within the Western Isles Schools Project, namely Aird and Knock Primaries amalgamating with Bayble Primary in the new Point School and Airdhantuim and Barvas Primaries amalgamating in the new West Side School. This, along with the new builds at The Nicolson Institute, Sir E Scott School and Balivanich School will ensure that 40% of all pupils in the Western Isles will be educated in Condition A buildings by 2012. If the School Estate Review is fully implemented, Gaelic Medium Education will be offered in every school.

- 5.5 In order to maintain an adequate level of provision it is necessary for the Comhairle to allocate its resources in a way which will secure the best possible education for pupils in the Western Isles. Implicit in this objective is the effective deployment of resources in order to provide better educational facilities. The Comhairle believes that it must continue to look at the current provision of education in the Western Isles, to plan ahead and to determine the best way in which educational facilities of a higher standard can be made available for present and future generations.
- 5.6 The advantages of rationalising provision can be summarised as follows -
- a) More efficient and effective deployment and development of staff and more effective flexibility in grouping children for learning and teaching.
  - b) There is an opportunity for reinvestment of savings from the School Estate Review in the Education Service to ensure all children and pupils are educated in buildings that are well designed and accessible, with inclusive learning environments.
  - c) There is the opportunity to achieve better management of school buildings by making better use of capacity to integrate additional support needs and pre-school within mainstream provision.
  - d) There is the opportunity to adapt buildings to take account of demographic change by providing more flexibility in accommodation usage within schools.
  - e) There is the opportunity of overseeing the construction of new schools to meet modern curricular needs and to replace older and poorer school building stock.
  - f) There is the opportunity of disposing of buildings to raise Capital Receipts for the Comhairle.
- 5.7 Even if the advantages were ignored, the present situation cannot continue for much longer as the Comhairle will have insufficient resources to maintain all of its school buildings, thus resulting in deterioration and health and safety implications which may force closure.

## KEY FACTORS

### Demographic Trends and School Rolls

- 6.1 The total school rolls have fallen steadily since Comhairle nan Eilean Siar was established as a new Education Authority in 1975. Predictions made about falling school rolls in the past have proved to be accurate and therefore have been reliable. The total roll (primary and secondary) thirty years ago was 6,246 while in September 2009 this had fallen to 3,681. Even since the current phase of the debate on education provision started in session 2007- 2008 the number has fallen by another 152. In the last five years the pupil roll in the Western Isles has fallen by 333.
- 6.2 As pupil population has declined, the level of funding has also fallen in line with that decline. This has the effect of making the current pattern of provision an unsustainable one, particularly in the context of the necessity to make major cutbacks at present and for the foreseeable future.

### Travel

- 6.3 A key criterion is the travel implications for pupils which would arise in the event of rationalisation-
- a) The distances that pupils have to travel to and from school are clearly important in any assessment of the requirement to make relevant and appropriate provision. In addition, distances of themselves have to be set in the context of road conditions and the time that such travelling takes.
  - b) The Comhairle Policy states that Primary pupils should not, as a rule have to travel more than thirty minutes on a bus or Secondary pupils more than 60 minutes. However, on occasions where pupils are living in a remote location which would mean that their journey to school was longer than the policy stated, reasonable steps would be taken to minimise their journey time. In relation to secondary pupils, parents may elect to have lodgings provided for their child if their journey exceeds one hour. The Comhairle will look at solutions which would reduce travelling time for pupils from the furthest away areas by using minibuses and/or taxis to take pupils to identified pick-up points so that travel to and from school would be as direct as possible.

## CONSULTATION PROPOSAL

- 7.1 It is proposed that:
- Education provision at Balallan Primary School be discontinued with effect from 29 June 2012.
  - That the pupils of Balallan Primary School continue their education at Sgoil nan Loch, from 16 August 2012.
  - That the catchment area of Sgoil nan Loch be extended to include the current catchment area of Balallan Primary School.

## EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

### Affected Schools

- 8.1 Balallan Primary School serves the village of Balallan and the surrounding communities. The school which was built in 1879 is a mostly single storey building with a mobile construction unit that houses the Gaelic medium unit and the Croileagan (Gaelic Pre school provision) which is run by a voluntary organisation. A multi purpose activity room was added to the building in 2007. There are 24 pupils on the roll and they are divided into 2 composite English medium classes and 1 Gaelic medium class. The roll has declined by almost 43% over the last 7 years and is projected to fall further next session. The school has a capacity for 71 pupils. The school was assessed as Condition B in the 2007 school estates survey. The school is not Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA) compliant.
- 8.2 The catchment areas for Balallan School are the villages of Airidhbhruach, Balallan, Laxay, Keose, Seaforthhead, Eisken, Valtos and Shieldinish
- 8.3 Sgoil nan Loch, which was opened in 2002, serves the community of Lochs and is located 8 miles from Balallan School. The school currently includes pre-school, primary and S1/2 provision housed within a two storey building. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar made the decision to discontinue the S1/S2 provision from August 2012 or when the new Nicolson Institute is ready. In the Primary department there are 72 pupils on the roll divided into 5 English Medium classes. There is also specialist provision made on campus for pupils with Severe and Complex needs. The school is managed on a shared headship basis with Pairc School. The roll has increased by 30% over the last 7 years but is projected to fall over the next two sessions. The school has a capacity for 130 pupils. The school was assessed as Condition B in the 2007 school estates survey.
- 8.4 The catchment areas for Sgoil nan Loch are the villages of Achmore, Leurbost, Lochganvich, Crossbost, Ranish and Grimshader.

### Learning environment

- 8.5 The pupils from Balallan Primary school will benefit from the enhanced learning environments of Sgoil nan Loch. These include spacious play areas, a floodlit ball court and a sports field. The school also has a dedicated library, an art room, ICT suite and modern equipped gym hall. The pleasant cafeteria area in Sgoil nan Loch provides pupils with freshly cooked meals on site. The cafeteria also has a tuck shop facility. A multi sensory room provides an appropriately stimulating environment for pupils with additional support needs. The internal classroom configuration is flexible and more suited for delivering a modern curriculum in line with Curriculum for Excellence. Outdoor facilities at Sgoil nan Loch have been developed to provide an outdoor learning classroom and a living science area. The loch adjacent to the school is used for water sports.

- **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**

All classrooms have interactive whiteboards as well as a number of PCs including a set of "Classroom in a Box" laptop computers. The school also has a dedicated ICT suite.

- **Additional Support Needs**

Sgoil nan Loch has the facilities to cater for the needs of all children including those with a range of additional support needs. The school also has a dedicated medical room. These additional facilities will also help to enhance learning and teaching for children of Balallan Primary School who may have a range of additional support needs.



- **Gaelic Medium**

Balallan School has provision for Gaelic medium education. This is currently not available in Sgoil nan Loch but, if Balallan pupils were to transfer to Sgoil nan Loch, Gaelic Medium education would be available there. This would make the option of Gaelic Medium Education available to more prospective parents.

**Pre-school provision**

- 8.6 The pre-school provision at Balallan School is a Croileagan, run by a voluntary organisation but housed in the mobile construction unit which also houses the Gaelic Medium classroom. This makes for good transition arrangements.
- 8.7 Little Lochies Pre-school is managed by the Head Teacher at Sgoil nan Loch and is an English Medium Provision. The co-location of Sgoil nan Loch and Little Lochies within the same building improves the transition process for the children moving from pre-school to primary education. This also enhances opportunities for joint educational programmes to be delivered between the two establishments.
- 8.8 It is anticipated that the Comhairle will take over the direct management of the Croileagan in 2011. Therefore, if Balallan school were to be amalgamated into Sgoil nan Loch, the Croileagan would also move and be managed by the Head Teacher at Sgoil nan Loch.

**Accessibility of premises**

- 8.9 Sgoil nan Loch is accessible for those with restricted mobility. However, there are some works which require to be carried out in order to make the provision fully compliant under the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005.

**Capacity**

- 8.10 Sgoil nan Loch was opened in August 2001. The primary department has capacity for 130 pupils. It is currently operating at 55% capacity.
- 8.11 Sgoil nan Loch Primary and Pre-school is designed to meet the needs of all pupils, including those with additional support needs and has more than enough capacity to meet the needs of all pupils of Balallan Primary School without disrupting the learning of pupils presently resident in the Sgoil nan Loch Primary.
- 8.12 The pupils of both establishments will link to the same secondary school, so at the point of P7 transition, for example, there would not be an impact on the rolls of any other secondary school. The likely effects of the proposal would be to create effective teaching sets at all stages which would sit well within the Government class size guidelines.

**Extra Curricular Activities**

- 8.13 In terms of extra curricular activities, Sgoil nan Loch runs the following after school clubs; Chess, PE, Jewellery making, Ornithology, Gardening club. In addition to these clubs, pupils also have opportunities for planned activities during lunch break.
- 8.14 In academic session 2009/10 Balallan Primary School pupils undertook the following activities; Cookery, Dance, Sports, Art.
- 8.15 The pupils from Balallan will have access to a wider range of activities than are available to them at present in larger groupings alongside pupils of similar ages.

**Likely effect on the local community**

- 8.16 It is believed that the proposal will have no impact on local social or economic activities. Balallan School is mainly utilised by parents for events linked to the school such as Parent Council meetings, school concerts and activities related to curricular matters. The school is also used from time to time by community groups such as the local football club, the agricultural show committee and church groups. The community has access to a community hall which is adjacent to the school. As such, the likely effect of the closure proposal would be on the Parent Council of Balallan School which would require to be wound up in the event of the said proposal being implemented.

- 8.17 Pupils and community members would benefit from the improved access to the school facilities at Sgoil nan Loch such as the sports hall, sports field and ball court. Sgoil nan Loch is accessed by a wide range of community groups.

#### **Travel**

- 8.18 The travel distance from Balallan School to Sgoil nan Loch is 8 miles and estimated to take under 15 minutes by bus. However, there are two pre-school children who live at Eisken which is more than 30 minutes travelling time from Sgoil nan Loch. The Comhairle will take reasonable steps to minimise their journey time. To transport pupils from Balallan School to Sgoil nan Loch an additional midi coach would be required.

#### **Staff transfer**

- 8.19 Any staff transfers will be conducted under existing Comhairle terms and conditions with attempts being made, where possible, to minimise any additional distance that they may require to travel. Where necessary, any aspect of the implementation of these proposals that impacts on staff will result in consultation with the relevant trade unions and the individuals concerned.

#### **Summary of Educational Benefits**

- 8.20 Attending a school with a larger roll will have social and educational benefits for the pupils currently at Balallan School. The specific benefits are listed below:
- increased opportunities for pupils, including both curricular and extra curricular.
  - a larger pupil population will enable greater flexibility in grouping children for learning and teaching.
  - there will also be greater flexibility in the deployment of staff to meet the learning needs of pupils.
  - staff from Balallan Primary School will benefit from additional CPD opportunities to be gained by working and learning with a larger range of teaching colleagues.
  - a larger staff will offer a wider range of expertise resulting in increased opportunities for sharing practice, more collegiate support and a wider range of learning and teaching approaches.
  - more management time to promote school improvement.
- 8.21 Pupils and parents of Balallan Primary School would have access to a modern educational establishment, which is fully equipped and designed to meet the needs of pupils and fully deliver a Curriculum for Excellence. There is an opportunity for the pupils, staff and parents of both schools to benefit from working together to ensure that the very best quality of learning and teaching is available to all pupils, irrespective of their needs or abilities.
- 8.22 The proposal will result in pupils of Balallan Primary attending a school building which is modern and designed for the delivery of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century curriculum. The staff, Parent Councils and community will be consulted fully on the development of plans for the integration of pupils from Balallan Primary into Sgoil nan Loch.

### **CONSIDERATION OF FACTORS AFFECTING RURAL SCHOOLS**

- 9.1 In terms of Section 12 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, Balallan School is an accessible Rural School. Consequently special regard has been given to the following factors in the preparation of this document.

#### **Viable Alternatives to Closure**

- 9.2 The only alternative option for the future provision of education for pupils at Balallan School is to maintain the building to at least condition B and make it Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA) compliant. This option does not provide the means to increase the roll, thereby providing educationally beneficial class groupings which would enrich the learning experiences. The proposal would provide more effective opportunities for collegiate working and peer support.
- 9.3 The Comhairle does not within its current budget have the means to meet the current repairs and maintenance requirements or provide physical adaptations to the building to provide optimum learning and teaching environments. This option is therefore not considered to be viable.

**Likely Effects on the Local Community**

- 9.4 As detailed in Section 8.16 and 8.17 of this proposal document it is believed that there will be no significant effect on the local community. However here is alternative accommodation alternative in the area for community use.
- 9.5 The Outer Hebrides Migration Study 2008, identified key factors of sustainable communities which included sustainable employment, private sector led economic diversity, housing provision, self determination, clean energy. It is not believed that the closure of Balallan School would significantly impact on the identified key factors needed for sustainable communities.

**Likely Effect Caused by any Different Travelling Arrangements that may be Required in Consequence of the Proposal**

- 9.6 As detailed in Section 8.18 of this proposal document, to transport pupils from Balallan School to Sgoil nan Loch an additional midi coach would be required. Consequently the closure of Balallan School would produce a minimal negative environmental impact. If the proposal were adopted there would be a reduction in the carbon footprint due to a reduced amount of energy being used to heat one school instead of two.

**OTHER FACTORS****Pupil Costs**

- 10.1 The annual budgeted school running cost per pupil, as reported to Scottish Government, is obtained by dividing the total budgeted school running cost by the school roll. The total cost comprises of the following.
- Staff (teaching and non teaching)
  - Premises (e.g. lighting, heating, maintenance, cleaning etc)
  - Supplies (including books, materials and educational equipment)
  - School transport
  - Catering
  - Other School Costs (e.g. Parental Councils, Administration, Examination costs where applicable etc).
- 10.2 The Balallan School pupil costs for 2009/10 are shown in the following table along with the relevant comparators.

<b>Detail</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Scottish Average	£3,948
Western Isles Primary School Average	£7,014
Sgoil nan Loch Primary Department	£7,578
<b>Balallan Primary School</b>	<b>£11,300</b>

- 10.3 As will be observed, the average costs per pupil within the Western Isles are much higher than the Scottish average in any year. When comparing the relevant costs it will be noted that, owing to the small number, the cost per pupil for Balallan School is substantially higher than the figures for the potential receiving school and the average for the Western Isles. This is partially attributable to the provision of Gaelic Medium education in Balallan School.

**Staffing****10.4 Teaching Staff**

The teaching staff complement at Balallan School is 2.5 FTE teachers, and 0.4 FTE itinerant staff, giving an overall complement of 2.9 FTE staff. Itinerant staff would be given revised timetables, as already is the case in such circumstances. The school has English and Gaelic medium classes.

**Ancillary Support**

- 10.5
- a) **Clerical**  
There is a school assistant employed for 37 hours per week
  - b) **Janitor**  
There is no janitorial provision.
  - c) **Cleaning Staff**  
The school cleaner works for 15.5 hours per week.
  - d) **School Meals**  
A dining attendant is employed for 10 hours her week.

**CONCLUSION**

- 11.1 Based on the demographic trends and the educational benefits statement the Comhairle is persuaded that the proposal would result in the pupils of Balallan Primary School attending a school building which is modern and designed for the delivery of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century curriculum and has therefore agreed to proceed to statutory consultation.

## **APPENDIX 1 CONSULTEES**

---

The consultation will be open to all relevant stakeholders. The groups that will be specifically consulted are:

- Parents of pupils in affected schools;
- Pupils of any affected school;
- Staff (teaching and other) of any affected school;
- Parent Councils;
- Parents of children who may attend affected schools within two years of any proposal being published;
- Trade Unions,
- Community Councils;
- Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership;
- Bord na Gaidhlig.

Staff and pupils will be consulted separately.

## APPENDIX 2 SCHOOL ROLLS

### Balallan Primary School

School Year	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	Total Roll
2002-03	5	9	10	2	6	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	42
2003-04	10	6	10	10	1	6	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	51
2004-05	2	9	4	8	9	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
2005-06	3	2	10	3	8	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	38
2006-07	4	3	2	8	3	6	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
2007-08	3	5	1	2	7	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	27
2008-09	1	3	5	1	1	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
2009-10	8	0	3	4	1	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	24

Overall percentage change over seven year period: **-42.9%**

Overall percentage change over one year period: **+14.3%**

### Western Isles: Summary of School Rolls as of May 2010

School	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	PRI	SEC	Total
Aird Primary School	8	4	11	2	7	4	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	0	53
Airidhantuim Primary School	5	3	6	1	3	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	27
Back School	16	20	13	17	18	27	20	25	30	0	0	0	0	131	55	186
Balallan Primary School	7	0	3	4	1	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	24
Barvas Primary School	1	3	10	2	6	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	0	34
Bayble School	7	13	15	8	10	12	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	71	0	71
Benera Primary School	2	2	4	2	3	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	21
Bragar Primary School	2	5	7	5	7	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	0	33
Breasclete Primary School	7	3	6	6	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	28
Carloway Primary School	3	0	6	2	3	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	24
Cross Primary School	0	1	2	1	2	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	13
Knock Primary School	6	3	3	2	4	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	25
Laxdale Primary School	33	36	37	25	39	29	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	230	0	230
Lionel School	8	15	6	6	14	12	7	26	20	0	0	0	0	68	46	114
Paicr Primary School	4	5	2	7	3	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	30
Sandwickhill Primary School	5	5	4	9	9	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	0	42
Sgoil nan Loch	7	10	8	7	14	12	14	12	20	0	0	0	0	72	32	104
Shawbost School	2	4	3	7	3	8	6	20	27	0	0	0	0	33	47	80
Stornoway Primary School	35	51	38	40	39	49	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	0	300
The Nicolson Institute	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	114	139	237	231	172	128	0	1021	1021
Tolsta Primary School	8	7	3	6	9	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	0	44
Tong Primary School	11	11	12	9	8	6	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	0	65
Uig Primary School	3	1	5	2	4	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	21
<b>Lewis Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>1389</b>	<b>1201</b>	<b>2590</b>
Leverhulme Memorial School	3	3	3	3	7	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	24
Scalpay School	0	1	2	2	5	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	21
Shelibost Primary School	0	2	2	1	2	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	13
Sir E Scott School	10	6	6	6	6	10	6	21	20	27	24	8	12	50	112	162
<b>Harris Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>220</b>
Carinish Primary School	0	5	2	5	3	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	22
Lochmaddy Primary School	1	1	5	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	10
Paible School	7	4	8	5	4	3	7	10	16	0	0	0	0	38	26	64
<b>North Uist Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>96</b>
Balivanich Primary School	12	14	16	8	15	12	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	100
Sgoil Lionacleit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	36	71	61	43	34	0	277	277
<b>Benbecula Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>377</b>
Daliburgh School	16	13	11	12	11	6	13	11	10	0	0	0	0	82	21	103
Eriskay School	0	2	2	2	1	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	16
Iochdar Primary School	8	10	7	16	8	8	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	69	0	69
<b>South Uist Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>188</b>
Castlebay Community School	7	8	10	6	12	12	11	12	13	23	21	20	6	66	95	161
Eoligarry Primary School	3	1	3	4	3	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	23
<b>Barra Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>184</b>
<b>All Totals</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>1923</b>	<b>1732</b>	<b>3655</b>

## APPENDIX 3 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- The annual budgeted school running cost per pupil for 2009/10, as reported to Scottish Government, is obtained by dividing the total budgeted school running cost by the school roll.
- The pupil numbers are based on the Scottish Government census return which is completed in September of each year.

### COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

Education and Children's Services Department

FUTURE STRATEGY FOR EDUCATION PROVISION IN THE WESTERN ISLES

STATUTORY CONSULTATION: MAY-JUNE 2010

<b>Balallan School 2009/10</b>	
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>
Employee Expenses	106,743
Premises Related Expenditure	21,708
Transport Related Expenditure	261
Supplies and Services	3,155
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>£131,867</b>
Gaelic Teaching Cost	45,086
Parent Council Funding	372
Central Printing and Copying	176
Itinerant Teacher Costs	13,431
Itinerant Teacher Costs (Travel)	1,074
Catering Costs	9,789
School Transport	32,187
Central Licences	3,312
	105,427
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£237,294</b>
Number of Pupils	21
<b>COST PER PUPIL</b>	<b>£11,300</b>