

Appendix B4 – Online Public Meeting Record – Online Teams Meeting, 6 November 2025

Forres Academy – Relocation Consultation

Online Meeting

Date: 06 November 2025

Time: 18:30

Venue: Teams

In Attendance: Andy Hall Service Manager Education Estate; Shona Leese Senior Project Officer Education Estate

Attendance: 4 (2 attending the meeting at 7:00pm)

Meeting Notes

Due to a couple of attendees who had not attended the 4 November in-person meeting it was agreed with the initial attendees to start with Q&A arising from 4 November meeting – this was paused when new attendees joined at 7pm and Andy Hall provided a 16 slide PowerPoint presentation on the Forres Academy Relocation Proposal followed by a continuation of the Q&A session.

Relocation Consultation process based around 2010 school act – statutory consultation – process open, robust, transparent, and fair.

Relocation Consultation Survey is open until from Thursday 18 September 2025 to Thursday 13 November 2025

Discussions

There was lengthy discussion on the relocation of Forres Academy the questions arising from the discussion from attendees are as follows.

One attendee made a long statement that they had numerous concerns over many aspects of related to the location and design of the school. A number of these are related to the Planning Application and the Common Good statutory processes and will be address there. The remainder of the concerns have been captured in the Q&A notes below.

Questions	Answers
Q1 Is the new school project connected to the closure of the Forres House Community Centre or local library?	There is no link between the new school project and any closure proposal for the Forres House Community Centre or library, despite community concerns and discussions elsewhere in Moray about community assets
Q2 What facilities and community benefits will the new school provide?	The new school is intended to function as a community hub with state-of-the-art facilities, including a dance studio, up-to-date gym areas, trampoline training provisions, and a large assembly hall for performances. Outdoor community spaces and enhanced performance areas are also included, aiming to expand on available opportunities rather than replace existing ones in the town
Q3 Concerns were raised about traffic and pupil safety with the new bus drop-off plan on Sanquhar Road and could it stay at Burdsyard Road?	We have had numerous conversations with our transport colleagues looking at an option for the bus drop off and the safe option for a bus drop off and a bus pick up. It was clearly stated to us that they do consider Burdsyard Road is a safe option due to the number of buses that

Why can it be considered safe for children to cross the Burdsyard Road to access the 3G pitch but not when dropped off/pick up by buses	<p>support a considerable number of pupils from number of rural communities and arrive during the same period each day to pick up and drop off.</p> <p>This considerable number of pupils will be kept safe with dedicated bus drop-off and traffic calming measures. Only smaller, supervised groups will cross the roads for activities like accessing the 3G pitch – and this will be supported by additional traffic calming measures on Burdsyard Road</p>
Q4. How is the project addressing community worries about green space and outdoor facilities for both schools and Community?	<p>After allocating space for the new school the outdoor space provision at Applegrove PS will still exceed 1967 Act requirements, and that managed, supervised access and enhancements to outdoor spaces are planned for both schools. A smaller area of Roysvale Common Good will remain available for school and wider community use during construction but other than the loss of small area to for the bus drop off – with 14600m2 remaining as outdoor space. The removal of the existing school building will provide access to further relandscaped areas adjacent to the Mosset Burn and access to a 3G pitch.</p>
Q5. Applegrove Primary School is going to lose green space for the pupils to play.	<p>Applegrove Primary School is even with the site taking away the green space exceeds the requirement from the 1967 statutory requirement for the whole space. The current Applegrove PS total site area is 29,410m2 which will reduce to 13465m2 with the new Forres A build – which is in excess of the 12140m2 requirement set out in the 1967 legislation. On project completion Applegrove PS will have access to both Roysvale and 3G pitch</p> <p>In addition, the project is working with the Applegrove Primary school community to identify opportunities to further enhance the play and learning spaces around the school.</p>
Q6 What measures are planned to address flooding concerns with the new school site?	<p>The new development will use attenuation tanks and restricted, gravity-fed surface water drainage to the burn, reducing runoff into existing sewers and not requiring pumps, aiming to improve the site's drainage overall. The drainage design approach has been discussed in detail with both SEPA and Scottish Water</p>
Q7 What is going to be the actual height of the new building?	<p>The highest point of the school building from floor level, excluding rooftop plant, is 13.8 metres, indicating the main structure's elevation.</p> <p>The absolute highest point of the school, including rooftop plant, reaches 16.6 metres.</p>
Q8 What is the expected lifespan of the building?	<p>The new school is planned to serve the community for an estimated 30 to 60 years, reflecting its long-term role in local education infrastructure.</p>

<p>Q8 Concerns about the school's relocation into a densely populated area, impacts on residents (including veterans and those with mental health issues), and the well-being of the community including during the construction phase.</p>	<p>The construction team has experience working in urban environments and have plans to minimise impact of construction. The Roysvale football pitch and key green spaces will be maintained, with only a small area used for construction and bus drop-off.</p> <p>The project delivery team has engaged and will continue to engage with veterans and will working with support organisations to address and mitigate their concerns.</p> <p>Green spaces will be maintained, with only a small area used for construction and bus drop-off.</p>
<p>Q9 Central Location Rationale</p>	<p>The detailed rationale supporting the preferred central location for the new school is set out in the report to Council on 22 May 24 that is available on the Council website.</p> <p>At the time of the Council decision (entitlement for council provided school transport if >2miles from school) alternative sites would require transport for pupils who reside within town boundary.</p>

Andy Hall closed meeting **8:25pm**, thanked everyone for attending and advised if there were any further questions, to respond to the consultation, or email learningestate@moray.gov.uk.