

Appendix F - Written Responses Received

From:

Sent: 22 September 2025 12:14
To: LearningEstate
Subject: New Forres Academy

The majority of Forresians especially those with knowledge of all the problems faced by the present Academy in a similar situation (traffic problems, lack of proper playing fields, lack of adequate recreational areas, high water table, to name but a few) are appalled that the same dire mistake is being deliberately made by the Council. It is not too late to reverse this strange decision and give the children of Forres and area the school they deserve surrounded by wide green areas as has been granted to those attending the Elgin secondary schools. I find it so hard to accept that once more our children are being disadvantaged by the very people who have been voted in to care for their best interests.

Sent from my iPad

From:
Sent: 03 November 2025 21:55
To: LearningEstate
Subject: Forres Academy Relocation Consultation

I am emailing to support the relocation of Forres Academy to the proposed site next to Applegrove Primary School and wish my comments to be considered as part of the consultation being carried out according to the Schools Act 2010.

The current building is life expired, sub standard, and in recent years has had to shut at times due to the RAAC issue. This issue has led to areas of the school being put out of action. The proposal involves a new building which will dramatically improve the educational experience of pupils with a modern design based on current educational principles.

I understand that there is flexibility built into the new building's design which could accommodate other local services as indeed happens elsewhere in Scotland. On a personal level I have experience of this at Portree where it works very well.

The central location minimises vehicular travel both at the ends of the school day and within it. The majority of pupils in the catchment will be within reasonable walking distance. Other facilities such as the swimming pool and library are close by.

Reusing the existing site presents problems, not the least of which is where to accommodate pupils between demolition and completion. There is no reasonable solution which does not have a negative impact on pupils' education during this period.

I hope that the consultation can be concluded and a decision made as soon as reasonably possible. The longer this goes on then the longer that current pupils are negatively impacted by having to use the current building.

From:
Sent: 03 November 2025 10:50
To: LearningEstate
Subject: New Forres Academy build

Hello,

As someone who works at Learning through Landscapes (UK's leading outdoor learning and play charity), who have just collated the 2025 Scottish School Grounds Survey, and who also lives in Forres with children attending Anderson's and Forres Academy, I would like to raise the following question in light of the new plans and reduction of Applegrove green space (school grounds), having done some advisory work with Applegrove and having followed the new build planning.

Has there been any consideration for extending their playground through occupying a portion of the adjacent green space on the NE between Orchard and Sanquhar Road?

This would address water management issues in this park and replace the green space/play area taken away from Applegrove with the new build.

There are already established trees and vegetation in this area creating a natural visual barrier for residents, with the possibility of some of this space remaining for public recreation, with, of course, Grant Park also just around the corner. This would give the Applegrove children much-needed space that has many features to support quality play that is separate from the new Forres Academy. Steps could also be taken to safely adapt and control the delivery entrance of Applegrove to allow circular access around the school for children to freely use the space at break times.

I believe these measures will do something to appease the discontent around the loss of space for primary children that this new build will cause.

From: >
Sent: 12 November 2025 16:55
To: LearningEstate
Subject: Comments/responses to Proposal to Relocate Forres Academy to Applegrove playing field, for the statutory consultation

Response to Forres Academy Relocation Consultation 18 Sept - 13 Nov 2025

I am totally against relocating Forres Academy to Applegrove Primary school's playing field. This deprives the primary children of precious green space, the benefits of which are well documented.

LOSS OF GREEN SPACE AND TREES

i quote Moray Green party Councillor Draeyk van der Horn:

"Access to green spaces and clean air alleviates stress and encourages physical activity, while environmental degradation leads to health issues and higher care costs."

To have this councillor now supporting not only building on Applegrove's grass playing field, but also on common good land treasured and enjoyed by the community for generations is beyond belief.

To relocate Forres Academy to this proposed site deprives both Primary school pupils and the community of green space, much needed and enjoyed in a densely housed area.

LOSS OF COMMON GOOD

We also realise that Learning Estates are putting a misleading, some would say, dishonest, spin on the remaining Roysvale Park area after building a bus/car park on it, by claiming it will be returned to common good, as the reality will be potentially 1500 school pupils using it for sports and outdoor activities.

It is also to become a walkway for pupils and staff between the school and car parks, and 3G pitch, and an area for pupils to use at break and lunchtime.

So Roysvale Park will change and become the only grass school playing field for two large schools.

I can't get an answer from Mr Hall as to whether dogs will be banned from the area as they have been in Grant Park, which has signs warning NO DOGS. SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD

REDUCTION IN PITCHES

Forres Academy will suffer a reduction of school playing field area. Their sports facilities will be reduced to one 3G pitch.

The grass pitch on Roysvale does not belong to the school and will have to be booked. It will also have to be booked for use by Applegrove school also.

Neither of those schools will have their own playing field.

This is a downgrading of the existing large areas available at Sanquhar, and Plasman.

SITE TOO SMALL

The Applegrove site is too small for the new school building, so that the pupils will spill over onto roads, and are too close to Applegrove playground. The senior pupils need more space.

EDUCATION

Many primary parents are uncomfortable with older students being in such close proximity to the primary school pupils.

The EIS have already pointed out that if there was to be any educational benefit to the primary by siting the academy near Applegrove, this could have happened before now, as the old academy is situated close by at present

The disruption to pupils in both schools during construction (especially Applegrove), is unnecessary. These pupils deserve better. Other towns in Moray have bigger campuses on the edge of town. Forres Academy are having their sports areas diminished, sharing it with Applegrove school and the community and dogs.

Their campus is a SPLIT SITE, spread over bits and pieces of land, where areas are separated by roads and a public park. Other schools in Moray have larger campuses within one boundary. Forres Academy is losing out.

DANGER

This site exposes primary pupils accessing Applegrove to traffic hazards.

Learning Estates are happy to pass this responsibility over to Traffic officials to 'mitigate'.

That won't satisfy primary parents trying to dodge buses exiting the new bus park on a BLIND CORNER at the junction of Nelson Road and Sanquhar Road to access Applegrove, when it is deemed too dangerous for senior pupils to cross Burdsyard Road, so they need to build a new drop off on Sanquhar Road so that senior pupils can access the school safely without crossing roads.

By concentrating 3 schools in a small area in FORRES this will lead to concentrating more traffic problems in our attractive country town.

FLOODING, VIBRATION, SUBSIDENCE

I do not agree with using the site of the new school to facilitate improving the drainage in this area of the town.

If the money for improving drains is coming from the school budget, that is unacceptable.

If the money is not coming from the school budget, it can be done anyway, regardless of where the school is built

PLEASE ALSO take note of the previous consultation responses which many of the community took the time to complete.

QUESTION

What will the council be deciding in February 2026 after this consultation, when the council have already made the decision to relocate to Applegrove playing field?

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

From: >
Sent: 13 November 2025 02:01
To: LearningEstate
Subject: Objection to Relocation of Forres Academy to Applegrove/Roysvale Site

Dear Learning Estates

Unfortunately the relocation survey does not seem to work. Please accept my email as a return.

I wish to formally object to the proposed relocation of Forres Academy to the Applegrove/Roysvale site. While the intention to modernise educational provision in Forres is understandable, the current proposal presents significant planning, environmental, and educational deficiencies that render the site unsuitable for development in its present form.

1. Loss of Educational and Community Space

The proposal would result in a substantial loss of outdoor space for Applegrove Primary School, directly impacting its pupils' access to safe play and learning areas. The reduction in usable green space contradicts the long-established principles of providing adequate outdoor facilities for primary education. This not only compromises the welfare and physical development of younger pupils but also erodes a key element of the school's community identity.

Furthermore, the shared site would place competing demands on limited space, generating operational and safety conflicts between the two schools.

2. Non-Compliance with the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1967

The development appears to contravene the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1967, which set out minimum standards for playing field provision. When both the relocated Forres Academy and existing Applegrove Primary are considered together, the available area falls below the statutory requirements for each institution's pupil roll. This raises serious questions about the project's compliance with education legislation and its long-term sustainability.

3. Overdevelopment and Site Unsuitability

The proposed footprint and massing of the new school represent a clear case of overdevelopment. The design attempts to fit a secondary-scale campus into a constrained urban site primarily designed for primary-level use. The resulting density would produce excessive hard surfacing, limited circulation space, and minimal green buffer between school buildings and adjacent residential areas.

This overdevelopment undermines the spatial balance required for safe pupil movement, outdoor learning, and recreation, as well as the quality of the local environment.

4. Misrepresentation of Visual Impacts

The visual material presented in the consultation and planning documents does not accurately reflect the scale and prominence of the proposed development. The use of stylised renderings and selective viewpoints appears to understate the building's mass and dominance within the surrounding landscape.

The absence of accurate visual modelling from key viewpoints—particularly from the Sanquhar Road corridor and residential properties—has misled both the public and decision-makers regarding the true visual and environmental impact of the proposal.

5. Transport, Access, and Safety Concerns

The relocation would significantly increase traffic volumes on Sanquhar Road, a route already under strain at peak times. The limited access and parking provision, combined with the proximity to a primary school, would exacerbate congestion and create unacceptable risks to child safety.

These effects are contrary to local and national planning policies promoting safe, sustainable, and active travel, particularly for school environments.

6. Environmental and Flood Risk Considerations

The proposed site lies within or adjacent to a known flood risk area, as identified by SEPA. The planning submission does not demonstrate sufficient mitigation to address this, nor does it show how flood resilience would be achieved without displacing risk onto neighbouring properties or public spaces.

7. Loss of Common Good Land for Bus Lane Development

The proposal includes the use of Common Good land to construct a new bus access lane, despite existing and suitable bus parking already available on Burdyard Road.

This represents an unnecessary and unjustified loss of public land held in trust for the community. It conflicts with the principle that Common Good assets should only be used when no reasonable alternative exists, and only when demonstrably in the community's interest. In this case, such justification has not been provided.

The unnecessary use of this land raises concerns about both transparency and stewardship of public assets.

In summary, this proposal is fundamentally flawed in planning, educational, and environmental terms.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that Moray Council refuses this application or, at minimum, commissions an independent review of site suitability, educational standards compliance, and the accuracy of environmental and visual representations.-

Please confirm receipt of this email and that it will be considered as part of the process.

From: >
Sent: 13 November 2025 19:46
To: LearningEstate
Subject: Forres Academy Relocation Consultation Comment

Dear Sir/Madam,

I attended the event on 4th Nov 25 and would like to provide the following comments based on the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 related to Forres Academy. I answer on the basis of being a parent within catchment for Forres Academy.

I do not support the planned development for the following reasons:

- Proposed outdoor space does not meet the school premises general requirements and standards Scotland regulations 1967. The Roysvale site does not comprise a dedicated sports field for the school as the public has access to the site due to CGL status. This area of ground has been double counted with the allocation of pitches to Applegrove Primary and I feel the two schools will be competing for sports pitch space, with potential for 1600 pupils demanding use of this park and a 3G pitch. When questioning the matter on 4th Nov I was not satisfied with the answer that this could be solved with a timetable. Aside from sports pitches, I think the outside space within the new academy site is also too small. This will cause behavioural problems at break and lunch times through overcrowding.

- Roysvale is not fenced and the hazards associated with balls migrating onto Sanqhar Rd are unacceptable. When questioning this issue I was not satisfied with the parallel drawn with Anderson's and Grant Park; that situation is not a sound basis for modelling a site for Forres Academy given the burden placed on the Anderson's staff. The sports pitch is also much further from the road than will be the case with Roysvale. Despite there being no fence policy, I am also concerned about the lack of a fence to safely contain sports activities.

- I am concerned about the traffic plan, particularly after construction. The only survey completed was conducted on a single day in the summer. I think the reality is that wet days, particularly in winter will cause problems on Orchard Rd where accidents are more likely due to congestion and illegal parking from parents dropping off or picking up children. This is already a problem at Applegrove and will be worsened with colocation of Forres Academy. Orchard Rd and Orchard Rd car park are the most obvious points to drop off. The proposed school car park and parent dropping off location by the pool is a detour, too far from the school and won't be widely used.

- I am uncomfortable with the concept of SIMULTANEOUS community use of the facility during school hours. When questioning this I was not satisfied with the response that school staff would be responsible to safeguard the children. Parallels were drawn with current school use of the library in Forres House; this adds a supervisory burden to the teaching staff. It would be more appropriate to segregate the library from the public during school hours. Sharing sports facilities would present a similar challenge. Opening up the facilities outside school hours is a welcome addition, but not if Forres House is closed in the future as seems likely based on my attendance of meetings such as the Forres Community Council. Despite assurances that Forres Police Station is not planning to move to the site, I want assurances that this would not happen in the future, which could not be guaranteed on 4th November.

I support some of the other alternatives highlighted in the document. Namely accepting the increased cost of providing temporary accommodation and flood mitigation as part of a rebuild on the existing site. This would address the pressing need for a new school much sooner than the October 2028 plan. The alternative site would be my next preference although this introduces a problem with lack of a central site. I feel both of these alternatives offer fewer problems than the proposed development.

Please acknowledge receipt of my comments.