# North Lanarkshire Council Report

# Education, Children and Families Committee

**Does this report require to be approved?**  $\square$  Yes  $\square$  No

Ref GMcL/MD

Proposals for statutory public consultation on the proposed new build for Gartcosh Primary.

Date

28/02/23

From Gerard McLaughlin, Chief Officer (Education - North)

E-mail mclaughling@northlan.gov.uk Telephone 01236 812 221

# **Executive Summary**

This report outlines proposals for statutory public consultations on the proposed new build for Gartcosh Primary.

If approved, a statutory consultation will take place involving all statutory consultees, other stakeholders and interested parties.

The key reasons for this proposal are:

- The council is progressing its Town and Community Hub programme and this consultation proposal for Gartcosh Primary follows from the Committee Report on Schools and Centres 21 Phase 3 Investment approved at Education Committee on 1st March 2017.
- The pupils currently at Garcosh Primary School will benefit educationally by attending a new build school which can offer a wider range of educational opportunities.

# Recommendations

It is recommended that the Education, Children and Families Committee:

- (1) Endorse the contents of the report;
- (2) Agree that a formal consultation take place on the proposed new build for Gartcosh Primary;
- (3) Endorse the attached statutory consultation document appendix 1;
- (4) Agree the timeline for consultation outlined in appendix 2 of this report.

# The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority	Improve North Lanarkshire's resource base
Amplition statement	(22) Facilitate a North Lanarkshire wide approach to asset rationalisation, including with communities and partners

# 1. Background

1.1 Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

The provisions of the above Act place a statutory duty on education authorities to carry out formal consultations on new build proposals for schools when the proposal is to build the school out with its current curtilage or when a joint campus is proposed involving a non-denominational and a denominational primary school.

- 1.2 The Act requires education authorities prepare an educational benefits statement, to prepare (and publish) a proposal paper in respect of any proposal which falls within the terms of the Act, give notice of the proposal to the relevant consultees (and invite representations) in accordance with the Act, to hold (and give notice of) a public meeting, involve Education Scotland.
- 1.3 Following the period of consultation, the education authority must review the proposal in accordance with the Act and prepare (and publish) a consultation report in accordance with relevant sections of the Act.
- 1.4 After publication of the education authority report, HMIE publish a report on the consultation taking account of the previously published education authority report before a final decision is made by the Council.
- 1.5 The Service will undertake a statutory consultation on the proposed relocation of Gartcosh Primary to a new location. Appendix 3.
- 1.6 Proposals outlined in this paper have been developed by Education and Families Managers including staff from the Early Learning & Childcare team, the Inclusion team, Assets and Procurement and Corporate Finance. Key considerations derived from these meetings have been incorporated into the models proposed, which include:
  - Quality and condition of the fabric of school buildings
  - Possible savings/costs associated with estate re-purposing and school relocation
  - Impact assessment and improvement planning for the ASN sector.
- 1.7 The Service has adopted a formal project management governance structure to lead and monitor the delivery of new build schools which will encompass the achievement the programme and the savings.
- 1.8 The final decision of the education authority is subject to review and possible call in by the Scottish government which must operate to a strict timeline set out in Appendix 2.
- 1.9 The timeline mentioned above may be subject to review due to unforeseen circumstances.

# 2. Report

2.1. The council is progressing, through the Town and Community Hub programme budget allocation, a new build Gartcosh Community Hub which will include 434 primary school spaces at a new location and thereafter relocate Gartcosh Primary School to this new Community Hub. As members will be aware, Gartcosh is part of a Community Growth Area and is experiencing increased demand to the school estate as a result. The current location does not have sufficient space on which to expand to create the capacity required, therefore a new school, at a new location is proposed. A statutory education consultation is required to relocate a primary school to the new location.

- 2.2. There are various reasons why a new build is prioritised: "Legacy" projects which are carried over from previous school build programmes such as "Schools and Centres 21"; "Capacity" projects which are required due to significant increased pupil populations and subsequent additional spaces required within catchment schools; and "Policy" projects which are brought forward due to alignment with the prioritisation matrix linked to the Town and Community Hub programme. Gartcosh Community Hub is both a legacy, and a capacity related project, and as such is prioritised within the 2021-2026 capital allocation for this programme of work.
- 2.3. This report establishes the methodology by which the services redesign was envisioned by officers, in response to the Council's priorities. A core team of officers in Education and Families assessed a range of propositions to establish their viability, using a RAG status approach to highlight most promising options for implementation.
- 2.4. A number of factors were used to establish an approach to prioritising potential rationalisation activities. These are described in the following section.

# 2.5. Strategic fit with the priorities of the Plan for North Lanarkshire;

2.5.1 Whilst this project predates the creation of the Town and Community Hub programme, all projects not yet designed will follow the six guiding principles attached to the Town and Community Hub programme. As such, in addition to the requested Statutory Education Consultation, there will be effective engagement with both the school and the wider community throughout the design stage of this project – should it be approved to proceed following Statutory Consultation. It is proposed that the intelligent brief process, which facilitates engagement with the stakeholders, would not wait until the education consultation is concluded but will be 'delivered at risk'. It is not the case that the outcome is predetermined – hence the 'at risk' proposal. The council is looking to deliver a new facility as soon as practically possible, due to pressures at the existing establishment. However, it should be noted that should the outcome of the statutory education consultation conclude that the proposal should not be progressed, the work on the intelligent brief would cease.

# 2.6. Alignment with the Community Growth Area proposal;

2.6.1 It has been evident for many years that a new build primary school is required to mitigate the impact of new housing on the school estate. The issue to date has been the lack of available land on which to build a new Community Hub. Due to the constraints of the existing site, it would not be possible to create a school of sufficient size to serve the needs of the growing school population. Unfortunately, the council did not own sufficient land in this area, and it has taken years of complex negotiations with landowners to acquire a site suitable to build a new Community Hub. The proposed new location has been determined as the council now owns this land.

# 2.7. Growth in the wider Northern Corridor area;

- 2.7.1 Whilst there is extensive growth in Gartcosh, there has also been growth in other areas of the Northern Corridor over the years, including in Stepps, Chryston, and Moodiesburn. This increased population places demand on other sectors within education, in addition to primary provision.
- 2.7.2 A new build primary school is near completion, and an extension to the high school is expected to follow. However, to serve the needs of both the Additional Support Needs (ASN) community, and the early years community, it is proposed that spaces are included in the Gartcosh Community Hub for both these sectors. Whilst this does not

form the need for a statutory education consultation, which is needed solely due to the proposal to relocate the existing Gartcosh Primary School, it will form part of the consultation with the school and wider community as part of the discussion in relation to the Community Hub proposals.

# 2.8. Relocation of Existing Establishments within Alternative/Higher Quality Facilities

2.8.1 In line with the policy established in the Plan for North Lanarkshire to ensure that young people are catered for within high-quality facilities, it is also proposed that consultation takes place to strengthen the provision experienced by pupils in Gartcosh Primary School. Each of these propositions is outlined in what follows.

#### 3. Measures of success

- 3.1 Stakeholder support for the options brought forward.
- 3.2 Successful implementation of planned proposals.
- 3.3 Achievement of budget savings target in line with approved budget savings agreed by Council March 2020
- 3.4 Greater alignment with Plan for North Lanarkshire community hub model.
- 3.5 Improved quality of service and provision to effectively meet the needs of children, young people and families
- 3.6 Increased numbers of children and young people remaining within their local community.

#### 4. Supporting documentation

- 4.1 Appendix 1 Statutory Consultation Gartcosh Primary
- 4.2 Appendix 2 Statutory Consultation Timeline
- 4.3 Appendix 3 Location plan

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Gerard McLaughlin Chief Officer (Education - North)

5. Impacts (<u>http://connect/report-template-guidance</u>)

5.1	Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty				
•	Does the report contain information that has an impact as a result of the Public				
	Sector Equality Duty and/or Fairer Scotland Duty?				
	Yes 🗆 No 🖂				
	If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?				
	If res, please provide a blief summary of the impact?				
	An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and will underpin planning for				
	these proposals, since a number of the young people involved are considered as				
	being from a protected group, due to disability.				
	being normal protected group, due to disability.				
	If Yes, has an assessment been carried out and published on the council's				
	website? https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-				
	and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments				
5.2	Financial impact				
	Does the report contain any financial impacts?				
	Yes 🛛 No 🗆				
	If Yes, have all relevant financial impacts have been discussed and agreed with				
	Finance?				
	Yes 🛛 No 🗆				
	If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?				
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	The Service is currently assessing the value of this capital investment with support				
	from colleagues in Asset and Procurement Solutions.				
5.3	HR policy impact				
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	Does the report contain any HR policy or procedure impacts?				
	Yes 🛛 No 🗆				
	If Yes, have all relevant HR impacts have been discussed and agreed with People				
	Resources?				
	Yes 🛛 No 🗆				
	If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?				
	Affected staff will be managed in accordance with the appropriate Workforce				
	Change Policies and in with the signatory trades unions. Considerations would				
	include Compulsory Transfer, Premature/Early Retirement,				
	Redundancy/Redeployment.				
	The Service would be required to follow the requirements for consulting as set out				
	in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. Further stakeholder, community				
	and parantal concultation would be required in the event that the Service proceeds				
	and parental consultation would be required in the event that the Service proceeds				
	with any of the recommendations. An indicative timeline for the consultation				
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data?       Yes       No       ⊠         If Yes, is the processing of this personal data likely to result in a high risk to the data subject?       Yes       No       ⊠         Yes       No       ⊠       If Yes, has a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) been carried out and e-mailed to dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk       Yes       No       ⊠         5.6       Technology / Digital impact       Does the report contain information that has an impact on either technology, digital		Does the report / project	t / practice	contain or involve the processing of personal		
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Appendix 1

**Statutory Consultation** 

Proposal to build a new Gartcosh Primary School and to incorporate a Language & Communication Support Centre (LCSC) and Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) provision

**EDUCATION AND FAMILIES** 



# NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION AND FAMILIES

Proposal to build a new Gartcosh Primary School and to incorporate a Language & Communication Support Centre (LCSC) and Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) provision

# 1. INTRODUCTION

Gartcosh Primary School is a non-denominational primary school which was built in 1913 and is located in Lochend Road, Gartcosh. Seven miles east of Glasgow City Centre and seven miles west of Cumbernauld. The present school building was opened in 1913; it is a traditional two storey stone construction with pitched and slated roof. Within the building there are seven classrooms off the central hall. The administration block is situated upstairs, and the school dinner hall is outside in the playground in what was the original school building (dated 1875). There is also a modular until within the school grounds which has temporary accommodation for two classrooms.

The school capacity of the school is 188 with the current roll of 250, which includes 62 spaces created through the temporary two class modular unit.

It is recommended that the proposed new building includes the existing Gartcosh Primary School, a new LCSC and Early Learning & Childcare provision.

The current site has no associated LCSC or nursery class within the current campus.

# 2. CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 In terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, the Education Authority is required to publish details of, and consult on any proposal to establish a new school and on any proposal to establish, terminate or otherwise alter the catchment area of a school.
- 2.2 North Lanarkshire Council will not make any decision, or put any changes into effect, until the consultation period has been concluded in line with statutory requirements.
- 2.3 The consultation period will be a minimum of 57 days, which include 30 school days. It begins on 1 March 2023 and finishes on 27 April 2023.
- 2.4 The consultation will involve pupils, parent/carers, Parent Councils and staff of the schools involved, as well as other associated stakeholder and statutory consultees.
- 2.5 A public meeting will be held on week beginning  $6^{th}$  March 2023.
- 2.6 Council officers will be present at the public meeting to discuss the proposal. There will be limited time at the meeting to discuss all issues fully. To ensure that all issues are covered and that those who may be uncomfortable with speaking publicly are heard, advance notice of specific questions or issues to be raised will be accepted in writing up to two days in advance of the meeting see contact details at 2.9.
- 2.7 At the end of the consultation process, a report will be prepared for North Lanarkshire Council detailing all responses received, summaries of their content and a statement from Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal. Responses to the issues raised through the consultation will also be incorporated in the report. Copies of the report will be available, prior to consideration by the council, in the affected

schools and online. It is envisaged that the report will be published on 29 June 2023.

- 2.8 An online version of the document and other items related to the consultation can be found online at <u>www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/gartcosh-consultation</u>
- 2.9 Further information on the proposal can be obtained by sending an email to <u>gartcoshconsultation@northlan.gov.uk</u>
- 2.10 All interested parties are invited to submit their comments on or before 27 April 2023.

# 3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The proposal in this document is to build a new facility incorporating a new build Gartcosh Primary School in addition to a Language & Communication Support Centre (LCSC) and an Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) provision within the existing catchment area. There are two main reasons for this proposal:
  - The pupils currently at Gartcosh Primary School and the new LCSC and new Nursery Class will benefit educationally by attending new build schools which can offer a wider range of educational opportunities (see Educational and Community Benefits sections below).
  - The current Gartcosh Primary School needs replacement due to the levels of housebuilding in the area. The new school will be fully accessible and equipped with modern technology to ensure the best learning opportunities are afforded to every child.
- 3.2 It is proposed that the school will be sited on an area of land between on the current open space and football pitch located between Woodneuk Avenue and Johnstone Road.
- 3.3 If, following this statutory consultation, the Council proceeds with the proposed school, then the statutory planning process will be followed as required until completion of the new school. Prior to that, Gartcosh Primary will continue to operate on its current site.

# 4. EDUCATION BENEFITS STATEMENT

- 4.1 Through the planned proposals it is expected that several education benefits will be achieved on behalf of children and young people including:
  - Improved access to high quality facilities
  - Improved access to a greater variety of different education experience
  - Access to outdoor learning experiences
  - Strengthened practice in pedagogy and learning and teaching
  - Increased opportunities for professional learning and sharing good practice
- 4.2 Experience in new school buildings has demonstrated that a new and flexible learning environment inspires staff and pupils and has a positive impact on the general health and wellbeing of stakeholders.
- 4.3 Improved high quality facilities for learning will be designated in such a way as to allow a range of teaching styles and approaches, including active learning, interdisciplinary learning and outdoor learning.

- 4.4 The curriculum will provide the opportunity for learners to achieve across all curricular areas and to develop skills, attributes and capabilities aligned with the design principles of Curriculum for Excellence: challenge and enjoyment, breadth, progression, depth, personalisation and choice, coherence and relevance.
- 4.5 Children and young people will be provided with a broad range of opportunities for personal achievement and interdisciplinary learning across all curricular areas by building on best practice in curriculum design in North Lanarkshire Schools.
- 4.6 The provision of high-quality technology for learning will provide the potential to transform ways of learning and teaching by giving young people and staff flexible and embedded access to a fully digital learning environment.
- 4.7 The shared flexible learning and teaching spaces in the new joint campus school will enable staff to work together in a collaborative manner and provide more opportunities for co-operative working between pupils.
- 4.8 The new school will be fully accessible to disabled learners as required by the Equality Act (2010). This will be ensured through the delivery of the Council's:-
  - Equality outcomes
  - Promoting Inclusive Design Protocol and
  - Partnership with North Lanarkshire Disability Access Panel.
- 4.9 The new school will be designed in such a way as to promote accessible, inclusive learning which will meet the needs of all learners including those with Additional Support Needs.
- 4.10 The new school will build on current, and facilitate new, opportunities for effective integrated working with other services and partner agencies and will provide necessary support to children and families in the new school catchment area.
- 4.11 The new school's design, construction and operation will be environmentally and energy efficient; contributing directly to delivering the year-on-year reductions in greenhouse gas emissions introduced by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and provide a rich context for learning for children and young people about sustainability now and in the future.
- 4.12 The inclusion of LCSC and Early years and Childcare provision in the new build proposal will provide a fully up-to-date setting for LCSC and Early Years provision in the Gartcosh area.

# 5. COMMUNITY BENEFITS STATEMENT

- 5.1 The current council education estate framework has delivered added value through:
  - Several apprenticeships have been created on the construction of the new schools.
  - Local employment opportunities.
  - Meaningful learning and engagement between the framework partners and the project schools.
  - Over 70% of the total investment is being procured through local supply chains.

- 5.2 In order to maximise the level of local community benefit regular meetings take place with framework contractors and the council's Estate Teams. As we move forward at the pre-qualification stage contractors appointed to the framework and their supply chains will be required to actively participate in the achievement of social, environmental and sustainability policy objectives relating to local regeneration, social and economic growth, recruitment and training along with local supply chain initiatives. In addition, sustainability will be a key objective on the construction of the new schools thereby contributing to the Councils target of reducing our carbon footprint.
- 5.3 As well as the educational benefits allocated to the specific school projects there will be wider educational benefits to the North Lanarkshire Community in that, with the significant level of savings required to be made over the next few financial years, the best value argument is that we would be utilising resources more efficiently and effectively. This is in line with 2003 Best Value Legislation and also the demands of the Education Scotland Act 1980.

# 6. IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

# 6.1 Rolls and Capacities

The projected rolls exclude placing requests but include house building estimates.

Table 3: Projected rolls and	capacities for	Gartcosh Primary	y School 2023 - 2028
		-	

School	Capacity	Roll 2023		Roll 2024		Roll 2025	
		Roll	%	Roll	%	Roll	%
Permanent	188	235	125	308	164	351	187
Temporary	62						

The projected rolls exclude placing requests but include house building estimates.

# 6.2 Transport to School

Council Policy currently provides free transport to those pupils living more than one mile from their zoned Primary School or where an appropriate walking route is not available. Education & Families will arrange for an assessment of the walking routes to the site of a new school and appropriate road crossing patrols will be established if considered necessary.

# 6.3 Staffing

The proposal should not have significant implications for staffing, either teaching or nonteaching. Any matter which arises will be dealt with within the terms of local and national agreements.

# 6.4 Secondary Education

The current zoning arrangement for secondary education is that pupils attending Gartcosh Primary School attend Chryston High School. No change to the primary to secondary transfer arrangements will be required as a result of this proposal. Parents who wish their children to attend an alternative secondary school will require to submit a placing request for their preferred school.

#### 6.5 Class Sizes

Class structures are decided by the head teacher in accordance with authority guidelines and take account of a range of factors, including teacher deployment, school policies, the available accommodation and pupil numbers at each stage.

#### 6.6 Future use of the existing school buildings

Education & Families will declare the existing school buildings surplus to its requirements should the proposal be approved. Thereafter, the council's Property Services will make recommendations on its future use or disposal in line with council policy.

#### 6.7 **Financial implications**

Based on previous experience of new build projects within North Lanarkshire, it is anticipated this proposal will have a limited impact on school revenue budgets.

#### 6.8 Placing Requests

It is anticipated that there will be no impact on pupils attending either school on a placing request. The following options exist for pupils in this position. Firstly, they can transfer to the new school. Secondly, they can enrol in their designated catchment area school or thirdly, submit a placing request to another School. The parents of these pupils will be given the opportunity to discuss their preference with Education & Families staff. Parents remain responsible for transport costs where an existing placing request to the new build school is continued.

# 7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and will underpin planning for these proposals, since a number of the young people involved are considered as being from a protected group, due to disability.

# 8. INACCURACIES OR OMISSIONS

8.1 There is a statutory requirement for the Council to consider any allegation of an inaccuracy or omission in the proposal paper and determine whether the allegation has foundation. Where inaccuracies or omissions are notified to, or discovered by, the Council within this proposal document, the Council will determine if relevant information has, in its opinion been omitted or whether there is in fact an inaccuracy.

Notifiers of any omissions or inaccuracies will be informed of the Council's decision and the reasons for that decision. Notifiers will also be informed of any action. The Council will invite the notifiers to make further representations to the Council should they disagree with the Council's determination or its decision as to whether to take action.

8.2 If the Council has found, either itself or through a concern being raised, that there is an inaccuracy or omission in the proposal paper, it must decide whether this relates to a material consideration relevant to the proposal.

Where the confirmed inaccuracy or omission relates to a material consideration, there is a duty on the Council to correct it.

8.3 Appropriate action will then be taken by the Council depending on whether the inaccuracy or omission relates to a material consideration.

Such action may include withdrawing the proposal and issuing a revised proposal paper for the whole consultation period, or issuing a corrected proposal paper with, if, an extension of the consultation period. In any of these eventualities, all relevant consultees (and, where applicable, the notifier(s) of any omissions or inaccuracies) and HMIE (Education Scotland) will be advised of the action.

Where inaccuracies or omissions are discovered within the proposal document, the Council will determine whether relevant information has been omitted or if there has been an inaccuracy. action will then be taken by the Council, which may include issuing corrections, issuing a corrected proposal document, or an extension of the consultation period. In any of these eventualities, all relevant consultees (and where applicable, the notifiers(s) of any action) will be advised.

8.4 Notifiers of any omissions or inaccuracies will also be given the opportunity to make representations if they disagree with the Council's determination of any action on the matter, which may result in the Council making a further determination/decision on the matter.

# 9. THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION PROCESS – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 9.1 The current requirements for consulting are set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This consultation will be carried out in accordance with the Act.
- 9.2 This consultation has been planned in order to meet the statutory requirements.
- 9.3 The consultation document sets out the details of the proposal.
  - The proposal paper details the educational benefits of the proposal and other relevant information.
  - The proposal paper will be published and widely advertised.
  - North Lanarkshire Council will seek to determine whether there are inaccuracies or omissions within the proposal paper and take such action as it considers necessary.
  - The consultation period will be a period of at least 6 weeks including at least 30 school days.
- 9.4 Prior to the commencement of the consultation period, the authority will give notice of the proposal to the relevant consultees. The relevant consultees are defined in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, and are as follows:
  - (a) The parent council or combined parent council of any affected school
  - (b) The parents of the pupils at any affected school
  - (c) The parents of any children expected by the education authority to attend the affected school within two years of the date of publication of the proposed paper
  - (d) The pupils at any affected school (in so far as the education authority considers them to be of suitable age and maturity)
  - (e) The staff (teaching and other) at any of the affected school(s)
  - (f) Any trade union which appears to the education authority to be representative of the persons mentioned above
  - (g) The community council (if any)

- (h) The community planning partnership (within the meaning of section 4(5) of the Community Empowerments (Scotland) Act 2015 for the area of the local authority in which any affected school is situated
- (i) Any other community planning partnership that the education authority considers relevant
- (j) Any other education authority that the education authority considers relevant
- (k) Any other users of any affected school that the education authority considers relevant.
- 9.5 During the consultation period, the authority will hold and be represented at public meetings on the relevant proposal.
- 9.6 The council will involve Education Scotland in the consultation process. This will culminate in Education Scotland preparing and submitting an independent report on the educational aspects of the proposal.
- 9.7 Following the consultation period, the council will prepare and publish a consultation report. The report will be published at least three weeks before a final decision is taken on the proposal.
- 9.8 The consultation timeline provides further information on the timescales for various staged in the statutory process.

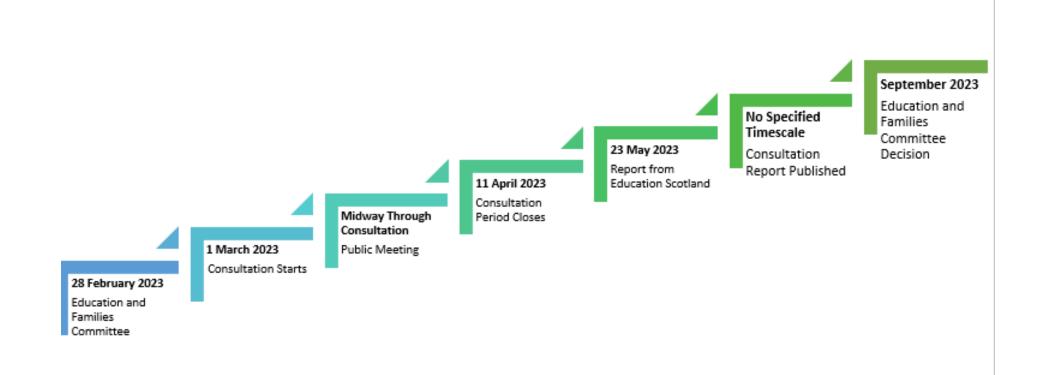
# Please click on the link below to share your views on the proposal (Ctrl + Click to follow link)

www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/Gartcosh-consultation

# Appendix 2

Stages	Timeline	Date
1. Committee Date		Tuesday 28 February 2023
2. Consultation Starts Phase 1	Minimum of 6 weeks To include 30 calendar days	Wednesday 1 March 2023
3. Public Meeting	Mid way through consultation	
4. Consultation Ends	30 Days	Tuesday 11 April 2023
5. Report to Education Scotland Phase2	3 weeks	Tuesday 2 May 2023
6. Education Scotland produce report	3 weeks	Tuesday 23 May 2023
7. Consultation report published Phase 3	No specified timescale	
8. Time for further consideration	3 weeks from publication date	
9. Final Committee Decision		September 2023
10. Implement proposal if approved by Committee	3 weeks	

# Indicative Timeline for Reconfiguring Intensive ASN Systems and Services



Appendix 3

