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Anne Bolton Braidwood
Chairperson, Findochty Community Council

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18 September 2026

Dear Findochty Community Council

Moray Learning Estate Review

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Findochty Community Council regarding the Moray Learning Estate Review and the concerns raised about Findochty Primary School. We appreciate the Community Council's constructive feedback and recognise the strength of local interest in this matter.

It is important to clarify at the outset that no decision has been made on any changes to schools in Moray. No option relating to Findochty Primary School has been developed, agreed or recommended, including any merger with another school. The Buckie ASG engagement overview identified possible future directions for discussion only; these are not formal options or recommendations. Any future proposal would require detailed appraisal of educational benefit, statutory requirements, travel, affordability, community impact, deliverability and long-term estate sustainability before being brought forward for consideration.

The purpose of the report considered by the Education, Children's and Leisure Services Committee on 1st September 2026 was to seek approval to adopt a strategic methodology for future learning estate planning, investment prioritisation and options appraisal. It was not seeking approval for any school closure, merger, catchment change or other school-specific option. The Moray Learning Estate Investment Framework provides the robust, transparent and consistent process requested in your letter by separating evidence gathering from option development, appraisal and decision-making.

Condition and suitability assessments are undertaken in line with Scottish Government Core Facts guidance. The published report and appendices provide the current strategic evidence base available at this stage. More detailed school-level evidence, including updated costs, transport implications, educational benefit, community

impact and affordability, would be developed through the Framework before any future school-specific option was considered or recommended.

We also note the points raised regarding utilisation benchmarks, local survey responses, suitability ratings, community sustainability, whole-life costs, housing uncertainty, strategic spare capacity, future use of assets and decision triggers. These matters would be considered proportionately, where relevant, through the Framework before any specific proposal was developed and reported to elected Councillors.

Finally, we can confirm that neither the adoption of Estate Optimisation nor approval of the Framework predetermines the future of any individual school, catchment area or education provision. If any specific proposal is developed in future, it would require separate evidence, appraisal, reporting and, where applicable, statutory consultation before any decision could be taken. Parents, carers, pupils, staff, Community Councils and wider community stakeholders would have the opportunity to engage at the appropriate stages.

Thank you again for your feedback. We recognise the important role a local school plays within its community, and your comments will be retained and considered as the Learning Estate Review moves into the next stages of evidence development, prioritisation and engagement.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Hall
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