

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education, Culture and Sport
DATE	24th November 2009
DIRECTOR	Annette Bruton
TITLE OF REPORT	Action on Class Sizes
REPORT NUMBER	ECS/09/066

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Concordat between Scottish Government and COSLA includes a commitment to 'as quickly as possible, reducing class sizes in primary one to three to a maximum of 18'. This commitment was reaffirmed by CoSLA in June of this year.

This report considers the options for Aberdeen City Council in meeting this commitment

2 RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Committee is asked to:

- 2.1 note the content of the report and associated papers;
- 2.2 confirm Aberdeen City Council's implementation of a maximum class size of 25 at Primary 1 stage and commitment to working towards class sizes of 18 in Primaries 1, 2 and 3 as soon as possible i.e. Option 1 described below;
- 2.3 instruct Officers to investigate the likely cost of commission development of the software to allow the efficient configuration of class sizes.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Section 6.3.2 of the Report provides information on the financial implications of the various alternative proposals on class sizes.

3.1 In all schools, additional staff would be required within some of the options.

3.2 In almost all schools, there would also be some accommodation implications in implementing reduced class sizes. There would be a significant number of

schools which would require significant financial investment to provide additional accommodation to address issues of under-capacity, particularly with Option 4.

4 SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

This proposal fits with the vision in the Community Plan to develop Aberdeen as a 'City of Learning'. It is congruent with *Vibrant Dynamic and Forward Looking* and the Single Outcome Agreement.

A full Equalities & Human Rights Impact Assessment will be undertaken should Options other than Option 1 be confirmed.

5 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There may also be a relatively minor implication on Pupil Support Staff but this is likely to be minimal as the total number of pupils will remain the same and hence, any change to provision will likely be a matter of internal management of each school.

School administration entitlement is driven by teacher numbers so at maximum, (option 4), the extra teachers required would result in approximately 5 full-time equivalent additions to admin support across the city.

6 REPORT

6.1 Background

Scottish Government announced in September 2009 that Local Authorities are to be given the legal protection they require to limit P1 class sizes to 25 from the start of the next school year, 2010.

The Scottish Government is establishing a Class Size Review to examine the variety of rules and regulations governing individual class sizes across primary and secondary levels, and how to make them more coherent, giving consideration as to whether primary legislation is required.

Existing arrangements for regulation of class sizes are as follows:

- Primary one - maximum of 25 set by circular
- Primary one to three - maximum of 30 set by regulations
- Primary four to seven - maximum of 33 set by teachers' terms and conditions
- Composite classes - maximum of 25 set by teachers' terms and conditions
- Secondary one to two - maximum of 33 set by teachers' terms and conditions
- Secondary one and two maths and English - maximum of 20 set by circular
- Secondary three to six - maximum of 30 set by teachers' terms and

- conditions
- Practical classes - maximum of 20 set by teachers' terms and conditions.

The Cabinet Secretary also confirmed the pledge on class sizes of both COSLA and the Scottish Government, enshrined in the Concordat –‘as quickly as possible, reducing class sizes in primary one to three to a maximum of 18’. Maximum class sizes in Aberdeen City schools have in recent years been set as follows:

P1 - 25

P2 and P3 – 30

P4 – P7 – 33.

Composite classes at any stage are a maximum of 25.

The efficient configuration of classes within each school, based upon the number of pupils in each year group, is carried out using software licensed to Aberdeen City Council, commonly known as Blue Frog.

This software allows input of pupil numbers and creates a list of possible class configurations, including composite classes.

The number of teaching staff is indicated as Full Time Equivalents.

In session 2009-10, there are 40 classes of 18 or fewer, of which 6 are composite classes. The overall number of classes of 18 or fewer represents 8.2% of total number of classes.

6.2 Main Considerations

There are two main implications of reducing class sizes and the resultant increase in the number of classes in schools:

- 1) A requirement to increase teacher numbers and
- 2) A requirement to provide additional accommodation.

Implications of changes in class sizes in the following scenarios have been evaluated:

All City Primary Schools:

- 18 in Primary 1 (Option 2);
- 18 in Primary 1 and 2 (Option);
- 18 in Primary 1, 2 and 3 (Option 4).

In order to target resources on the areas of most deprivation, the same information was extracted for schools in Regeneration Areas (Options 5-7).

List of Schools within regeneration areas, as determined by Community Planning and Regeneration:

Northfield - Westpark School; 17.6

Cummings Park - Bramble Brae Primary School; 13.7

Middlefield - Manor Park School/Smithfield Primary School; 19.1

Woodside - Woodside Primary School, Kittybrewster Primary School; 26.9/10.8
Tillydrone - Riverbank Primary School; 23.7
Seaton - Seaton Primary School; 15.0
Torry - Walker Road Primary School, Tullos Primary School; 28.3/24.4
Stockethill - Cornhill Primary School 19.6

6.3 Proposals

Options

The options are:

Option 1: Maintain class sizes of 25 in Primary 1, 30 in Primaries 2 and 3 and 33 in Primaries 4 to 7 across all schools. In addition, to move as quickly as possible, to reduce class sizes in primary one to three to a maximum of 18. This is effectively the current situation.

Option 2: Implement class sizes of 18 in Primary 1, 30 in Primaries 2 and 3 and 33 in Primaries 4 to 7 across all schools, with a maximum of 18 in composite classes with P1 pupils;

Option 3: Implement class sizes of 18 in Primaries 1 and 2, 30 in Primary 3 and 33 in Primaries 4 to 7 across all schools, with a maximum of 18 in composite classes with P1 and 2 pupils;

Option 4: Implement class sizes of 18 in Primaries 1, 2 and 3 and 33 in Primaries 4 to 7 across all schools, with a maximum of 18 in composite classes with P1, P2 and P3 pupils;

Option 5: Implement class sizes of 18 in Primary 1, 30 in Primaries 2 and 3 and 33 in Primaries 4 to 7 across schools in Regeneration Areas, with a maximum of 18 in composite classes with P1 pupils;

Option 6: Implement class sizes of 18 in Primaries 1 and 2, 30 in Primary 3 and 33 in Primaries 4 to 7 across schools in Regeneration Areas, with a maximum of 18 in composite classes with P1 and 2 pupils;

Option 7: Implement class sizes of 18 in Primaries 1, 2 and 3 and 33 in Primaries 4 to 7 across schools in Regeneration Areas, with a maximum of 18 in composite classes with P1, P2 and P3 pupils.

Software which provides optimum configurations for classes does not currently have the capacity to be run with the size of composite classes altered as above, although it does allow maximum 'straight' classes to be run.

The information below therefore is indicative and the exact costings will be available following further development of the software which will allow for accurate and efficient evaluation of class sizing.

6.3.2 Implications

The figures used are indicative only and are based on pupil numbers for 2009/2010. Costs are based upon a salary including on-costs £40000 per fte and teacher numbers inclusive of reduced class contact time (overall effect is 1.11 total fte required for each 1.0 fte). Staffing includes, where appropriate, Nursery Teachers, Support for Learning Teachers and ASN Base Teachers and additionalities.

Should any alternative other than Option 1 be approved, it will be necessary to establish the full costs of changes to staffing and of any building alterations.

Illustrative Examples

Example 1: School X (small):

Pupil numbers: P1 = 21; P2 = 21; P3 = 18; P4 = 17; P5 = 15; P6 = 16; P7 = 8
Total roll: 116

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Staffing				
Number (fte)	11	12	12	13
Indicative cost (£,000)	440	480	480	520
Additional cost over option 1 (£,000)	N/A	+40	+40	+80
Accommodation				
Required number of classes	5	6	6	7
Additional accommodation over Option 1	0	+1	+1	+2

In the above example, all classes could be accommodated within the existing building.

Example 2: School Y (large):

Pupil numbers: P1 = 64; P2 = 70; P3 = 55; P4 = 66; P5 = 67; P6 = 86; P7 = 73
Total roll: 481

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Staffing				
Number (fte)	28	30	31	33
Indicative cost (£,000)	1120	1200	1240	1320
Additional cost over option 1 (£,000)	N/A	80	120	200
Accommodation				
Required number of classes	17	19	20	22
Additional accommodation over Option 1	0	+2	+3	+5

In the above example, the additional class in Options 2 and 3 could be accommodated within the existing building but the additional four classes under option 4 would require provision of additional accommodation.

City-wide Implementation

Based upon the above examples, the impact of implementation city-wide is shown below.

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Staffing				
Number (fte)	866	938	962	1034
cost (£m)	34.6	37.5	38.5	41.4
Indicative Additional Cost over Option 1 (£m)	N/A	+2.9	+3.9	+6.8
Accommodation				
Required number of classes	465	537	561	633
Additional accommodation over Option 1	N/A	+72	+96	+168

Across all schools, the additional classes in Options 2 and 3 could be accommodated within the existing buildings in approximately 40 of the 48 schools. 8 schools would require additional accommodation.

Under option 4, approximately 20 schools would require additional accommodation to be provided.

Implementation in Schools in Regeneration Areas (10 Schools)

	Option 1	Option 5	Option 6	Option 7
Staffing				
Number (fte)	204	219	224	239
Indicative cost (£m)	8.2	8.8	9.0	9.6
Additional cost/option 1 (£)	N/A	600,000	800,000	1,400,000
Accommodation				
Required number of classes	91	97	106	112
Additional accommodation over Option 1	N/A	+6	+15	+21

Across these schools, the additional classes in Options 5, 6 and 7 could be accommodated within the existing buildings in 6 of the 10 schools. Approximately 4 schools would require additional accommodation to be provided.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1: Exemplification of Service & Community Impact

Appendix 2: Primary Class Sizes and Configurations. Note these reflect the data obtained as a result of the annual school census carried out in week beginning 21 September 2009. In a small number of schools, there has subsequently been a small alteration to configurations.

Exemplification of Service & Community Impact

(a) The Report relates to the following aspects of '***Vibrant Dynamic and Forward Looking***'.

Priority 2 Ensure Aberdeen's pupils and teachers have school buildings fit for 21st century

Priority 3 Ensure expenditure on education delivers maximum benefit to pupils' education

Priority 4 Continue to involve parents and pupils in their schools

Priority 5 Continue work to improve attainment across city schools

Priority 6 Ensure education is appropriate to pupils' needs and ensure pupils leave school with skills essential for living

Priority 7 Promote the health and well-being of pupils through healthy eating and exercise, including a daily free nutritious meal for every pupil and regular access to swimming

Priority 8 Ensure Aberdeen's teachers receive appropriate training and continuous professional development to deliver the best quality education

Priority 9 Review best teaching practice and trial projects in Aberdeen and beyond to identify the best ways of delivering an even higher quality education to all pupils

Priority 11 Allocate additional resources to support for learning, targeted to areas of greatest need

Priority 12 Continue work to raise the achievement of vulnerable children and close the attainment gap across the city

Priority 13 Make greater provision within the city for young people with additional needs to avoid placements out of the area.

Appendix 1 (cont.)

(b) The Report also relates to the following aspects of the **Single Outcome Agreement**:

Priority 3 We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation.

Priority 4 Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

Priority 5 Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.

Priority 8 We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.

Appendix 2

Primary Class sizes as at September 2009 census

School Name	Class	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Total	
Abbotswell School	P1	21							21	
	P2		29						29	
	P2/3		9	14					23	
	P3/4			17	5				22	
	P4				25				25	
	P4/5				4	20			24	
	P6						23		23	
	P6/7						10	10	20	
P7								25	25	
Abbotswell School Total		21	38	31	34	20	33	35	212	
Airyhall School	P1A	23							23	
	P1B	21							21	
	P2A		25						25	
	P2B		26						26	
	P3			30					30	
	P3/4			9	15				24	
	P4				32				32	
	P5					28			28	
	P5/6					7	15		22	
	P6						32		32	
	P7A								23	23
	P7B								22	22
Airyhall School Total		44	51	39	47	35	47	45	308	
Ashley Road School	LMA	23							23	
	SGO	24							24	
	LBR		28						28	
	LH/SSA		27						27	
	IBO			27					27	
	JRI			27					27	
	NCO				28				31	
	LMA3				30				30	
	SPE					30			32	
	EWA					31			24	
	KK/JH						24		30	
	JJO						30		33	
	JST							32	28	
	LMC/ME							33	30	
Ashley Road School Total		47	53	54	58	61	54	65	392	
Braehead School	P1	20							20	
	P1/2	13	7						20	
	P2		19						19	
	P3			23					23	
	P4				24				24	
	P5					22			22	
	P6						31		31	
	P7							31	31	
Braehead School Total		33	26	23	24	22	31	31	190	
Bramble Brae School	P1	21							21	
	P2		24						24	
	P3			23					23	
	P4				21				21	
	P5					28			28	
	P6						22		22	
	P7							20	20	
Bramble Brae School Total		21	24	23	21	28	22	20	159	
Broomhill School	P1RM3	24							24	
	P1RM4	25							25	

Primary Class sizes as at September 2009 census

	P2RM5		27						27
	P2RM6		24						24
	P3RM10			21					21
	P3RM9			27					27
	P45R16				9	11			20
	P4RM11				26				26
	P5RM15					31			31
	P6RM20						24		24
	P6RM21						26		26
	P7RM13							30	30
	P7RM22							31	31
Broomhill School Total		49	51	48	35	42	50	61	336
Bucksburn School	P1	21							21
	P2		21						21
	P3			18					18
	P4				17				17
	P5/6					15	7		22
	P6/7						9	8	17
Bucksburn School Total		21	21	18	17	15	16	8	116
Charleston School	P1	20							20
	P1/2	10	10						20
	P2/3		16	8					24
	P3			28					28
	P4				32				32
	P5					23			23
	P5/6					9	14		23
	P6						25		25
	P7L							20	20
	P7R							18	18
Charleston School Total		30	26	36	32	32	39	38	233
Cornhill School	P1R3	24							24
	P1R4	25							25
	P2/3R6		15	10					25
	P2R5		29						29
	P3R7			29					29
	P4R15				25				25
	P4R16				27				27
	P5R12					19			19
	P5R13					19			19
	P6R10						27		27
	P6R11						27		27
	P7R8							17	17
	P7R9							17	17
Cornhill School Total		49	44	39	52	38	54	34	310
Culter School	1R	23							23
	1W	23							23
	2D		21						21
	2M		22						22
	3/4I			14	10				24
	3R			27					27
	4S/C				29				29
	5B					24			24
	5L					23			23
	6/7P						17	8	25
	6C						32		32
	7C							30	30
Culter School Total		46	43	41	39	47	49	38	303
Cults Primary School	1/2S	14	11						25

Primary Class sizes as at September 2009 census

	1D	25							25
	1M	25							25
	2B		29						29
	2W/B		30						30
	3G			27					27
	3S/D			28					28
	4B				33				33
	4M/C				33				33
	5/6A					10	14		24
	5N					29			29
	5S/W					28			28
	6/7P						12	10	22
	6C						30		30
	6S						30		30
	7M							31	31
	7W							32	32
Cults Primary School Total		64	70	55	66	67	86	73	481
Danestone Primary School	P1/2F	11	7						18
	P1DT	20							20
	P2T		22						22
	P3R			22					22
	P4GB				25				25
	P5P					31			31
	P6BM						27		27
	P7H							33	33
Danestone Primary School Total		31	29	22	25	31	27	33	198
Dyce Primary School	1R1	23							23
	1R2	22							22
	2/1G	3	22						25
	2G		29						29
	3/2G		6	17					23
	3G			30					30
	4G1				24				24
	4G2				25				25
	5B1					21			21
	5B2					23			23
	6B1						26		26
	6B2						31		31
	7B1							26	26
7B2							26	26	
Dyce Primary School Total		48	57	47	49	44	59	52	356
Fernielea School	P1	21							21
	P1/2	5	20						25
	P2/3		8	14					22
	P3/4			12	10				22
	P4				26				26
	P5					25			25
	P6						26		26
	P7							31	31
Fernielea School Total		26	28	26	36	25	28	31	200
Ferryhill School	P1C	17							17
	P1L/F	20							20
	P2N		28						28
	P2S		27						27
	P3			27					27
	P3/4			8	12				20
	P4				30				30
P5					30			30	

Primary Class sizes as at September 2009 census

	P5/6					15	8		23	
	P6						29		29	
	P6/7						11	11	22	
	P7							32	32	
Ferryhill School Total		37	55	35	42	45	48	43	305	
Forehill School	P1/2D	8	14						20	
	P1G	22							22	
	P2/3PD		16	7					23	
	P3M			28					28	
	P4HM				24				24	
	P5M					29			29	
	P6/7S						6	14	20	
	P6K							27	27	
	P7B							24	24	
Forehill School Total		28	30	35	24	29	33	38	217	
Gilcomstoun School	P1	23							23	
	P1/2	7	15						22	
	P1/2G	5	7						12	
	P2/3		5	20					25	
	P3/4			9	16				25	
	P3/4G			5	3				8	
	P5					30			30	
	P5/7G					5	2	6	13	
	P6							21	21	
		P7							30	30
Gilcomstoun School Total		35	27	34	19	35	23	36	209	
Glashieburn School	1M	19							19	
	1R	20							20	
	2/3S		4	18					22	
	2M		27						27	
	3P			27					27	
	4H				33				33	
	5/6P					11	14		25	
	5G					31			31	
	6S							30	30	
		7A							27	27
	7M							24	24	
Glashieburn School Total		39	31	45	33	42	44	51	285	
Greenbrae School	P1	21							21	
	P2		21						21	
	P3			25					25	
	P4				23				23	
	P5					29			29	
	P6							26	26	
		P7CP							18	18
		P7M							16	16
Greenbrae School Total		21	21	25	23	29	26	34	179	
Hanover Street School	P1A	17							17	
	P1W	15							15	
	P2		22						22	
	P3			29					29	
	P4				23				23	
	P5					21			21	
	P6							20	20	
	P7							23	23	
Hanover Street School Total		32	22	29	23	21	20	23	170	
Hazlehead Primary School	P1E	22							22	
	P1K	25							25	

Primary Class sizes as at September 2009 census

	P2		26						26
	P3			26					26
	P3/4		6	15					21
	P4				20				20
	P5B					18			18
	P5M					19			19
	P6						22		22
	P7							29	29
Hazlehead Primary School Total		47	26	32	35	37	22	29	228
Heathryburn School									
	P1	18							18
	P1M	20							20
	P2		21						21
	P2/3		8	13					21
	P3			23					23
	P4				32				32
	P5					21			21
	P6						32		32
	P7							28	28
Heathryburn School Total		38	29	36	32	21	32	28	216
Holy Family RC School									
	P1/2	17	4						21
	P2/3		17	4					21
	P3/4			15	9				24
	P4/5				9	13			22
	P6						21		21
	P7							20	20
Holy Family RC School Total		17	21	19	18	13	21	20	129
Kaimhill Primary School									
	P1	21							21
	P1/2	6	13						19
	P2		17						17
	P3			25					25
	P4				17				17
	P5					22			22
	P6						24		24
	P7							28	28
Kaimhill Primary School Total		27	30	25	17	22	24	28	173
Kingsford School									
	RM1	20							20
	RM10						25		25
	RM11				22				22
	RM12							27	27
	RM13							26	26
	RM2	20							20
	RM3		13	12					25
	RM4			29					29
	RM5				29				29
	RM6		28						28
	RM7					25			25
	RM8					24			24
	RM9						27		27
Kingsford School Total		40	41	41	51	49	52	53	327
Kingswells School									
	1/2AP	15	10						25
	1F/L	22							22
	1JM	23							23
	2/3G/M		8	16					24
	2ML		30						30
	3C/F			28					28
	3RC			26					26
	4JS				25				25
	4MP				23				23

Primary Class sizes as at September 2009 census

	5CG					30			30
	5GB					32			32
	6EM						26		26
	6JD						25		25
	7CY							26	26
	7SG							26	26
Kingswells School Total		60	48	70	48	62	51	52	391
Kirkhill School	P1	20							20
	P1/2	9	10						19
	P2		22						22
	P3A			17					17
	P3K			20					20
	P4				24				24
	P5					29			29
	P5/6					9	13		22
	P6						28		28
	P7						1	21	22
Kirkhill School Total		29	32	37	24	38	42	21	223
Kittybrewster School	P1	23							23
	P2		21						21
	P3			23					23
	P4/5				14	9			23
	P5/6					8	16		24
	P7							22	22
Kittybrewster School Total		23	21	23	14	17	16	22	136
Loirston School	P1A	18							18
	P1B	19							19
	P1C	18							18
	P2A		25						25
	P2B		23						23
	P3			32					32
	P3/4			14	11				25
	P4				32				32
	P5A					26			26
	P5B					23			23
	P6						31		31
	P6/7						16	8	24
	P7							31	31
Loirston School Total		55	48	46	43	49	47	39	327
Middleton Park School	P1	22							22
	P2		21						21
	P3			20					20
	P3/4			7	15				22
	P4/5				12	10			22
	P5/6					6	18		24
	P7							21	21
Middleton Park School Total		22	21	27	27	16	18	21	152
Mile End School	1/2	8	15						23
	1A	25							25
	1B	25							25
	2/3		9	13					22
	2A		28						28
	3/4			12	12				24
	3A			27					27
	4/5				12	11			23
	4A				26				26
	5/6					14	9		23
5A					27			27	

Primary Class sizes as at September 2009 census

Riverbank School Total		35	31	31	24	37	25	32	215
Scotstoun School	P1/2H	16	7						23
	P1F	21							21
	P2S		25						25
	P3GO			23					23
	P4S				25				25
	P5S					27			27
	P6W						27		27
	P7H							28	28
Scotstoun School Total		37	32	23	25	27	27	28	199
Seaton School	P1	15							15
	P2		26						26
	P3			22					22
	P4				17				17
	P5					19			19
	P6						17		17
	P7							21	21
	Seaton School Total		15	26	22	17	19	17	21
Skene Square School	P1/2G	10	14						24
	P1B	22							22
	P1R	21							21
	P2P		27						27
	P3			28					28
	P3Y			26					26
	P4				26				26
	P4C				24				24
	P5					28			28
	P5/B					14	11		25
	P6						30		30
	P7							23	23
	P7E							25	25
Skene Square School Total		53	41	54	50	42	41	48	329
Smithfield School	P1	22							22
	P2		25						25
	P3			22					22
	P4C				19				19
	P4H				20				20
	P5					29			29
	P6						30		30
	P7							32	32
Smithfield School Total		22	25	22	39	29	30	32	199
St Joseph's RC School	P1B	17							17
	P1M	16							16
	P2/3CH		9	13					22
	P2R		29						29
	P3H			30					30
	P4M				25				25
	P4T				29				29
	P5/B					13	11		24
	P5L					25			25
	P6M						25		25
P7							30	30	
St Joseph's RC School Total		33	38	43	54	38	36	30	272
St Peter's RC School	P1	24							24
	P2		23						23
	P3			27					27
	P4				26				26
	P5					33			33

Primary Class sizes as at September 2009 census

Westpark School Total		41	33	33	31	37	25	30	230
Woodside School	P1/2FR	8	15						23
	P1FH	22							22
	P2/3DP		9	15					24
	P2ML		28						28
	P3/4FG			11	13				24
	P3HT			28					28
	P4/5DD				6	17			23
	P4KW				27				27
	P5MS					27			27
	P6LT						23		23
	P6SC						27		27
	P7CM							21	21
	P7EP							21	21
	P7IC							19	19
PIKG	24							24	
Woodside School Total		54	52	54	46	44	50	61	361
Grand Total		1692	1686	1730	1616	1664	1690	1786	11864