



Outcome of statutory consultation

Proposal to realign the catchment area of both Kirklandpark and Wester Overton Primary Schools to more appropriately link new housing developments to the local non-denominational primary schools.

November 2018

This report has been issued by South Lanarkshire Council in response to the consultation undertaken in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This report includes recommendations of the outcome of the consultation which will be presented to the Executive Committee of South Lanarkshire Council.

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1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise all stakeholders on the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the proposal to change the catchment areas of both Kirklandpark Primary School and Wester Overton Primary School.
- 1.2 This includes a report from Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal and Education Resources' responses to all questions and issues raised during the consultation period.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is intended that the consultation report, along with any relevant documentation, will be considered by the Executive Committee of South Lanarkshire Council on 19 December 2018.
- 2.2 The Executive Committee will be invited to:
 - note the contents of the report and the views expressed by stakeholders; and
 - agree the proposal to change the catchment areas of both Kirklandpark Primary School and Wester Overton Primary School.

3. Background

- 3.1 A consultation proposal document was issued as a result of a decision by the Executive Committee of South Lanarkshire Council on 16 May 2018 to consult on the proposal below:

To change the catchment areas of both Kirklandpark and Wester Overton Primary Schools to more appropriately link new housing developments to the local non-denominational primary schools.

- 3.2 The statutory consultation, in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, was carried out over the period 18 June to 14 September 2018 which included a public meeting held on 28 August 2018 in St Patrick's Primary School.
- 3.3 A consultation notice was published in the East Kilbride News and Strathaven Echoes on 15 June 2018. The notice included a summary of the proposal, information on availability of the proposal document, how written representations could be made and also details of the public meeting.
- 3.4 Notification of the proposal was issued on 15 June 2018 to the consultees listed in Appendix 1. The full consultation proposal document was published on the Council website on 18 June 2018 and a copy made available from all libraries, Q and A's and affected schools.
- 3.5 A public meeting was held on 28 August 2018 in St Patrick's Primary School. A summary of the oral representations made at this meeting is included as Appendix 2 in this report.
- 3.6 South Lanarkshire Council sent a copy of the proposal document to Education Scotland on 12 June 2018 in its role as a statutory consultee. In addition, on 19 September 2018 Education Scotland was provided with a summary of all relevant written responses and oral representations made during the consultation period. Education Scotland then carried out its own review including visiting the affected schools to hear and listen to the views of a variety of stakeholders.

- 3.7 South Lanarkshire Council received a copy of Education Scotland's report on 5 October 2018. A summary of this report and Education Resources' response to the key points is included in Section 6 of this consultation report and a copy of the whole document is included at Appendix 3.

4. Distribution of proposal document and summary of responses

- 4.1 Communication was issued to all statutory stakeholders at the affected schools and in the Community informing them of this consultation.
- 4.2 The pupil rolls of the directly affected schools are as follows (census September 2017):
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|-------------------------------|-----|
| Kirklandpark Primary School | 265 |
| Wester Overton Primary School | 349 |
- 4.3 In addition, letters were issued to all parents of children attending nursery at St Patrick's Primary School, Sweetie Brae Nursery and Strathaven Community Nursery signposting interested parties to this consultation and inviting them to the Public Meeting being held on Tuesday 28 August 2018.
- 4.4 The consultation paper was also available on South Lanarkshire Council's webpage. Over the consultation period of 18 June to 14 September there were 89 unique page views of the consultation proposal document.
- 4.5 The total number of written responses received was 17.

Table 1 Number of responses

Responses	Number
In favour of the proposal	9
Not in favour of the proposal	6
Undecided	2

Table 2 Breakdown of responses

Response to proposal	Future parent	Parent of pupil at Kirklandpark Primary	Parent of pupil at Wester Overton Primary	Future parent of Wester Overton Primary	Future Parent of Kirklandpark	Member of public / community	Other
In favour of proposal	2	1			2	2	2
Not in favour			1	3			2
Undecided		1	1				
TOTAL	2	2	2	3	2	2	4

- 4.6 Comments received from stakeholders are detailed overleaf. The written responses contained are relatively unedited, but information that would lead to the identification of individuals has been removed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.
- 4.7 The recurring themes raised within the comments were:
- Concerns around the proposal to change the current catchment association of Wester Overton resulting in child care concerns
 - transport and safe routes to school;

Table 3 – Written feedback received and Council response

Capacity	Response	Comment	Council Response
Future primary school attendance	In Favour	We live in the Strathaven West development and our property is geographically nearer Kirklandpark. Our children are due to attend primary in 2021 and 2022 and this change would allow them to walk to school.	
Future primary school attendance	In Favour	I have two children who will start primary school in 2021 and 2022. Currently Wester Overton is catchment and would have to walk past Kirklandpark. I support this change of catchment as my children could walk to school rather than being driven.	
Grandparent	In Favour	No comment made by the responder	
Parent of pupil at Kirklandpark Primary	In Favour	I agree with the proposal however I would like to make a suggestion around the boundary on Lesmahagow Road, page 13/14 where the boundary diverts across Goods Burn. Could this be amended up to the back of Avonview please? From a personal view this helps my children who currently attend Kirklandpark Primary and Nursery. From a local community children's social view for those children residing on the proposed borderline on Lesmahagow Road, having children on west side of road going to Kirklandpark versus children on right side of road going to Wester Overton. It would be nice to have them go to one school. I see this is in place for the Southend Grove/Drive/Court children hence my request to include my property.	SLC note the suggestion regarding the catchment line. Projected figures for both Wester Overton and Kirklandpark indicate that they will have sufficient capacity to allow any parent who wishes their child to attend Kirklandpark to make a placing request to do so.
Member of Scottish Youth Parliament	In Favour	I believe this proposal is fair and will have a positive impact on the teaching and learning of pupils attending both schools. It is also fair in the fact that young people won't need to walk a far distance to get to school.	

Parent of pupil at Wester Overton Primary and parent of a future pupil	Undecided	I have a child at Wester Overton and another child due to start in August 2020. My child at school currently uses the school bus. Will this service still be provided and for how many years to come? If the change in catchment area goes ahead there will be a significant increase in children walking to school and having to cross a very dangerous road, namely Station Road. Will any measures be put in place such as a crossing patrol person?	<p>Parents who choose to send younger siblings to the same school as an older child currently in attendance can do so without the need for a placing request. This position will stand until school session 2024.</p> <p>Thereafter if you qualify for free school transport as per Council policy then this will continue.</p> <p>In August 2018 the Community and Enterprise Committee approved a report by the Road Safety Officer that all schools should have a Travel Plan in place. Actions identified through this will be assessed by Roads and Transportation. Schools are being supported through this process</p>
Parent of child due to attend Kirklandpark in the next two years	In Favour	I feel the Colinhill area should be in the Kirklandpark catchment as this is the nearest primary school to the area.	
Parent of child due to attend Kirklandpark in the next two years	In Favour	I feel the Colinhill area should be in the Kirklandpark catchment as this is the nearest primary school to the area.	
Member of the public / community	In Favour	My grandson lives in Stewart Milne development - Colinhill Grange. As I regularly look after him, Kirklandpark Primary is the closest to both our homes.	
Member of the public / community	In Favour	I have recently moved to the Stewart Milne housing development, Colinhill Grange, and I am in support of the proposal in order that my child can attend Kirklandpark Primary School as this is the nearest primary school to our house. My child's grandparents and child minder also live within this part of Strathaven and therefore this would be the most practical option for us as a family.	

<p>Parent of child due to attend Wester Overton in the next two years</p>	<p>Not in Favour</p>	<p>We moved to Southend Drive area in 2015. One of the reasons we bought a house in the area was we knew we wanted to start a family and with the areas catchment being Wester Overton it would have been beneficial to our childcare needs. We now have a child and since we both work full time we rely on grandparents for childcare support. My parents, who will be looking after our child, stay close to Wester Overton and do not drive. At present we drop our child at theirs before 8am and we do not pick her up until after 6pm due to full time working commitments. Our basis of originally buying a house in Strathaven was it must fall into the Wester Overton catchment area so our work is not affected by childcare restrictions. This would affect our work if the catchment area moved to Kirklandpark. The school does not offer before or after school clubs which meet our working hours and due to mobility constraints my parents would be unable to drop off/pick up our child if it was Kirklandpark. At present our neighbours children attend Wester Overton and the idea of car-pooling has been discussed however again if the catchment area changed this puts further restrictions on our child's schooling needs. My partner recently attended the public meeting regarding catchment area proposals and it was discussed that there are numerous rejections against the proposal. It was verbally advised that this proposal could be reconsidered stating that even with the new houses being built around Strathaven that there is still capacity to keep this area as Wester Overton as its catchment area. I would like to request that the area of Southend Drive catchment area be kept as Wester Overton.</p>	<p>SLC recognise that child care is a concern to parents.</p> <p>Projected figures for both Wester Overton and Kirklandpark indicate that they will have sufficient capacity to allow any parent who wishes their child to attend Wester Overton to make a placing request to do so.</p>
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<p>Parent of child due to attend Wester Overton in the next two years</p>	<p>Not in Favour</p>	<p>We moved to Southend Drive area in 2015. One of the reasons we bought a house in the area was we knew we wanted to start a family and with this house's catchment area being Wester Overton Primary School it would have been beneficial to our childcare needs. We now have a child and since we both work full time we rely on grandparents for childcare support. The grandparents stay close to Wester Overton and do not drive. At present we drop our child at theirs before 8am and often do not pick her up until after 6pm at night due to full time working commitments. Our basis of originally buying a house in Strathaven was it must fall into the Wester Overton Primary School catchment area so our work is not affected by childcare restrictions. This would affect our work commitments if the catchment area moved to Kirklandpark Primary School. Neither school offers a before or after school club which match our working hours therefore we rely on supports from the grandparents. The grandparents have already advised us that they would not be able to drop off/pick up our child if the catchment school was changed to Kirklandpark Primary School. This is putting stress and strain on us at this moment in time regarding the uncertainty of this current proposal. At present our neighbours children attend Wester Overton Primary School and the idea of car-pooling has been discussed with various neighbours in our street, however if the catchment area was changed this puts further restrictions on our child's schooling needs. I attended the recent public meeting regarding catchment area proposals and it was discussed that there are numerous rejections against the proposal. It was verbally advised that this proposal could be reconsidered stating that even with the new houses being built around Strathaven that there is still capacity to keep the area in which I stay as Wester Overton as its catchment area. I would like to therefore request that this area of Strathaven (Southend Drive) be kept at having Wester Overton Primary School as its catchment area school.</p>	<p>SLC recognise that child care is a concern to parents.</p> <p>Projected figures for both Wester Overton and Kirklandpark indicate that they will have sufficient capacity to allow any parent who wishes their child to attend Wester Overton to make a placing request to do so.</p>
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Parent of child due to attend Wester Overton in the next two years	Not in Favour	I disagree with the proposal as our catchment area has always been the same. I know Strathaven is increasing in size but I feel that the children in our area are being pushed out as a result of this. My child has been awarded a place at Wester Overton Community nursery in January 2019. I hoped she would attend Wester Overton school. All of my child's cousins currently attend the school. As a business owner in Strathaven, my other family members would be able to drop off and collect my child at the same time but if the catchment area changes they cannot be in two places at the same time. The bus the school runs is an option as well for my child to Wester Overton. Due to the complaints I have heard about the volume of traffic to Kirklandpark School I fear a bus also travelling to there would cause a lot of complaints from people that stay in the area of the school or from parents.	
Parent of pupil at Wester Overton Primary and parent of a future pupil	Not in Favour	I don't agree with the proposal. As a former pupil of Wester Overton, 3 children already went there and 1 still to go. I have lived in Strathaven for all of my life. I don't see why our children should be changed of the catchment area because of new houses being built in the area and moving new people in. I feel as though our children are being moved from their catchment area to suit others and to be honest think it is very unfair on the community. Personally, I would have to go to Wester Overton to collect my daughter and then Kirklandpark for 3pm which then a safety issue then arises when one child is left alone. With the traffic also I would be delayed. I think the catchment area should be kept the same as it has never caused a problem before. New housing should not be taking priority over pupils' needs and parents' views.	<p>SLC recognise that child care is a concern to parents.</p> <p>Projected figures for both Wester Overton and Kirklandpark indicate that they will have sufficient capacity to allow any parent who wishes their child to attend Wester Overton to make a placing request to do so.</p> <p>Any child with a sibling currently attending Wester Overton will have the right to choose to send younger children to the same school without the need for a placing request until school session 2024.</p>
Other - grandparent	Not in Favour	My son and daughter in law stay in Southend Drive area of Strathaven. They bought a house in this area because the school catchment area is Wester Overton Primary. My wife and I stay close to Wester Overton Primary. As it is my wife and I who will be taking our granddaughter to and from school as both parents work full time it would be beneficial if she attended Wester Overton Primary as my wife and I don't drive.	

Other - grandparent	Not in Favour	My son and daughter in law stay in Southend Drive Strathaven. They bought a house in this area because the school catchment area is Wester Overton Primary. My husband and I stay close to Wester Overton Primary. As it is my husband and I who will be taking our granddaughter to and from school as both parents work full time it would be beneficial if she attended Wester Overton Primary as my husband and I don't drive.	
Parent of pupil Kirklandpark Primary	Undecided	There has been an increase in pupil numbers and it is a great concern that nothing has been put in place to provide safe routes to school. There is not a safe crossing at the top of Lethame Road, Castleview Road. As well as an increase in pupils, there has been an increase in car traffic at this side of the school. It can be difficult for the children (and adults) to see out past parked cars and determine if it's safe to cross. To access the existing patrol person further down the road, near the back entrance, would involve walking on road that has no pavement - so this is not a safe option. I feel that road safety and safe routes to school should have been given greater consideration and thought when drastic housing increases were planned	<p>Parents who choose to send younger siblings to the same school as an older child currently in attendance can do so without the need for a placing request. This position will stand until school session 2024.</p> <p>Thereafter if you qualify for free school transport as per Council policy then this will continue.</p> <p>In August 2018 the Community and Enterprise Committee approved a report by the Road Safety Officer that all schools should have a Travel Plan in place. Actions identified through this will be assessed by Roads and Transportation. Schools are being supported through this process.</p>

5. Pupil comments

Pupil comments – Kirklandpark Primary School

SLC Change of Catchment Proposal for Kirklandpark/Wester Overton Primaries

Feedback from Kirklandpark pupils, 5th September 2018

Before and during the feedback session the pupils had access to maps detailing both the current catchment areas, and those proposed.

What are the advantages of the current catchment area?

- *It is okay if you are lucky enough to live in it.*
- *It may have less overcrowding at Kirklandpark.*
- *The size limits the amount of pupils at Kirklandpark.*
- *Those in the catchment are within walking distance – very local.*
- *Not many of the new houses are in it.*

What are the disadvantages of the current catchment area?

- *There is an overlap, it doesn't make sense.*
- *It causes traffic in the town with people crossing over to their school.*
- *Wester Overton is too busy.*
- *Parents and children have long journeys to school (potentially).*
- *The access roads to Kirklandpark are too small and narrow for the amount of cars.*
- *Pupils have busy/main roads to cross and there are also Academy pupils.*
- *Kirklandpark's playground space is cramped.*

What are the advantages of the proposed catchment area?

- *Easier to get a place in your local school.*
- *The split of houses is more even.*
- *Travelling time will be reduced for pupils.*
- *There may be less roads to cross – main/busy roads.*
- *For new houses it means they can go to a closer school.*

What are the disadvantages of the proposed catchment area?

- *Maybe families could be split. (explained as families with existing pupils at one school but new family members zoned to a different school).*
- *The split does not follow the size (capacity) of the school – particularly Kirklandpark.*

Pupil comments – Wester Overton Primary School

- Most parents hadn't discussed the catchment proposals as it had no effect on their family.
- You wouldn't be too far away from your school so it's less to walk.
- You wouldn't have to drive to school so more people can cycle or walk.
- It's not right that some people have to go past another school on their way here in the morning.
- It makes sense because children who live closer to each school will go there.
- It's fair because there is less distance for children to walk.
- It's fair because if you are already at this school you don't have to move to Kirklandpark and your wee brothers and sisters can come here too.
- Some children might have to get the bus now.
- It might be harder for aunties and grans and child minders if children are at different schools.
- I think you should have a right to choose your school.
- My cousin will have to go to a new school instead of starting here.
- A parent might have bought a house so that they could go to that school and now they have to send their children to a different school and it won't be where their families are.

6. Summary of issues raised by Education Scotland (formerly HMle) and Education Resources' responses

- 6.1 As part of the statutory consultation process, Education Scotland prepared a report on the consultation proposal by South Lanarkshire Council, addressing educational aspects of the proposal. This report is attached as Appendix 3.
- 6.2 Overall, Education Scotland recognise the clear educational benefits of realigning the catchment areas to allow children to attend their closest non-denominational school.
- 6.3 Education Scotland found, from its own discussions with stakeholders, that one of the issues the Council needed to address was concerns expressed around specific areas of the realignment.
- 6.4 It was also highlighted that queries regarding travel and transport issues (safe routes to school and eligibility of free school transport) should be addressed by the Council in this report.
- 6.5 **Response**

South Lanarkshire Council welcomes the very helpful report and the recognition of the clear educational benefit of realigning the catchment areas of Kirklandpark Primary and Wester Overton Primary Schools.

Specific Areas of the realignment

South Lanarkshire Council recognises there are concerns regarding specific areas of the realignment due to child care issues (6 returns). The number of those concerned about aspects of the new catchment boundary was a very small proportion of the overall parental stakeholders (1% of more than 600 consultees). In the particular geographical area of concern it was identified that there are currently 57 children attending Wester Overton Primary School, however, we did not receive any other negative views from those families as part of the consultation proposal. The projected roll for both schools shows that there will be sufficient capacity to be able to accommodate placing requests should parents wish to do so. In addition any family with children currently attending Wester Overton will have the right to choose that their younger children also attend without the need for a placing request until school session 2024.

Transport and Safe Routes to school

The safety and wellbeing of pupils is paramount and issues relating to the travel and transportation of pupils will continue to be, as with all schools, a significant challenge. This is an area of important focus for Council officers to work in partnership with parents to best meet families' needs where possible. Normal Council procedures for monitoring safe routes to schools and providing safe and accessible school transport would apply. The Council will ensure that both schools have a recently reviewed travel plan.

In addition, the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee all schools have been encouraged and in some cases required to produce a comprehensive Travel Plan. Any action points identified within this document should be assessed through liaison between the Head Teacher, Parent Council, Education Resources, Roads and Transportation Services and Police Scotland to ensure solutions are taken forward as appropriate.

7. Review of proposals by South Lanarkshire Council

7.1 The Council has reviewed the proposals having regard (in particular) to any relevant written representations received by the Council during the consultation, and representations made at the public meeting, and Education Scotland's report.

7.2 After review, the proposal to change the catchment areas of both Kirklandpark Primary School and Wester Overton Primary School is recommended. Education Scotland are supportive of the proposal and should a parent/carer wish to make a placing request out with the new catchment areas then there is sufficient capacity within Kirklandpark Primary and Wester Overton Primary schools to be able to accommodate this. In addition any family with children currently attending either Kirklandpark Primary or Wester Overton Primary will have the right to choose that their younger children also attend the same school without the need for a placing request until school session 2024.

8. Resource, risk and policy implications

Resource implications

8.1 Property costs

As this proposal aims to maximise the use of existing accommodation it represents best value and demonstrates the effective and efficient use of Council resources.

8.2 **Staffing costs**

In terms of employee resources, this will continue to be provided in each school by means of existing process e.g. annual class configuration protocols and agreed management allocations.

8.3 **Risk implications**

The Council has a duty to conduct risk assessments under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulation 1999. Any current risk assessments at the school would be reviewed if the proposal is implemented.

8.4 **Policy implications**

Strategy

This report supports Education Resources' priorities for raising educational achievement and attainment and achieving efficient and effective use of resources.

8.5 **Consultation**

This report describes the outcome of the statutory consultation process with all key stakeholders. Further consultation with pupils, staff, parents, Trade Unions and other stakeholders would continue as appropriate if the proposal is approved.

Appendix 1 Distribution of consultation proposals document

Distribution list and how to access a copy of the proposal document

Notification of the proposal was provided to the following consultees:

- The Parent Council of the affected schools;
- The parents of the pupils at the affected schools;
- Parents who have children who are expected to attend the affected schools within 2 years of the publication of this proposal document;
- The pupils at the affected schools and the pupil committees and Councils;
- All South Lanarkshire Council employees at the affected schools;
- Trade union representatives;
- Community Councils within the affected locality;
- All relevant users of the affected school.

A copy of the proposal document was also made available to:

- All Elected Members of South Lanarkshire Council;
- South Lanarkshire Youth Council;
- Education Scotland (formerly Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education, HMIE);
- The Constituency MSP of the affected school;
- The MP of the affected school;
- Police Commander for Lanarkshire Division of Police Scotland;
- Chief Executive, NHS Lanarkshire;
- Chief Executive, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport;
- Area Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services.

The steps listed below were also taken to ensure that the proposal document was widely available.

- Notice of the proposals and of publication of the proposal document was placed within the East Kilbride News and Strathaven Echoes
- All affected schools promoted this consultation through existing communication routes (school newsletters, school website etc);
- St Patrick's Primary School notified their nursery parents of the proposal
- The proposal document was also published on the South Lanarkshire Council website: www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk;
- Twitter messages were used to raise awareness and let people know of the consultation;
- The proposal document was offered in another language or format if required;
- The proposal document was also available at the following locations:
 - a. Council Offices, Education Resources, Almada Street, Hamilton, ML3 0AA. Phone 01698 454102.
 - b. All libraries in South Lanarkshire
 - c. All South Lanarkshire Council Q and A Offices
 - d. The schools affected by the proposal

Appendix 2 Oral questions and responses at public meeting

Note of Public Meeting held on 28 August 2018 in St Patrick's Primary School 6pm.

Panel Members

LS	Lynn Sherry	Chair of Meeting and Head of Education (East Kilbride)
DH	David Hinshelwood	Support Services Manager
AC	Allison Craig	Lead Officer, Education

Note takers: Fiona Roach, Lee McMurray and Lesley Yule

17 Total number of attendees.

13 Parent / Grandparent – Kirklandpark and Wester Overton Primary Schools

1 Local Elected Member

1 Unknown designation

2 Head Teachers of Kirklandpark and Wester Overton Primary Schools

Purpose of meeting: To share information on the statutory consultation on the proposal to change the catchment areas of both Kirklandpark Primary School and Wester Overton Primary School.

LS opened the meeting at 6.02pm starting off by thanking those in attendance and stressing the importance of stakeholders being able to express their views on the proposals to change the catchment areas of both Kirklandpark and Wester Overton Primary Schools and encouraged the submission of formal responses to the consultation. The format and purpose of the meeting was explained and the panel introduced. It was highlighted that a note of tonight's meeting would be taken but that note would not be verbatim.

Consultation process and timeline

LS explained that the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 outlines a consultation is required to be held where a change is being proposed to existing catchment areas. The statutory consultation is a formal process with prescriptive timelines, the purpose of which is to give people the opportunity to express their views on the proposal. This consultation process ends on Friday 14th September 2018. The Act also states who the statutory stakeholders are and that a Public Meeting is also part of that legislative process to help ensure wider participation and feedback. Although a note of tonight's meeting will be taken, the most effective route to feedback is through the formal response form to ensure views are captured accurately. All views given will be fed into the whole process.

Background to the proposal

LS outlined the background to the consultation proposal and that the proposal had been led by the community.

The growth and changes in the town have meant that historical catchments no longer make sense. Some families choose placing requests to attend the school closest to their address. There are growth areas in the town. East Overton where 500 houses are currently planned which is linked to Wester Overton and Colinhill Farm where 300 houses are planned which is currently linked to both Wester Overton and in some parts Kirklandpark.

Taking account of future pupil roll projections and future known housing developments both schools have got capacity to cope with the numbers to be generated.

By realigning the catchment boundaries the definition of the catchments would become clearer and more defined.

The intention, if approved, would be for the changes to come into effect for the January 2019 enrolment. Children who are currently attending school will have the right to remain in their school. Any younger siblings coming through can also go to the same school as their older sibling until 2024.

The secondary school will not be affected by the proposal as both schools already feed into Strathaven Academy.

LS opened up the floor for questions.

Questions and Answers

Grandparent – what happens if children are currently on placing requests from outwith the area?

DH – any younger pupils would still use the placing request system.

Parent – Wester Overton – will the school bus still be available?

DH – if the pupil remains at Wester Overton the younger sibling will still be able to attend the same school and they would still be eligible for school transport if remain over one mile from the school.

LS – Asked if the audience generally agreed with the proposals.
There was general nodding around the room.

Parent – I don't agree with the proposal. Historically all have attended Wester Overton and now younger children in the family would attend Kirklandpark. Parent relies on family for childcare and changes would result in her sister's children attending a different school.

DH – family circumstances differ and we appreciate the difficulties with child care within an extended family. Placing requests could still be requested if space in the school.

Parent – unfair that the schools are full and all the new houses are pushing the children out. Others feel the same.

DH – schools have got capacity for the new developments.

Councillor – main feedback of concern is coming from the Moss Road, Newton Road and Dovecastle area. Both schools are of equal distance from this area. Can we look at the boundary for this area?

LS – Yes, we could look at this.

Councillor – we will need to look at the numbers coming from this area.

DH – we will take the views on board and look at the capacities.

Parent – concerned about getting to school safely now there is no school crossing patroller. Has seen a definite increase in the number of cars this year.

Parent/Parent Council Kirklandpark – Parent Council at Kirklandpark has been continually fighting for safe walking routes and have made representations to Roads and Transportation. There should be an assessment done as three separate roads to cross

DH – one of the reasons for the boundary being suggested where it is, is to avoid pupils crossing each other on the way to school and reducing congestion through the town. We can contact our colleagues in Roads and Transportation and ask them to look at volumes. They have a set criteria that they work to.

Head Teacher Kirklandpark – confirmed they were awaiting a response from Stuart Laird in the Roads Dept.

Parent – what about children starting at nursery?

DH – nurseries are not run on a catchment basis. It doesn't matter which nursery they attend, the catchment school is determined by the home address not the nursery.

As there were no further questions LS summarised the next steps in the process.

Next steps

The consultation is live until 14 September 2018 and all attendees are encouraged to respond.

The Council will submit a summary document to Education Scotland that will include all the feedback gathered via written responses and a note of tonight's Public Meeting. Education Scotland will then independently carry out its own dialogue with affected schools, pupils, parents and the wider school community. Education Scotland will then make a formal response to the Council on its view focussing on the educational impacts of the proposal.

It was explained that a final consultation report would then be published by the Council, this report will include all the feedback from stakeholders and Education Scotland.

This report has to be publicised for at least three weeks prior to the Council's Executive Committee making a decision. This decision is likely to be made at the November or December Executive Committee.

As there were no further questions from the floor, LS thanked everyone for their attendance and participation, and closed the meeting at 6.25pm and encouraged all attendees to submit their views on the proposals.

Further informal discussion was held whilst looking at the available plans of the changes.

The contents of this note of the public meeting are not direct quotations but are as close a representation of what was said as the scribes were able to achieve while taking handwritten notes during the meeting. These should be regarded as paraphrased comments and they have been included to indicate the feelings and expressions of contributors as closely as possible.

Appendix 3 Report by Education Scotland

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by South Lanarkshire Council to realign the catchment areas of Kirklandpark and Wester Overton Primary Schools.

1. Introduction

This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of South Lanarkshire Council's proposal to realign the catchment areas of Kirklandpark and Wester Overton Primary Schools, to more appropriately link new housing developments to the local non-denominational primary schools. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the Council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The Council's final consultation report should include a copy of this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the Council's response to them. The Council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision. Where a Council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all statutory obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

1.1 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children of the schools; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the Council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the Council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the Council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the Council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.2 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 28 August 2018 in connection with the Council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the Council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and

- visits to the site of Kirklandpark and Wester Overton Primary Schools, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

- 2.1 South Lanarkshire Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 2.2 The statutory consultation period ran from 18 June to 14 September 2018. Communication was issued to all stakeholders at the two affected schools, three nursery classes and the document was issued to the two partnership nurseries within the town. Adverts were placed in the Strathaven Echoes and East Kilbride News. Copies of the proposal document were made available in Council libraries and on the Council website. The Council held a public meeting on 28 August 2018 at St Patrick's Primary School, Strathaven. There were 17 attendees at the public meeting. Consultation with pupils also took place at both affected schools.
- 2.3 The Council received 17 written responses to the proposal, nine were in favour of the proposal, six were not in favour of the proposal and two were undecided. Concerns raised at the public meeting, in written responses from those against the proposal and from parents who met with HM Inspectors, predominantly related to two aspects: specific boundaries of the proposed new catchment areas and safe routes to school.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

- 3.1 The proposal aims to ensure that children can attend their closest non-denominational school, by appropriately linking housing areas to each of the two schools concerned. The proposal has the potential to remove uncertainty for families and for schools at enrolment. Overall, the proposal has clear educational benefits. The proposal should assist the Council to make effective use of its resources.
- 3.2 Respondee who were against the proposal were of the view that the Council had not fully considered the needs of families living in the Dovecastle and Colinhill areas. At the public meeting Council officers indicated that specific boundaries of the catchment area, such as Dovecastle, could be looked at. In taking forward the proposal, the Council should respond to individual local school communities regarding concerns around specific areas in the proposed realignment of the catchment.
- 3.3 Stakeholders reported concerns regarding safe routes to school. The consultation paper indicates that the proposed catchment areas should provide more opportunities to promote safe walking and cycling to school. One headteacher indicated that they were awaiting a response from the roads department regarding aspects of safe routes to school. In taking forward the proposal, the Council should ensure that each school's travel plan is reviewed and responses are shared regarding stakeholder concerns about safe routes to school.

3.4 Almost all staff and children from Kirklandpark Primary School and Wester Overton Primary School who spoke with HM Inspectors fully supported the proposal to redefine the catchment areas, sharing that the proposal made sense and it would be helpful and move away from uncertainty for families.

3.5 Most parents at Kirklandpark Primary School and Wester Overton Primary School who spoke with HM Inspectors supported the proposal to redefine the catchment areas, albeit with issues relating to specific areas of the catchment as outlined above being reconsidered. Parents at Kirklandpark Primary School shared concerns regarding demands on the capacity of the school. In the proposal paper, the Council has stated that they will continue to monitor the impact of an increasing roll and make necessary arrangements to enhance the existing educational facilities appropriately and in a timely manner. In taking forward the plans, the Council should share with parents how this monitoring and any relevant changes to arrangements would be undertaken.

4. Summary

Overall, South Lanarkshire's proposal to realign the catchment areas for Kirklandpark Primary School and Wester Overton Primary School has clear educational benefits. The proposal aims to ensure that children can attend their closest non-denominational school, by appropriately linking housing areas to each of the two schools concerned. The proposal has the potential to remove uncertainty for families and for schools at enrolment. In taking forward the proposal, the Council should respond to individual local school communities regarding concerns around specific areas in the proposed realignment of the catchment. The Council should also ensure that each school's travel plan is reviewed and responses are shared regarding stakeholder concerns about safe routes to school.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
September 2018**