

Report

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	25 March 2020
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Catchment Areas of Glengowan Primary, Machanhill Primary and Robert Smillie Primary Schools, Larkhall – Consultation Proposal
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ provide information on pupil projections for Glengowan, Machanhill and Robert Smillie Primary Schools, Larkhall and the current catchment areas of the three schools
- ♦ to seek approval from the Executive Committee to undertake a statutory consultation on the catchment realignment of Glengowan, Machanhill and Robert Smillie Primary Schools, Larkhall.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that a statutory consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 is undertaken to propose a change to the catchment areas of Glengowan Primary School, Machanhill Primary School and Robert Smillie Primary School to more effectively balance pupil numbers and better align new housing developments in Larkhall to the school geographically closer.

3. Background

- 3.1. The current catchment areas for Glengowan Primary School, Machanhill Primary School and Robert Smillie Primary School in Larkhall are shown on Appendix 1. This is a historic boundary arrangement that, due to changes in the housing and population distribution within the area over time, should be redrawn to more appropriately link housing areas to each non-denominational primary school and more equitably balance the pupil population.
- 3.2. Appendix 1 also shows the two main housing development areas within Larkhall that are currently within Machanhill Primary School's catchment area but are geographically closer to Glengowan Primary School and Robert Smillie Primary School.
- 3.3. Below is information on current pupil data, excluding projected pupil numbers from housing developments.

3.4. Machanhill Primary School

Machanhill Primary School has 12 Classrooms and a 50 place Nursery. With this accommodation (assuming an average of 30 pupils per class), the school could accommodate 360 pupils.

The current pupil roll (September 2019 census) is 302. Trends based on the average of the last three years' P1 intake figures suggest the mainstream roll will reach 307 in August 2023.

Within this school session 64% of pupils from the Community Growth Area (CGA) development currently zoned to Machanhill Primary School already attend Glengowan Primary School by means of a placing request.

3.5. Glengowan Primary School

Glengowan Primary School currently has 14 Classrooms, and (assuming an average of 30 pupils per class), the school could accommodate 420 pupils

The current pupil roll (September 2019 census) is 298. Trends based on the average of the last three years' P1 intake figures suggest the roll will be 270 in August 2023.

3.6. Robert Smillie Primary School

Robert Smillie Primary School has 8 classrooms and a 40 place Nursery. With this accommodation (assuming an average of 30 pupils per class) the school can accommodate 240 pupils.

The current roll is 202. Trends based on the average of the last three years' P1 intake figures suggest the mainstream roll will reach 209 in August 2023.

4. **Proposals**

4.1. **Catchment Realignment of Glengowan Primary School**

The proposal is for the Larkhall CGA development to be rezoned from Machanhill Primary School to Glengowan Primary School. This area is shown in Appendix 1. By 2025/2026, the CGA development is projected to generate an additional 225 non-denominational children. Glengowan Primary School, as well as being the nearest school to this development, was designed to allow for an extension to the school to provide the additional rooms required to accommodate the current projected roll of 270 pupils plus the 225 pupils expected from the CGA, thereby giving a projected future roll of 495 pupils.

Appendix 2 and 3 show the proposed change to the catchment areas of Glengowan Primary School and Machanhill Primary School which would re-align the new housing development to Glengowan Primary School.

4.2. **Catchment realignment of Robert Smillie Primary School**

It is proposed that the section of the Larkhall Academy site, outlined on Appendices 2 and 4, which is directly behind Robert Smillie Primary School with the school accessible by footpath from the development, be realigned from Machanhill Primary School to Robert Smillie Primary School. By 2025/2026 the development is projected to generate an additional 27 non-denominational pupils thereby giving a

projected future roll of 236 pupils.

Currently there are no pupils attending the local primary schools from this section of the Larkhall Academy development which is proposed to be realigned to Robert Smillie Primary School. It is proposed that the Phase 1 Clare Crescent development houses remain within the catchment area of Machanhill Primary School.

4.3. Given the capacity of both schools and the assumptions of expected pupil numbers coming from the new housing developments, it is anticipated that the realignment will allow for both Glengowan Primary School and Robert Smillie Primary School to accommodate the predicted numbers of pupils generated from the new housing.

4.4. Any resultant adaptation or extensions required would be fully funded via developer contributions and City Deal funding.

5. Employee Implications

5.1. Employee resources at each school would continue to be provided by means of existing staffing protocols and agreed management structures.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. The proposal demonstrates a Best Value approach to effectively managing the primary school estate and the Council's property portfolio.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

7.1. It is expected that more children may choose to walk to school as a result of the catchment changes as they will be geographically closer to their catchment school.

8. Other Implications

8.1. If approved, the implementation date of any catchment realignment would be for P1 enrolment in January 2021.

8.2. Families with children already attending either school, and with a further sibling enrolling in P1 in respect of school sessions August 2021 through to August 2026 will have the choice for their P1 child to be granted placement in that school regardless of any catchment change.

8.3. Given that all of the Primary Schools within the proposal are zoned to Larkhall Academy, there would be no effect on secondary pupil numbers as a result of the proposal being implemented.

8.4. As part of the statutory consultation process, a Public Meeting would be held to fully engage with the local community on this proposal.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

9.1. Under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, any proposals to vary any of the admission arrangements for a school, including its catchment area, would necessitate a statutory consultation.

9.2. There was no requirement to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment in terms of this report.

Tony McDaid
Executive Director (Education Resources)

26 February 2020

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ♦ Raise educational achievement and attainment
- ♦ Achieve efficient and effective use of resources

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

- ♦ Executive Committee Report 1st February 2006

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Contact for Further Information

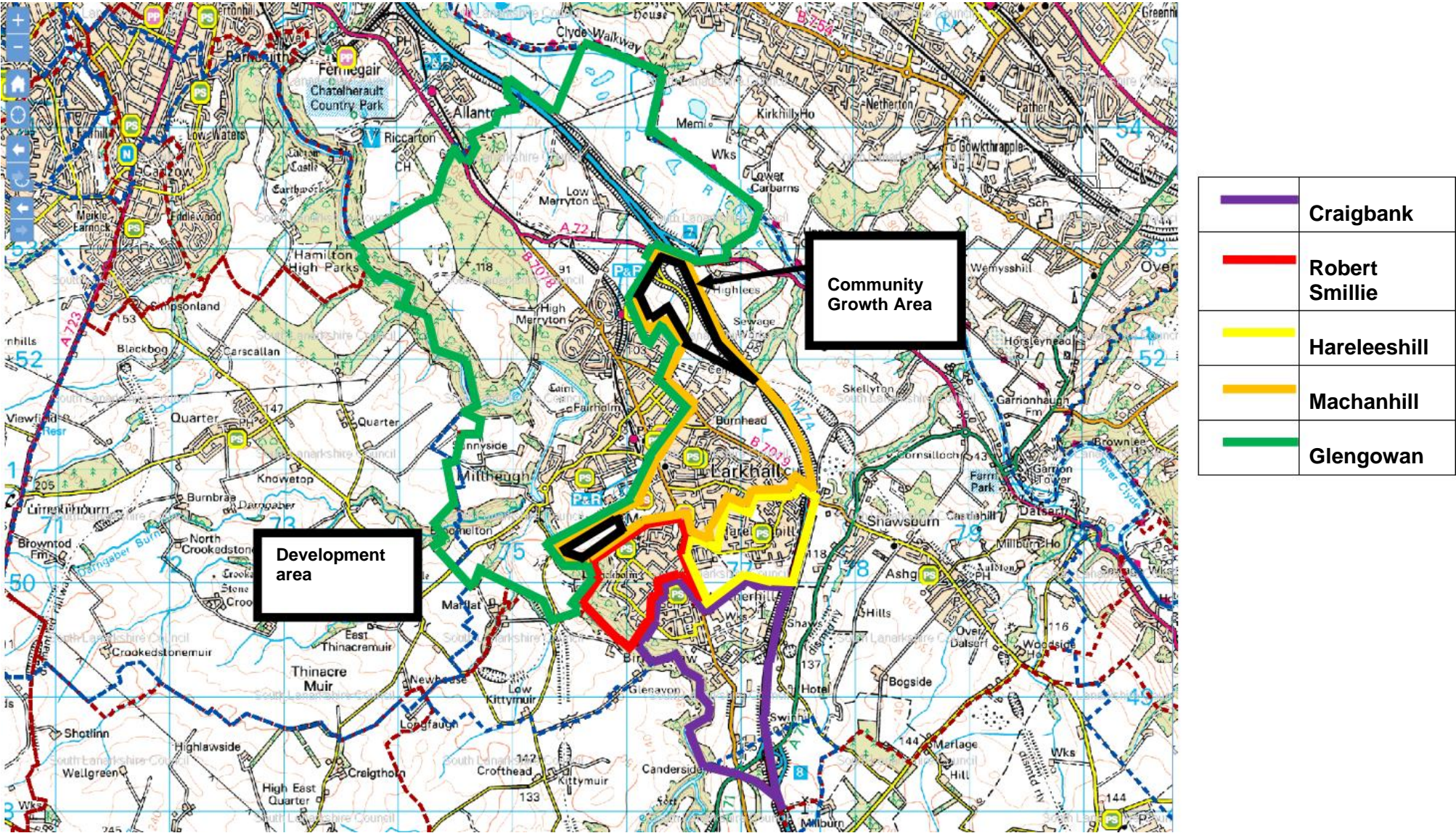
If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Lynn Sherry, Head of Education (Support Services and School Estate)

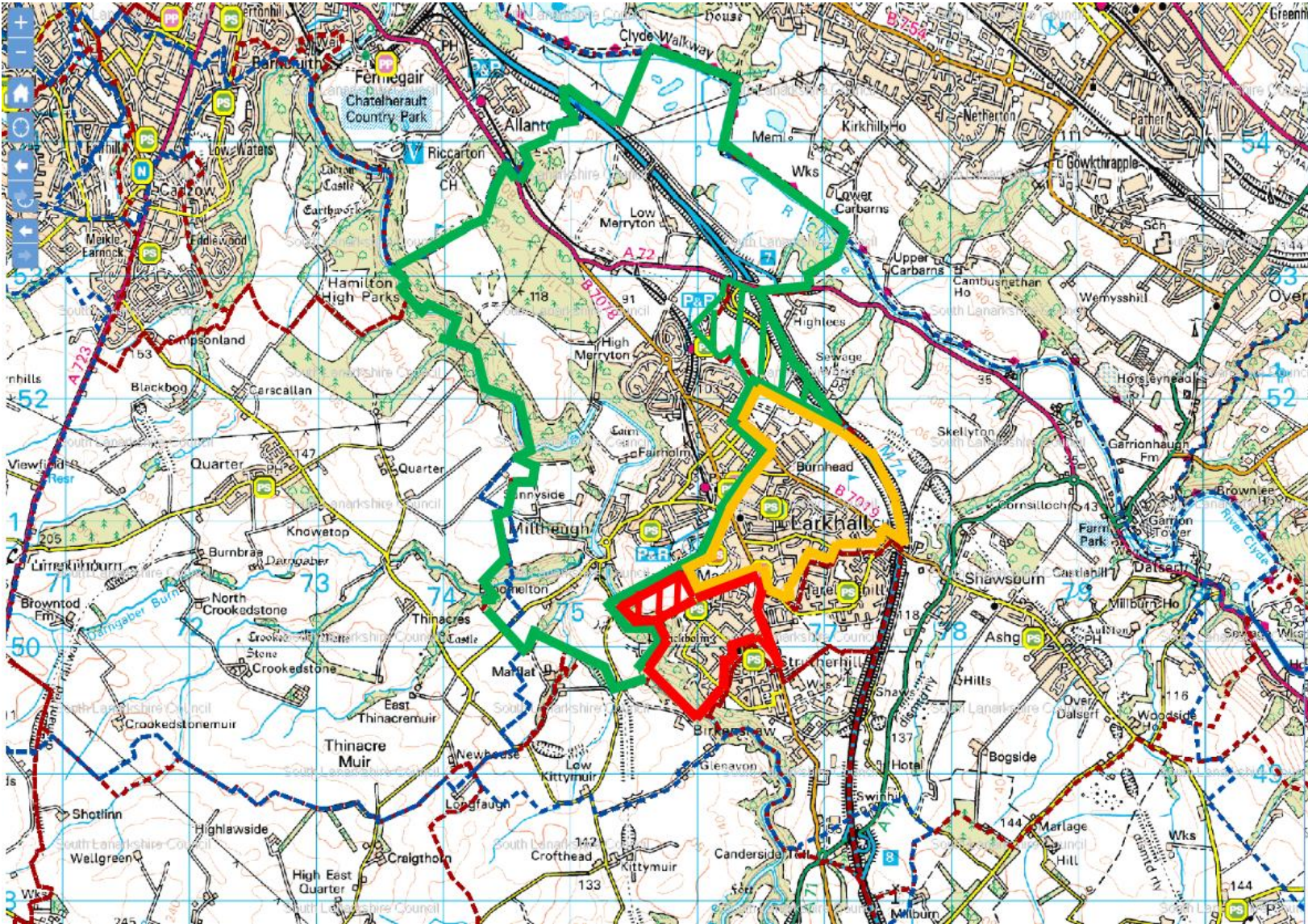
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Appendix 1 – Existing Larkhall non-denominational catchment areas and Housing development areas proposed to be realigned

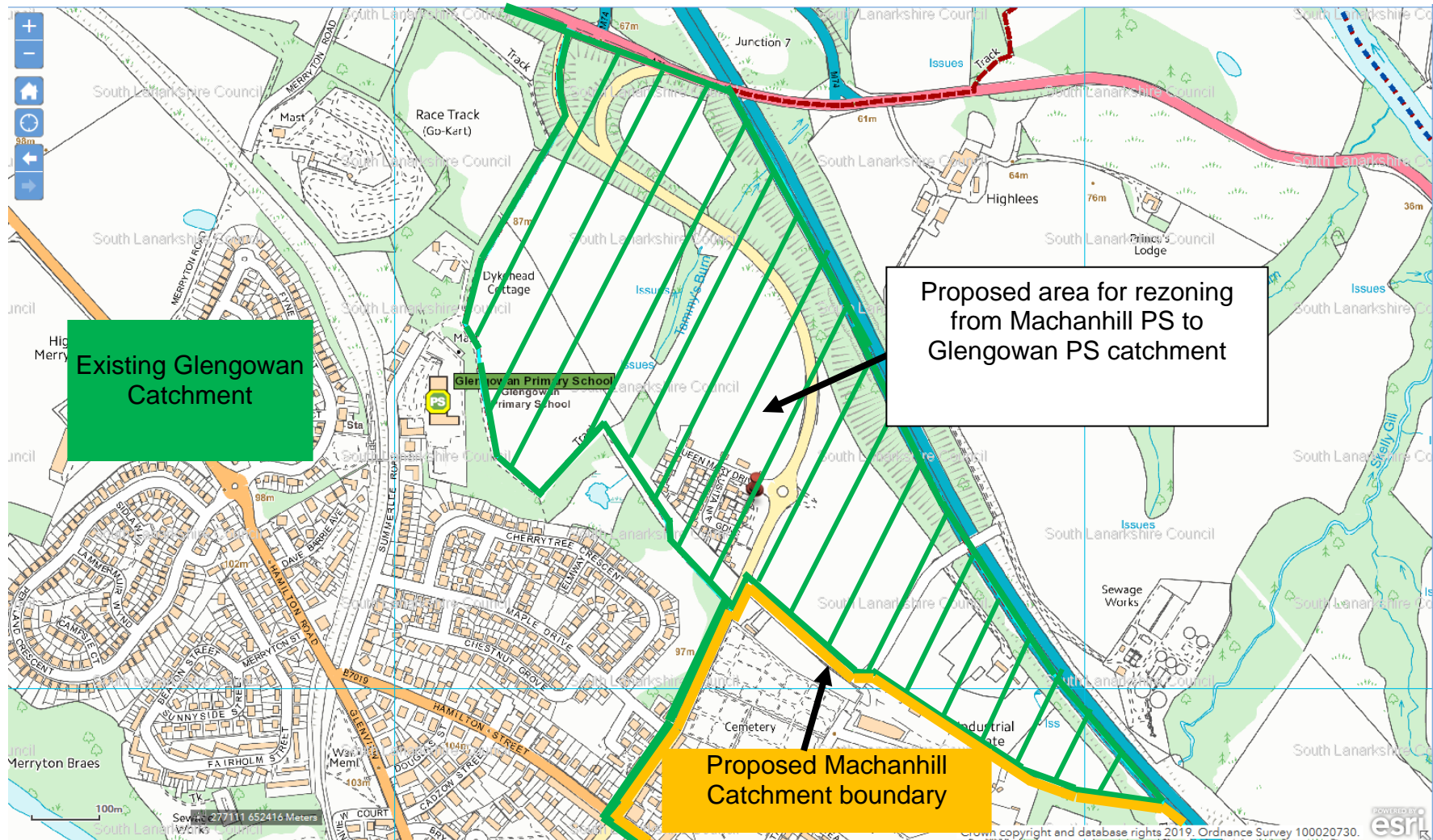


Appendix 2 – Proposed new catchment areas for Glengowan, Robert Smillie and Machanhill Primary Schools



	Robert Smillie
	Proposed addition to Robert Smillie
	Machanhill
	Glengowan
	Proposed addition to Glengowan

Appendix 3 – Detail of zone proposed to be rezoned from Machanhill Primary to Glengowan Primary



Appendix 4 – Detail of zone proposed to be rezoned from Machanhill Primary to Robert Smillie Primary

