

# Report

Report to:	<b>Executive Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>17 May 2023</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Education Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Update on Proposal to Conduct a Consultation to Realign the Catchment Areas of Glengowan Primary, Machanhill Primary and Robert Smillie Primary Schools, Larkhall</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update the Executive Committee on the projections for Glengowan, Machanhill and Robert Smillie Primary Schools and the current catchment area of the three schools
- ◆ to seek approval from Executive Committee to conduct a statutory consultation, previously approved by the Executive Committee on 25 March 2020 (delegated decision taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with Group Leaders), to:-

*change the catchment areas of Glengowan Primary School, Machanhill Primary School and Robert Smillie Primary School to balance pupil numbers more effectively and better align new housing developments in Larkhall to the school geographically closer*

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a statutory consultation be conducted to change the catchment areas of Glengowan Primary School, Machanhill Primary School and Robert Smillie Primary School to balance pupil numbers more effectively and better align new housing developments in Larkhall to the school geographically closer.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The proposal to conduct a statutory consultation to alter the catchment areas of Glengowan Primary School, Machanhill Primary School and Robert Smillie Primary School was put to the Executive Committee of 25 March 2020.
- 3.2 This proposal was originally approved on 25 March 2020 by the Chief Executive in consultation with group leaders as the full Executive Committee was unable to meet due to the onset of the pandemic.
- 3.3 As a result of the national lockdown in March 2020, the legislative inability to undertake a public meeting, as required under the consultation process, and the redirection of

resources to support sustained efforts throughout the Covid pandemic, the consultation did not take place.

- 3.4 Due to the time elapsed since the approval was given in March 2020 it is felt that the Executive Committee should be updated as to the current position of the school rolls and projected rolls and the developments in the area to allow the proposal to be considered again.
- 3.5 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 link housing areas more appropriately to each non-denominational primary school and more equitably balance the pupil population where possible to do so.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 Pupil data information for each of the affected schools is outlined in sections 3.8, 3.9 and 3.10.
- 3.8 Robert Smillie Primary School
- ◆ Robert Smillie Primary School has 8 classrooms and a physical capacity of 264 (assuming an average of 33 pupils per class)
  - ◆ the roll is 204 (September 2022 census)
  - ◆ trends based on the average of the last three years' P1 intake figures suggest that the mainstream roll could be 201 in August 2025
- 3.9 Machanhill Primary School
- ◆ Machanhill Primary School has 12 classrooms and a physical capacity of 396 pupils (assuming an average of 33 pupils per class)
  - ◆ the pupil roll is 329 (September 2022 census)
  - ◆ trends based on the average of the previous three years' P1 intake figures suggest the mainstream roll could reach 348 in August 2025
- 3.10 Glengowan Primary School
- ◆ Glengowan Primary School currently has 17 classrooms and a physical capacity of 561 pupils (assuming 33 pupils per classroom). Current General-Purpose areas have been designed to allow for further expansion in the future to increase the capacity further to 594
  - ◆ the pupil roll is 274 (September 2022 census)
  - ◆ trends based on the average of the previous three years' P1 intake figures suggest the roll could reach 293 in August 2025

#### **4. Proposal - Catchment Realignment of Glengowan, Machanhill and Robert Smillie Primary Schools**

- 4.1 Catchment realignment – from Machanhill Primary School to Glengowan Primary School

- 4.2 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.

School	Current roll (September 2022 census)	Number of additional pupils projected from the CGA development	Projected future roll	Physical Capacity
Glengowan Primary	274	314	588	594
Machanhill Primary	329	-	348	396

As outlined above, on completion, the CGA development is projected to generate a further 314 non-denominational children in addition to the pupils already living on the CGA development site and already enrolled in school. Glengowan Primary School, as well as being the nearest school to this development, has had a 2-classroom extension completed in August 2022 to accommodate the additional pupils expected to be generated from the site. Appendices 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.

Within the school session 2019/2020, 64% of pupils from the Community Growth Area (CGA) development currently zoned to Machanhill Primary School chose to attend Glengowan Primary School via a placing request. In session 2020/21 the number was 58%, and in session 2022/2023, 61% of pupils from the CGA attend Glengowan Primary School via a placing request.

- 4.3 Catchment realignment - Machanhill Primary School to Robert Smillie Primary School

- 4.4 It is proposed that the section of the Larkhall Academy site, outlined on Appendix 2 and Appendix 4, and phase 2 of the Clare Crescent development, both of which lie directly behind Robert Smillie Primary School, be realigned from Machanhill Primary School to Robert Smillie Primary School. This area is accessible to Robert Smillie Primary School by a footpath from the development

School	Current roll (September 2022 census)	Number of additional pupils projected from the former Larkhall Academy development	Projected future roll	Physical Capacity
Robert Smillie Primary	204	56	260	264
Machanhill Primary	329	-	348	396

- 4.5 As outlined above, the area proposed to be rezoned is projected to generate an additional 56 non-denominational pupils of primary age. It is proposed that the Phase 1 Clare Crescent development houses remain within the catchment area of Machanhill Primary School.

4.6 Given the physical capacity of both Glengowan Primary School and Robert Smillie Primary School 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 developments.

4.7 It is not anticipated that any adaptations will be required to accommodate the pupils, however, should the need arise, any resultant adaptation or extensions would be funded via developer contributions.

## **5. Employee Implications**

5.1 Employee resources would continue to be provided by means of existing staffing protocols when calculating class teacher requirements 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 The proposal could allow for an increase in opportunities for walking and cycling to school and may result in a reduction in the use of cars at the school locations.

## **8. Other Implications**

8.1 If approved, the implementation date of any catchment realignment would be for P1 enrolment in January 2024 for session 2024/2025.

8.2 Families with children already attending either school, and with a further sibling enrolling in P1 in respect of school sessions August 2024 through to August 2029, will have the choice for their P1 child to be granted placement in that school regardless of any catchment change.

8.3 Given that the affected schools within the proposal are already 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 will be held to fully engage with the local community on this proposal.

## **9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

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

9.2 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.

**Tony McDaid**  
**Executive Director (Education Resources)**

28 April 2023

**Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes**

- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent

**Previous References**

- ◆ 25 March 2020 Executive Committee meeting papers

**List of Background Papers**

- ◆ Link to 25 March 2020 Executive Committee meeting papers

<https://southlanarkshire.cmis.uk.com/southlanarkshire/Meetingscalendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1130/Committee/33/Default.aspx>

**Contact for Further Information**

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

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