

Report

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Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	7 September 2011
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Further consultation on proposals to address the pupil population increase in Cambuslang
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide information in relation to the statutory consultation undertaken on proposals to realign school catchment areas within Cambuslang and Rutherglen;
- ◆ request approval to publish the Consultation Report arising from this consultation recommending the realignment of the James Aiton Primary School catchment area from Cathkin High to Stonelaw High;
- ◆ note that a further report seeking a final decision on the realignment of the catchment area for James Aiton Primary School from Cathkin High School to Stonelaw high School will be required,
- ◆ request approval for a further consultation on proposals to address the increase in the Cambuslang pupil population

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the information relating to the statutory consultation on proposals to realign catchment areas within Cambuslang and Rutherglen be noted;
- (2) that the consultation report on the catchment review in the Cambuslang and Rutherglen area be published recommending that James Aiton Primary School be rezoned to Stonelaw High School from August 2012; and
- (3) that a further statutory consultation be undertaken on alternative proposals, as set out within paragraph 5 of this report, to address the pupil population increase within Cambuslang.

3. Background

3.1. On 22 September 2010 the Executive Committee agreed that a consultation be undertaken on proposals arising from a review of catchment areas within Cambuslang and Rutherglen. The catchment review was required to determine school modernisation options for the area within the context of significant pupil population increases.

3.2. Education Resources subsequently undertook a consultation in line with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This requires a robust and transparent framework for consultations on school closures and other major changes. It requires authorities to actively involve and consult with children and young people, staff, parents and carers, parent councils and other school users.

There is a minimum six week term time consultation period. The following activities were undertaken to support the consultation.

- a Consultation Proposal Document was produced and distributed to a wide range of stakeholders and interested parties.
- a notice to advise of the consultation arrangements was placed in the press.
- a dedicated page was set up on the Council website to provide information and to enable interested parties to download the consultation document.
- the consultation period started on 1 October 2010 and closed on 30 November 2011.
- a public meeting was held on 25th October 2010.
- meetings were arranged with the relevant parent councils.
- the pupils from Hallside and James Aiton Primary Schools were engaged in the consultation process.
- staff were provided with copies of the consultation document and were invited to complete the response form.
- all responses to the consultation were recorded in order to ensure that the views and comments were accurately reflected in the consultation report responses.

3.3 The Consultation Proposal Document sought the views of consultees on the following proposals, namely that:

- Hallside Primary School's catchment area be rezoned to transfer areas of its catchment area to James Aiton Primary School's catchment area,
- Stonelaw High School's catchment area be rezoned to include the new James Aiton Primary School's catchment area and the catchment area of the new school proposed for Newton,
- Cathkin High School's catchment area be rezoned to exclude the new James Aiton Primary School's catchment area and also to exclude the catchment area of the new school proposed for Newton.

3.4. A total of 7000 copies of the Consultation Proposal Document were issued and 434 responses were received. Of those who responded 308 disagreed with the proposals. The main issue raised by those expressing disagreement was their concern that the original area of the Hallside catchment area would be rezoned beyond their local community to James Aiton Primary School and travel distances would increase. The view was expressed that this would have a negative impact on the local community.

4. Current Position

4.1. Current estimates indicate that the trend of increasing pupil population will continue and there is a requirement to seek a long term solution. From August 2011, Hallside Primary will have 19 classes and is forecast to rise to 21 classes over the next few years. The optimum size of Hallside Primary School on its current site is 14 classes.

4.2. The secondary aged pupil projections show that there will be capacity at both Uddingston and Stonelaw High Schools over the next few years. Should current housing development timescales be met and existing pupil population forecasts be realised, both Cathkin and Calderside High Schools would be operating at their efficient capacity by 2013.

4.3. Stonelaw High School had 1077 pupils in 2010 and is forecast to decrease to 975 pupils by 2017. The school has a capacity of 1495. Approved housing developments within the catchment area of Stonelaw High School are limited with less than 50 pupils projected within the next decade.

- 4.4. Uddingston Grammar had 1137 pupils in 2010 and is forecast to decrease to 947 pupils by 2017. The school has a capacity of 1334. Approved housing developments within the catchment area of Uddingston Grammar are limited with less than 50 pupils projected within the next decade. Uddingston Grammar currently has 2 North Lanarkshire and 2 South Lanarkshire primary schools within its catchment area.

5. Proposals

- 5.1. During the period following the consultation, work has continued within Education Resources to identify alternative options for addressing the pupil population increase within Cambuslang. Dialogue has taken place with other council services and the proposals set out below have been developed as an alternative to the proposal that an area of the Hallside Primary School catchment area be rezoned to James Aiton Primary School.
- 5.2. Undertake a consultation to build a 14 class school within the Newton area and a 7 class school at the site of Halfway Park.
- This would accommodate all pupils within 2 schools, one with 14 classes and the other with 7 classes.
 - Catchment areas would have to be defined to apportion the pupil population appropriately between the 2 new schools. The pupils from Halfway who were proposed to be rezoned to James Aiton Primary School in the initial consultation (see paragraph 3.3), would attend the new school located within their community and no transport would be required.
 - The Halfway community would have use of this facility outwith school hours.
 - The areas covered by these proposals are currently zoned for Cathkin High. It would be recommended that the new Primary School at Newton be rezoned to Uddingston Grammar and the new Primary School at Halfway Park be rezoned to Stonelaw High school.
- 5.3. It is also proposed that the consultation report arising from the initial consultation be published with a recommendation that:
- Stonelaw High School's catchment area be rezoned to include the existing James Aiton Primary School's catchment area from August 2012
 - Cathkin High School's catchment area be rezoned to exclude the existing James Aiton Primary School's catchment area from August 2012
- 5.4. Following this a further report will be provided for consideration by the Executive Committee for the proposal set out within paragraph 5.3.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. Additional staffing would be required as the two new schools are established.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. Funding for the 7 class school in Halfway Park would be met from efficiencies within the primary modernisation budget.
- 7.2. The funding required for the 14 class school at Newton would be met initially from within the Council's capital fund and additional borrowing, though it is anticipated that a contribution to the cost of this school would be received from developers between 2014 and 2024.
- 7.3. Additional revenue costs arising from the proposals within this report can be met from within the Council's revenue budget.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. Indicative delivery timescales from approval are:
- Undertaking a new consultation on the proposals within paragraph 5.2 will take between 6 and 18 months.
 - Design and planning approval 12 months
 - Construction 12 months
- 8.2. Whilst awaiting completion of the new schools in Newton and Halfway Park, interim contingency plans would require to be developed and may include suspension of the current decant programme to release accommodation for use by Hallside Primary School pupils. This could potentially include the former St Charles Primary School building, or the Cairns Primary School building once it has been vacated.
- 8.3. Additional transport may be required in line with the Council's current policy.
- 8.4. There are clearly risks associated by not taking appropriate action in terms of school numbers in this area.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.
- 9.2. Consultation arrangements are clearly set out within the report

Larry Forde
Executive Director (Education Resources)

16 August 2011

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Improvement Themes/Values

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Previous References

- Executive Committee 22 September 2011

List of Background Papers

- Consultation Proposal Document (September 2010) seeking views on proposals to change the catchment areas of James Aiton primary, Hallside Primary, Stonelaw High and Cathkin High.

Contact for Further Information

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

Sara Fellows, Head of Education (Resources)

Ext: 2064 (Tel: 01698 452064)

E-mail: sara.fellows@southlanarkshire.gov.uk