

Report

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 September 2022
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Outcome of the Consultation to Realign the Catchment of Newton Farm and Hallside Primary Schools and to Alter the Secondary School Those pupils in the Rezoned Area would Attend from Uddingston Grammar School to Cathkin High School
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide information on the outcome of the consultation undertaken on the above proposal
- ◆ seek approval from the Executive Committee to implement the recommendation of the outcome report from the statutory consultation undertaken

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) agree to implement the proposed catchment realignment of Newton Farm and Hallside Primary Schools, including altering the secondary school those pupils in the rezoned area would attend from Uddingston Grammar School to Cathkin High School; and
- (2) agree that:-
 - (i) any current catchment child attending Newton Farm Primary School during school session 2022/2023 and living in the proposed rezoned area for Hallside Primary School will have the right to remain at Newton Farm Primary School
 - (ii) these pupils will then be offered the option of attending either Uddingston Grammar School or Cathkin High School regardless of any catchment change
 - (iii) thereafter, any further younger siblings enrolling in P1 in respect of school sessions August 2023 through to August 2028 will have the option to enrol at Newton Farm Primary School and have the right to attend Uddingston Grammar School.

3. Background

3.1. A statutory consultation was carried out on the proposal to realign the catchment areas of Newton Farm and Hallside Primary Schools. The purpose was to balance pupil numbers more effectively within the two schools and to alter the Secondary School which pupils in the rezoned area would attend from Uddingston Grammar School to Cathkin High School.

- 3.2. The consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The consultation commenced on 25 October 2021, which included 2 on-line public meetings, and closed on 6 December 2021.

4. Summary of Responses

- 4.1. In total, 950 letters were delivered to affected residents and notification given to the parents/carers and pupils of the affected schools, 857 primary pupils and 2,290 secondary pupils. In addition, all associated primary schools and local nurseries were given notification of the consultation as well as other statutory consultees. In this context, the number of respondents to the proposal was low. Education Scotland also recognised in their report that the response rate by parents/carers was low.
- 4.2. 225 responses were received via online survey and email.

Responses	Number	%
In favour of the proposal	89	39.5%
Not in favour of the proposal	114	50.7%
Undecided	22	9.8%

- 4.3. In addition to the responses received via email and online form, a change.org petition against the proposal was submitted containing 246 signatures. It was noted that this change.org petition commenced prior to the go live date of the actual consultation, incorrectly stated that the consultation had already been proposed and agreed, presented limited information and did not provide a link to the full consultation proposal document. Later social media posts encouraged the completion of both the Council's response form and the change.org petition.
- 4.4. The Council could not establish whether the signatories responded based on the limited information presented within the petition rather than the formal consultation proposal document and whether there were duplicate signatories to those who issued a response via the formal consultation process and, therefore, did not include it as a formal response.
- 4.5. The Council reviewed the 225 responses received, with the main recurring points raised being:
- ◆ The need for a new High School within the Cambuslang area (28 respondents)
 - ◆ Concerns regarding the breaking up of what is regarded as the Newton Farm community (32 respondents)
 - ◆ Attending a different primary or secondary school to siblings (18 respondents)
 - ◆ The environmental impact of any change (14 respondents)
- 4.6. Further information is contained within section 8 of the consultation outcome document and a full list of all responses is contained within the appendix 6 of the consultation outcome document.
- 4.7. In respect of a new high school in the Cambuslang area, information provided explains that the increased pupil numbers expected can be reduced by giving priority to catchment pupils over placing requests from other local authorities. Thereafter, the estimate of an excess of 258 secondary aged pupils is considered to be too small to warrant building a new secondary school and can be managed by undertaking smaller

adaptations works at Cathkin High School if required, financially assisted with developer contributions.

- 4.8 Education Resources already acknowledged that any change to catchment can be unsettling for families and had, therefore, built in an assumption that, for a period of time, younger siblings can continue to enrol at Newton Farm Primary School. Also, any current pupils at Newton Farm Primary School can continue to transition to Uddingston Grammar School. (See recommendation 2 in this report).

5. Education Scotland Report

- 5.1. HM Inspectors attended a public meeting and considered the written and oral submissions received during the consultation period. They also held virtual visits to Newton Farm Primary School and Hallside Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees and discussions with the headteachers of Uddingston Grammar School and Cathkin High School.
- 5.2. They observed that, overall, the response rate from parents was low.
- 5.3. Stakeholders from Newton Farm Primary School recognised that the current situation where the use of the gym hall as a teaching area was limiting its use for wider celebrations and activities. Physical education required to be outdoors in varied weather conditions. All children, staff and parents were pleased that the extension to the building will resolve these issues. They were more mixed in their support for the council's proposal to alter the schools' catchment areas but are aware that future house building could add to the school roll in the future.
- 5.4. Parents welcomed the commitment to allow pupils to continue to attend their current school. They were also positive about the provision for siblings to attend the same school as their older brothers and sisters.
- 5.5. Education Scotland concluded that the proposal has potential educational benefits. The proposal will, if approved, support a more even distribution of children and young people in the affected schools in the future. They also concluded that the Council could provide more detail outlining its position with regard to the educational benefits, particularly in secondary schools, to support stakeholders in understanding better the issues. As a result, the rolls and capacities of the affected secondary schools are outlined in section 8.3.1 of the consultation outcome report and summarised in paragraph 4.7 of this report.

6 Employee Implications

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

7 Financial Implications

- 7.1 The proposal demonstrates a Best Value approach to effectively managing the school estate and the Council's property portfolio.
- 7.2 South Lanarkshire Council's current policy on transport will still apply following any catchment change.
- 7.3 Developers' contributions can assist with any future adaptation works necessary at Cathkin High School should the consultation proposal be approved.

8 Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1 Any proposals meet all South Lanarkshire Council requirements in respect to Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental.

9 Other Implications

- 9.1. There are no risk implications associated with this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1 Under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, any proposal to vary any of the admission arrangements for a school, including its catchment area, necessitates a statutory consultation.
- 10.2. There was no requirement to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment in terms of this report.

Tony McDaid
Executive Director (Education Resources)

31 August 2020

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent
- ◆ Fair, open and sustainable
- ◆ Our children and young people thrive

Previous References

- ◆ Consultation proposal document made available as part of the statutory consultation process.

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Executive Committee 22 September 2021
- ◆ Link to the outcome report

[Comments, complaints and consultations - South Lanarkshire Council](#)

Contact for Further Information

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

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