

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education, Culture and Sport
DATE	24th March 2011
DIRECTOR	Annette Bruton
TITLE OF REPORT	Opportunities to re-define catchment areas of Aberdeen Grammar School and Harlaw Academy
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/11/018

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform members of proposals relating to the redefinition of the delineated (catchment) areas of Aberdeen Grammar School and Harlaw Academy to maximise the number of in-zone pupils attending the schools enabling a more equitable and efficient distribution of pupils across this and adjacent schools.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee approves the next phase of the review of school provision by instructing officers to include the potential re-zoning of these two secondary schools in a comprehensive review of the primary school estate.

This review would be completed by December 2011 and the resulting report would be presented to Education, Culture and Sport early in 2012.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be revenue implications in carrying out a robust and reliable review of the primary school estate, officers will engage with North East HubCo to determine any potential role they may have in this process. Initial discussions with HubCo have suggested a willingness on their behalf to be involved in the review at nominal cost to the council.

This review will consider the appropriateness of all primary schools zones, including those within the Aberdeen Grammar School and Harlaw Academy catchment areas, under the following criteria:

- Condition
- Suitability
- Occupancy (including projected rolls)

- Running costs
- Maintenance costs
- Educational benefit

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Legal – any proposal to significantly change the estate, such as alteration to the delineated (catchment) area or amendment to the secondary school to which any primary school is zoned would have to be consulted upon and this consultation would have to meet the requirements of The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

Resource – the completion of a reliable and valid review of the primary school estate will require to be appropriately supported. Further to the potential for the involvement of HubCo as described above, further discussions on commissioning the review will take place with external consultants. These proposals may result in a contract to carry out the review being subject to the tender process and officers will return to a future Committee on the outcome of this process. It is anticipated this review will be completed by December 2011 and a report made to Education, Culture and Sport Committee early in 2012.

Personnel - There are no direct significant personnel implications as a result of the proposal in this report. The review of the primary school estate may well have significant personnel implications.

Property - There are no direct significant property implications as a result of the proposal in this report. The review of the primary school estate may well have significant property implications.

Equipment - There are no direct significant equipment implications as a result of the proposal in this report.

Sustainability - There are no direct significant sustainability implications as a result of the proposal in this report. The review of the primary school estate may well have significant sustainability implications.

Environmental - There are no direct significant Environmental implications as a result of the proposal in this report. The review of the primary school estate may well have significant environmental implications.

Health and safety – There are no direct significant Health and Safety implications as a result of the proposal in this report.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

At the special meeting of the Education, Culture And Sport Committee on 28th October 2010, members resolved to instruct officers to fully develop the following proposals as soon as practicable:

- (iii) (f) redefine the catchment area of Aberdeen Grammar School to maximise the number of in-zone pupils attending the school enabling a more equitable and efficient distribution of pupils across this and adjacent schools; and
- (g) redefine the catchment area of Harlaw Academy to maximise the number of in-zone pupils attending the school enabling a more equitable and efficient distribution of pupils across this and adjacent schools.

The review of secondary school zones relates to the associated primaries as well as the secondary school's own zone.

The options to amend a secondary school's zone are:

- (a) vary the whole zone so that a different part of the city comes into or moves out of the zone. This could mean changing the zones of the associated primaries or simply adding or removing one or more complete primary school's zone from the zone of the secondary school.

To carry out such a change would have significant impact upon adjacent zones (both primary and secondary) and this, in turn, could have a knock-on effect across significant areas of the city.

To do this in isolation would not be efficient and may well result in further re-zoning having to be carried out in future.

- (b) carry out a comprehensive review of the complete primary school estate and re-zone wherever the need arises.

This will have implications for both primary and secondary zones and result in more efficient and effective primary and secondary school zones and more a sustainable school estate

It is proposed that the re-definition of the zones of Aberdeen Grammar School and Harlaw Academy are included in this review and that the review includes all primary schools in Aberdeen, and hence by implication the zoning arrangements for all associated secondary schools.

6. IMPACT

Corporate – This report fits within the second of the six key priorities of the five year business plan:

- Help to ensure that all school children reach their potential.

Public - This report is likely to be of interest to the public as the provision of educational facilities is of significant importance to parents/carers, pupils and staff

Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessments will be carried out on any proposals relating to individual or groups of schools as a result of the proposed review of the primary estate.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Minute of Meeting of the Special Education, Culture and Sport Committee on 28 October 2010.

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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