

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education and Children's Services
DATE	4 July 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Consultation on proposed new school at Bucksburn/Newhills
REPORT NUMBER	RES/23/205
DIRECTOR	Steve Whyte / Eleanor Sheppard
CHIEF OFFICER	Stephen Booth
REPORT AUTHOR	Andrew Jones
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.1, 1.1.2

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request approval from the Committee to carry out a statutory public consultation on the establishment of a new primary school and catchment area to serve new housing developments at Bucksburn/Newhills.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Instructs the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord to carry out a statutory public consultation on the proposal to establish a new primary school at Bucksburn/Newhills, and on proposed changes to the existing school catchment area for Brimmond School, to create a new catchment area which would be served by the proposed new school; and
- 2.2 instructs the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord to report back to the Committee on the outcomes of the consultation at its next available meeting following conclusion of the consultation process.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The Council's School Estate Plan was approved at the former Education Operational Delivery Committee on 8 September 2022, when members instructed officers to determine options and appropriate timing for new primary school provision to serve new housing developments at Newhills, and to report back with an Outline Business Case.
- 3.2 An Outline Business Case presenting a preferred design option for a new school was approved by the Finance and Resources Committee on 17 May 2023, when officers were instructed to proceed with drawing up a Full Business Case for the project.

- 3.3 Currently, the area of new housing at Newhills (made up of the Craibstone South, Rowett South and Greenferns Landward sites) is included within the catchment area for Brimmond School. School roll forecasts indicate that the capacity of Brimmond School will be far exceeded, if the numbers of children expected to be living within the new housing in the future are entitled to be enrolled at the school. This is why it has been deemed necessary to construct a new school to serve the new area of housing.
- 3.4 When establishing a new school, it is also necessary to define a catchment area for the school, to confirm which areas of land and housing will be served by the school. For this reason it is recommended that changes should be made to the existing catchment area for Brimmond School, to create a new, separate catchment area which would be served by the proposed new school and to reduce the area of land which would be served by Brimmond School in the future, which will help to ensure that pupil numbers at Brimmond School can remain within the school's capacity.
- 3.5 Proposals to establish a new school and to make changes to catchment areas are relevant proposals under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, which means that the Council is required to carry out a statutory public consultation on the proposals, before any decision can be taken on whether to proceed with any changes. A consultation is therefore required before the Final Business Case for the proposed new school can be approved.
- 3.6 It is therefore recommended that the Committee instructs officers to carry out a public consultation on the proposal to establish a new school to serve the new housing developments at Newhills, and on proposed changes to the existing catchment area for Brimmond School, to create a new catchment area which would be served by the new school. The proposed catchment area changes are illustrated in the maps at Appendix A of this report.
- 3.7 It is anticipated at this stage that the statutory consultation would be carried out in Winter 2023/24, although this is subject to the scheduling of staff resource within the Council and within Education Scotland, which is required to support the consultation process.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Costs associated with carrying out the consultation will be met from within existing revenue budgets.
- 4.2 The capital costs associated with construction of the proposed new school, and additional revenue costs associated with opening and running the school, will be detailed in the Full Business Case, for approval by the Finance and Resources Committee. Construction of the school will be funded partly through contributions from the developers of the new housing.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 A proposal to establish a school and catchment area is a relevant proposal under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The 2010 Act prescribes the procedural steps the Education Authority must take. This includes:

- preparation of a proposal paper;
- giving notice of the proposal;
- ingathering oral and written representations;
- holding a public meeting;
- providing Education Scotland with all relevant documentation;
- reviewing the proposal having regard to the representations received and Education Scotland's report; and
- thereafter publishing a consultation report containing an explanation of how it has reviewed the proposal and responding to the points raised during the consultation.

5.2 The proposed public consultation would comply with these requirements of the 2010 Act.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	No significant risks identified			
Compliance	Risk that the Council is seen to make significant changes to schools without considering the views of stakeholders. Risk of successful legal	All aspects of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 will be complied with. Regard will be had to statutory duties set out in the 2010 Act set out above and the Education (Scotland) Act 1980. Prescribed legal processes will be followed.	L	Yes

	challenge for failing to comply with statutory duties.			
Operational	Risk that customers' views are not taken into account when introducing new catchment areas	All aspects of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended will be complied with and stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on proposals.	L	Yes
Financial	No significant risks identified			
Reputational	Risk that customers' views are not taken into account when introducing new catchment areas	All aspects of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended will be complied with and stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on proposals.	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	No significant risks identified			

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2022-2023</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement <u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u>	<p><i>The proposals within this report support the delivery of the following aspects of the policy statement:-</i></p> <p>This report supports the delivery of the following policy statements:</p> <p><u>A City of Opportunity</u></p> <p>Policy Statement 2 - Review and invest in our school estate, ensuring all of Aberdeen's schools are fit for the educational needs and the challenges of the 21st century. The report seeks Committee's approval to proceed to consult on a proposed new school with modern facilities.</p>

[Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26](#)

Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	Prosperous People: The project will support Stretch Outcome 8 in the LOIP - <i>Childfriendly city where all decisions which impact children and young people will be informed by them by 2026</i> . The consultation will help ensure that the views of children and young people will be taken into account.
Regional and City Strategies	This project forms part of the School Estate Plan which will support the delivery of the Council's Property and Estates Strategy and the Net Zero Routemap for Aberdeen City.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Full impact assessment not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	No other assessments required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Education Operational Delivery Committee, 8 September 2022: School Estate Plan
- 10.2 Finance and Resources Committee, 17 May 2023: Newhills Additional Primary School Provision

11. APPENDICES

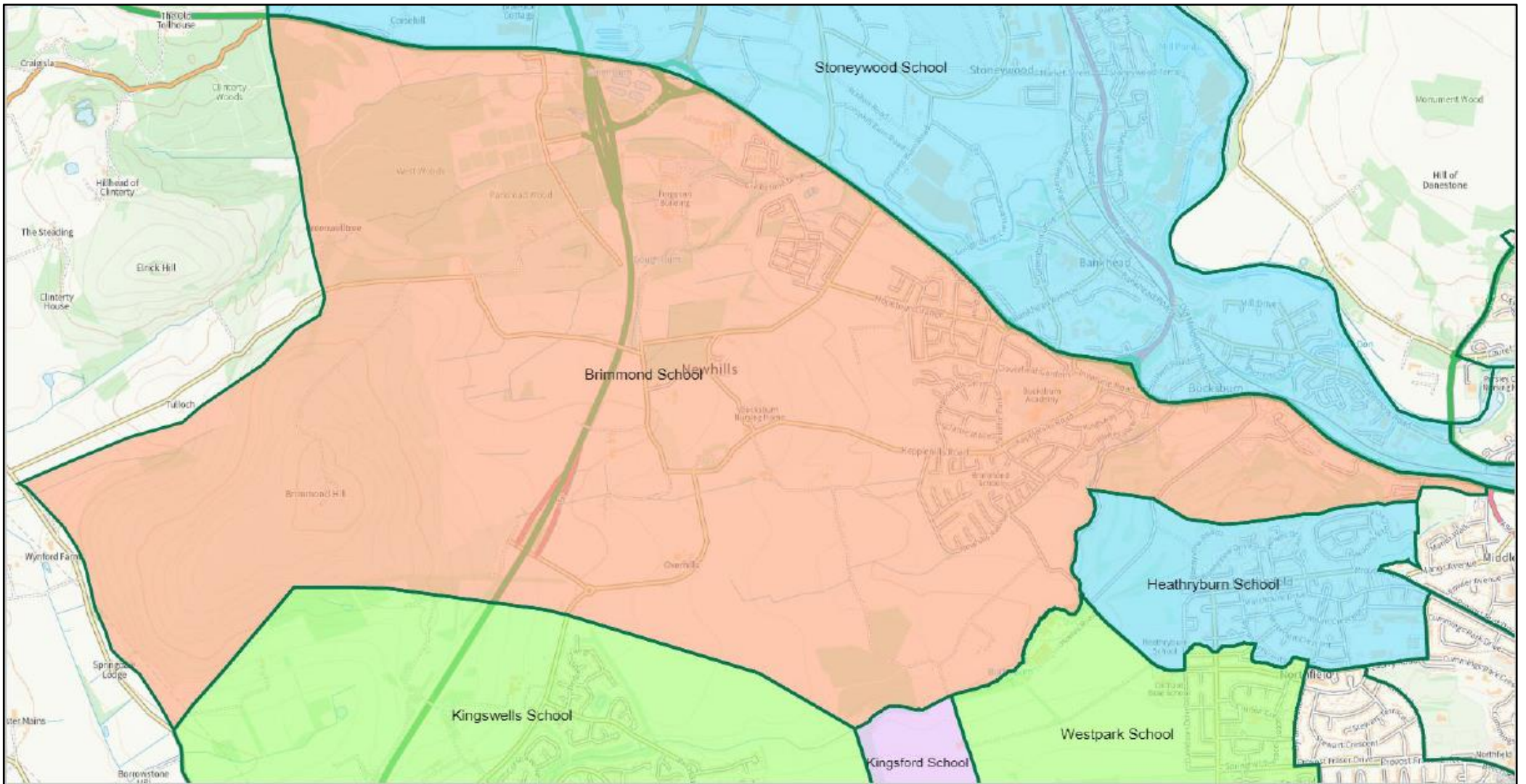
- 11.1 Appendix A: Proposed changes to Brimmond School catchment area

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Andrew Jones
Title	Service Manager
Email Address	ajones@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Tel	01224 045101

Appendix A : Proposed Changes to School Catchment Areas

Map 1 : Existing Catchment Areas



Map 2 : Proposed Catchment Areas

