



CONSULTATION REPORT
Alteration of Catchment Areas for Greenbrae School and
Scotstown School

This Consultation Report has been compiled in response to a public consultation carried out from 19 February to 15 April 2024, on proposals to make changes to the school catchment areas for Greenbrae School and Scotstown School in Aberdeen City, so that two 'dual zone' areas extending into parts of Aberdeenshire, are removed.

The document summarises the feedback received on the proposals set out below and Aberdeen City Council's response to the written comments submitted by interested parties, in compliance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Proposals:

To alter the school catchment area for Greenbrae School, so that the northern edge of the catchment area aligns with the Aberdeen City boundary, and so that the catchment area no longer includes land within Aberdeenshire;

And:

To alter the school catchment area for Scotstown School, so that the northern edge of the catchment area aligns with the Aberdeen City boundary; and so that the catchment area no longer includes land within Aberdeenshire.

Maps illustrating the proposed changes to the school catchment boundaries are included at Annex A of this report.

1. METHODOLOGY

This consultation was conducted in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. All requirements of the legislation have been met.

2. INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS

2.1 Public Event

A public consultation event to discuss the proposals was arranged on 13 March 2024, at 7.00pm at Bridge of Don Academy. It was not attended by any members of the public.

2.2 Comments Received

Twelve responses to the consultation were submitted to the Council, by email or via the Council's online consultation portal. These included a response from Bridge of Don Community Council.

Overall, eight respondents indicated that they were in support of the proposal, whilst two respondents indicated that they were not.

2.3 Issues Raised

The main issues raised in the written responses to the consultation, are summarised below.

Comments from respondents who indicated that they were in support of the proposed catchment area changes, focused on concerns about Scotstown School not having sufficient pupil capacity. Each of these respondents who provided a comment felt that the proposed changes to the catchment areas would help reduce the risk of the school becoming overcrowded.

One of the respondents who stated that they were not in agreement with the proposal, highlighted a concern about the availability of nursery places, as their perception was that the proposed changes would remove options for 8am to 5pm Nursery provision.

In its response to the consultation, Bridge of Don Community Council queried whether there would be any changes to secondary school catchment areas, as a result of the changes proposed for the two primary schools, as there was a concern that the changes could mean that children attending the same primary school may be living in different secondary school catchment areas, and would be unable to attend the same secondary school as their friends.

2.4 Education Scotland Report

An essential element of the statutory consultation process is the involvement of Education Scotland, whose report is provided as Annex B of this Consultation Report.

In its report, Education Scotland noted that the proposed changes to the school catchment areas would assist with more accurate forecasting of school rolls, which would support the Council in managing staffing levels, pupil numbers and class sizes.

It was also noted that the proposed changes would help provide clarity for parents and children about future school enrolment.

HM Inspectors met with some children and staff at the affected schools to discuss the proposals, all of whom were in support of the proposed changes.

In summary, the report states that HM Inspectors agree with the educational benefits of the proposed changes which were set out by the Council. It was also suggested that the Council provides more information in its consultation report on future plans relating to secondary school catchment areas for this part of the city.

3. THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD AND CONTAINED WITHIN THE EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT

3.1 Concerns around Nursery provision

In relation to the concerns raised by one respondent about Nursery provision being removed, the proposed changes to the catchment areas for Greenbrae School and Scotstown School affect primary school (P1 to P7) provision only, and the availability of nursery places would not be affected by the proposals.

3.2 Secondary school catchment areas

This consultation focused only on proposed changes to primary school catchment areas, and no changes to secondary school catchment areas are proposed at this time. As part of the Council's School Estate Plan, a review of the secondary school provision for Oldmachar, Bridge of Don and Grandhome is expected to begin later in 2024, and this will provide an opportunity to propose bringing the Oldmachar Academy catchment area boundary into line with the City / Shire boundary line, along with any other changes to catchment areas which may become necessary as a result of the review of secondary provision.

In the meantime, any child would be able to make a placing request to attend a different secondary school to the one they are zoned to, if they wished to do so.

Officers have made contact with Bridge of Don Community Council to explain the above and to clarify the situation regarding secondary school catchment areas.

4. COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 9(1) OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 AND CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSALS

Following the conclusion of the consultation period, Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, requires the Council to review the relevant proposal, having had regard to any written representations that have been received by it during the consultation period, any oral representations made to it at the public meeting held on 13 March, and Education Scotland's report.

In terms of Section 10(2) (e) of the said Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, the Consultation Report is required to contain a statement explaining how the Council complied with its duty under the above Section 9(1) of the Act.

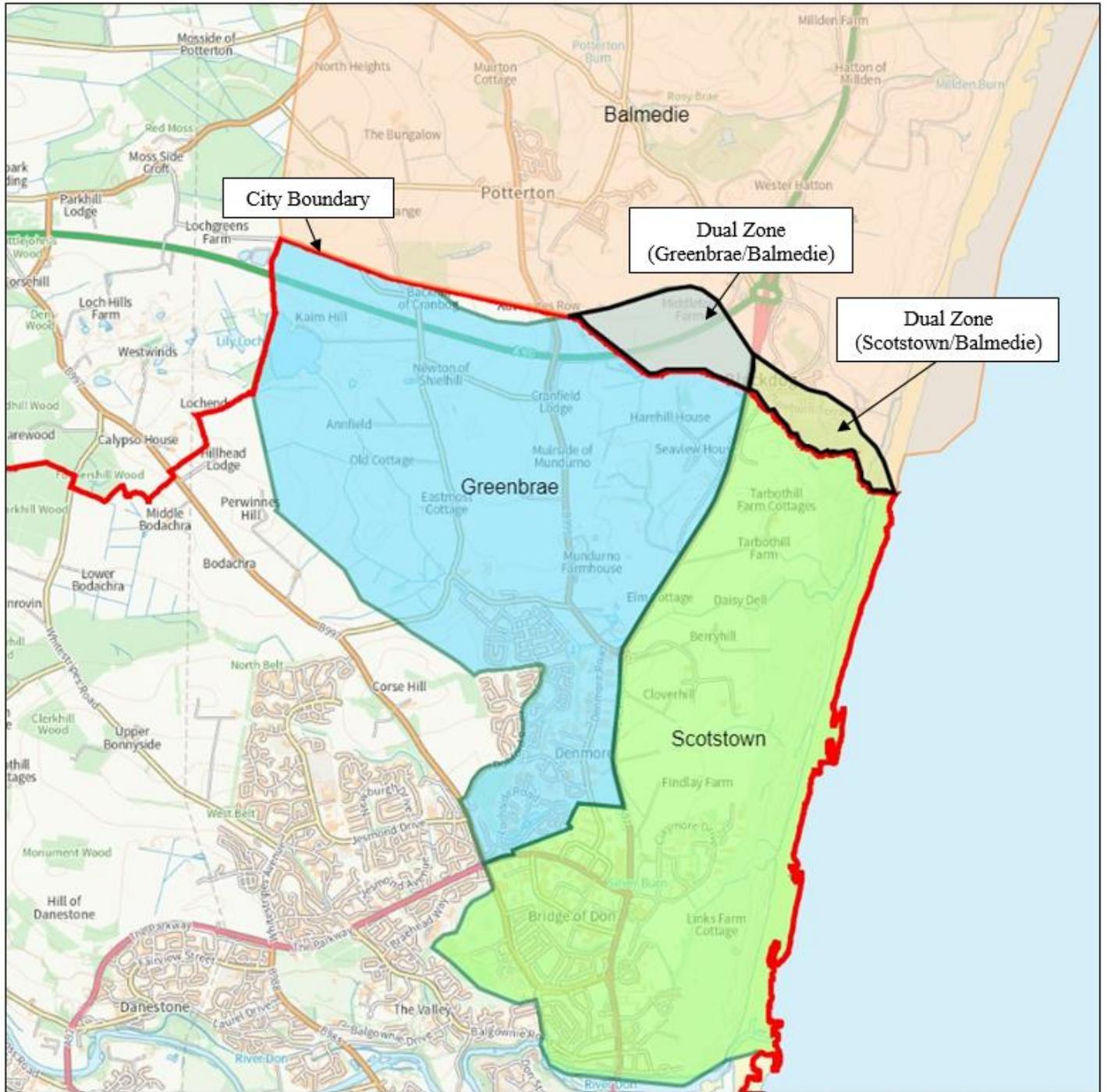
With relation to Section 9(1) of the 2010 Act and having considered all of the information received during the consultation process, officers have concluded that the proposed changes to catchment areas remain appropriate, and that there is no reason to change these.

5. RECOMMENDATION

In summary, it is recommended that the Education and Children's Services Committee agrees to implement the proposed changes to the catchment areas for Greenbrae School and Scotstown School, as defined within the maps at Annex A, with effect from 1 August 2024.

Eleanor Sheppard
Executive Director - Families & Communities
May 2024

Map 1: Current Catchment Areas



Map 2: Proposed Catchment Areas



REPORT FROM EDUCATION SCOTLAND



Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Aberdeen City Council to alter the catchment areas for Greenbrae School and Scotstown School.

April 2024

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of a proposal by Aberdeen City Council to alter the catchment areas for Greenbrae School and Scotstown School. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' view. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it alongside any relevant considerations the council received and then prepare its consultation report. The council's consultation report should include this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its consultation report at least three weeks before it takes its final decision. With all proposals the council needs to follow all statutory obligations set out in the 2010 Act.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children of the schools; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 13 March 2024 in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- visits to the site of Greenbrae School and Scotstown School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

2.1 Aberdeen City Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#).

2.2 The public consultation ran from 19 February to 15 April 2024. The proposal was published on the council website, available in a range of council buildings, and a copy sent to relevant consultees. The council held a public meeting on 13 March 2024. No members of the public attended. The council received 10 responses to an online consultation questionnaire and two responses by email. Most stakeholders agree with the proposal. A few people commented that it should help to address potential capacity issues in the future. A few stakeholders raised queries in relation to nursery provision in their local area and secondary school catchment boundaries.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The council set out a short educational benefits statement highlighting the impact of the proposal, if approved. HM Inspectors agree that the proposed changes will assist the council to more accurately forecast the size of the school roll in Greenbrae School and Scotstown School. This will support the council to manage better teacher staffing levels, pupil numbers and class sizes. The proposed changes will also provide clearer information for parents and children about future primary school enrolment locally.

3.2 All staff and children that HM Inspectors met with support the proposal. They agree that it is sensible to alter the catchment areas for Greenbrae School and Scotstown School so that they align to the council boundary. No parents took up the opportunity to speak with HM Inspectors.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree with the limited educational benefits set out by the council arising from this proposal. If approved, this will assist the council to more accurately forecast school rolls and more effectively manage pupil numbers and staffing levels. It will also enable the council to provide clearer information for parents and children about future primary school enrolment in the area. Although outside the scope of this proposal, in finalising its consultation report it may be helpful for the council to provide more information about future plans in relation to secondary school catchment areas.

HM Inspectors
April 2024