

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	<b>Education, Culture and Sport</b>
DATE	<b>11 March 2015</b>
DIRECTOR	<b>Gayle Gorman</b>
TITLE OF REPORT	<b>Statutory Consultation – Consultation Reports for:</b>  <b>(i) The proposal by Aberdeen City Council to rezone ground to the north and east of the River Don currently within the Brimmond School zone to a new zone to be created to serve primary education provision in the Grandhome development, with effect from August 2015; and</b>  <b>(ii) The proposal to rezone ground within the Middleton Park School zone which lies to the west and north of the current limit of the built up area of Middleton Park to a new zone to be created to serve primary education provision in the Grandhome development, with effect from August 2015.</b>
REPORT NUMBER:	<b>ECS\15\018</b>
CHECKLIST:	<b>Yes</b>

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To report to Committee on the outcome of the statutory consultation on the proposals to:

- (i) The proposal by Aberdeen City Council to rezone ground to the north and east of the River Don currently within the Brimmond School zone to a new zone to be created to serve primary education provision in the Grandhome development, with effect from August 2015; and
- (ii) The proposal to rezone ground within the Middleton Park School zone which lies to the west and north of the current limit of the built up area of Middleton Park to a new zone to be created to serve primary education provision in the Grandhome development, with effect from August 2015.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- (i) To implement proposals (i) and (ii) above and to instruct officers to make the necessary arrangements to ensure successful implementation in time for the start of the academic session 2015/16 in August 2015.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendation above.

## **4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Legal – The public consultations have complied with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. As these proposals refer to rezoning and there were no closure proposals in either consultation, any decision to implement them by this Committee cannot be called in by Scottish Ministers.

Resources – Officer time and expenditure associated with these consultation exercises has been met from existing service budgets.

Personnel – Implementation of the recommendations will not result in any significant personnel implications.

Property – There are no property implications arising from the implementation of these proposals.

Equipment – There are no equipment implications or risks associated with this report.

Sustainability and environmental – Implementation of these proposals will have minimal impact upon sustainability and environmental issues related to the school estate.

Health and safety – There are no implications or risks related to this report.

Policy – there are no policy implications or risks related to this report.

## **5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

### **5.1 School Reorganisation Proposals**

These proposals contribute to a widespread programme to manage the school estate across the city arising from both the review of secondary

schools and primary schools which were previously reported to Committee on 28 October 2010 and 7 February 2013.

These statutory consultations were carried out as result of an instruction from Education, Culture and Sport on 7 February, 2013.

## **5.2 Educational Implications**

The Education Authority has a programme to ensure the provision of an affordable and suitable education service for all its pupils. Implementation of these proposals will assist in the delivery of these objectives, thereby meeting the Council's statutory obligations as set out in the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 (as amended).

## **5.3 Statutory Consultation Feedback**

Appendix 1 details the Consultation Report for rezoning of ground from the Brimmond School zone to that for a school in the Grandhome Estate development, while Appendix 2 contains the Consultation Report for the rezoning of ground in the Middleton Park School zone to that for a school which will serve the Grandhome Estate development. The following sections provide a synopsis of the written submissions, comment from the public consultation meetings and the service's response to these submissions and the reports from Education Scotland.

### **5.3.1 Rezoning of Brimmond School Zone**

#### **(a) Methodology**

All requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 were met or exceeded.

#### **(b) Feedback from Stakeholders and Education Scotland**

One response was received for this consultation, seeking comment on the impact for Danestone School should pupils from Grandhome be educated there until a new school is constructed in the Grandhome area. Further, the response also sought comment on the capacity of schools in the Bridge of Don community and the need to ensure that schools built in Grandhome were not subsidised by the Council.

Education Scotland confirmed that there were potential educational benefits which may be delivered by the implementation of this rezoning proposal and also commented on the need to discuss the proposal fully with the Danestone School community.

The Council's responses to these issues are included in the Consultation Report at Appendix 1.

#### **(c) Overall View of the Proposal**

The volume of response was very low with one responses being received from a Bridge of Don parent and no-one attending either public meeting.

The Pupil Council were positive about the reduction in children who would be zoned to their school when the consultation was discussed with them.

### 5.3.2 Rezoning of Middleton Park School Zone

#### (a) Methodology

The consultation met of all the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

#### (b) Feedback from Stakeholders and Education Scotland

Six written responses were received along with the Education Scotland report.

Correspondence mainly sought comment on issues such as school capacities in the Bridge of Don area, why had Danestone School not been consulted as an affected school, what would happen to the modular accommodation at Middleton Park School, would the Council be required to pay for the construction of new schools in the Grandhome Estate development and how would pupil numbers from the Grandhome development be monitored.

One individual had commented on the accuracy of pupil roll projections for Middleton Park School and provided commentary on how this may be improved. The Council response to this is detailed in section 4 of the Consultation Report.

Education Scotland commented on the possible education which may be achieved for both Middleton Park School and for the children in the Grandhome development. Their report also commented on the need to fully develop the planning for Danestone School should pupils from Grandhome be educated there in the interim.

#### (c) Overall View of the Proposal

The level of response to both consultations was very low with only six responses being received and twelve individuals attending the public meeting. All of the matters contained within views submitted have been responded to either during the consultation period or in the Consultation Report.

### 5.9 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Education and Children's Services Committee implement the proposals to:

- (i) Rezone ground to the north and east of the River Don currently within the Brimmond School zone to a new zone to be created to serve primary education provision in the Grandhome development, with effect from August 2015; and
- (ii) Rezone ground within the Middleton Park School zone which lies to the west and north of the current limit of the built up area of

Middleton Park to a new zone to be created to serve primary education provision in the Grandhome development, with effect from August 2015.

## **6. IMPACT**

### **6.1 Corporate**

#### **Aberdeen the Smarter City**

- (i) We will enhance the physical and emotional wellbeing of all our citizens by offering support and activities which promote independence, resilience, confidence and self-esteem.
- (ii) Working with our third, public and private sector partners, we will provide opportunities for lifelong learning which will develop knowledge, skills and attributes of our citizens to enable them to meet the changing demands of the 21st Century.
- (iii) Again, working with partners, we will create a City of Learning which will empower individuals to fulfil their potential and contribute to the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of our communities.
- (iv) We will aim to have a workforce across the city which has the skills and knowledge to sustain, grow and diversify the city economy.

### **6.2 Equality and Human Rights implications**

A full Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 3 of this report.

### **6.3 Management of the School Estate**

It is noted that the pupil occupancy levels at Brimmond School and Middleton Park School are high and will continue to increase. The direct implications of implementing these proposals will ensure that future pupil rolls remain within the overall capacities at both schools. It has been identified that Danestone School has sufficient capacity to accommodate the pupils who may arrive from the Grandhome development until the first primary school in the new community is complete.

## **7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK**

There is not expected to be significant operational risk arising from the implementation of the proposals. Having followed all applicable legislation, the Council will be perceived as having taken account of the result of the consultation process.

## **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Appendix 1 Consultation Report on the proposal by Aberdeen City Council to rezone ground to the north and east of the River Don currently within the Brimmond School zone to a new zone to be created to serve primary education provision in the Grandhome development, with effect from August 2015.

Appendix 2 Consultation Report on the proposal to rezone ground within the Middleton Park School zone which lies to the west and north of the current limit of the built up area of Middleton Park to a new zone to be created to serve primary education provision in the Grandhome development, with effect from August 2015.

## **9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

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## CONSULTATION REPORT

on the proposal by Aberdeen City Council to rezone ground to the north and east of the River Don currently within the Brimmond School zone to a new zone to be created to serve primary education provision in the Grandhome development, with effect from August 2015.

### 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 were met or exceeded.

### 2. INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS

#### (a) Public Events

Two public consultations event were held to discuss the re-zoning proposal and its impact on Brimmond School. As no individuals attended the first meeting on 23 September, a further meeting was organised for 1 October 2014.

The number of attendees who signed in at the public meeting was:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Number of Recorded Attendees</i>
23 September 2014	7-8.30pm	Brimmond School	No attendees other than Council officers and school management.
1 October 2014	7-8.30pm	Brimmond School	No attendees other than Council officers and school management.

## **(b) Further Engagement**

Officers from Education, Culture and Sport also attended a meeting of the Brimmond School Parent Council on 6 October 2014, to discuss the proposal and wider education impact of the proposal. Those in attendance at the meeting broadly seemed in favour of the rezoning proposal.

## **(c) Comments Received**

The following written submissions were received:

<i>Format</i>	<i>Number of submissions</i>
Email	1
Written	0
Comment Cards	0

## **(d) Issues Raised**

### **Public Meetings – 23 September 2014 & 1 October 2014**

No individuals attended either public meeting.

### **Parent Councils**

No response was received from the Parent Council of Brimmond School.

### **Individuals**

One e-mailed response was received from a Bridge of Don resident and parent which had also been sent to the 4 local Elected Members.

The submission commented on the lack of clarity regarding the Council's approach to consultation on schooling in the Bridge of Don community. One example of this was the perceived lack of thought that officers showed towards possible over-crowding at primary schools in the area and Old Machar Academy. Further comment focused on the significant impact that the Grandhome development would have on school rolls across the Bridge of Don area and the further impact of additional housing developments.

The response comments on the ability of schools in Bridge of Don to cope with additional pupils and adds that the author is unaware of any future new build or school extensions in the Bridge of Don area, asking what the Council intended to do to address the capacity issue..

### **Education Scotland Report**

In its report Education Scotland state that the proposal to rezone the Brimmond School zone and create a zone for the Grandhome Estate development has the potential to deliver positive educational benefits.

Education Scotland also comment that in this Consultation Report the Council should clarify the interim arrangements for educating children resident in the Grandhome Estate development prior to the opening of the first scheduled primary school. Comment on this particular aspect is provided in Section 3 of this document.

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

#### **Individual Responses**

In developing the proposal to rezone Brimmond School's zone and create a separate zone for the Grandhome Estate development, officers have taken a medium to long term view of the need to create additional capacity within the primary schools in the Bridge of Don community. Key elements of this work are the decision to extend and refurbish Greenbrae School to account for the increased pupil roll arising from the Dubford/Murcar developments. Further, negotiations with the developer at Grandhome Estate will result in two new primary schools and a new secondary school being constructed.

Should further residential developments be forthcoming in the Bridge of Don area, contributions will be sought where required to increase the capacity of the school estate.

#### **Education Scotland**

As the Grandhome Estate is developed it is the recommendation of officers that the initial children resident in the area will have their pre-school and primary education provided at Danestone School. The rationale for this recommendation is that there is projected to be sufficient capacity within Danestone School and it is in relative proximity to the Grandhome Estate and this arrangement would last until the first primary school in Grandhome is complete.

Officers will liaise with the staff and parents of Danestone School to ensure that the school benefits from these temporary arrangements and there is no loss of education provision to the existing pupils of Danestone School.

The exact timing of the first pupil arriving or when the Grandhome pupil cohort may enter a new primary school can only be determined with any degree of accuracy once final plans for the development are lodged for approval with the Planning Committee and a build rate is established. Officers from Education and Children's Services will, as a matter of course, monitor the impact of the development on the numbers of school aged pupils, both primary and secondary.

### **4. ALLEGED OMISSIONS OF RELEVANT INFORMATION AND ALLEGED INACCURACIES CONTAINED WITHIN THE PROPOSAL DOCUMENT**

No responses asserting allegations of omissions or inaccuracies within the Proposal Document were received during the consultation period.

## **5. 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 the written representations that have been received by it during the consultation period and Education Scotland's report.

In terms of Section 10(2) (e) of the said Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 the Consultation Report requires 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 are satisfied that no comments have been received which would have caused them to review the merits of the proposal to rezone ground to the north and east of the River Don currently within the Brimmond School zone to a new zone to be created to serve primary education provision in the Grandhome development, with effect from August 2015.

## **6. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Education and Children's Services Committee agree:

- (i) To implement the proposal to rezone ground to the north and east of the River Don currently within the Brimmond School zone to a new zone to be created to serve primary education provision in the Grandhome development, with effect from August 2015.

**Gayle Gorman**  
**Director of Education, Culture and Sport**  
**February 2014**

## REPORT FROM EDUCATION SCOTLAND

### **Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Aberdeen City Council to rezone an area currently within the Brimmond School zone to a new zone being created to serve primary education in a new development to the north and east of the River Don.**

#### **1. Introduction**

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the amendments contained in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of Aberdeen City Council's proposal to rezone a part of Brimmond School's catchment area which lies to the north and east of the River Don to a new zone being created to serve primary education in the Grandhome development, with effect from August 2015. 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' overall view of the proposal.

Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include a copy of 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 final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision.

Where a council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all legislative obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

1.2x HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the school; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people 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:

- 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 Brimmond School and Danestone School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

## **2. Consultation Process**

- 2.1 Aberdeen City Council undertook the consultation on its proposal with reference to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the amendments in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The council proposes to rezone part of the catchment area of Brimmond School. This area, lying to the north and east of the River Don, would become part of a new zone which is being created to serve primary education following the planned, significant housing development in the Grandhome Estate. Until such time as a new school is built in this area, children of nursery or primary school age living in the area would attend Danestone School.
- 2.2 The formal consultation on the proposal under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the amendments in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 ran from 25 August to 10 October 2014. Parents of children attending Brimmond School were informed about the proposal by letter with further information available on the council's website. There were no attendees at a public meeting held on 1 October 2014. One written submission was received by the council.

## **3. Educational Aspects of Proposal**

- 3.1 There are currently no children attending Brimmond School from the area which would be rezoned should the proposal go ahead. Information provided by the council about the planned housing development in the Grandhome Estate indicates that new houses would not be constructed before 2021. Consequently, children who currently attend Brimmond School would not be affected by this proposal.
- 3.2 From 2021, a projection of an additional 700 houses within the Grandhome Estate development would lead to an estimated rise of around 245 children attending Brimmond School. The proposal will assist the council in managing the school roll at Brimmond School over coming years, reducing any problems related to over capacity. Children who will live in the Grandhome Estate development will benefit from attending a local school, with their peers, without the need for travelling significantly further to Brimmond School and the consequent potential reduction in opportunities for them to attend out-of-hours activities.
- 3.3 Parents and staff at Brimmond School, who met with HM Inspectors, support the proposal, believing that it will help to address projected increases in the school roll.

- 3.4 The council's proposal will further encourage Brimmond School, which was itself recently formed through the amalgamation of two nearby schools, to develop strong links within a geographically closer and more distinct surrounding community.
- 3.5 Should the proposal go ahead, the council recommends that children, of nursery and primary ages, living in the Grandhome Estate development would initially attend Danestone School until there are sufficient numbers to warrant a new school. Parents of children at Danestone School, who met with HM Inspectors, were positive about the proposal. The council needs to clarify further its plans regarding any changes to zoning arrangements for Danestone School. In doing so, it should outline its plans to ensure that children travelling to Danestone from the Grandhome Estate development can do so safely.
- 3.6 Children at both Brimmond School and Danestone School are unlikely to be directly affected by this proposal. Nevertheless, children at both schools expressed broad support. Those at Danestone School felt that more children in the future would help to enhance children's learning activities.

#### **4. Summary**

The proposal to rezone a part of Brimmond School's catchment area which lies to the north and east of the River Don to a new zone being created to serve primary education in the proposed Grandhome Estate development, with effect from August 2015, has the potential to bring educational benefits to the children who will attend Brimmond School and to those children who will live in the Grandhome Estate development. Almost all of those who responded to the consultation or met with HM Inspectors supported the proposal. In its final consultation report the council needs to clarify further its recommendation that children living in the Grandhome Estate development would initially attend Danestone School. In doing this, it should consider any planned changes to zoning arrangements at Danestone School.

**HM Inspectors  
Education Scotland  
October 2014**




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## CONSULTATION REPORT

on the proposal to rezone ground within the Middleton Park School zone which lies to the west and north of the current limit of the built up area of Middleton Park to a new zone to be created to serve primary education provision in the Grandhome development, with effect from August 2015.

### 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 were met or exceeded.

### 2. INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS

#### (a) Public Events

A public consultation event was held on Wednesday 24 September 2014 to discuss the above proposal. The table below details the number of attendees at the public meeting:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Number of Recorded Attendees</i>
24 September 2014	7-8.30pm	Middleton Park School	12 parents/ members of the public plus officers

Officers also corresponded by e-mail to the Chairperson of the Parent Council offering to discuss the consultation proposal with the Parent Council, however due to issues with technology the Chairperson was unable to respond before the consultation period had elapsed.

#### (b) Comments Received

The following written submissions were received:

<i>Format</i>	<i>Number of submissions</i>
Email	6
Written	0
Comment Cards	0

Paper copies of the submission were made available in the Members Library and have been circulated to external members of the Education, Culture and Sport Committee. The submission, anonymised as necessary, was also made available on the Council website.

The public meeting, held at Middleton Park School, was attended by 14 individuals.

#### **(d) Issues Raised**

##### **Public Meeting**

At the public meeting those attending asked a series of questions, which are summarised below:

- Why were children attending Middleton Park School not considered to be rezoned to a new school in the Grandhome Estate development?
- Why was Danestone School identified as a school which could take the pupils resident in the Grandhome Estate on an interim basis? What consultation had taken place with staff and parents of Danestone School? What road safety measures would be required to assist pupils in crossing the Parkway should they attend Danestone School?
- What investment plans did the Council have for Middleton Park School and what was the actual capacity of the school? When would the modular accommodation be replaced?

##### **Parent Council**

The Parent Council of Middleton Park School submitted a response document which raised the following concerns and comments:

- What is the Council's investment plans for Middleton Park School and other schools within the Oldmachar Academy ASG?
- The lack of clarity on the school capacity as the Scottish Government were in the process of releasing guidance on such matters at the time of the public consultation.
- The need to articulate the rationale used to keep the Grandhome Estate completely separate from the Bridge of Don community.
- That developers should be fully funding the implications of their development in terms of the necessary infrastructure needed to educate young people residing in the area.
- When would the modular accommodation be replaced a Middleton Park School?

- Concerns regarding the inaccuracy of roll projections which had been raised separately by a parent. The Parent Council accepted that this did not alter the rationale behind the proposal.
- As the school has such a high reputation it was very likely that out of zone pupils would submit placing requests to attend Middleton Park School, thereby creating capacity issues.
- That Danestone School's parents should have been consulted as a key element of this consultation and concerns regarding the capacity at Danestone School to accommodate pupils from the Grandhome Estate development without adversely affecting the education of pupils.
- Consideration should be given to the creation of safe walking routes, pre and post school day provision and the impact on Danestone Nursery.

### **Individuals**

Five responses were received from individuals. The responses covered the following areas:

- Seeking clarification on the choice of Danestone School for the interim primary educational arrangements and what consultation had been or would be undertaken with the school community at Danestone. In particular several respondents commented on the need to ensure appropriate road safety measures were implemented before any children from Grandhome attended Danestone School.
- The cost of new schools to be developed in the Grandhome Estate development and whether the Council will be required to contribute to the capital cost of the required schools.
- No long term plans had been prepared for education in the Bridge of Don area.
- Seeking a re-calculation of the Middleton Park School capacity. One respondent also asked for the capacities of all primary schools in the Bridge of Don community to be assessed.
- How would the Council monitor the impact of the Grandhome Estate development in terms of increased pupil numbers.
- Commenting on the revised pupil roll projections and what the Council could do to improve the methodology used to calculate future pupil rolls.

### **Education Scotland Report**

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

Education Scotland state in their report that "Aberdeen City Council's proposal to amend the Middleton Park School zone will eliminate the anticipated long-term over capacity issues within the school which will arise from the planned housing development in the Grandhome Estate development in the years leading up to 2020". Further, the report comments that "the proposal has the potential to bring a number of educational benefits to children who will attend Middleton Park School and to those who will live in the planned Grandhome Estate development"

and that it will assist the Council in making effective and efficient use of its resources.

Education Scotland also comment that it needs to consider the possible implications for education at Danestone School should the proposal be accepted by Committee and the interim arrangements be implemented.

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

In responding to the comments received at the public meeting and in written submissions, the main reasons for the proposals being developed were:

- To ensure that the capacity of Middleton Park could accommodate the pupils currently living in the Middleton Park community;
- To ensure that, at the appropriate moment, children from the Grandhome Estate development will be educated in their community with their peer group;
- Danestone School has been identified as a potential interim solution to the primary education of Grandhome Estate children as it is projected to have sufficient capacity.

The following paragraphs will provide detailed comment on the comments and written submissions received during the consultation period.

#### **Strategic Review of Education Provision in Bridge of Don**

In developing long term plans for the entire Bridge of Don area, it should be noted that two strategic reviews have been considered by the former Education, Culture and Sport Committee. These were the Review of Secondary Education which was reported to Committee on 28 September 2010 and the Review of Primary Education which reported to Committee on 7 February 2013. It is from this latter Committee meeting that the decision to consult on this rezoning proposal was agreed.

#### **Choice of Danestone School and Future Work**

As stated above, Danestone School has been identified as a possible location for the initial primary education of children from the Grandhome Estate development as it is projected to have sufficient capacity to accommodate children until the first primary school is constructed in Grandhome.

Should Committee approve the proposal, officers will commence working with the school staff and parents to develop the necessary detailed plans. It is noted that Education Scotland have noted parent and pupil willingness to work with the education authority on this matter. It is only after a final decision has been made by Committee that this work could be undertaken. Prior to any children from Grandhome Estate attending Danestone School the planning work will have been fully implemented, including all road safety measures which need to be put in place to ensure the safety of parents and children when crossing the Parkway.

## **School Capacities**

Following the release of Scottish Government guidance on primary school capacities, work has begun to reassess the whole primary estate capacity. The first school reviewed has been Middleton Park School and the work was completed with input from the school's Parent Council. This has confirmed that the school can accommodate the projected pupil roll of the revised school zone with the use of modular accommodation. Having reviewed the condition of the existing modular accommodation, it is recognised that it should be replaced and officers are working with colleagues to ensure this is completed at the earliest opportunity.

The results of the primary estate capacity review will be reported to Committee as part of the Service Asset Management Plan, which is due to be completed in June 2015.

## **Grandhome Estate – New Schools and Impact on Pupil Rolls**

The planning guidance is clear that residential developers should be contributing the cost to the infrastructure of the Council area which results from their development. This is agreed in a legal document between the Council and developers. In the case of the Grandhome Estate development, officers from the Council have put forward what will be required in financial terms to construct the required primary and secondary schools. At present, negotiations are on-going and will only be concluded when the legal agreement is completed.

The numbers of children from Grandhome Estate being educated at Danestone School will be carefully monitored on a 6 monthly basis and will be discussed with the developer in this timeframe. If necessary, appropriate action will be taken to accelerate the construction of a new build school to serve the community.

The Council will be able to manage the number of children from the development attending Middleton Park School as pupils will require to have a placing request submitted to attend. Coupled with the ability to cap the roll of the school through reserved spaces, the Council will maintain the school roll at Middleton Park School at manageable levels.

## **Pupil Roll Projections**

The Council received both verbal and written concern about the projected pupil roll which had been stated within the Proposal Document. Further commentary on this issue is contained within section 4 (below).

### **4. ALLEGED OMISSIONS OF RELEVANT INFORMATION AND ALLEGED INACCURACIES CONTAINED WITHIN THE PROPOSAL DOCUMENT**

One response was received commenting on the accuracy of the pupil roll forecasts for Middleton Park School once the area of ground being considered for rezoning was discounted from the project pupil rolls. Having reviewed this response, officers concluded that a rerun of the forecast pupil rolls should take place and issued the revised data in a letter to stakeholders on 6 October 2014, in

compliance with paragraph 5 sections (2) and (3) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by section 15 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

As the rationale for the rezoning proposals was not altered as a result of the rerun of roll projection information the proposal remained valid for the purposes of consultation.

## **5. 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 the written representations that have been received by it during the consultation period; oral representations made to it at the public meeting held on 24 September 2014 and Education Scotland's report.

In terms of Section 10(2) (e) of the said Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, the Consultation Report requires 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 are satisfied that no comments have been received which would have caused them to review the merits of the proposal to rezone ground within the Middleton Park School zone which lies to the west and north of the current limit of the built up area of Middleton Park to a new zone to be created to serve primary education provision in the Grandhome development, with effect from August 2015.

## **6. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Education and Children's Services Committee agree:

- (ii) To implement the proposal to rezone ground within the Middleton Park School zone which lies to the west and north of the current limit of the built up area of Middleton Park to a new zone to be created to serve primary education provision in the Grandhome development, with effect from August 2015.

**Gayle Gorman**  
**Director of Education, Culture and Sport**  
**February 2014**

## REPORT FROM EDUCATION SCOTLAND

**Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Aberdeen City Council to rezone ground within the Middleton Park School zone which lies to the west and north of the current limit of the built up area of Middleton Park to a new zone to be created to serve primary education provision in the Grandhome development, with effect from August 2015.**

### 1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments contained in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of Aberdeen City Council's proposal to rezone ground within the Middleton Park School zone which lies to the west and north of the current limit of the built up area of Middleton Park to a new zone to be created to serve primary education provision in the Grandhome development, with effect from August 2015. 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' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include a copy of 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 final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision. Where a council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all legislative obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the school;
- any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people 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:

- 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;
- consideration of further information on all schools affected; and
- visits to the site of Middleton Park School and Danestone School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

## **2. Consultation Process**

2.1 Aberdeen City Council undertook the consultation on its proposal with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*. The consultation ran from 25 August to 10 October 2014.

2.2 The council advertised the formal consultation process in local newspapers and parents of children attending Middleton Park School were informed by letter. A dedicated area of the council's website was populated with data relating to the proposal. The council held a public meeting on 24 September 2014. This was attended by 12 members of the public. The council received six written responses regarding the proposal.

2.3 During the consultation period, stakeholders raised concerns about the council's roll projections for Middleton Park School contained within the proposal. In response to these concerns, the council issued a revised version of the proposal with amended roll projections forecasts on 6 October 2014.

## **3. Educational Aspects of Proposal**

3.1 Aberdeen City Council's proposal to amend the Middleton Park School zone will eliminate the anticipated long-term over capacity issues within the school which will arise from the planned housing development in the Grandhome Estate development in the years leading up to 2020.

3.2 The proposal should, in due course, help ensure that pupils living in the new Grandhome Estate development will attend primary school with their peers from their new community. It will allow children attending Middleton Park Primary School to continue to benefit from the positive ethos which they and their parents believe the school provides.

3.3 Should the proposal go ahead, the council recommends that children, of nursery and primary ages, living in the Grandhome Estate development would initially attend Danestone School until there are sufficient numbers to warrant a new school. Parents of children at Danestone School, who met with HM Inspectors, were positive about the proposal. The council needs to clarify further its plans regarding any changes to zoning arrangements for

Danestone School. In doing so, it should outline its plans to ensure that children travelling to Danestone School from the Grandhome Estate development can do so safely.

- 3.4 Children currently attending both Middleton Park School and Danestone School are unlikely to be directly affected by this proposal. Nevertheless, children at both schools expressed broad support. Those at Danestone School felt that more children in the future would help to enhance children's learning activities.

#### **4. Summary**

The proposal has the potential to bring a number of educational benefits to children who will attend Middleton Park School and to those who will live in the planned Grandhome Estate development. The proposal will also assist the council to make effective and efficient use of its resources by maintaining the roll of Middleton Park School at a manageable and sustainable level between 2014 and 2020. In its final consultation report, the council needs to clarify with members of the Middleton Park School community its reasons for not pursuing the option of retaining the current Middleton Park School zone. The council needs to consider any implications for zoning arrangements at Danestone School.

**HM Inspectors  
Education Scotland  
October 2014**