

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education and Children's Services
DATE	2nd June 2016
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
TITLE OF REPORT	Statutory Consultation – Consultation Reports on the proposals to make changes to the school zone boundary for Airyhall School and Hazlehead School, and to remove an area of dual zoning between Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/16/028
CHECKLIST:	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report to Committee on the outcome of recent statutory consultations on the proposals to make changes to the school zone arrangements for Airyhall School and Hazlehead School, and also for Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- (i) It is recommended that the Committee agrees to implement the following proposals:

For the Airyhall School and Hazlehead School rezoning proposal:

- To rezone the area of housing known as the Macaulay Estate, from Hazlehead School to Airyhall School, and to adjust the Airyhall and Hazlehead school zone boundaries to accommodate the Pinewood / Hazledene housing development, with effect from 1st August 2016.

For the Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School rezoning proposal:

- To remove an area of dual-school zoning for Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School, and to include this area within the zone for Sunnybank School only, with effect from 1st August 2016

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no cost implications for the changes to these school zones.

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 do not refer to the proposed closure of any school in either consultation exercise, 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.

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.

The 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

The Consultation Report for the proposed changes to the school zones for Airyhall School and Hazlehead School can be found at Appendix 1 of this report, and Appendix 2 contains the Consultation Report for the proposed

changes to the school zones for Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School.

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 Airyhall School and Hazlehead School Rezoning Proposals

(a) Methodology

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

(b) Feedback from Stakeholders and Education Scotland

Twenty-six submissions were received from stakeholders during the period of this consultation. Thirteen people attended the public meeting to discuss the proposals.

Generally there was support from most stakeholders on the proposal to rezone the area known as the Macaulay Estate, from Hazlehead School to Airyhall School. Respondents to the consultation welcomed the fact that this would allow children living in the Macaulay estate to walk or cycle safely to school.

There was however opposition from seventeen respondents, to the proposals to adjust the boundary line between the Airyhall School zone and the Hazlehead School zone, so that the whole of the Pinewood/Hazeldene estate falls within the Hazlehead School zone only.

The respondents highlighted the fact that there is no vehicular access from the Pinewood section of the estate in the south, through to the northern side of the estate, which would mean that when driving their children to Hazlehead School, parents would be required to drive past Airyhall School, as the only road exit from this section of the estate is to the south.

Several of the same respondents also commented on the fact that the pedestrian route through the northern section of the estate, which pupils could use to walk to Hazlehead School, is through a poorly lit wooded area, and would not represent a safe walking route after dark.

Many of the respondents suggested an alternative proposal, to zone the northern section of the estate (Hazeldene) to Hazlehead School, and the southern section of the estate (Pinewood) to Airyhall School.

In its report on the proposal, Education Scotland noted that it has clear benefits for children attending Airyhall School and Hazlehead School,

and that as a result of the proposal, both schools are likely to have sustainable and viable school rolls which will allow for the delivery of a broad curriculum.

The report also stated that the proposal has the potential to avoid difficulties of overcrowding and should provide children at both schools with a variety of opportunities to learn and play with their peers.

The report highlighted the concerns expressed by some stakeholders regarding the distance which some parents and children living in the Pinewood and Hazeldene estate would be required to walk to Hazlehead School, and stated that the Council should provide details about safe walking routes to school for those living in the new development.

The Council's responses to the issues raised by respondents to the consultation are included in the Consultation Report at Appendix 1.

(c) Overall View of the Proposal

Officers carefully considered the alternative proposal put forward by respondents to the consultation, to zone the northern section of the Pinewood and Hazeldene estate to Hazlehead School, and to zone the southern section of the estate to Airyhall School.

Whilst in practical terms this may appear to be a workable solution, in that parents and children living in the respective areas of the estate would be able to travel directly to their zoned school by car as well as on foot, there is not sufficient capacity at Airyhall School to accommodate the numbers of pupils expected to be living in the southern section of the Pinewood and Hazeldene estate.

The pupil roll forecasts for Airyhall School show that, if the Macaulay estate is added to the Airyhall School zone, and the southern section of the Pinewood / Hazeldene estate also remains within the zone, the school would exceed its maximum pupil capacity by up to 22 pupil places, from 2017 onwards.

By proposing to zone the whole of the Pinewood and Hazeldene estate to Hazlehead School, and as noted in the Education Scotland report on these proposals, it would be possible to ensure that Airyhall School would remain within capacity and avoid difficulties with overcrowding.

Officers therefore took the view that it would not be appropriate to amend the original proposals put forward, to rezone the whole of the Pinewood/Hazeldene estate to Hazlehead School, and consequently it is recommended that Councillors approve the original proposals, which are set out in the consultation document.

5.3.2 Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School Rezoning Proposals

(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

There was a low response to this consultation. No written responses were received during the consultation period, and only one person attended the public consultation meeting.

The respondent who attended the meeting had some questions about how the additional space, which is expected to be required at Sunnybank School if the proposals are accepted, would be created.

The respondent stated a preference to see the additional services which currently occupy parts of the building remain as it was felt that these help provide an enriching experience for the children at the school.

In its report, Education Scotland noted that the proposal put forward is of clear educational benefit to children attending both schools, and that if implemented, it would help to sustain viable pupil rolls in both schools, and help to ensure best value in the management of the Council's school estate. It was also noted that a high proportion of children living in the currently dual zoned area already attend Sunnybank School.

The Education Scotland report also stated that stakeholders were positive and saw the benefits of the proposal, and that the provision within the proposal for younger siblings of existing Hanover Street School pupils to also attend that school was welcomed.

The Council's responses to the issues raised by respondents to the consultation are included in the Consultation Report at Appendix 2.

(c) Overall View of the Proposal

Having considered the responses received during the consultation period, officers are satisfied that the original proposals put forwards in respect of the removal of the dual zone for Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School do not require to be reviewed, and consequently it is recommended that Councillors approve the original proposals, which are set out in the consultation document.

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 has been submitted for this report.

6.3 Management of the School Estate

The implementation of the rezoning proposals for the schools concerned will help to ensure sustainable and manageable pupil rolls in these areas of the city.

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 proposals to rezone the area of housing known as the Macaulay Estate, from Hazlehead School to Airyhall School, and to adjust the Airyhall and Hazlehead school zone boundaries to accommodate the Pinewood /

Hazledene housing development, with effect from 1st August 2016.

Appendix 2 Consultation Report on the proposal to remove an area of dual-school zoning for Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School, and to include this area within the zone for Sunnybank School only, with effect from 1st August 2016

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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CONSULTATION REPORT

Airyhall School and Hazlehead School Rezoning

This Consultation Report has been compiled in response to the recent public consultation on the proposal to make changes to the school zones for Airyhall School and Hazlehead School in Aberdeen. The document summarises the responses received on the proposals set out below and Aberdeen City Council's response to the verbal and written comments submitted by interested parties, in compliance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Proposal:

To rezone the area of housing known as the Macaulay Estate, from Hazlehead School to Airyhall School, and to adjust the Airyhall and Hazlehead school zone boundaries to accommodate the Pinewood / Hazledene housing development, with effect from 1st August 2016.

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 was held on 2nd February 2016 to discuss the proposals:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Recorded Attendees</i>
2 nd February 2016	7- 8 pm	Airyhall School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7 parents of pupils at Airyhall School• 3 parents of pre-school aged children• 3 Aberdeen City Councillors• 3 Aberdeen City Council Officers

2.2 Comments Received

The following written submissions were received:

<i>Format</i>	<i>Number of submissions</i>
E-mail	15
Letters	0
Comment Forms	11

The submissions, anonymised as necessary, are available on the Council's website: <http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/airyhallhazlehead2016>

2.3 Issues Raised

The main issues raised in the responses to the consultation are summarised as follows:

- Seven respondents to the consultation stated that overall they were in support of the proposals put forwards. Their comments focused primarily on the proposal to rezone the Macaulay estate from the Hazlehead School zone to the Airyhall School zone; they welcomed the fact that this would allow children living in the Macaulay estate to walk or cycle safely to school.

- Seventeen respondents to the consultation, however, stated that they were not in support of the proposals put forwards. Their comments focused primarily on the proposal to zone the whole of the Pinewood and Hazeldene estate to the Hazlehead School zone. The respondents highlighted the fact that there is no vehicular access from the Pinewood section of the estate in the south, through to the northern side of the estate, which would mean that when driving their children to Hazlehead School, parents would be required to drive past Airyhall School, as the only road exit from this section of the estate is to the south.
- Several of these respondents also commented on the fact that the pedestrian route through the northern section of the estate, which pupils could use to walk to Hazlehead School, is through a poorly lit wooded area, and would not represent a safe walking route after dark.
- A small number of respondents highlighted concerns about the increasing pupil roll at Airyhall School, and suggested that if the proposals put forward in this consultation are not accepted, the school is likely to reach its pupil capacity relatively quickly.
- Some of the feedback received included queries regarding the timing of this consultation, and questioned why the consultation had been launched prior to the conclusion of a previous consultation on the creation of a new school zone for the Countesswells development, which had the potential to impact on Airyhall School's pupil capacity.

Comments from Airyhall School Parent Council

The response received from Airyhall Parent Council was broadly in line with the comments from other respondents summarised above. The Parent Council welcomed the proposal to rezone the Macaulay Estate to Airyhall School, as this would remove the need for residents of this estate to make out of zone placing requests to Airyhall School.

However, the response also pointed out that zoning the whole of the Pinewood and Hazeldene estate to Hazlehead School would be likely to create similar issues to those experienced by the Macaulay residents, in that parents would need to travel past Airyhall School when taking their children to Hazlehead School by car. It was noted that six families had contacted the Parent Council expressing an objection to the zoning of the Pinewood / Hazeldene estate to Hazlehead School.

The Parent Council felt that it was difficult to state whether or not they were in support of the proposals, given that the outcome of the Countesswells consultation, and the potential impact of this on Airyhall School's capacity, was not yet known.

Alternative Proposal

Many of the respondents to the consultation who expressed their opposition to the zoning of the Pinewood and Hazeldene estate suggested an alternative proposal, to zone the northern section of the estate (Hazeldene) to Hazlehead School, and the southern section of the estate (Pinewood) to Airyhall School.

It was suggested that this would be a more appropriate solution as there is a vehicular exit to the north from Hazeldene, and parents living in this area would have easy access to Hazlehead School. Zoning the Pinewood area to Airyhall School would, it was felt, also make it easier for parents living in this area to take their children to school.

2.4 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.

In its report, Education Scotland noted that the proposal put forward in this consultation has clear educational benefits for children attending Airyhall School and Hazlehead School, and that as a result of the proposal, both schools are likely to have sustainable and viable school rolls which will allow for the delivery of a broad curriculum. The report also stated that the proposal has the potential to avoid difficulties of overcrowding and should provide children at both schools with a variety of opportunities to learn and play with their peers.

The report noted that almost all of the stakeholders who met HM Inspectors were in support of the proposal, and that the provision within the proposals for existing pupils and their younger siblings to continue to attend the same school was welcomed.

Finally the report highlights the concerns expressed by some stakeholders regarding the distance which some parents and children living in the Pinewood and Hazeldene estate would be required to walk to Hazlehead School, and stated that the Council should provide details about safe walking routes to school for those living in the new development.

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

The following paragraphs provide responses to the significant points raised during the consultation period:

3.1 Lack of easy vehicular access to Hazlehead School from the Pinewood and Hazeldene estate

- Whilst it is acknowledged that there is no direct vehicular route through to the north of the site for those living in the southern section of the Pinewood and Hazeldene estate, a pedestrian route is available. This would provide access to Hazlehead School with a maximum walking distance of approximately 1.5 miles from any point within the Pinewood and Hazeldene estate. This would be deemed an acceptable distance for primary school pupils to walk or cycle to school, where there is a safe route available.

3.2 The pedestrian route to Hazlehead School is poorly lit

- If the proposal to zone the whole of the Pinewood and Hazeldene estate to Hazlehead School is approved, the Council would be required to ensure that there is a safe route available for pupils living in the estate to walk to school.
- Any improvements required to be made to the existing pedestrian route and street lighting in order to make it a safe route to school, would therefore be carried out.

3.3 Questions about the timing of the consultation

- It is acknowledged that carrying out this consultation prior to the conclusion of the previous consultation on the new Countesswells school zone arrangements, may have made it more difficult to illustrate the likely impact of the proposals on the pupil roll at Airyhall School.
- Both of these consultations were the result of decisions made following the review of Aberdeen's primary school estate, which was carried out in 2013. This review generated a large number of recommendations on rezoning and other changes to the school estate, all of which required a formal consultation. Due to the number of consultations required to be carried out, it has been necessary to run several of these concurrently, with consultations starting before a decision had been reached on the previous proposals, in a programme which is running over several years.
- Had the consultations been run consecutively, i.e. making it necessary to wait for a decision on the previous consultation before starting the next, the duration of the consultation programme would have been extended considerably, and this would have significantly delayed the implementation of many of the changes which were required.

3.4 Alternative Proposal

- Officers have carefully considered the alternative proposal put forward by respondents to the consultation, to zone the northern section of the Pinewood and Hazeldene estate to Hazlehead School, and to zone the southern section of the estate to Airyhall School.
- Whilst in practical terms this may appear to be a workable solution, in that parents and children living in the respective areas of the estate would be able to travel directly to their zoned school by car as well as on foot, there is not sufficient capacity at Airyhall School to accommodate the numbers of pupils expected to be living in the southern section of the Pinewood and Hazeldene estate.
- The existing boundary line between the Hazlehead School zone and the Airyhall School zone runs through the middle of the Pinewood and Hazeldene estate. This means that currently most of the southern section

of the estate is zoned to Airyhall School, and this is reflected in the current pupil roll forecasts for the school.

- As illustrated below, the pupil roll forecasts show that, if the Macaulay estate is added to the Airyhall School zone, and the southern section of the Pinewood / Hazeldene estate also remains within the zone, the school would be over its capacity of 393 pupils by 2017:

Airyhall School Current and Forecast Pupil Numbers (capacity – 393)
Including southern section of Pinewood and Hazeldene estate (currently zoned to Airyhall School), and Macaulay estate

Current	Forecast Pupil Numbers						
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
346	387	401	401	405	411	415	407

- If the alternative proposal were to be accepted, then the existing boundary line between the Hazlehead School zone and the Airyhall School zone would be adjusted to include some additional houses from the southern section of the estate which are currently zoned to Hazlehead School. This would only increase the numbers in the pupil roll forecasts shown above.
- By proposing to zone the whole of the Pinewood and Hazeldene estate to Hazlehead School, and as noted in the Education Scotland report on these proposals, it would be possible to ensure that Airyhall School would remain within capacity and avoid difficulties with overcrowding, as illustrated below:

Airyhall School Current and Forecast Pupil Numbers (capacity – 393)
Including Macaulay estate and excluding southern section of Pinewood and Hazeldene estate

Current	Forecast Pupil Numbers						
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
346	365	372	373	378	386	391	384

- For the reasons outlined above, officers were unable to put forward this proposal as a viable alternative to the original proposal contained within the consultation document.

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, oral representations made to it at the public meeting held on 2nd February, 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 revise the proposals to: rezone the area of housing known as the Macaulay Estate, from Hazlehead School to Airyhall School, and to adjust the Airyhall and Hazlehead school zone boundaries to accommodate the Pinewood / Hazledene housing development, with effect from 1st August 2016.

5. RECOMMENDATION

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

Rezone the area of housing known as the Macaulay Estate, from Hazlehead School to Airyhall School, and to adjust the Airyhall and Hazlehead school zone boundaries to accommodate the Pinewood / Hazledene housing development, with effect from 1st August 2016.

Gayle Gorman
Director of Education and Children's Services
May 2016

REPORT FROM EDUCATION SCOTLAND

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Aberdeen City Council to rezone the area of housing known as the Macaulay Estate, from Hazlehead School to Airyhall School, and to adjust the Airyhall and Hazlehead school zone boundaries to accommodate the Pinewood/Hazledene housing development, with effect from 1 August 2016.

1. Introduction

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 the area of housing known as the Macaulay Estate, from Hazlehead School to Airyhall School, and to adjust the Airyhall and Hazlehead school zone boundaries to accommodate the Pinewood/Hazledene housing development, with effect from 1 August 2016. 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.

1.1 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of Airyhall and Hazlehead Schools; 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.

1.2 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 sites of Airyhall School and Hazlehead 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*.

2.2 The consultation process ran from 13 January 2016 to 29 February 2016. During this period the council held a public meeting in Airyhall School. Statutory consultees were informed of the consultation in writing. Consultation documentation was published on the Aberdeen City Council website and copies were available for public consultation at various venues in the city during the consultation period, including the schools concerned and public libraries. A proforma and an email address were made available for submissions. The council received 11 submissions to the consultation. A majority of these submissions were in favour of the proposal. Fifteen email submissions, all opposing the proposal, were received. These submissions suggested an alternative splitting of the Pinewood/Hazledene development between the catchment zones of Airyhall and Hazlehead Schools.

3. Educational Aspects of Proposal

3.1 This proposal offers appropriate educational benefits for the children attending both Airyhall and Hazlehead Schools. As a result of the proposal, both primary schools are likely to have sustainable and viable school rolls which will allow for delivery of a broad curriculum in line with the entitlements of Curriculum for Excellence. This proposal has the potential to avoid difficulties of overcrowding and should provide children at both schools with a variety of opportunities to learn and play with their peers.

3.2 Almost all the stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors supported the proposal and agreed that it served the interests of both schools well. Arrangements made by the council to allow existing pupils and their younger siblings to continue to attend Airyhall and Hazlehead Schools following the implementation of this proposal are reasonable. Most stakeholders also felt that the proposal was timely, providing greater clarity about schools' catchment zones for those about to move to the Pinewood/Hazledene development.

3.3 Stakeholders of Airyhall School agreed that it made sense to include the Macaulay estate within their zone. The proposal has the potential to address these parents' concerns about increases to the school roll leading to overcrowding. Stakeholders of Hazlehead School also felt it was sensible to include the Macaulay estate in the Airyhall School zone. They also welcomed the modest increase in school roll which would result from the proposal.

3.4 While almost all stakeholders who spoke to HM Inspectors were in agreement with the proposal, several expressed concerns about the distance which some

parents and children living in the Pinewood/Hazledene housing development might have to walk to Hazlehead School. In taking forward its proposal, the council should provide details about safe walking routes to school for those living in the new development.

4. Summary

Aberdeen City Council's proposal to address primary school capacity and accommodation issues in Airyhall and Hazlehead schools has clear educational benefits. As a result of this proposal, children at both schools should be able to enjoy a wide range of learning and play activities with a variety of peer groups in a sustainable environment, free from overcrowding. In taking this proposal forward, the council should engage with stakeholders to identify safe walking and transport routes for those living in the Pinewood/Hazledene development. It should also ensure that appropriate transition arrangements are planned and implemented in good time for those children moving to a new school in August 2016.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
March 2016**



ABERDEEN

CITY COUNCIL

CONSULTATION REPORT

Hanover Street School and Sunnybank School Rezoning

This Consultation Report has been compiled in response to the recent public consultation on the proposal to remove an area of dual-school zoning for Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School, in Aberdeen. The document summarises the responses received on the proposals set out below and Aberdeen City Council's response to the verbal and written comments submitted by interested parties, in compliance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Proposal:

To remove an area of dual-school zoning for Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School, and to include this area within the zone for Sunnybank School only, with effect from 1st August 2016

3. 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.

4. INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS

2.1 Public Event

A public consultation event was held on 3rd February 2016 to discuss the proposals:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Recorded Attendees</i>
3 rd February 2016	7- 8 pm	Sunnybank School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 parent and member of the Sunnybank School Parent Council• 2 Aberdeen City Council officers

2.2 Comments Received

No written comments were received in response to this consultation.

2.3 Issues Raised at the Public Consultation Event

The meeting was attended by one member of the public, who was a parent of a pupil at Sunnybank School, and also a representative of Sunnybank School's Parent Council.

The parent had some questions about how the additional space, which is expected to be required at Sunnybank School if the proposals are accepted, would be created.

The parent stated a preference to see the EAL Service and the Community Centre remain within the building, as there was a feeling that these contributed to the multicultural nature of the Sunnybank School community.

The parent also felt that there are benefits from Aberdeen School for the Deaf being present within the building, as it allowed the children attending this specialist provision to integrate with children at Sunnybank School, which is an enriching experience for the children at both schools.

The parent commented that the low response to the consultation and the fact that no other parents attended the meeting, may have been because some parents did not understand what was being proposed, and that the information sent out to parents about the consultation could have been made more clear.

Education Scotland Report

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

In its report, Education Scotland noted that the proposal put forward is of clear educational benefit to children attending both schools, and that if implemented, it would help to sustain viable pupil rolls in both schools, and help to ensure best value in the management of the Council's school estate. It was also noted that a high proportion of children living in the currently dual zoned area already attend Sunnybank School.

In commenting on the discussions that HM Inspectors had with staff, pupils and parents of the two schools, the report states that stakeholders were positive and saw the benefits of the proposal, and that the provision within the proposal for younger siblings of existing Hanover Street School pupils to also attend that school was welcomed.

The report also highlighted requests from some stakeholders for the Council to ensure there is sufficient space at Sunnybank School to accommodate the likely increase in pupil numbers, and to consider relocating some of the services currently using rooms at the school, whilst other stakeholders expressed a preference to retain these services within the school.

Finally the report suggests that the Council should ensure that appropriate transition arrangements are in place for children who will attend a new school in August 2016.

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

The following paragraphs provide responses to the significant points raised during the consultation period:

3.1 Space requirements at Sunnybank School and impact on other services using the school

- The pupil roll forecasts for Sunnybank School indicate that, if the proposal is accepted and children from the current dual zone area attend Sunnybank School only in future, there will be sufficient capacity within the rooms currently used by the school until 2018. From 2018 onwards, it is likely that at least one of the rooms currently used by other services would be required to be used as a classroom. In the years following 2018 further rooms may be required to be put back into use as classrooms.
- Prior to 2018, officers will work with the services concerned and with the school to identify the most appropriate solution for releasing additional rooms within the building, and for relocating services where this is required.

This work will be planned carefully in order to minimise any disruption to pupils at the school or to the staff and users of the services concerned.

3.2 Transition arrangements for pupils attending a new school in August

- Given that pupils living in the current dual zone area who already attend Hanover Street School would have the option to continue doing so, the proposed changes if implemented are likely only to affect children who have not yet reached school age, and who would therefore have been preparing to start a new school for the first time anyway. It is not anticipated that any pupils who already have a place at Hanover Street School would be transitioning to Sunnybank School as a result of these proposals.
- However the Council does have transition arrangements in place for any pupils moving to a new school, and the schools would work closely with the children and families concerned, should the need arise.

3.3 Clarity of communication to parents

- Officers have taken on board the comment received at the public consultation meeting, with regards to the low turnout to the meeting and the possibility that this might have been due to the way in which the proposals were explained in the communication sent to parents prior to the meeting.
- The way in which proposals are explained to parents as part of any future public consultations will be reviewed, and letters sent to parents will be written clearly and carefully, to ensure that they are accessible by as many parents and stakeholders as possible.

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, oral representations made to it at the public meeting held on 3rd February, 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 proposals to: remove an area of dual-school zoning for Sunnybank School and

Hanover Street School, and to include this area within the zone for Sunnybank School only, with effect from 1st August 2016.

5. RECOMMENDATION

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

Remove an area of dual-school zoning for Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School, and to include this area within the zone for Sunnybank School only, with effect from 1st August 2016.

Gayle Gorman
Director of Education and Children's Services
May 2016

REPORT FROM EDUCATION SCOTLAND

Report by Education Scotland addressing the educational aspects of the proposal by Aberdeen City Council to remove the dual zoning between Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School, and to include the area of land affected within the zone for Sunnybank School only with effect from August 2016.

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 remove the dual zoning between Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School, and to include the area of land affected within the zone for Sunnybank School only with effect from August 2016. 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 both Sunnybank School and Hanover Street 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, including younger siblings;
- 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 sites of Hanover Street School and Sunnybank School.

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*.

2.2 The consultation process ran from 13 January to 29 February 2016. A copy of the statutory consultation document was made available at several venues, including both schools, and letters with information on the proposal were made available to parents of children at the schools involved. Aberdeen City Council's website also provided information on the proposal, including the consultation document. During the consultation period, the council held a public meeting on 3 February 2016. One parent attended from Sunnybank School. The council received no written responses to the proposal.

3. Educational Aspects of Proposal

3.1 This proposal is of clear educational benefit to children attending both schools. If implemented, the proposal will help sustain viable pupil rolls in both schools and will help the council to ensure best value in managing its school estate. The proposal addresses the predicted increase in roll at Hanover Street School, which is likely to exceed the building's capacity over the next seven years. As a result of the proposal, both primary schools have the potential to provide children with a broad range of learning experiences, in line with Curriculum for Excellence, in an environment free from overcrowding. Arrangements made by the council to allow existing pupils and their younger siblings to continue to attend Hanover Street School are reasonable. A high proportion of children in the currently dual zoned area attend Sunnybank School. The council should ensure that appropriate transition arrangements are in place for children and those children moving to a new school in August 2016.

3.2 Overall, in both primary schools, staff, children and parents who met with HM Inspectors were positive and saw the benefits of the proposal. Stakeholders were pleased that the younger siblings of existing Hanover Street pupils would be able to attend the same school as their older brother or sister. In Sunnybank School, a few stakeholders wanted the council to ensure that sufficient space was available for pupils as a result of the increased school roll and to consider the possible relocation of other services currently housed within the building should the need for more accommodation become apparent in the future. A few stakeholders felt there are advantages for keeping these services in the school. Children in Sunnybank School felt that the proposal would allow them to have more friends and better access to school clubs due to potentially increased numbers. A few stakeholders from Sunnybank considered that the proposal to re-zone would make children's travel to school safer as a result of them not having to cross a dual carriageway.

4. Summary

The proposal to remove the dual zoning between Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School, and to include the area of land affected within the zone for Sunnybank School only is of clear educational benefit. If the proposal is implemented, it will enable children who live in the catchment zone to attend their local primary school and has the potential to address the projected increased school roll at Hanover Street School thus avoiding overcrowding. It will also enable the council to ensure best value in managing its school estate. If implemented, and on account of the tight timescale, the council urgently needs to ensure that appropriate transition arrangements are in place for children who will attend a new school in August 2016.

**3. HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
March 2016**