

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education and Children's Services
DATE	1 June 2017
REPORT TITLE	North Deeside Road Rezoning Consultation Report
REPORT NUMBER	ECS/17/028
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
REPORT AUTHOR	Andrew Jones

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT:-

To report to Committee on the outcome of a recent statutory consultation on proposals to make changes to the primary and secondary school zones for an area of ground which lies south of North Deeside Road, and to seek Committee approval to implement the proposed changes.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

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

(1) rezone the area of ground which lies south of North Deeside Road and east of Pitfodels Station Road, from the Airyhall School zone to the Broomhill School zone, and from the Hazlehead Academy zone to the Harlaw Academy zone, with effect from 1 August 2017; and

(2) rezone the area of ground which lies south of North Deeside Road and west of Pitfodels Station Road, from the Airyhall School zone to the Cults School zone, with effect from 1 August 2017.

3. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 At its meeting on 17 November 2016, the Education & Children's Services Committee instructed officers to prepare a proposal document for public consultation on the proposal to rezone the area of ground which lay south of North Deeside Road and was currently in the Airyhall School zone to the Broomhill School Zone. This report details the outcome of the subsequent consultation on that proposal.

- 3.1.2 Airyhall School is included within the Hazlehead Academy Associated Schools Group (ASG), and children from Airyhall School would normally move to Hazlehead Academy when reaching secondary school age. Broomhill School is included within the Harlaw Academy ASG, and so children from Broomhill School would normally move to Harlaw Academy when reaching secondary school age. It was therefore necessary to include in the proposals for consultation, that the area of ground south of North Deeside Road should also be rezoned from Hazlehead Academy to Harlaw Academy, to ensure that children living in the affected areas are able to move to the same secondary school as their classmates, at the end of their Primary 7 year.
- 3.1.3 During the preparation work for the consultation, it was noted that the area of land south of North Deeside Road and to the west of Pitfodels Station Road, whilst zoned to Airyhall School, was zoned to Cults Academy, and not to Hazlehead Academy as is the case for the rest of the Airyhall School zone. To address this anomaly it was therefore determined that the consultation should include a proposal to rezone this area of land to Cults Primary School, rather than to Broomhill School.

3.2 Educational Implications

- 3.2.1 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).

3.3 Statutory Consultation Feedback

- 3.3.1 The Consultation Report and associated maps for the proposed changes to the school zone boundaries for the affected schools can be found at Appendix 1 of this report. The following sections provide a synopsis of the written submissions, public consultation meeting and the report from Education Scotland, and the Service's response to these.

Methodology

- 3.3.2 All requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended were met in full.

Feedback from Stakeholders and Education Scotland

- 3.3.3 A public consultation event was held on 8 February 2017 to discuss the proposals. The event was attended by three members of the public. Five written submissions were also received in response to the consultation.

Responses to the proposals focused mainly on requests for clarification on the arrangements for existing pupils at Airyhall School, and whether they would be entitled to attend Hazlehead Academy with their peers, if their zoned secondary school were to change as a result of the proposals.

- 3.3.4 Officers confirmed, at the public meeting and subsequently in writing to the chair of Airyhall Parent Council, that if the proposals are accepted, pupils living in the areas affected by the proposals and who already attend Airyhall School at the time the changes are implemented, would be entitled to attend Hazlehead Academy with their peers. It was also confirmed that younger siblings of these pupils would also be entitled to attend Hazlehead Academy when reaching secondary school age, so that family groups can remain together.
- 3.3.5 In its report on the proposals, Education Scotland noted that the recommended changes have the potential to help children, young people and their families. It was suggested that the proposed new school zones are better aligned, and that they would ensure that children will always be moving to secondary school with the peer group of children with whom they attended primary school.
- 3.3.6 The Education Scotland report highlighted that the proposal supports safe routes to school by removing the need for children living south of North Deeside Road to cross this road in order to attend Airyhall School.

Overall View of the Proposals

- 3.3.7 Officers were satisfied that no comments had been received which would have caused them to review the merits of the proposals to make changes to the primary and secondary school zones for the area of ground which lies south of North Deeside Road.
- 3.3.8 Consequently it is recommended that Councillors approve the original proposals, which are set out in the consultation report and illustrated in the associated maps at Appendix 1.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The public consultation has 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.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Legal

- 6.1 There is not expected to be a 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.

Customer / citizen

- 6.2 The proposals if implemented will help remove the low level risk to pupils associated with crossing the busy North Deeside Road, in order to walk to school.

Financial

- 6.3 There are no financial risks or implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

Employee

- 6.4 If the proposals within this report are not accepted, then children living in the affected area would continue to move from primary school in the Hazlehead ASG to secondary school in the Cults ASG. Teachers may find it difficult to pass on information about individual pupils to their new secondary school, as this transition process is usually managed within a single ASG. There is therefore a low level risk of the transition process being less effective than it would be if pupils were moving within the same ASG.

Environmental

- 6.5 There are no environmental risks or implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

Technological

- 6.6 There are no technological risks or implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

Reputational

- 6.7 Making changes to school zone boundaries carries a low level risk of impacting negatively on the Council's reputation, if parents feel they have not been properly informed or if their children are required to move schools as a result of the changes. These risks have been controlled by ensuring that the statutory consultation process has been fully complied with, and that parents and other stakeholders have been kept fully informed throughout, and also by confirming with parents that children already attending the affected schools will not be required to move schools as a result of the changes.

7. IMPACT SECTION

Economy

- 7.1 There are no significant impacts on the economy associated with these proposals.

People

- 7.2 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, which in turn will help to ensure that pupils attending the schools have access to high quality learning and teaching. Implementation of the proposals will also allow school staff to plan for children's learning more effectively.
- 7.3 Accepting the recommendations within this report will therefore assist the Council in delivering on its improvement outcomes, to ensure that children have the best start in life, and that children are respected, included and achieving. An EHRIA was completed in respect of this report.

Place

- 7.4 Accepting the recommendations will help to ensure that children have access to a safe walking route to school, which will help encourage walking to school as an alternative to driving, and therefore contribute to better air quality and lower road congestion.

Technology

- 7.5 There are no significant impacts on technology associated with these proposals.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Education and Children's Services Committee, 17 November 2016 - Statutory Consultation - Consultation Reports on the Proposals to Make Changes to the School Zone Boundaries for Northfield Academy and St Machar Academy, and to Remove Two Areas of Dual Zoning Between Broomhill School, Airyhall School and Ferryhill School

9. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Consultation Report on the proposals to make changes to the primary and secondary school zones for an area of ground which lies south of North Deeside Road in Aberdeen

10. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Andrew Jones
Service Manager, Assets & Finance
ajones@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 523042

HEAD OF SERVICE DETAILS

Euan Couperwhite
Head of Policy, Performance & Resources
ECouperwhite@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 522073