



# ABERDEEN

## CITY COUNCIL

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### **CONSULTATION REPORT North Deeside Road Rezoning**

This Consultation Report has been compiled in response to the recent public consultation on the proposal to make changes to the primary and secondary school zones for an area of ground which lies south of North Deeside Road 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.

#### **Proposals:**

**(1) To rezone an 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) To rezone an 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.**

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

## **1. METHODOLOGY**

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

## **2. INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS**

### **2.1 Public Event**

A public consultation event was held on 8 February 2017 to discuss the proposals. The event took place at Airyhall School commencing at 7.00pm. The event was attended by three members of the public.

### **2.2 Comments Received**

Three completed comment forms were received in response to this consultation, along with one online submission via the Council's consultation portal, and one email submission from Airyhall School's parent council.

### **2.3 Issues Raised**

The main issues raised at the public meeting and in the written responses to the consultation, are summarised below.

- Questions raised at the public meeting focused on pupils who already attend Airyhall School, and whether these pupils would be entitled to attend Hazlehead Academy, should the proposed changes be implemented. Those attending the public meeting asked that confirmation of this be provided in writing.
- One respondent to the consultation, who lives in an area affected by previous rezoning proposals for Airyhall School, raised a concern about that area being rezoned from Airyhall to another school, given that they identified more closely with the Airyhall community.
- Another respondent suggested that Cults School and Cults Academy are operating at capacity, and that the proposed changes to school zones would impact further on this. They also queried why the proposals were focused on reducing the numbers of children at Airyhall School.
- The same respondent queried why the changes were being proposed, and suggested that the area should remain zoned to Cults, because Cults has a good reputation and because house builders are able to sell houses because of the catchment area.
- The response from Airyhall Parent Council confirmed the parent council's support for the proposals, and highlighted the proposed changes would help in maintaining the future pupil roll at Airyhall School at manageable levels.
- The Parent Council also requested confirmation that any child living in the area affected by the proposals who has an older sibling attending Hazlehead Academy at the time the changes are made, would have the option of also attending Hazlehead Academy, so that family groups can remain together.

## **2.4 Education Scotland Report**

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

In its report, Education Scotland noted that the proposals 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.

The 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.

Finally the report noted that the Council has given re-assurance to parents of children already attending school in the areas affected that they and their siblings will be able to continue to attend their current primary and secondary schools.

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

### **3.1 Entitlement to attend Hazlehead Academy**

- In response to the queries raised about children already living in the affected area and their entitlement to attend Hazlehead Academy, it was confirmed at the public meeting that any pupils living in the areas affected by the proposals who already attend Airyhall School at the time that the school zone changes are implemented,, would be entitled to attend Hazlehead Academy with their peers, when reaching secondary school age.
- Confirmation of this was also provided in writing to the chair of Airyhall Parent Council, in an email sent on 9 March 2017. In addition, the email confirmed that any child living in the affected area at the time of the rezoning who has an older sibling at Airyhall School or Hazlehead Academy, would be given the option to also attend Airyhall School and Hazlehead Academy, so that family groups can stay together.

### **3.2 Impact on Cults School and Cults Academy**

- In response to the comments on Cults School and Cults Academy, it should be noted that the area of land to the west of Pitfodels Station Road which is affected by these proposals, is already zoned to Cults Academy, but currently it falls within the zone for Airyhall Primary School, and not Cults Primary School. The proposed changes are intended to correct this anomaly and have the area zoned to Cults Primary School, so that children living in this area who will eventually attend Cults Academy, can also attend Cults Primary School and move to secondary school along with their peers. The proposed changes would not result in any area of land being rezoned away from the existing Cults zones.

- Given that the area of land affected by this aspect of the proposals is relatively small, it is not anticipated that there will be any significant effect on the pupil roll at Cults Primary School. It is acknowledged that the proposals if accepted would help to avoid an increase in the pupil roll at Airyhall School, which is currently operating close to its capacity.

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

Following the conclusion of the consultation period, Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, requires the Council to review the relevant proposal, having had regard to any written representations that have been received by it during the consultation period, any oral representations made to it at the public meeting held on 8 February, and Education Scotland's report.

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

With relation to Section 9(1) of the 2010 Act and having considered all of the information received during the consultation process, officers are satisfied that no comments have 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 in Aberdeen.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATION**

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

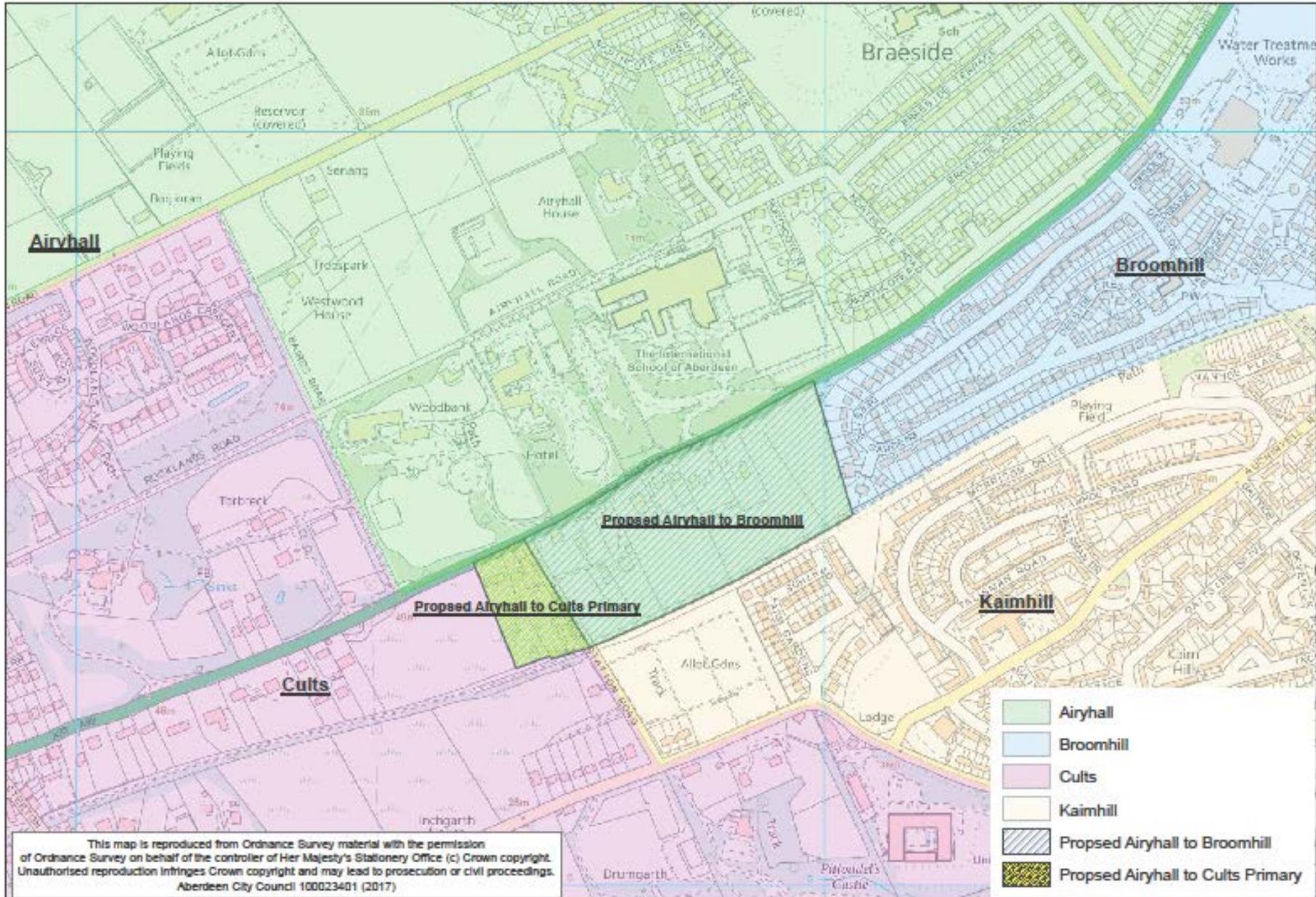
**(1) rezone the area of ground which lies south of North Deeside Road and east of Pitfodels Station Road, from the Airyhall School zone to the Broomhill School zone, and from the Hazlehead Academy zone to the Harlaw Academy zone, with effect from 1 August 2017; and:**

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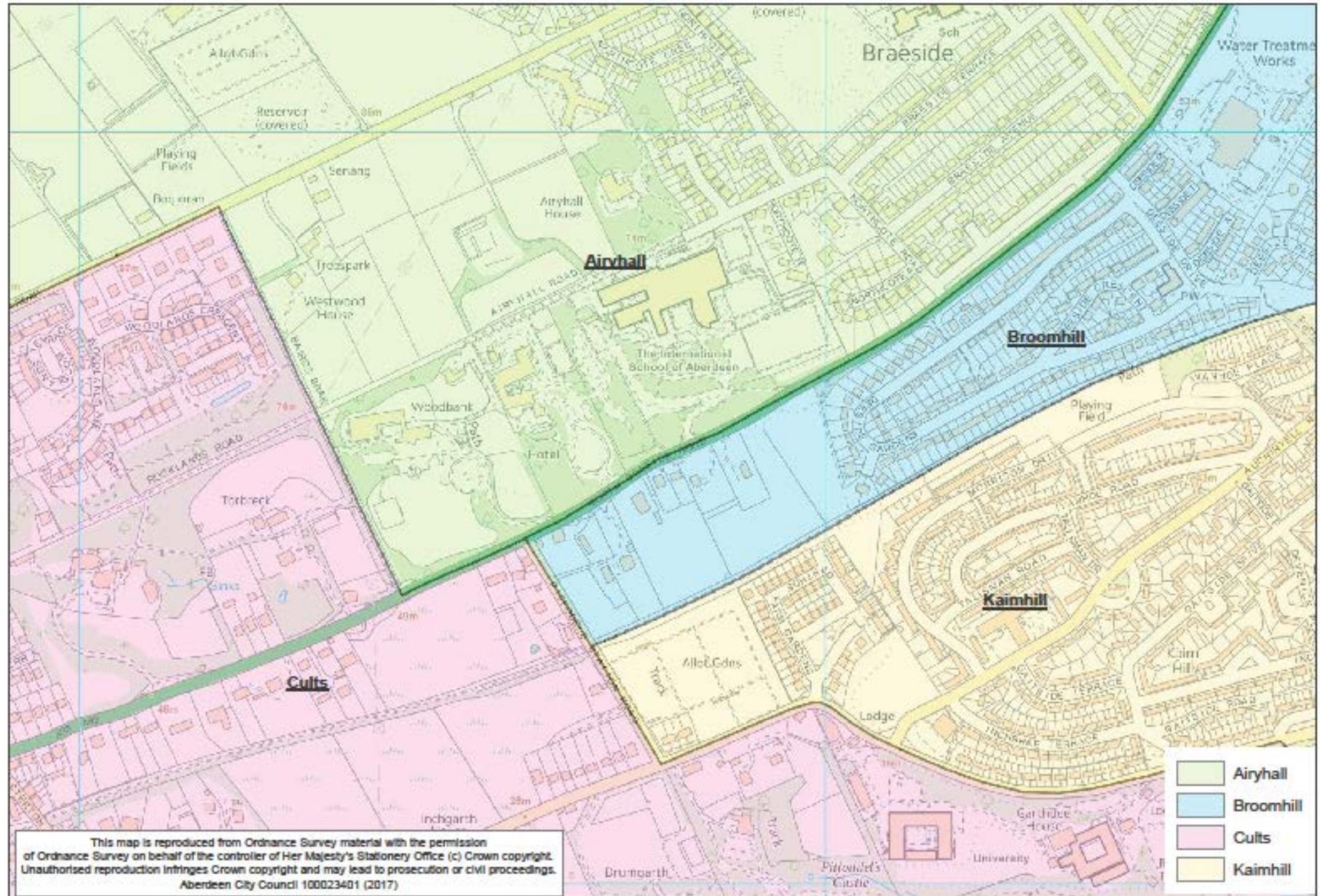
**Gayle Gorman  
Director of Education and Children's Services  
May 2017**

# North Deeside Road Rezoning: Proposed Changes

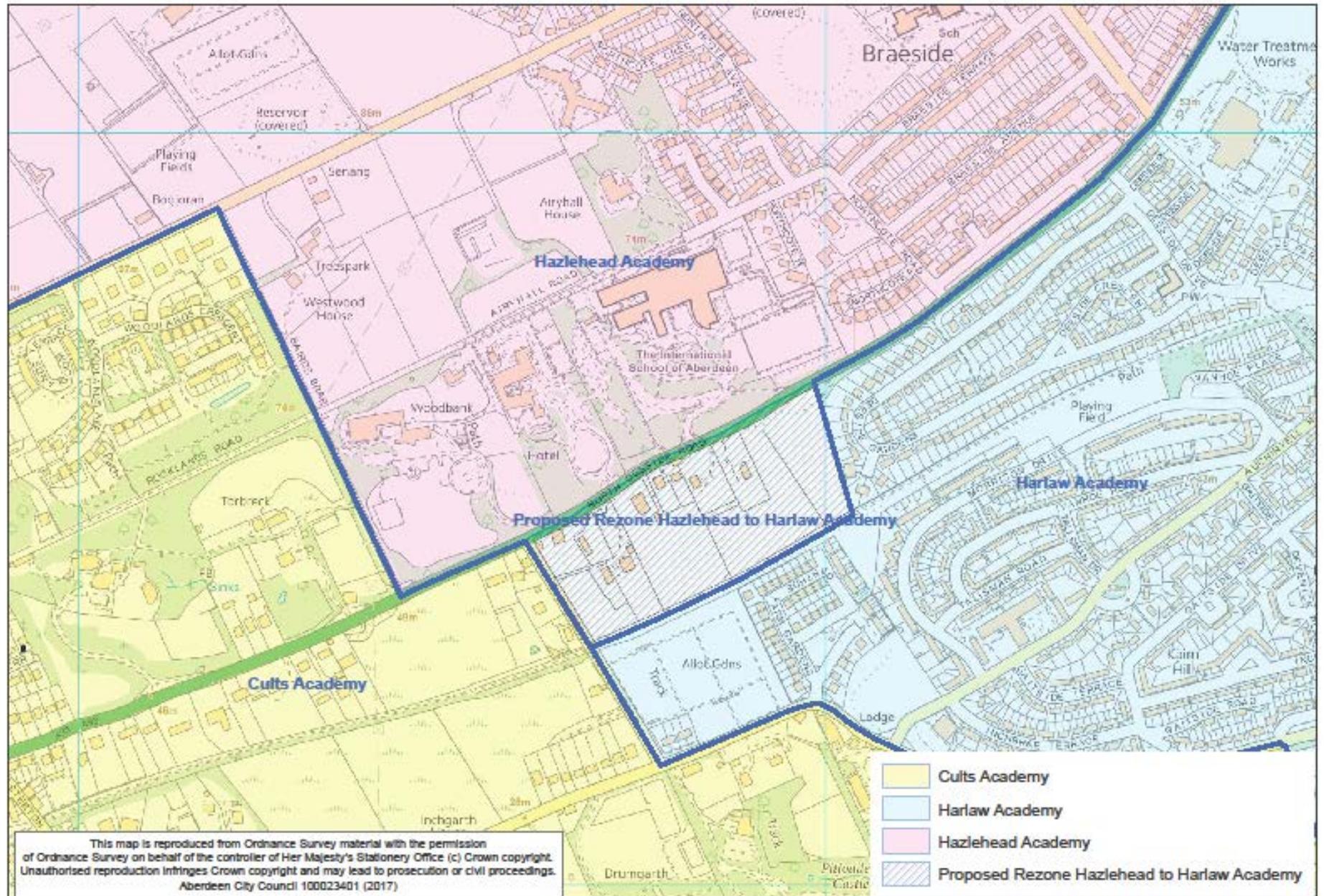
## Current Approved Primary Zones



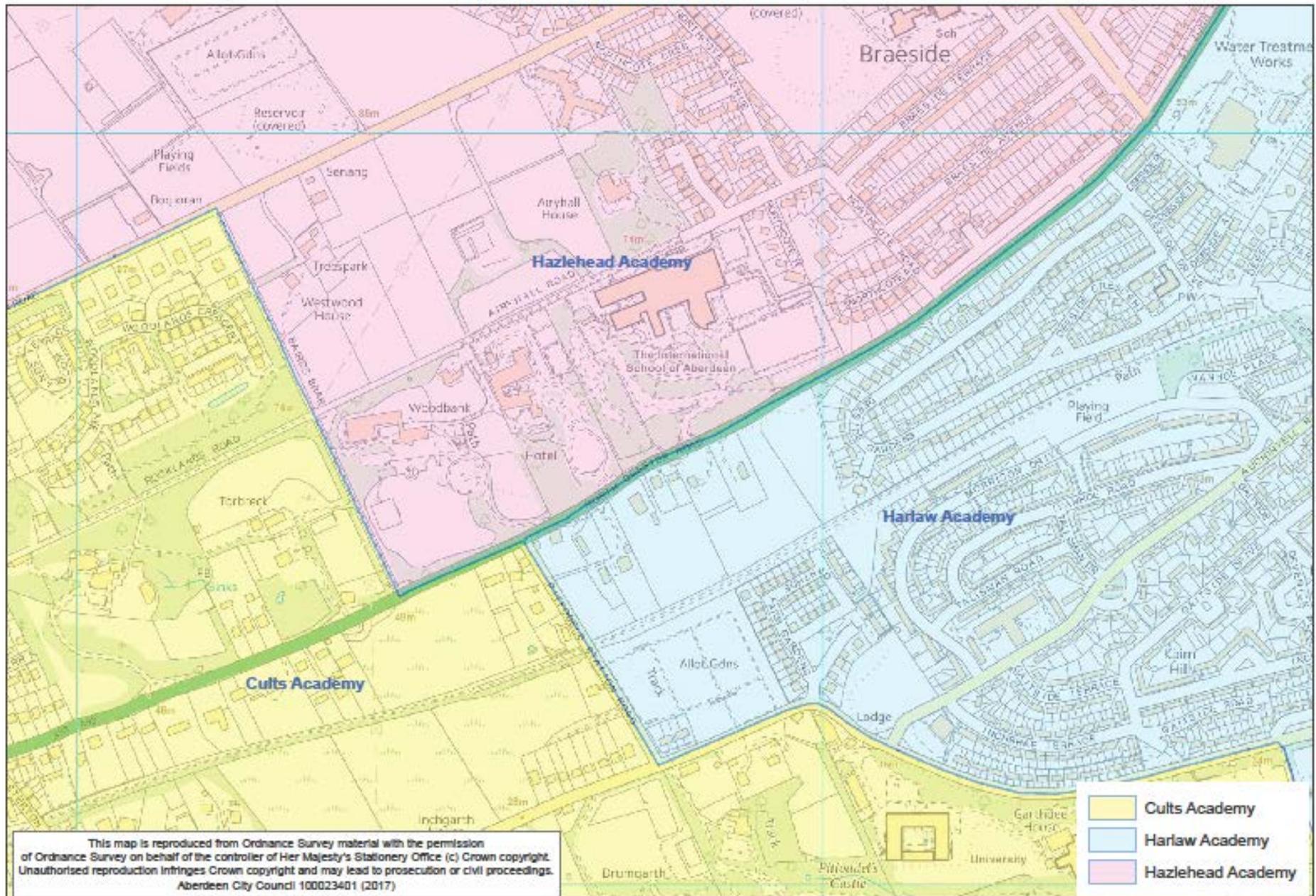
# Proposed Primary Zones



## Current Secondary Zones



## Proposed Secondary Zones



## REPORT FROM EDUCATION SCOTLAND

**Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Aberdeen City Council to make a number of small adjustments to the school zones of Airyhall School, Broomhill School, Hazlehead Academy and Harlaw Academy, with effect from 1 August 2017; and to rezone an 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.**

### 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 make a number of small adjustments to the school zones of Airyhall School, Broomhill School, Hazlehead Academy and Harlaw Academy, with effect from 1 August 2017; and to rezone an 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. 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 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.

1.3 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 Airyhall, Broomhill and Cults schools, including discussion with relevant consultees.

## **2. Consultation Process**

2.1 Aberdeen City Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*.

2.2 Aberdeen City Council undertook a statutory consultation which ran from Monday 16 January until Friday 3 March 2017. Information was provided to stakeholders including parents of children attending relevant schools. The proposal document was available on the council website and at the council's headquarters, local libraries and local council offices. A public meeting was held on the 8 February 2017 which was attended by three stakeholders, none of whom lived in the areas affected. Attendees at the public meeting wanted further clarification about the proposal. The council received a few written responses to the proposal.

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

3.1 The council proposes to realign the school zones of Airyhall, Broomhill and Cults schools and to match these with the school zones for Hazlehead Academy and Harlaw Academy. The proposed new school zones are better aligned and this will ensure that children will always be moving to secondary school with the peer group of children with whom they attended their local primary school. In making the proposed changes, the council hopes to continue to manage effectively demand for places since very few children and families will be involved. The proposal supports safe routes to school by cutting out the need for children currently living south of North Deeside Road from crossing to attend Airyhall School.

3.2 Parents who met with Inspectors were supportive of the proposals. They recognised the council's need to provide clarity around school zones for both primary and secondary schools in the area. A few parents at the public meeting wanted further clarification on the proposal which council officers provided.

## **4. Summary**

HM Inspectors consider that, if implemented, the proposal to alter the school zones has the potential to help children, young people and their families. There

are potential gains for improving the transition of a small number of children as they transfer from primary to secondary school. Children will no longer need to cross North Deeside Road to get to Airyhall School. If the proposal goes ahead, the council have given re-assurance to parents of children already attending school in the areas affected that they and their siblings will be able to attend their current school and the secondary school for which existing links are in place.

**HM Inspectors  
Education Scotland  
March 2017**