

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education and Children's Services
DATE	21 March 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Consultation Reports: Greenbrae School / Glashieburn School Catchment Areas and Walker Road School Relocation
REPORT NUMBER	RES/23/086
DIRECTOR	Steve Whyte / Eleanor Sheppard
CHIEF OFFICER	Stephen Booth
REPORT AUTHOR	Andrew Jones
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.1, 1.1.2

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report to the Committee on the outcomes of recent statutory public consultations on proposals to make changes to the catchment areas for Greenbrae School and Glashieburn School, and on proposals to relocate Walker Road School to a new school building, and to make associated changes to the catchment areas for Walker Road School and Tullos School.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Agrees to implement the revised alterations to the catchment areas for Greenbrae School and Glashieburn School, as defined within Map B in the consultation report at Appendix 1 of this report, with effect from 1 August 2023;
- 2.2 Agrees to relocate Walker Road School to the new school building at Tullos Circle in Torry, Aberdeen, with effect from 1 August 2023 or as soon as possible thereafter; and
- 2.3 Agrees to implement alterations to the catchment areas for Walker Road School and Tullos School, as defined within Map B in the consultation report at Appendix 2 of this report, with effect from 1 August 2023.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 At its meeting of 8 September 2022, after considering recommendations presented as part of the finalised School Estate Plan, the former Education Operational Delivery Committee instructed the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord to carry out a statutory public consultation on proposals to re-align

primary school zone boundaries within the Oldmachar ASG, to relieve future pressure on pupil numbers at Greenbrae School, and to report back to the Education and Children's Services Committee with the outcomes of the consultation and recommendations as appropriate.

- 3.2 At the same meeting and also following a recommendation within the School Estate Plan, the committee instructed the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord to carry out a statutory consultation on proposals to relocate Walker Road School to the new primary school building in Torry, following its completion, and to report back to the Education and Children's Services Committee with the outcomes of the consultation and recommendations as appropriate.
- 3.3 To fulfil these instructions, two separate public consultations were carried out, from 7 November to 22 December 2022 (for the Greenbrae School and Glashieburn School catchment area proposals), and from 5 December 2022 to 31 January 2023 for the Walker Road School relocation proposals.
- 3.4 Full summaries of the responses received during the consultations, along with officers' responses to the issues raised, are contained within the Consultation Reports at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. These reports also contain copies of Education Scotland's responses to the proposals.

Greenbrae School and Glashieburn School Catchment Area Proposals

- 3.5 With relation to Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, and having considered all of the information received during the consultation process, officers have reviewed the original proposal for Greenbrae School and Glashieburn School carefully, and have concluded that, for the reasons outlined in the consultation report at Appendix 1, it would be appropriate to amend the proposal, so that the area known as Denmore Park would remain within the Greenbrae School catchment area, rather than being moved to the Glashieburn School catchment area, as had been originally proposed.
- 3.6 It is therefore recommended that the revised alterations to catchment areas, as detailed in Map B within the consultation report at Appendix 1, are implemented with effect from 1 August 2023.

Walker Road School Relocation Proposals

- 3.7 With relation to Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, and having considered all of the information received during the consultation process, officers have reviewed the original proposals for Walker Road School and Tullos School carefully, and have concluded that the proposed relocation of Walker Road School, and associated changes to catchment areas for Walker Road School and Tullos School, are appropriate, and that there is no reason to change the proposals.
- 3.8 It is therefore recommended that Walker Road School is relocated to the new school building at Tullos Circle, with effect from 1 August 2023, or as soon as possible thereafter, and that the proposed changes to the school catchment areas for Walker Road School and Tullos School, as defined within Map B of

the consultation report at Appendix 2, are implemented with effect from 1 August 2023.

- 3.9 If the above recommendation is accepted, officers will work closely with school colleagues and the wider school community, to carefully plan a smooth transition to the new school building. The exact timing of the move will be dependent on that planning process, and on the completion and handover of the new school building, which officers are currently anticipating will be in Autumn 2023.
- 3.10 When the exact date for the completion of the new building has been finalised and confirmed, it will be possible to develop a clear plan and timeline for the move to the new building, which will be shared with the school community in advance of any moves taking place.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations relating to Greenbrae School and Glashieburn School.
- 4.2 A decision to relocate Walker Road School to the new school building at Tullos Circle would result in some one-off additional costs, associated with the packing and physical moving of resources from the existing building to the new building. These costs are estimated at £10,000 and will be met through existing revenue budgets.
- 4.3 If the Walker Road School relocation goes ahead, there is likely to be an immediate reduction in some elements of the running costs for that building, resulting in a saving of approximately £140,000 per year, although there is also likely to be a requirement to secure the building in the short term until a decision on its future is made, which is expected to incur an additional one-off cost of approximately £20,000.
- 4.4 Running costs for the new school building at Tullos Circle have been accounted for and reported separately within the business case for the construction of the new building.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A proposal to make alterations to the catchment area of a school, and a proposal to relocate a school, are relevant proposals under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The 2010 Act prescribes the procedural steps the Education Authority must take. This includes:
- preparation of a proposal paper;
 - giving notice of the proposal;
 - ingathering oral and written representations;
 - holding a public meeting;
 - providing Education Scotland with all relevant documentation;

- reviewing the proposal having regard to the representations received and Education Scotland's report; and
- thereafter publishing a consultation report containing an explanation of how it has reviewed the proposal and responding to the points raised during the consultation.

5.2 The public consultation has complied with these requirements of the 2010 Act. As the proposal does not refer to the proposed closure of any school, any decision to implement it by this Committee cannot be called in by Scottish Ministers. A complaint may be made to Scottish Ministers under section 70 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 where it is alleged that an Education Authority has failed to comply with obligations placed upon it by the 2010 Act. In such instances, if satisfied the Authority is in default the Scottish Ministers may make an order requiring that the statutory duty be carried out.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The proposed changes to catchment areas for Greenbrae School and Glashieburn School are intended to minimise any additional travel distances for children walking to school, to encourage sustainable travel to school and to avoid making it necessary for additional children to travel by car. A decision to proceed with implementing these proposals is therefore not anticipated to have any material environmental implications.

6.2 A decision to relocate Walker Road School to the new building at Tullos Circle, which has been constructed to modern building and efficiency standards, is likely to have a positive impact on the environment, through reduced carbon emissions associated with the running of the new building. The extent of this impact will be dependent on the decisions taken on the long-term future of the existing Walker Road School building.

7. RISK

The assessment of risk contained within the table below is considered to be consistent with the Council's Risk Appetite Statement.

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Not proceeding with the recommendations in this report may impact on the	The recommendations within this report are intended to help mitigate this risk.	L	Yes

	delivery of the approved School Estate Plan, and the aim to manage school rolls and reduce excess capacity			
Compliance	<p>Risk that the Council is seen to make significant changes to schools without considering the views of stakeholders.</p> <p>Risk of successful legal challenge for failing to comply with statutory duties.</p>	<p>All aspects of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 have been complied with.</p> <p>Regard has been had to statutory duties set out in the 2010 Act set out above and the Education (Scotland) Act 1980. Prescribed legal processes have been followed.</p>	L	Yes
Operational	Risk that customers' views are not taken into account when introducing new catchment areas	<p>All aspects of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended have been complied with and stakeholders have had the opportunity to comment on proposals. The consultation report provides an account of the factors taken into consideration by officers which led to the revised recommendations for the Greenbrae School and Glashieburn School catchment areas.</p>	L	Yes
Financial	No significant risks identified			
Reputational	Risk that customers' views are not taken into account when introducing new catchment areas	<p>All aspects of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended have been complied with and stakeholders have had the opportunity to comment on proposals. The consultation report provides an account of the factors taken into consideration by officers which led to the</p>		Yes

		revised recommendations for the Greenbrae School and Glashieburn School catchment areas.		
Environment / Climate	No significant risks identified			

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2022-2023</u>	
Impact of Report	
<u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26</u>	
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The proposals within this report support the delivery of the Children & Young People Stretch Outcomes 6 to 8 in the LOIP. Ensuring that pupil rolls at the schools concerned are maintained at manageable levels will assist in the delivery of quality learning and teaching, which will ultimately lead to improved outcomes for young people.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The proposals within this report support the delivery of Stretch Outcomes 13 and 14 in the LOIP. Relocating Walker Road School to a modern, efficient building will impact positively on carbon emissions, and ensuring pupils have safe and appropriate routes to school will help to encourage walking or cycling to school.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Full impact assessment not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Education Operational Delivery Committee, 8 September 2022: *School Estate Plan 2022 - RES/22/184*

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – Consultation Report: Greenbrae School and Glashieburn School Proposed Adjustment to Catchment Areas
- 11.2 Appendix 2 – Consultation Report: Proposed Relocation of Walker Road School

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