



CONSULTATION REPORT Greenbrae School and Glashieburn School: Proposed Adjustment to Catchment Areas

This Consultation Report has been compiled in response to a public consultation carried out from 7 November to 22 December 2022, on proposals to make adjustments to the catchment areas for Greenbrae School and Glashieburn School.

The document summarises the feedback received on the proposal 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 alter the school catchment area boundaries for Greenbrae School and Glashieburn School, so that an area of land to the west of Dubford Road, and an area of land which includes Lochside Road and Lochside Drive, are moved from the Greenbrae School catchment area to the Glashieburn School catchment area, with effect from 1 August 2023.

Maps illustrating the proposed changes to the school catchment boundaries, which have been revised in light of the feedback received during the consultation, 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 to discuss the proposals was held on 30 November 2022, at 7.00pm. The event took place at Greenbrae School and was attended by 56 people.

2.2 Comments Received

125 responses to the consultation were submitted via the Council's online consultation portal. In addition, 13 responses were received via email, and one completed handwritten comment form was also submitted.

In total, 133 respondents indicated that they were not in support of the proposal. 71 of these respondents (53% of the total) identified themselves as being parents of children currently of pre-school or primary school age. 45 of the respondents (34%) indicated that they did not have any children of primary school or pre-school age, but identified themselves as local residents. Two of the respondents who were not in support of the proposals explained that they plan to have children in the future. The majority of comments from local residents related to the area known as Denmore Park, which is one of the areas which would be affected by the proposed changes to catchment areas.

Four respondents, all of whom were parents of children of either primary or pre-school age, indicated that they supported the proposal.

All of the submissions, anonymised as necessary, are available to view or download from the Council's website: www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations

2.3 Issues Raised

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

Respondents who indicated that they did not agree with the proposal, raised the following points:

- The point raised most often in the consultation responses (by 61 respondents) and at the public meeting, related to concerns about road safety, and in particular the fact that children would need to walk alongside and / or cross busy roads to get to school. Respondents highlighted the fact that there is currently no crossing patroller in place at Scotstown Road and Jesmond Drive to help children cross the road.

- 22 respondents also expressed concerns about children having to walk further to get to school, as a result of the proposed changes, and that that this would be too far to walk. This issue was also raised at the public meeting. Four respondents stated that the proposed changes would upset their family or work routines due to the changes in arrangements for taking their children to school.
- Feedback at the public meeting and in 43 of the written responses included comments that the proposed changes would lead to increases in traffic around Glashieburn School, because there was a view that more pupils would be arriving at school by car, rather than walking to school, due to the increases in travel distances, and also due to concerns about road safety.

Respondents felt that the area around Glashieburn School was unsafe for dropping off children by car, and some also expressed concerns about the environmental impact of more children being driven to school rather than walking.

- When commenting on the impact of the proposal on Denmore Park, which is currently part of the Greenbrae School catchment area, 31 respondents stated that moving it to the Glashieburn School catchment area did not make any sense, given that Denmore Park is very close to Greenbrae School.
- 20 respondents expressed a view that the proposed changes to catchment areas would result in the community at Denmore Park being destroyed, and that friendships would also be broken up. 14 respondents felt that Greenbrae School had an affiliation with Denmore Park, and that the school had always been seen as part of that community, with pupils benefiting from access to outdoor spaces within Denmore Park. Respondents felt that this would be lost if Denmore Park becomes part of the Glashieburn School catchment area. These concerns were also raised at the public meeting.
- In 21 of the responses, it was suggested that the Shielhill / new Dubford area, which is also currently part of the Greenbrae School catchment area, should be moved to the Glashieburn School catchment area, instead of Denmore Park, as it was felt that it was pupils from the new houses at Shielhill which had led to Greenbrae School reaching its capacity. It was also suggested within the responses that parents from Shielhill / new Dubford already drive their children to school, so there would be little impact on them if they were to drive their children to Glashieburn School instead.
- 18 respondents expressed a concern that many parents from Shielhill currently park their cars within Denmore Park when dropping off and picking up their children to and from Greenbrae School, and they felt that this would increase if the proposed changes are approved.
- 14 respondents and some of those at the public meeting stated that a new school should have been built for the new houses at Shielhill, and that this would have avoided the increase in pupil numbers at Greenbrae School and the need for any changes to school catchment areas.

- 10 respondents stated that the proposed changes will not address the issue with pupil numbers at Greenbrae School, and one suggested that the area to be moved from the Greenbrae catchment area to the Glashieburn catchment area should be larger. Two respondents also suggested that Denmore Park is inhabited by mainly older residents, with relatively few children living there compared with the Shielhill area, and that moving Denmore Park to the Glashieburn catchment area would have limited impact on pupil numbers at the school.
- Two respondents stated that Glashieburn School is already overcrowded and could not cope with the additional pupils which the proposed changes would bring, whilst three others expressed concerns about children having to be accommodated in larger class sizes, and in open plan classrooms at Glashieburn School.
- A small number of respondents expressed a concern that their children who are already attending Greenbrae School would be required to move to Glashieburn School, if the proposed changes were approved.

Respondents who indicated that they were in support of the proposal, gave the following reasons for this:

- Four respondents noted they were aware of the current high pupil numbers at Greenbrae School, which has resulted in large class sizes.
- They expressed a view that the changes being proposed for the school catchment areas would help free up space at Greenbrae School, although one respondent was concerned that the impact of the change would not be large enough.

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 the existing pressures on pupil capacity at Greenbrae School, and the impact this is having on the availability of space in the school for non-classroom activities, which could create equalities issues for children with additional support needs. It was stated in the report that HM Inspectors agree that having balanced and stable school rolls can help support the delivery of learning and teaching and the engagement and deployment of staff, and that there are educational benefits in addressing the rising roll at Greenbrae School.

The report acknowledged that the proposed changes to catchment areas are expected to help reduce the school roll in the longer term, but stated that regardless of the outcome of the consultation, the Council will need to consider further how best to address the rising pupil numbers at the school over the next five years.

The report also acknowledged the concerns raised by stakeholders during the consultation, including those relating to increased walking distances and road safety, and also the concerns relating to the impact of the proposed changes on friendship groups and community cohesion. It was suggested in the report that the Council should ensure that children have safe routes to Glashieburn School and explore ways to mitigate traffic congestion around both schools.

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

Responses from officers to the issues raised and outlined in section 2 above, are provided below:

3.1 Requirement for children to walk alongside / cross busy roads to walk to school

It is acknowledged that if the proposed changes to school catchment areas are implemented, children living in the affected areas and who would be eligible to attend Glashieburn School in the future, would need to walk alongside and/or cross Scotstown Road and Jesmond Drive, in order to walk to school.

In the past, children living in the Denmore Park area have benefited from living within very close proximity of their zoned school, which has minimised the number and size of the roads they needed to cross to reach their school. Children who live in other parts of Bridge of Don, on the other hand, do need to walk alongside and/or cross Scotstown Road or Jesmond Drive, to walk to school. A large proportion of children living within the existing Glashieburn School catchment area, for example, would need to walk alongside and/or cross Jesmond Drive to walk to school, whilst many of the children living within the Scotstown School catchment area would cross Scotstown Road when walking to their school.

In many other school catchment areas across the city, children living in those areas would be required to walk alongside and/or cross roads which may be considered similar to Scotstown Road and Jesmond Drive, in order to reach their school.

When creating school catchment areas, efforts are made to reduce the extent to which children would be required to cross the busiest roads in the city to reach their zoned school, but in most cases it is not possible to avoid the need to cross roads altogether, due to the location of schools, the housing developments they serve, and their proximity to the road network. Where it is necessary to make amendments to existing school catchment areas to help manage future pupil numbers, this will inevitably result in changes to the walking routes to school for some children in the future, and the need for children to cross roads to reach their school is often unavoidable.

3.2 Increased traffic in the vicinity of Glashieburn School

When considering the way in which the school catchment areas could be adjusted, the areas of housing which were closest to Glashieburn School were deliberately selected

to be moved to the Glashieburn School catchment area, to minimise any potential increases in walking distances, so that increases in the number of pupils being taken to school by car could be avoided.

Pupils and families will continue to be encouraged to choose sustainable methods of transport to school, and the proposed changes have been designed to support this as far as possible, so that increases in traffic in the vicinity of Glashieburn School can be minimised.

It is worth noting that the proposal put forward by some respondents to the consultation, that the area of Shielhill / new Dubford should have been moved to the Glashieburn School catchment area instead of the Denmore Park area, would be likely to result in a higher increase in traffic at Glashieburn School, given that this area is further away from the school, and children may be less likely to walk to school from there.

3.3 Consideration of further road safety improvements

To address the points raised by consultees and in the Education Scotland report concerning safe routes to school and reducing traffic congestion, officers have discussed the proposals with colleagues in the Council's road safety team, to determine if any further action would be required to improve road safety. Officers assessed the measures which are already in place to support pedestrians in crossing the road, and in supporting traffic calming, and noted the following:

- A signal-controlled pedestrian crossing is in place on Scotstown Road at Jesmond Drive
- In recent years the speed limit on this stretch of road has been reduced to 30 miles per hour, in order to improve road safety for pedestrians
- A signal controlled crossing is in place on Jesmond Drive at Glashieburn School, along with other traffic-calming measures to help reduce the impact of traffic congestion
- A part-time 20 miles per hour speed limit operates in the vicinity of Glashieburn School, to help improve road safety for pupils walking to and from school.
- A shared footpath for pedestrians and cyclists is in place to support safe travel to Glashieburn School

Having considered the above existing measures, officers concluded that no further mitigations would be required to improve road safety as a result of the proposed changes to school catchment areas.

It would be for parents/guardians to determine whether a child is old enough and has sufficient road safety knowledge to walk to school unsupervised, and walking children to school provides an ideal opportunity for parents or guardians to teach them important road safety skills, such as being mindful of traffic, finding safe places to cross the road and how to safely use a pedestrian crossing.

To help address the concerns about road safety which have been raised during the consultation, should the proposed changes to catchment areas go ahead, staff at Glashieburn School will be asked to work with pupils and parents to develop an

updated travel plan, to set out the safe and sustainable routes to school for pupils living in its revised catchment area.

3.4 Increased walking distances to school

When creating or amending primary school catchment areas, efforts are made to ensure that where possible, children are living no more than two miles' walking distance from their home to their zoned school. Two miles is generally considered to be the maximum reasonable walking distance for a primary school-aged child.

The walking distances from the furthest location within Denmore Park to Glashieburn School is approximately 0.8 miles. The current walking distance from the furthest point in Denmore Park to Greenbrae School is 0.5 miles. From the furthest location within the Dubford Crescent / Dubford Rise / Cypress Grove area, which would also be affected by the proposed changes, the walking distance to Glashieburn School is approximately 1.0 mile, whilst currently the walking distance to Greenbrae School from the furthest point in this area is 0.7 miles.

The above distances indicate that, whilst the proposed changes would result in a small increase in walking distance for some of the areas affected, these distances are well within the maximum distance which is considered to be a reasonable walking distance to school.

3.5 Issues raised relating to Denmore Park

It is acknowledged and understood that Denmore Park is situated a short distance from Greenbrae School, and as such children living in this area in the past have benefited from being in close proximity to their zoned school. Based on the feedback received from the consultation, it is clear that the wider community of Denmore Park has also benefited from this close connection with the school.

As explained above, when considering changes to the school catchment areas, as a solution to the lack of capacity at Greenbrae School, it was necessary to select areas of housing which were closest to Glashieburn School, to minimise walking distances for children who would be affected by the changes in the future. It happens to be the case that whilst being located close to Greenbrae School, Denmore Park is also very near to Glashieburn School, and this is why the area was included within the proposed changes to the catchment areas, in an attempt to maximise the impact on future pupil numbers at Greenbrae School.

During the consultation, respondents who are residents within Denmore Park clearly expressed their concerns about the negative impact on their community, should the proposed changes to the catchment areas be approved. Officers have reflected on this feedback, and have determined that in light of the comments raised, it would be appropriate to amend the proposed changes to the catchment areas for Greenbrae School and Glashieburn School, so that Denmore Park would remain within the Greenbrae School catchment area.

The revised changes to the catchment areas which are now proposed are indicated in the maps at Annex A of this report.

If the revised proposal is accepted, this would mean that all children of primary school age living within Denmore Park, now and in the future, will continue to be entitled to attend Greenbrae School, whilst children living within the Dubford Crescent / Dubford Rise / Cypress Grove area in the future (i.e. the area indicated within Map C at Annex A) will be entitled to a place at Glashieburn School.

This will inevitably mean that the numbers of pupils attending Greenbrae School in the future will not be reduced to the extent that they would have been had the original proposal remained in place. However, based on currently available data on the number of pre-school aged children living in Denmore Park, this difference in future pupil numbers is not expected to be significant, and can be accounted for within plans to provide additional temporary classroom capacity at the school, which would also have been required had the original proposal remained in place.

3.6 Impact of the proposals on pupil numbers

It was acknowledged within the consultation proposal document that even if the originally proposed changes to the catchment areas were approved, the pupil roll would likely still have exceeded the school's capacity from August 2023. However this would have been to a lesser extent this year and in the subsequent three years, compared with the likely scenario if no changes are made to the existing catchment areas at all. The school roll is also likely to be brought back within the permanent capacity of the school sooner than if no changes were to be made to the catchment areas.

Considering the now revised proposal for changes to the catchment areas described above and in the maps at Annex A, the anticipated impact of the proposed changes to the catchment areas on pupil numbers at Greenbrae School is outlined below.

Greenbrae School Pupil Numbers (P1-7)	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Current Forecast <i>(if no changes are made to catchment areas)</i>	358	385	386	386	352	367
Original Proposal <i>(Forecast pupil numbers if originally proposed changes to catchment areas are accepted)</i>	352	362	356	351	312	325
Revised Proposal <i>(Forecast pupil numbers if revised changes to catchment areas are accepted)</i>	353	369	364	359	320	332

The pupil capacity of Greenbrae School is **342**, and the pupil roll in the current school year is 337.

The table above shows that, if the revised proposal for changes to the catchment areas are accepted, there will still be a reduction in forecast pupil numbers at

Greenbrae School, but the size of this reduction would be slightly smaller than it would be if the original proposal for catchment area changes had been accepted.

The revised proposal for catchment area changes would still reduce the amount of additional accommodation which may be required and the time that it would be required to be available for, when compared with the extent of accommodation which would be required if no changes are made to the catchment areas.

To help further alleviate the current and anticipated pressure on pupil numbers at the school, work is currently under way to identify options for providing temporary additional classroom accommodation on the school site, in time for August 2023. This will ensure that there is sufficient capacity available in the short term to deal with the remaining small shortfall in capacity which is predicted until 2026, if the revised proposal for changes to the school catchment areas is accepted.

3.7 Issues raised relating to Shielhill / New Dubford

In response to the suggestion by some respondents that the housing at Shielhill / New Dubford should be moved from the Greenbrae School catchment area to the Glashieburn School catchment, this is an area of the Greenbrae School catchment area which is farthest away from Glashieburn School. The walking distance from the furthest point within Shielhill / New Dubford is approximately 1.5 miles. Had the proposal focused on moving this area to the Glashieburn School catchment area, it is likely that residents within Shielhill / new Dubford would also have opposed the proposal, due to the walking distances involved and the view that this may be in conflict with the Council encouraging families to consider sustainable travel options. This may also have resulted in increased traffic in the vicinity of Glashieburn School, which respondents raised concerns about during the consultation.

Whilst it is acknowledged that parents from Shielhill / New Dubford and potentially other parts of the Greenbrae School catchment area may be choosing to drop off and collect their children to/from school by parking in the public streets within Denmore Park, it is unlikely that the proposed changes to the catchment areas would result in an increase in this activity, given that the proposal is intended to help reduce the numbers of pupils attending Greenbrae School, and not increase them.

When planning consent was given for the new development at Shielhill / New Dubford, it was agreed that the additional primary school capacity which was needed to accommodate the new development would be provided through an extension and refurbishment of Greenbrae School. The number of additional pupils generated by the new development would not have justified the construction of an entirely new school. All pupils at Greenbrae School, and not only those living in Shielhill / New Dubford, have benefited from the new and improved facilities at Greenbrae School which were delivered by the extensive refurbishment of the building.

3.8 Glashieburn School capacity and layout

A small number of respondents to the consultation were concerned that Glashieburn School would not have capacity for any additional pupils. This is not the case, as the

total pupil capacity of the school is 428, and in the current school session there are 226 pupils on the school roll. Forecasts indicate that this will drop to 129 by 2028. If the proposed changes to the school catchment areas are approved, the school roll is expected to be at 174 by 2028. The proposals would therefore help to maintain viable pupil numbers at Glashieburn School, which would be of benefit to the school.

Glashieburn School has sufficient classroom capacity to allow for additional class groups to be created if this is required, and this will help ensure class sizes can be maintained at an appropriate level. All schools are subject to statutory maximum class sizes, according to the age groups of the children within them, and therefore cannot by law be increased beyond the stipulated sizes.

Glashieburn School has an open plan classroom layout, as do many primary schools across the city. This layout has a range of benefits, for example it offers teachers flexibility in the use of space, and in providing opportunities for collaborative learning between classes.

3.9 Children already attending Greenbrae School

Some concerns were raised by a small number of respondents to the consultation that their children who already attend Greenbrae School would be required to move to Glashieburn School, as a result of the proposed changes. As stated in the proposal document, there would be no requirement for children who live in the areas affected by the proposed changes and who already attend Greenbrae School to change schools; they will be entitled to remain at Greenbrae School until the end of their P7 year.

The proposed changes would only affect children living in the affected areas who have yet to reach primary school age (unless they have an older sibling who is already attending Greenbrae School, in which case they would be entitled to attend the same school as their sibling), or any children who move house to an affected area after any changes have been implemented.

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 30 November, 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 have reviewed the proposed alterations to the catchment areas carefully, and as outlined at Section 3.5

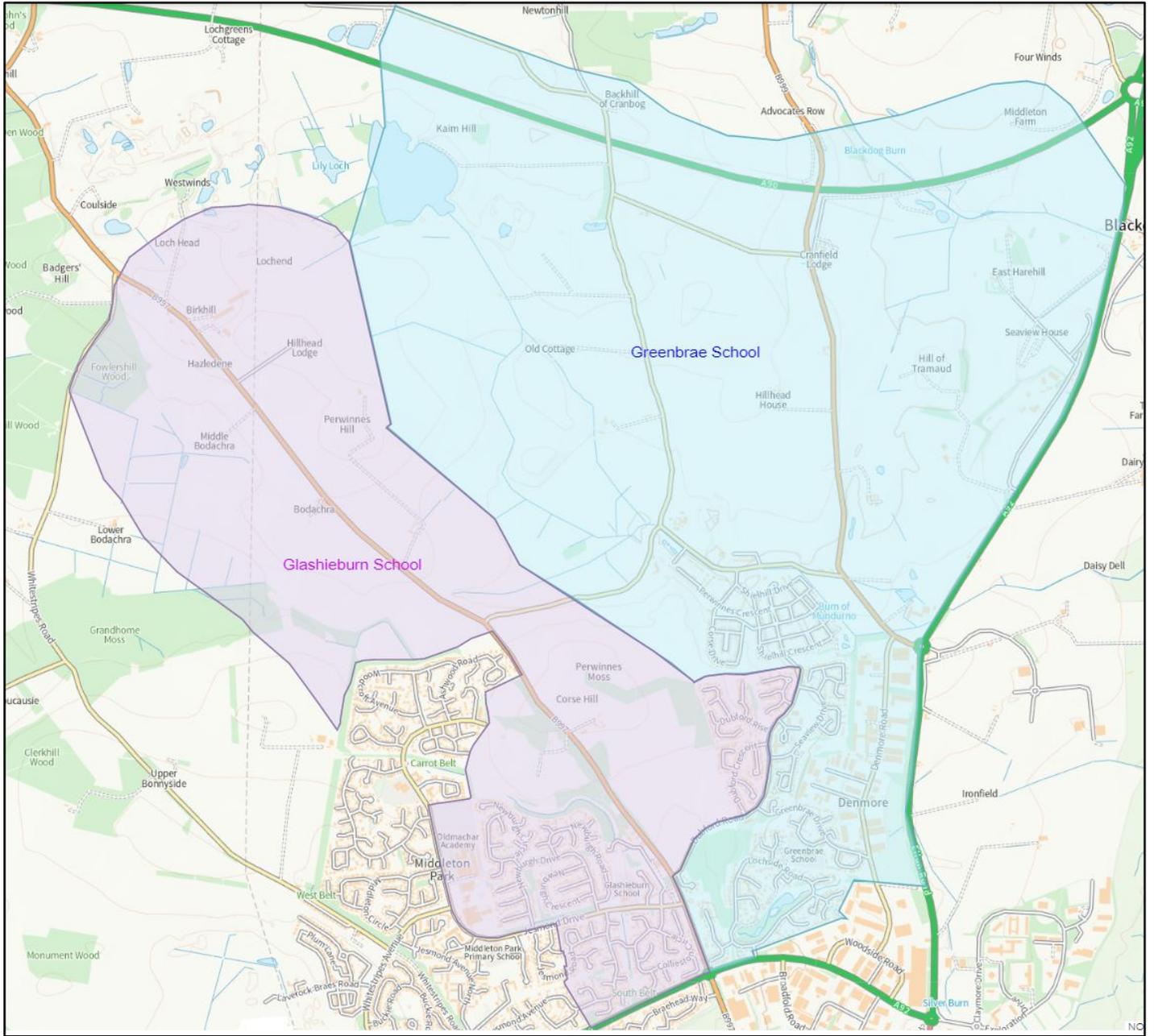
above, have amended the proposal, so that the area known as Denmore Park would remain within the Greenbrae School catchment area.

5. RECOMMENDATION

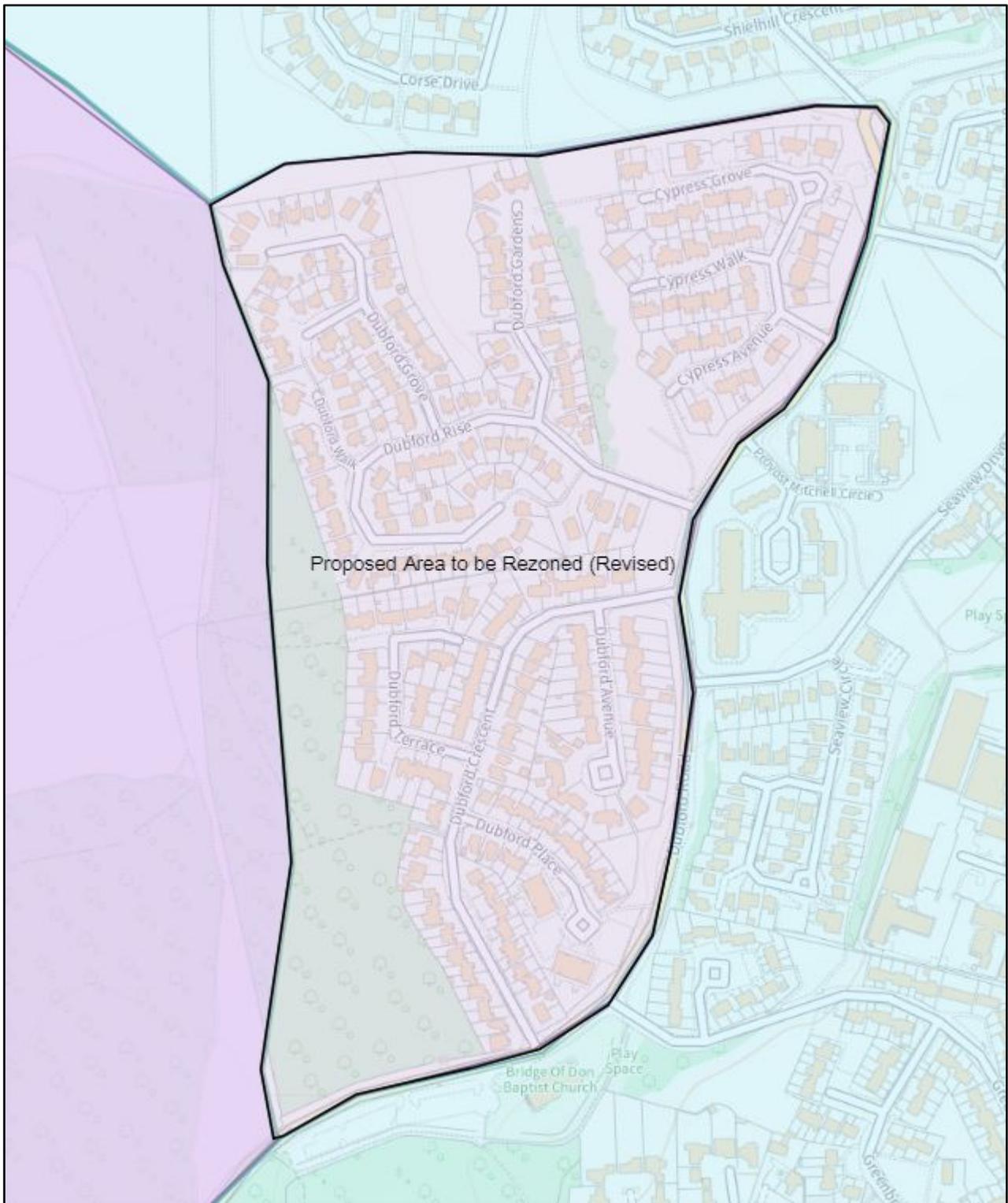
It is recommended that the Education and Children's Services Committee agrees to implement the revised proposal to alter the catchment areas for Greenbrae School and Glashieburn School, as defined within Map B at Annex A of this report, with effect from 1 August 2023.

Steve Whyte
Director of Resources
February 2023

Map B: Proposed catchment areas for Greenbrae School and Glashieburn School (Revised)



Map C: Proposed Area to be Rezoned to Glashieburn School (Revised)



REPORT FROM EDUCATION SCOTLAND



Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Aberdeen City Council to alter the school catchment area boundaries for Greenbrae School and Glashieburn School.

February 2023

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of Aberdeen City Council's proposal to alter the school catchment area boundaries for Greenbrae School and Glashieburn School. 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 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.

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:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 30 November 2022 in connection with the council's proposals;
- 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 Glashieburn School and Greenbrae School, including discussion with relevant consultees and visit to the main walking route that children would take to Glashieburn School.

2. Consultation process

2.1 Aberdeen City Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#).

2.2 The council ran a public consultation from 7 November to 22 December 2022. Copies of the proposal were made available to stakeholders, including parents and children at the two schools. The proposals were also available on the council's website. Stakeholders were invited to respond to the consultation online or by email. The council received 13 emails and 125 responses to the online

form. Almost all of the people that completed the online form disagreed with the proposal, with 121 disagreeing and four agreeing. Of those completing the online form, around half state they currently have children at one of the schools or have pre-school children. The council held a public meeting at Greenbrae School. This was well attended.

2.3 Stakeholders raised a range of concerns at the public meeting, through completing the online form and in emails. These include the current and projected capacity issues at Greenbrae School. Both those who agree and disagree with the proposal, express concerns about increase in class sizes and non-classroom space being adapted into teaching areas in recent years. A few stakeholders question whether the right area is being considered for rezoning. They mention the recent housing developments in the Sheilhill area and its potential impact on the school roll. Stakeholders would like the council to present and consider alternative solutions. Parents are very worried that this proposal will see children having a longer walk to school on a route that includes a very busy main road. As a result, many are concerned that this proposal will increase the number of parents driving children to school. This has the potential to have negative effects on the roads around Glashieburn School. Stakeholders also raised potential issues from children going to a school outside their community. These included the impacts this may have on friendships and access to out of school activities.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The focus of the consultation is to address capacity issues at Greenbrae School. The school has a capacity of 342, with a pupil roll of 337 this year. However, its roll is projected to increase over the next four years to a peak of 386 in 2025 and 2026. If this proposal is agreed, the council project that this would reduce the roll in the longer term. However, the school would still be over capacity for four years by around 15-25 pupils each year with a peak of 356 in 2025. The school has an extension that opened in 2017. The council is exploring how they can provide further accommodation. However, they state the extent to which this can be provided on the site is limited. Glashieburn School has a capacity of 428 and its current roll is 226. HM Inspectors agree that schools being substantially over capacity can affect the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence and create challenges in regard to health and safety.

3.2 Parents, staff and pupils at Greenbrae School who met with HM Inspectors raised that capacity was limited in their school. Due to rising rolls over previous years, Greenbrae School now has limited space for non-classroom activities such as one to one meetings for children receiving individual support from staff and partners. This has the potential to create equalities issues in regard to supporting those children with additional support needs. In addition, activities staff and children would like to have, such as whole school assemblies and shows cannot be accommodated. It is the view of HM Inspectors that regardless of the outcome of this proposal, the council will need to consider further how they can best accommodate the rising roll at Greenbrae School over the coming five years.

3.3 In its proposal, the council states that both schools having more viable and sustainable rolls will support the deployment of staff and a better distribution of children across year groups. HM Inspectors agree that whilst not a necessary condition, having balanced and stable school rolls can help support the planning and delivery of learning and engagement and deployment of staff.

3.4 In the proposal, the council state that the schools having more viable school rolls will help reduce anxiety for parents and pupils in securing a school placement. However, parents including parents of pre-school children who met HM Inspectors at Greenbrae School were clear that this

proposal does not fully address their concerns given that the school is still projected to be over capacity. The council states that children in the area affected by the proposal who currently attend Greenbrae School, or who will have a sibling attending Greenbrae School when they start primary school, will have the option to attend Greenbrae School. This is reassuring for children and parents. However, the stakeholders that HM Inspectors met, raised concerns about children from one community being zoned to different schools and the impact this may have on friendships and community cohesion. A few were also concerned that as this proposal does not fully address capacity issues that further changes may be required to catchment areas and placing requests.

3.5 Stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors are concerned about safe routes to school and the environmental impact of the increased traffic they think will arise from this proposal. The pavement walking route from the communities affected to Glashieburn School crosses a main road. This is a very busy commuter route. If this proposal is agreed, the council will need to demonstrate how they will ensure that children will have a safe walking and cycling route to Glashieburn School. Stakeholders at both schools are concerned about rising school traffic. Neither school have good access and drop off areas. At the start and end of school days, stakeholders report this can cause tension with the local community as parents park their cars in nearby streets. The parents HM Inspectors met stated that children in the Lochside catchment zone affected by this proposal usually walk to school as it is so close, with several of the houses backing onto Greenbrae School playground. They think that if this proposal is agreed, many living in the areas rezoned are likely to drive their children to Glashieburn School, which will increase traffic further.

4. Summary

This proposal principally sets out to address that the school roll at Greenbrae School will exceed capacity in coming years. HM Inspectors agree that there are educational benefits in addressing the rising roll at Greenbrae School. It is important that schools have sufficient space to support children and deliver a variety of learning and play opportunities. However, this proposal does not fully address the issue of Greenbrae School roll rising above capacity. Whether the proposal is agreed or not, the council will need to demonstrate to stakeholders how they intend to meet this challenge. HM Inspectors are of the view that stakeholders have raised legitimate concerns that the council have still to address, should they intend proceeding with this proposal. The council should take forward risk assessments for ensuring that children have safe routes to Glashieburn School and exploring ways to mitigate traffic congestion around both schools.

HM Inspectors
February 2023