

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 19 OCTOBER 2016

PROPOSED CONSULTATION ON RE-ZONING OF ANNANHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, GARGIESTON PRIMARY SCHOOL and CROSSHOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Report by the Depute Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer

INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to undertake statutory consultation on the re-zoning of areas currently within the catchment area of Annanhill Primary School in order to address over-capacity issues. The proposal affects Annanhill Primary School, Gargieston Primary School and Crosshouse Primary School. There would be no increase to the roll at Grange Academy as a result of this proposal. Annanhill, Gargieston and Crosshouse Primaries are all currently feeder primaries for Grange Academy.

BACKGROUND

2. A school's location and size has historically been based on the needs of individual communities. The development and changes to communities over time has an impact on the education provision in each area, this therefore requires an on-going review of the allocation of pupils to individual schools to ensure an effective and efficient education service and optimum outcomes for young people.
3. School catchment areas are the statutory provision to achieve this and their definition is specified as part of the Education (Scotland Act) 1980 for the allocation of pupils to their local school. The identification of catchment areas provides the criteria for entry policy for enrolment to school, entitlement to school transport and opportunities for placing requests for children out with the catchment area.
4. A proposed change to a catchment area is also defined within the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended, where the Council propose a change and therefore requires a formal consultation process in line with these statutory requirements.

PROPOSAL

5. The Proposal Document is attached as Appendix 1 of this report, and subject to Cabinet approval will be made available to all stakeholders in accordance with normal procedures under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended.

The Proposal Document seeks comment on the following:

That the delineated areas of Annanhill Primary School and Gargieston Primary School be amended to address over-capacity issues, taking into account potential housing developments as outlined in the local development plan. A brief summary of the affected delineated area is as follows:

- the delineated area of Annanhill Primary School is amended to a location on the A759 at the entrance to Mount House, Kilmarnock, following the western perimeter of Annanhill Golf Course, continuing westwards along the southern edge of Annandale estate to the B7081 to meet the delineated area of Crosshouse Primary School. This proposal will re-zone the affected ground to the south and west of this new boundary at Moorfield housing estate from the delineated area of Annanhill Primary School to that of Gargieston Primary School.
- the delineated area of Crosshouse Primary School is amended at a location on the north-west corner of Fardalehill, on which development is planned. This proposal will re-zone the affected area from the delineated area of Crosshouse Primary School to that of Annanhill Primary School.
- Changes to the delineated areas of the respective educational establishments are made from the start of academic session 2017/2018, subject to the outcome of this consultation process.

CONTEXT

6. The current catchment areas for the primary schools affected by this proposal have been in place since the time of Ayr County Council and as such do not take account of housing developments in the intervening years or those proposed in the East Ayrshire Local Plan 2010-2017.
7. Since Annanhill Primary School opened, there has been significant housing development in the west of the town at Moorfield and further development currently underway in the same area around Fardalehill.
8. There is the potential for further development in the area at Irvine Road, Annandale and Moorfield. Potential development on these three sites has been included in the projected roll figures for Annanhill Primary School. However, for consistency, it is proposed that the small development at Moorfield be transferred to the catchment area for Gargieston Primary School in line with the wider Moorfield housing development on which this proposal is based.
9. The area to the north-west corner of Fardalehill is currently located within the delineated area of Crosshouse Primary School. However, calculations to determine the impact on future school rolls, based on housing development in the Fardalehill and surrounding areas, have already been included in the projected roll figures for Annanhill Primary School.
10. In considering the proposal, the impact on families that currently live within each of the areas identified will be considered.
11. For illustrative purposes only, there are 62 children currently living in the area proposed for rezoning who attend Annanhill Primary School: there would be no change to this arrangement for these children. However, the proposal would affect any future siblings who have not yet started their primary schooling as they would be zoned for Gargieston Primary School. Primary/secondary transition would continue at Grange Academy

12. The change to the catchment area and re-zoning does not reduce the opportunity for any future families to choose their preferred school as there will be no change to the placing request arrangements: siblings will continue to be in the priority group for consideration of placing requests.

EQUALITY STATEMENT

13. An assessment for relevance has been completed. It has been deemed that there is no relevance in relation to the impact on individuals on the basis of:
 - **AGE**
 - **DISABILITY**
 - **GENDER REASSIGNMENT**
 - **RACE RELIGION OR BELIEF**
 - **MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP**
 - **PREGNANCY AND MATERNITY**
 - **SEX**
 - **SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

14. Any proposal regarding a change to a catchment area, must comply with the legislative requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended. It should be noted, as the proposal does not propose any closure of schools, the aspects of the Act that relate to Ministerial call-in are not relevant.
15. Therefore, if Cabinet approves the issue of the Proposal Document the consultation period will formally start on 2 November 2016 and end on 13 December 2016 with the consequent consultation report going back to Cabinet in January 2017.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

16. There are currently no pupils attending Annanhill Primary School or Gargieston Primary School from the Moorfield area entitled to free transport: the proposed change at Moorfield would not change this position.
17. There are currently no houses built on the area of Fardalehill proposed for re-zoning from Crosshouse Primary School to Annanhill Primary School and therefore no pupils for whom transport would be a consideration.

Any costs relating to the consultation process will be met from existing Departmental budgets.

HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

18. There are no implications for staffing.

COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

19. By undertaking this consultation exercise the Council is seeking views on proposed changes to catchment boundaries. The proposal will ensure the

school catchments reflect the urban boundary of communities in Kilmarnock strengthening the position of the schools within their respective communities.

RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

20. By undertaking a formal consultation process the Council will comply with the legislative requirements. Subject to the outcome of the process, and if the proposal is implemented, the Council will reduce the risk associated with over occupation in Annanhill Primary School.

RECOMMENDATIONS

21. Cabinet is asked to approve:
- (i) The Proposal Document attached as Appendix 1 of this report;
 - (ii) That the Head of Education makes arrangements for public consultation on these proposals in line with legal requirements;
 - (iii) That the Head of Education gathers and analyses comments and feedback obtained during the consultation period and prepares a Consultation Report to be submitted to a future Cabinet in 2017; and
 - (iv) Otherwise note the contents of this report.

Alex McPhee
Depute Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer
Economy and Skills

19 October 2016

APPENDIX 1 – PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Any members requiring further information should contact Alan Ward, Head of Education on 01563 576126

Implementation Officer – Alan Ward