

REPORT TO EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE – 30 AUGUST 2018

CATCHMENT AREA REVIEWS FOR THE INVERURIE SCHOOL CLUSTER

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Approve the launch of informal engagement regarding the catchment areas for primary schools within Inverurie, and the catchment area for Inverurie Academy.
- 1.2 Agree to receive future reports regarding progress and details of statutory consultation as required.

2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 In recent years, officers have presented reports requesting approval to launch a number of new build, relocation, rezoning consultations under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This Act requires that local authorities undertake a formal consultation process whenever changes to education provision are proposed.

Primary Schools

- 2.2 In 2017 the new Uryside School opened at its current site to the North East of Inverurie. The school was built to replace Inverurie Market Place School which was situated in the centre of Inverurie. When the new school was planned, it was felt appropriate to keep the existing catchment area and review once the school was operational and potential trends could be established.
- 2.3 The rising pupil numbers at both Kellands and Strathburn School, along with the opening of Uryside School has prompted the need for a review of the catchment areas.
- 2.4 It is intended that the review will predominantly focus upon the catchments for these three schools, however changes may be proposed to the boundaries at other schools within the cluster if they are appropriate.

Secondary School

- 2.5 The replacement Inverurie Academy is being built with an uplifted capacity of 1600 pupils. This is largely to future proof the school for the planned development in the area over the next 15 years and beyond. However, it also allows for the opportunity to reduce pressure on neighbouring secondary schools.

- 2.6 Officers intend to engage with school communities that could be realigned to Inverurie Academy with a view to any viable changes being consulted on in time for the new academy opening in 2020.
- 2.7 Officers in Education & Children's Services are currently developing a set of proposals for the two scenarios described above. Appendix 1 gives an overview of the engagement process to determine whether statutory consultation is required.
- 2.8 The wider community will be given the opportunity to provide initial feedback at the informal engagement sessions, which are provisionally scheduled to start in September for the primary school boundary changes.
- 2.9 Officers will organise initial meetings with the parents of any schools which could be rezoned to Inverurie Academy early in the 2018/19 session to gauge opinion. The outcome of these discussions will determine whether any further engagement is appropriate.
- 2.10 The informal engagement sessions will be well publicised once dates and venues have been confirmed, to ensure broad engagement across the community.
- 2.11 Once the informal engagement sessions have been completed, officers will use all the information gathered to formulate proposals to bring forward as a statutory consultation. These will be presented to Education & Children's Services Committee for consideration in due course.
- 2.12 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Committee is able to consider [and take a decision on] this item in terms of Section E.3.3.3 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the statutory functions of the Council under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 including those relating to approval of proposals and review of proposals following consultation, but with the exception of matters properly delegated to officers of the Council, and those matters reserved to any other Committee.

4 Implications and Risk

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required at this stage because the service is only seeking approval to commence the informal engagement process. The recommendations in this report do not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 4.2 There are no staffing implications at this stage. The recommendations of this report will not generate any additional financial implications. If a statutory consultation is commenced following on from the informal engagement sessions then there may be staffing and financial implications

depending on the outcome of the proposals. Any necessary changes would be implemented in conjunction with HR and unions in accordance with existing HR policy.

- 4.3 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level 'A Future Fit E&CS Estate'. The council needs to be assured that our E&CS Estate will deliver an inclusive and positive environment for learning, working and engagement.
<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/21265/directorate-risks.pdf>

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APPENDIX 1 – ENGAGEMENT PROCESS



