

Notice of Meeting and Agenda Council

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 15 December 2016	09:30	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

KENNETH GRAHAM
Head of Corporate Governance

Membership

Councillor Derek Bibby: Councillor Bill Brown: Councillor Maria Brown: Councillor Lorraine Cameron: Councillor Eddie Devine: Councillor Margaret Devine: Councillor Andy Doig: Councillor Audrey Doig: Councillor Christopher Gilmour: Councillor Roy Glen: Councillor Jim Harte: Councillor Jacqueline Henry: Councillor Michael Holmes: Councillor John Hood: Councillor Terry Kelly: Councillor Brian Lawson: Councillor Paul Mack: Councillor James MacLaren: Councillor Kenny MacLaren: Councillor Mags MacLaren: Councillor Mark Macmillan: Councillor Eileen McCartin: Councillor Cathy McEwan: Councillor Stephen McGee: Councillor Marie McGurk: Councillor Iain McMillan: Councillor James McQuade: Councillor Sam Mullin: Councillor Alexander Murrin: Councillor Will Mylet: Councillor Iain Nicolson: Councillor Allan Noon: Councillor Jim Paterson: Councillor Bill Perrie: Councillor Jim Sharkey: Councillor Maureen Sharkey: Councillor Tommy Williams:

Provost Anne Hall (Convener): Councillor John Caldwell (Depute Convener):

Further Information

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A copy of the agenda and reports for this meeting will be available for inspection prior to the meeting at the Customer Service Centre, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley and online at www.renfrewshire.cmis.uk.com/renfrewshire/CouncilandBoards.aspx

For further information, please either email democratic-services@renfrewshire.gov.uk or telephone 0141 618 7112.

Present

Chair

In Attendance

Order of Business

Declaration of Interest

Council Meeting 29 September 2016

Declaration of Interest

Sederunt

Declarations of Interest

Sederunt

Sederunt

Adjournment

Sederunt

Declarations of Interest

Sederunt

Sederunt

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Items of business

Apologies

Apologies from members.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare an interest in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest.

1 Minutes of Meetings of Council, Boards and Panels

Minutes of Meetings of Council, Boards and Panels (attached separately)

Council, 29 September 2016, pages 174-207

Appointment Board, 5 October 2016, pages 208-209

Regulatory Functions Board, 6 October 2016, pages 210-215

Appointment Board, 6 October 2016, pages 216-217

Regulatory Functions Board, 2 November 2016, pages 218-227

Education and Children Policy Board, 3 November 2016, pages 228-233

Housing and Community Safety Policy Board, 8 November 2016, pages 234-241

Planning and Property Policy Board, 8 November 2016, pages 242-253

Renfrew and Gallowhill Local Area Committee, 8 November 2016, pages 254-257

Environment Policy Board, 9 November 2016, pages 258-265

Finance and Resources Policy Board, 9 November 2016, pages 266-287

Personnel Appeals and Applied Conditions of Service Appeals Panel, 10 November 2016, pages 288-289

Paisley North Local Area Committee, 10 November 2016, pages 290-295

Paisley South Local Area Committee, 15 November 2016, pages 296-301

Economy and Jobs Policy Board, 16 November 2016, pages 302-307

Regulatory Functions Board, 17 November 2016, pages 308-315

Johnstone and the Villages Local Area Committee, 17 November 2016, pages 316-321

Houston, Crosslee, Linwood, Riverside and Erskine Local Area Committee, 23 November 2016, pages 322-325

Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board, 28 November 2016, pages 326-333

Personnel Appeals and Applied Conditions of Service Appeals Panel, 29 November 2016, pages 334-335

Leadership Board, 30 November 2016, pages 336-345

Regulatory Functions Board, 1 December 2016, pages 346-351

2 UK Government Autumn Statement

13 - 18

Report by Director of Finance and Resources

3	A Prudential Framework for Capital Finance in Renfrewshire Progress Report	19 - 26
	Report by Director of Finance and Resources	
4	Review of Community Planning Arrangements	27 - 40
	Report by Chief Executive	
5	Review of Polling Places and Polling Districts following the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland - Fifth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements	41 - 64
	Report by Director of Finance and Resources	
6	Empowering Teachers, Parents and Communities to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education: Consultation Response	65 - 78
	Report by Director of Children's Services	
7	Paisley Town Centre Regeneration (Learning and Cultural Centre)	79 - 84
	Report by Director of Development and Housing Services	
8	Review of Ward 15 (Children's Ward) Royal Alexandra Hospital	85 - 104
	Report by Lead Officer	
9	Appointments to Boards and Membership of Outside Organisations	105 - 108
	Report by Director of Finance and Resources	
10	Thomas Coats Memorial Church - Referral from Paisley North Local Area Committee	109 - 112
	Report by Director of Development and Housing Services	
11	Contract Authorisation Report - Public Access WiFi	113 - 118
	Report by Chief Executive	

Planning Applications

Members must deal with planning applications in an objective manner to ensure that they cannot be challenged with accusations of bias or predetermination. Votes on planning applications must be seen to be impartial and not influenced by party political issues.

12 Planning Application - Planning Application - 16/0594/PP - 119 - 136
EPIC Ltd/Elderslie Estates and Hallam Land Management
- Erection of Residential Development (in principle), Land
between Dunvegan Avenue and Gleniffer House,
Glenpatrick Road, Elderslie, Johnstone

Report by Director of Development and Housing Services

13 Standards Commission for Scotland: Decision of Hearing 137 - 146

Report by Head of Corporate Governance as Monitoring Officer

14 Notice of Motion 1

Notice of Motion by Councillors I McMillan and Mullin in the following terms:

- "Council notes that, currently, legislation enables personal care to be provided free for people in Scotland aged over 65, provided they are assessed as needing it.
- Of the 85,807 dementia sufferers in Scotland 3,201 are under the age of 65 and therefore not entitled to the help.
- Council commends the campaign by Mrs Amanda Kopel - "Frank's Law" - to request that the Scottish Government extends free personal care to anyone under the age of 65 who requires such care for their dementia, motor neurone disease, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, cancer, progressive supranuclear palsy (or any other degenerative brain disease).
- Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the First Minister requesting her to consider the introduction of a "Frank's Law" so that free personal care is extended to under 65s as set out above."

15 Notice of Motion 2

Notice of Motion by Provost Hall and Councillor Lawson in the following terms:

"Council notes the outstanding contribution which 102 Field Squadron, 71 Engineer Regiment has made to Renfrewshire and to the wider UK community.

As army reservists, they sacrifice precious time with their families in the service of their country.

As Royal Engineers their three main functions are to help the Army live, move and fight. To carry out these functions they are trained firstly as soldiers, then as combat engineers and finally in specific trades.

The Squadron was formed in 1967 but can trace their history back to 1884. Renfrewshire Royal Engineer Volunteers were involved in the defence of the Forth and Clyde during World War 1 and in engagements during the 1st and 2nd World Wars. Squadron personnel have deployed on many exercises to diverse locations such as Kenya, the Falkland and Ascension Islands as well as expeditions to Greenland and Canada. They have provided individual reinforcements on operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the United Nations peacekeeping missions in Bosnia, Cyprus and South Sudan. The Squadron has assisted with floods in Paisley and across the UK and supported local charities and family days.

The Royal Engineers have served all over the world as recognised by their motto "Ubique", which means everywhere. The Squadron recruit predominantly in Renfrewshire but cover the West of Scotland.

In recognition of their contribution, Renfrewshire Council formally resolves that the 102 Field Squadron, 71 Engineer Regiment be admitted as honorary Freemen of Renfrewshire."

16 Notice of Motion 3

Notice of Motion by Councillors I McMillan and Henry in the following terms:

"Council believes that the SNP led government are failing the people of Renfrewshire and Scotland in their mishandling of NHS Scotland.

Furthermore, Council reaffirms its support for the KNOW campaign in their attempts to stop the closure of the children's ward at the RAH."

17 Notice of Motion 4

Notice of Motion by Councillors McEwan and Paterson in the following terms:

"Council instructs Community Resources to investigate why there continues to be on-going complaints and concerns about inadequate street lighting in many areas of our communities."

18 Notice of Motion 5

Notice of Motion by Councillors Gilmour and Bibby in the following terms:

"Renfrewshire Council calls on the Scottish Government to carry out improvements to the A737 road.

These improvements should include, but not exclusively, dual carriageway from Kilbarchan to Dalry, an additional slip road lane at the Johnstone exit, a new slip road at the Howwood exit, and a footbridge and small car parking area at the Roadhead Roundabout Lochwinnoch."

19 Notice of Motion 6

Notice of Motion by Councillors McCartin and Mack in the following terms:

"Council recognises the great strides being made by the 2021 Board and staff in developing our submission for the bid for the Paisley City of Culture.

Council also recognises the work of the Creative Renfrewshire Steering Group in developing and focussing on creative activities through our Cultural Strategy.

Council recognises that much work is being done on the Weaving heritage of Paisley, and on the legacies left by the thread making families of the Coats and Clarks which identify much of the uniqueness of Paisley's contribution to that world.

However, at present, it seems little is being done to explore the actual development and work of the Thread mills themselves, their workforce and their history. Given that this is where the 19th Century wealth of Paisley came from, it is important that this is acknowledged and that efforts are made in the short, medium and longer terms to help this part of our heritage to be fully explored and told.

The very active, but small charitable trust, the Paisley Threadmill Museum which holds the core of artefacts, papers, photographs, machinery etc from our former thread mills, brings in visitors from all over the world, but their present temporary facilities leave them very limited in what they can provide. As part of the cultural development of our heritage, we need to incorporate this Tourism attraction into a much wider focus on a Renfrewshire Textile Heritage Trail.

Several groups within the Renfrewshire Creative Network Tourism Heritage Sub-group are currently working together to begin to develop the Trail and the potential visitor attractions within it, (with the obvious exception of the Paisley Museum which is already underway), and are requesting some assistance from the Council in support of this. Their aims are:

- 1 To work together to develop a Renfrewshire Textile Heritage Trail.
- 2 To develop a properly functioning Thread Mill Museum, possibly in the old Silk Mill in Blackhall Street, (possibly the only purpose-built Silk Throwing Mill in Scotland), to include the Renfrewshire Tapestry, on completion and, much needed "artisan workspace" for use by schools,

local residents and artists, so developing new creative and textile interest and skills.

3 To help preserve, develop and reuse, a number of the old buildings around Paisley and in the wider Renfrewshire area which have links to weaving, thread making or other textile heritage in the area and to promote them through the Trail.

4 To help promote tourism heritage regeneration and creative economic development within Renfrewshire.

Council is asked to support this community-led group in terms of its inclusion as part of the direction of the Creative Renfrewshire Steering Group, its aims recognised by the 2021 Bid team, direct support from museums staff and funding for a feasibility study into the potential redevelopment of the former Silk Mill.

We believe that this, if achieved, could provide one of the major lasting legacies of the drive for the City of Culture and, in the longer term, the inclusion of a Renfrewshire Textile Heritage Trail in the wider Scottish Textile Heritage Trail presently being developed."

20 Notice of Motion 7

Notice of Motion by Councillors K MacLaren and M MacLaren in the following terms:

"Coats Memorial Church

Council notes the decision of Paisley North Local Area Committee regarding the award of a grant to Coats Memorial Church. If the new community trust has not been established to receive the grant then the full grant award of £13,000 will be returned to Paisley North Local Area Committee for distribution to local community groups.

Council will also carry out a full investigation on the progress towards establishing a new community trust to own Coats Memorial Church and examine options for funding the full costs of the repair or replacement of the heating system, including the potential for using Council resources such as the £1.85million underspend from last year's Council budget."

21 Notice of Motion 8

Notice of Motion by Councillors M MacLaren and K MacLaren in the following terms:

"Customer Contact Centre

Council notes the continuing poor performance of the council's Customer Contact Centre where targets for answering calls are regularly missed and the failure of the current administration to make improvements to the centre a priority in the council service improvement plans. Council therefore agrees to establish a cross party working group to analyse all the problems within the customer contact centre and to

bring forward proposals to the next full council meeting to improve the service this centre provides to residents and businesses within Renfrewshire."



To: Council

On: 15 December 2016

Report by: Director of Finance & Resources

Heading: UK Government Autumn Statement

1. Summary and Key Messages

- 1.1 The Chancellor of the Exchequer on the 23rd of November announced the UK Government's Autumn Statement. The announcement set out the current position and forecast expectation across a range of key economic and fiscal indicators for the UK and also included a range of measures the Government will take with regards tax and spending.
- 1.2 The Autumn Statement was the first fiscal event since the EU Referendum, and was widely expected to include measures which would address the challenges facing the UK over the coming period up until and after formal exit from the EU. As anticipated, the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) has revised down the UK's medium term economic prospects with levels of uncertainty at a new high. A substantive revision of the Comprehensive Spending Review announced in November 2015 was a distinct possibility and which could have had a consequentially negative impact on funding made available to Scotland and ultimately the local government budget.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to highlight the principal elements of the announcement by the UK Government and how this may influence the financial settlement provided by the Scottish Government to local government and ultimately the Council. The following key messages are highlighted for the group:
 - The measures and decisions taken by the UK Government in this Autumn statement have focused on broadly maintaining short to medium term stability in the existing revenue spending plans announced in the 2015 CSR along with boosted capital investment spending.

- The impact of lower tax receipts arising from poorer economic growth prospects will be supported by higher levels of borrowing and pushing out to some point in the next UK parliamentary period the objective of removing the ongoing budget deficit in UK public finances.
- In terms of departmental resource spending (including the Scottish Government revenue block grant), the changes announced are relatively moderate although the 2017/18 Scottish budget has received a cash boost of around £217m, increasing the cash growth to 1.5%.
- Beyond 2017/18 the revised growth in revenue spending plans broadly reflect the shape of the plan announced last year with cash growth in 2018/19 – 2019/20 being distinctly poorer than 2017/18 with minimal cash growth for Scotland of between 0.2% - 0.4%.
- Overall for Scotland the revenue budget is set to grow in cash terms by around 2.2% (£580 million) over the three year period through to 2019/20 – equivalent to a 4.2% real terms cut.
- As widely reported Scotland will benefit from the extra capital investment funding announced by the UK Government, totalling approximately £800 million through to 2020/21. It is not clear what proportion of this additional funding will be allocated to local government.
- Moving into 2017/18, the UK Government budget announcement presents only part of the picture for Scotland with a larger proportion of the budget than ever driven by devolved tax powers. The overall impact on the Scottish budget for 2017/18 and beyond will not therefore be known until the Scottish Government budget announcement on 15th December.
- The challenges for the Council in terms of revenue funding have been outlined in the Financial Outlook report discussed at the September 2016 Council meeting. It remains to be seen whether the more positive outcome for 2017/18 Scottish Block settlement feeds through to a less significant cut for local government than has been outlined.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the content of the report and that the Scottish Government will make their own budget announcement today, 15 December 2016.

3. Key Highlights from the Autumn Statement 2016

- 3.1.1 Forecasts by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) for the main economic measures have deteriorated markedly since the Budget in March 2016; largely as a result of the Brexit vote. Real terms (i.e. inflation adjusted) growth of GDP is still forecast to be 2.0% in the current financial year (2016-

17), then forecast to fall to 1.3% in 2017-18 (2.2% forecast in March), returning to 1.9% and then 2% in the years up to 2012-22. Inflation (CPI) is forecast to increase to 2.5% in 2017-18 and 2018-19, returning to the 2% target by 2019-20. However, it should be noted that overall economic conditions as ever are subject to change and a high degree of uncertainty remains.

- 3.1.2 Although the outlook for public finances has worsened, this has been compensated for by increased borrowing (up to £100 billion more than previous estimates over the CSR period), rather than by further public spending cuts. As a consequence of this, the UK Government has abandoned its pre-Brexit fiscal targets (to deliver an in year surplus 2019/20); with a surplus now not being achieved until some time in the next Parliament. In the meantime, public sector debt is forecast to peak at 90% of GDP in 2017-18.

3.2 UK's fiscal outlook

- 3.2.1 The UK's fiscal outlook has also deteriorated, with total revenue receipts being hit by lower GDP growth and a trend towards self-employment. Total expenditure is higher in 2017-18 than was outlined in the CSR and included in the March Budget; but its growth thereafter in cash terms is little changed; meaning in real terms a reduction from levels previously announced as inflation is forecast to be higher.

- 3.2.2 As mentioned above, no specific date has been set to achieve fiscal balance; allowing for more borrowing and a slower pace of adjustment. The Chancellor has however announced three new fiscal rules:

- The public finances should be returned to balance as early as possible in the next Parliament, and borrowing should be below 3% by the end of this Parliament
- Public sector net debt as a share of GDP must be falling by the end of this Parliament
- Welfare spending must be within a cap, set by the government and monitored by the OBR.

- 3.2.3 Table 1 below details the main fiscal indicators which reflect the UK Government's plans outlined in the Autumn Statement. Debt as a percentage of GDP is set to fall from a peak of 90% each year from 2018-19. In cash terms, revenue spending across the UK is planned to grow, albeit in real terms there is still expected to be a reduction due to higher inflation. In contrast, there is planned to be significant growth in capital spend over the period in both cash and real terms.

Table 1 - UK public finances, key measures

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Debt (% of GDP)	90.2	89.7	88	84.8	81.6
<i>(cash terms % changes)</i>					
Total Expenditure (TME)	2.3%	2.2%	1.1%	3.9%	3.6%
AME	3.1%	2.8%	1.6%	3.4%	4.5%
Resource DEL	0.5%	0.9%	0.1%	1.9%	2.0%
Capital DEL	8.3%	5.5%	3.2%	19.2%	5.2%
Resource DEL (real terms)	-1.0%	-1.2%	-1.7%	0.0%	0.0%

- *TME represents the total managed expenditure of the UK Government: AME + DEL(Revenue) + DEL(Capital)*
- *AME represents annual managed expenditure and reflects for example includes welfare spend, public sector pension costs, tax credits etc*
- *DEL Resource represents Delegated Expenditure Limits and reflects the day to day revenue spend of Government Departments (including resources devolved to national administrations)*
- *DEL Capital represents Delegated Expenditure Limits and reflects planned capital investment spend by Government Departments (including resources devolved to national administrations)*

3.3 Scottish Budget

3.3.1 Changes to specific UK Government departmental budgets mean that, via the workings of the Barnett formula, there is a knock on impact on the **Scottish Budget**, amounting to almost a £0.5 billion of additional growth in annual funding by 2019-20.

Table 2: Changes to the Scottish DEL vs 2015 Announcement

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
	£ms	£ms	£ms	£ms
DEL resource	18	217	232	227
DEL capital	13	128	208	254

3.3.2 In terms of departmental resource spending the changes announced are relatively moderate although in 2017/18 the Scottish budget has received an additional boost in growth of around £217m, increasing the cash growth to 1.5%. Beyond 2017/18 the revised growth in revenue spending plans broadly reflect the shape of the plan announced last year with 2018/19 – 2019/20 being distinctly poorer with minimal cash growth for Scotland of between 0.2% - 0.4%. Overall cash growth in revenue spend is around 2.2% (£580 million) over the three year period through to 2019/20 – equivalent to a 4.2% real terms cut. In contrast, the capital budget is set to rise considerably, with a headline £800m additional capital being allocated through to 2020-21.

3.3.3 Overall, the settlement for Scotland has improved since last year, particularly moving into 2017/18 and in capital terms across the full CSR period. However,

it should be noted that moving into 2017/18, the Scottish Government budget will be influenced more significantly than ever before by devolved powers, in particular on tax and borrowing. Only once decisions around these are taken by the Scottish Government will the more complete picture emerge for the overall Scottish budget.

- 3.3.4 From a local government perspective, it remains to be seen whether any of the revenue or capital improvements that have emerged through the Autumn statement for Scotland will feed through to local government and improve the position previously indicated in the Financial Outlook report to members in September, or whether the Scottish Government will choose to divert funding uplifts to other stated priorities such as Health and Police.
- 3.3.5 It is expected that the Scottish Government will announce their budget plans on the 15th of December and that this may be for one year only with future years not expected to emerge until a later point in 2017. At that point, clarity is expected to emerge of the impact on the Council's grant settlement and the extent to which this aligns with projections that underpin the Council's budget planning process for 2017/18 through to 2019/20.

Implications of this report

1. Financial Implications

The Council's budget strategy has been framed on an assumed loss of revenue grant in 2017/18 over a wide range recognising the uncertainty that currently exists. The Autumn Statement announcement by the UK Government is the first step in clarity emerging over the Council's grant settlement with the anticipated Scottish Government budget announcement on the 15th December expected to clarify fully this position only for 2017/18. The full impact of this on the Council's medium term budget strategy will be outlined in the report to the Council's February budget meeting.

2. Personnel Implications

As previously reported to the Council, the anticipated medium term reduction in resources available to deliver services will require the Council to continue to review and assess the shape and size of the workforce as part of modernising services and delivering significant and sustained budget savings.

3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications

The Council's financial planning takes full account of the objectives outlined in the Community Plan and Council Plan.

4. Legal Implications

5. Property Implications

6. Information Technology Implications

7. Equal Opportunities Implications

No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report.

8. Health and Safety Implications

9. Procurement Implications

10. Risk Implications

The Council's financial planning arrangements remain a key measure to manage and mitigate financial risk across the organisation and ensure the Council maintains a medium term perspective to its financial decision making as part of managing financial risk and ensuring the Council remains financial stable in the short term and financial sustainable over the medium to longer term.

11. Privacy Impact – None.

Author: *Alan Russell, Director of Finance and Resources (ext 7364)*



To: Council

On: 15 December 2016

Report by: Director of Finance & Resources

Heading: A Prudential Framework for Capital Finance – Progress Report

1. **Summary**

- 1.1 The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 abolished centrally determined capital spending limits (section 94 consents) and in its place, locally determined capital spending limits from 1st April 2004 were introduced. The 2003 Act also imposes a duty on the Council to have regard to the Prudential Code when deciding capital spending limits. The Prudential Code was developed to support and assist local authorities in their capital investment decisions.
 - 1.2 The Council set its prudential indicators for 2016/17 on 3rd March 2016. The purpose of this report is to consider the indicators as they stand at 14th October 2016, approximately halfway through the financial year, and revise them as appropriate.
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2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that members consider this report and approve the changes to the prudential indicators as detailed in the report.
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3. **Background**

- 3.1 The key objectives of the Prudential Code are to ensure that:
 - capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable
 - treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice and support affordability, prudence and sustainability.
 - capital investment decisions are consistent with, and support, local strategic planning, local asset management planning and proper option appraisal.

- 3.2 To demonstrate that local authorities have fulfilled these objectives, the Prudential Code sets out the indicators that must be used, and the factors that must be taken into account. The Code does not include suggested indicative limits or ratios. These are for the Council to set itself.

The prudential indicators required by the Code are designed to support and record local decision making. The system is specifically designed to support such local decision making in a manner that is publicly accountable.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE INDICATORS

The Council has a duty to determine and keep under review the maximum amount which it can afford to allocate to capital expenditure.

The Council is required to make estimates of the capital expenditure it plans to incur for the forthcoming financial year and at least the following two years. Separate estimates should be made for Housing and Non Housing services. The Capital Investment Programmes for Housing and Non Housing Capital Investment Programme were approved by Council on the 25th February 2016 and the 3rd March 2016 respectively, the resulting indicators were updated to reflect the approved programme incorporating the decisions taken by the council at the budget meeting.

Council approved the following as an indicator for capital expenditure:-

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE			
	2016/17 Estimate £'000	2017/18 Estimate £'000	2018/19 Estimate £'000
Non Housing*	78,417	30,341	39,477
Housing	14,230	21,090	16,770
Total	92,647	51,432	56,247

*The 2016/17 Non Housing estimate excludes the estimated expenditure in relation to the Private Sector Housing Grant.

Total capital expenditure to 14th October 2016 is £25.452m, of which £22.750m relates to Non Housing and £3.307m relates to Housing.

A review of the updated capital spending plan for 2016/17 suggests that the indicators need to be revised as follows for the current year. Indicators for 2017/18 and 2018/19 will be reviewed in February 2017 alongside the budget proposals:

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	
	2016/17 Probable £'000
Non Housing	74,190
Housing	9,950
Total	84,140

The net decrease of **£4.227m** in the planned Non Housing capital expenditure during 2016/17 is mainly attributable to the net effect of the following factors:

- (i) The carry forward of programmed expenditure from 2015/16 totaling £14.615m.
- (ii) The addition of £4.254m funding for projects approved in 2016/17
- (iii) The change in the cash flow profile of a number of programmes resulting in a net adjustment of £18.993m from 2016/17 into 2017/18 and future years, as reported throughout the year to relevant policy boards.
- (iv) Reflection of anticipated under-spend on completing programmed for redirection for future capital investment decisions.

The decrease of **£4.280m** in the planned Housing capital expenditure during 2016/17 arises from the net effect of:-

- (i) The carry forward of programmed expenditure from 2015/16 totalling £1.165m.
- (ii) The change in cash flow profile of programmes resulting in a net adjustment of £5.445m from 2016/17 into 2017/18 and future years, as reported throughout the year to The Housing and Community Safety policy board.

5 CAPITAL FINANCING REQUIREMENT INDICATOR

5.1 *Capital Financing Requirement:* The Council has available to it a number of ways of financing traditionally procured capital investment. The term “financing” does not refer to the payment of cash, but the resources that are applied to ensure that any underlying amount arising from capital payments is dealt with absolutely, whether at the point of spend or over the longer term. A number of financing options involve resourcing the investment at the time that it is incurred. These are:

- Application of usable capital receipts
- A direct charge to revenue for the capital expenditure
- The application of capital grants
- Up-front contributions from project partners

5.2 Capital expenditure which is not financed up front by one of the above methods will increase the Capital Financing Requirement of the Council.

5.3 Members approved the following as the indicator for the Capital Financing Requirement at the end of each of the next three years at the Council meeting on 3 March 2016:

CAPITAL FINANCING REQUIREMENT			
	31/03/2017	31/03/2018	31/03/2019
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£m	£m	£m
Non Housing	228	234	229
Housing	150	157	159
Total	378	391	388

- 5.4 The revised projected capital financing requirement for 2016/17, based on the position at 14th October 2016 is noted in the table below. The 2017/18 & 2018/19 requirements will be reviewed in February 2017 alongside the budget proposals;

CAPITAL FINANCING REQUIREMENT	
	31/03/2017
	Probable
	£m
Non Housing	240
Housing	143
Total	383

- 5.5 The increase in the probable Capital Financing Requirement at 31st March 2017 in Non Housing services arises from a lower requirement for prudential borrowing in 2016/17 as a result of the programmes re-profiled from 2016-17 into 2017-18 described in paragraph 4.6(iii); and also a revision of the debt smoothing strategy.
- 5.6 The decrease of £7 million in the probable Capital Financing Requirement at 31st March 2017 in Housing services also arises due to a reduction in the estimated requirement for prudential borrowing in 2016-17. This is a result of income from the Right to Buy scheme being higher than originally estimated and the programmes re-profile from 2016-17 into 2017-18 described in paragraph 4.7(ii).

6 EXTERNAL DEBT INDICATORS

- 6.1 External debt is referred to as the sum of external borrowing and other long term liabilities (e.g. covenants). The prudential indicators for external debt are set and revised taking into account their affordability. It is through this means that the objective of ensuring that external debt is kept within sustainable prudent limits is addressed year on year.
- 6.2 External debt indicators are set at two levels: an *operational boundary* and an *authorised limit*. Both of these need to be consistent with the Council's plans for capital expenditure and financing and with its treasury management policy statement and practices.
- 6.3 *Operational Boundary*: This is the focus of day-to-day treasury management activity within the Council, and is an estimate of the most likely scenario in terms of cash flow. Risk analysis and risk management strategies have been taken into account; as have plans for capital expenditure, estimates of the Capital Financial Requirement and estimates of cashflow requirements for **all** purposes. It is

possible that this boundary could be breached occasionally and this should not be regarded as significant. However, a sustained or regular trend would require investigation and action.

- 6.4 The Council has set for the current financial year and following two years an Operational Boundary for its total external debt, identifying separately borrowing from other long term liabilities.

OPERATIONAL BOUNDARY FOR EXTERNAL DEBT			
	31/03/2017 Estimate £m	31/03/2018 Estimate £m	31/03/2019 Estimate £m
Borrowing	298	314	314
Other long-term liabilities	80	77	74
Total	378	391	388

- 6.5 The probable outturn for the current financial year is anticipated at £382 million, an increase in the Operational Boundary of £4 million. This is mainly as a result of a combination of a lower borrowing requirement in 2016-17 and revised debt smoothing position as outlined in paragraphs 5.5 and 5.6 in relation to the Capital Financing Requirement. There have been no breaches during the period from 1st April to 14th October which have required action. The 2017/18 and 2018/19 operational boundary will be reviewed in February 2017 alongside the budget proposals.

OPERATIONAL BOUNDARY FOR EXTERNAL DEBT	
	31/03/2017 Probable £m
Borrowing	302
Other long-term liabilities	80
Total	382

- 6.6 *Authorised Limit.* This is based on the same assumptions as the Operational Boundary, with sufficient “headroom” to allow for unusual/exceptional cash movements. Headroom of approximately 5% has been added to the Operational Boundary to arrive at an authorised limit which is sufficient to allow for cash flow management without breaching the limit.
- 6.7 The Council has set for the forthcoming financial year and following two years an Authorised Limit for its total external debt, but identifying separately borrowing from other long term liabilities.

AUTHORISED LIMIT FOR EXTERNAL DEBT			
	31/03/2017	31/03/2018	31/03/2019
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£m	£m	£m
Borrowing	312	328	328
Other long-term liabilities	80	77	74
Total	392	405	402

- 6.8 The revised anticipated authorised limit for this financial year is projected at £397 million, an increase of £5 million to the estimate and in line with the operational boundary reduction as outlined in 6.5. The authorised limit will be reviewed on an annual basis and any changes will require approval by Council.

AUTHORISED LIMIT FOR EXTERNAL DEBT	
	31/03/2017
	Probable
	£m
Borrowing	317
Other long-term liabilities	80
Total	397

7 TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS

- 7.1 The prudential indicator in respect of treasury management is that the local authority has adopted CIPFA *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes* (the “Treasury Management Code”).
- 7.2 Compliance with the Treasury Management Code requires a mid-year review of Treasury Management activity. This was reported to Finance and Resources Policy Board on 9th November 2016.

8 INDICATORS FOR AFFORDABILITY.

- 8.1 A key measure of affordability is the incremental impact of investment decisions on the council tax or house rents. Estimates of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream provide an indication of how much of the Council’s revenue is committed to the repayment of debt.
- 8.2 As reported to Council on 3rd March 2016 the ratios for the next 3 years are shown in the table below:

RATIO OF FINANCING COSTS TO NET REVENUE STREAM			
	2016/17 Estimate	2017/18 Estimate	2018/19 Estimate
Non Housing	7.78%	5.94%	6.46%
Housing	48.66%	49.58%	53.87%

- 8.3 There is no material change to the above ratios or to other estimates of affordability for 2016/17.
- 8.4 The actual indicators will be reported to the Council in the annual accounts.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - Prudential indicators are being monitored by the Director of Finance and Resources throughout the year. They are based directly on the Council's Capital and Revenue budgets, as detailed in the other reports considered by Council on 25th February 2016 & 3rd March 2016 and reported to the Council's Policy Boards on a regular basis.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - None
3. **Community Planning** – None
4. **Legal** - None
5. **Property/Assets** - None
6. **Information Technology** - None
7. **Equality & Human Rights** -
 - a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety** – None
9. **Procurement** – None
10. **Risk** - None
11. **Privacy Impact** - None

List of Background Papers

- a) Non-Housing Capital Investment Programme 2016/17 – 2018/19, Appendix 6: Prudential Framework for Capital Finance 2016/17 – 2018/19 (estimates) and Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2016-17. Council, 3rd March 2016.

The contact officers within the service are:
Geoff Borland, Ext 4786

Author: *Geoff Borland, Principal Accountant , 0141 618 4786
geoffrey.borland@renfrewshire.gov.uk*



To: Council

On: 15 December 2016

Report by: David Amos, Head of Policy and Commissioning

Heading: Review of Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Governance Arrangements

1. Summary

- 1.1 Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership is revising its governance arrangements in order to reflect the requirements of the Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015 and changes that have emerged over the last three years to partnership working structures in Renfrewshire.
- 1.2 Proposals for new Renfrewshire Community Planning partnership governance arrangements have been submitted to Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board on 7 December 2016. The full proposals are attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 Key features of the revised governance proposals are as follows:
 - Establishment of a CPP Oversight Board to provide enhanced Elected Member challenge and scrutiny to partnership working arrangements and performance
 - Establishment of a CPP Executive Group to drive partnership working focused on the working of community planning to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities
 - Changes to the structure of the existing Thematic Boards to establish five Boards; Renfrewshire Economic Leadership Panel; Public Protection Chief Officers Group; Empowering Communities; Improving Life Chances and Health and Social Care Partnership – Strategic Planning Group.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that Council:

- a. Agree the proposed governance structure for Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership as outlined in Section 5 and Appendix A.
- b. Note that officers will work with partnership organisations to plan for the implementation of the new arrangements in the second quarter of 2017.
- c. Agree that a review of the arrangements for community level governance, including local area committees, will be undertaken, and that community planning partners will be consulted as part of this process.

3. Background

- 3.1 Current community planning governance arrangements have been in place in Renfrewshire since 2013, with a well established structure of a Community Planning Partnership board and thematic boards in place to drive and strengthen partnership working across the priority areas identified with Renfrewshire Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement. As recently reported to the Partnership Board in September 2016 through the 3 year performance progress report, there is clear evidence that partnership working through community planning is making a positive difference to local people.
- 3.2 It is recognised however that the partnership landscape has evolved since 2013. For example, local health and social care services have been brought together to form a Health and Social Care Partnership, a new Public Protection Chief Officers Group has been established and, significant programmes of partnership working have been taken forward in relation to the Tackling Poverty Programme, the bid for UK City of Culture 2021 and the Glasgow City Region City Deal with others planned in relation to economic regeneration. Strategic Partnership Agreements have also been formally signed between Renfrewshire Council and the University of the West of Scotland and West College Scotland, recognising the maturity of partnership working that exists between these organisations.
- 3.3 Significant statutory changes have also been introduced through The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. These require community planning partnerships to review existing governance structures and processes, strengthen the involvement of statutory partners and local communities and, ensure there is more focus on joint working to reduce inequalities. Recent draft guidance issued by the Scottish Government suggests that “effective community planning focuses on where partners’ collective efforts, can add most value for their local communities, with particular emphasis on reducing inequalities”.

- 3.4 In response to this changing landscape, a review of existing community planning governance arrangements has been undertaken by Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board over the past 6 months. Led by the Head of Policy and Commissioning within Renfrewshire Council, the review considered the views of key stakeholders including members of the Partnership Board, conveners of the thematic boards, lead officers within the Partnership and Engage Renfrewshire as the third sector interface organisation for Renfrewshire.
- 3.5 The stakeholder feedback highlighted the need for the existing governance structure to be significantly streamlined to ensure the time invested by partners was focused on joint strategic priorities and build in flexibility to adapt to new strategic priorities as they emerge. Feedback also highlighted the need to achieve a better balance across partner organisations in relation to the allocation of lead roles for the development and oversight of work programmes aligned to the shared community planning partnership priorities.
- 3.6 A common view expressed by the conveners within the thematic boards, was that it was often difficult to gain an appropriate level of oversight between the thematic boards and make appropriate linkages between areas of work.
- 3.7 Following consideration of the findings of the review, a proposed revised governance structure has been developed in consultation with community planning partners. The proposed structure will require a degree of change to existing structures, utilising all appropriate opportunities to streamline and refocus existing partnership activities, groups and formal structures. The revised structure proposed will facilitate enhanced political scrutiny and strategic leadership through the establishment of a Community Planning Oversight Group chaired by the Leader of Renfrewshire Council, with a Community Planning Executive Group chaired by the Chief Executive of Renfrewshire Council
- 3.8 It is proposed that Council officers will work with partners to plan for the implementation of the new arrangements in the second quarter of 2017.

4. Current Structure

- 4.1 The Community Planning Partnership is led by Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board which is chaired by the Leader of Renfrewshire Council. Six thematic boards report to the Partnership Board, chaired by the conveners of linked policy boards e.g. Housing and Community Safety, Environment Policy Board, Finance and Resources, Economy and Jobs and Education and Children policy boards and the chair/vice chair of the Integration Joint Board.
- 4.2 Since 2013, a number of partnership groups or boards have been established in response to new or emerging priority areas of activity such as the Tackling Poverty Programme, the Paisley for UK City of Culture 2021 bid and the Glasgow City Region City Deal, with others planned in relation to economic regeneration. The integration of local health and care services to form

Renfrewshire Health Social Care Partnership and the Integration Joint Board, has also impacted existing community planning structures with some degree of overlap being experienced with the focus of the existing thematic boards.

- 4.3 Strategic Partnership Agreements have also been formally signed between Renfrewshire Council and the University of the West of Scotland and West College Scotland, recognising the maturity of partnership work that exists between these organisations.
- 4.4 In addition, in 2015 the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act was also passed which requires community planning partnerships to review and update planning and governance arrangements which maximise the potential benefits of the provisions of the legislation.
- 4.5 The Act places community planning on a statutory footing and clarifies its purpose as being to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities. It widens the number of statutory partners that should be involved in community planning as follows:
 - Local authority (Renfrewshire Council)
 - Health Board (NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde)
 - Scottish Enterprise
 - Police Scotland
 - Regional College (West College Scotland)
 - Regional Further and Higher Education body (University of the West of Scotland)
 - Scottish Fire & Rescue
 - Scottish Environment Protection Agency
 - Scottish Natural Heritage
 - Regional Transport Partnership (Strathclyde Partnership For Transport)
 - Integration Joint Board (Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership)
 - Historic Environment Scotland
 - Scottish Sports Council (Sportscotland)
 - National Park authority (not applicable in Renfrewshire)
 - VisitScotland
 - Skills Development Scotland
- 4.6 The 2015 Act also requires Community Planning Partnerships to:
 - Prepare and publish a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) which sets out the local outcomes which the Community Planning Partnership will prioritise for improvement by October 2017
 - Identify smaller areas within the local authority area which experience the poorest outcomes, and prepare and publish locality plans to improve outcomes on agreed priorities for these communities (the outcomes prioritised for improvement in a locality plan may differ from those in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan) by October 2017.

- 4.7 Recent draft guidance in relation to the Act indicates that “effective community planning focuses on where partners’ collective efforts, can add most value for their local communities, with particular emphasis on reducing inequalities”.

5. Review of community planning arrangements

- 5.1 In light of emerging policy priorities and subsequent need to streamline new and existing partnership arrangements, a review of existing community planning governance arrangements has been undertaken by Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board over the past 6 months.

- 5.2 Led by the Head of Policy and Commissioning within Renfrewshire Council, the review considered the views of key stakeholders including members of the Partnership Board, conveners of the thematic boards, lead officers across the Partnership and Engage Renfrewshire as the third sector interface organisation for Renfrewshire.

- 5.3 The key findings based on the views of stakeholders can be summarised as follows:

- There is a shared recognition that partnership working is strong and mature in Renfrewshire and is making a difference to local people.
- Whilst partnership working was felt to be strong, most stakeholders suggested that further work needed to be done to widen out ownership of specific initiatives or priorities, in order that other community planning partners could assume the lead role as opposed to the Council. The preparation of a new Renfrewshire Local Outcome Improvement Plan by October 2017 provides an opportunity to refresh priorities and partner lead roles
- Significant time and resource pressures are being experienced by all partners and there is an increased need to maximise strategic value for all partners from the time invested in community planning
- The partner and governance landscape has changed (Integration of health and social care services, Public Protection Chief Officers Group, 2021 UK City of Culture bid, Tackling Poverty) and there is an increasing need to avoid duplication of activity across thematic boards and other governance structures.
- Conveners of the thematic boards noted that it was challenging in their role to have oversight of the range of activities being progressed across the Partnership and to identify links and more opportunities for cross working between Thematic boards
- A recognition that there is limited pooling of budgets or joint investments around community planning priorities and that there were felt to be opportunities to explore this further should new governance arrangements support this.

- 5.4 In response to the findings of the review, officers have worked with community planning partners to develop proposals for revised community planning

governance arrangements. Implementation will require a significant degree of change to existing structures, utilising all appropriate opportunities to streamline and refocus existing partnership activities, groups and formal structures.

- 5.5 The establishment of a Renfrewshire Community Planning Oversight Group provides an enhanced strategic role for Elected Members to scrutinise, challenge and inform the work of Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership. In line with the feedback provided by the conveners of the current thematic boards, it will allow elected members to have strategic oversight across the breadth of community planning activities. The Oversight Group will be chaired by the Leader of Renfrewshire Council, with the conveners of the Education and Children, Economy and Jobs, Environment Policy Board, Finance and Resources, Housing and Community Safety Policy Board and the chair/vice chair appointed to the Integration Joint Board. A place will also be allocated to an elected member from the opposition.
- 5.6 Under the new arrangements, a Community Planning Executive Group would be established comprised of Chief Executive level officers from across the Partnership, strengthening the connection between policy direction and resourcing and promoting shared leadership in the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans, as required in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.
- 5.7 Under the new structure, the community planning groups will be amended to incorporate existing and emerging partnership arrangements where appropriate and to provide greater strategic focus and reduce duplication, recognising that some groups will maintain their own independent status outwith the formal community planning structure. The three groups shown below fall into the latter category and take forward the remits of the existing Safer and Stronger, Jobs and the Economy and Community Care, Health and Wellbeing thematic boards. Appropriate links will be developed between these and the Executive Group within the new structure:
- Economic Leadership Panel
 - Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Planning Group
 - Public Protection Chief Officers Group
- 5.8 Further proposed changes include:
- The Forum for Empowering Communities will continue, but be given an enhanced role in order to maximise opportunities for engaging with communities emerging from the Community Empowerment Act 2015.
 - An Improving Life Chances group will be established to take forward the remit of Children and Young People and Tackling Poverty Steering Group.
 - The work programme of the Greener Thematic Board will be mainstreamed across the work of the other groups, ensuring that the

positive contribution of the board and its sub group is recognised and continued where appropriate.

- 5.9 It is proposed that the Forum for Empowering Communities and Improving Life Chances groups are chaired by senior officers within partner organisations, significantly extending and sharing the leadership role for community planning to other community planning partners, as is intended within the 2015 Act. If appropriate, the membership of the other linked groups referred to in para 5.7 will be considered in light of the changes being proposed and adjusted in accordance with their existing decision making processes.
- 5.10 Work will be carried out during the first 6 months of the 2017 with CPP partners to finalise the detail of the new arrangements and ensure they are implemented in the second quarter of 2017. This will aim to ensure that the significant achievements, priorities and momentum of the existing thematic boards are carried forward into the new arrangements.

6. Community level governance

- 6.1 Feedback on the mechanisms for community level input to governance arrangements, including the operation of the Council's local area committees, was also provided during the review and this highlighted the potential for changes to be made which would strengthen local community involved in the community planning process, as required by the Community Empowerment Act 2015. Subject to the approval of new governance arrangements for community planning as set out in this report, it is proposed that a subsequent review of community level input to CPP governance arrangements should also be carried out by the Council's Head of Policy and Commissioning to explore this opportunity in consultation with community planning partners.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – N/A
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – N/A
3. **Community Planning** – The proposed new governance arrangements will replace the existing boards and it is required that the new Local Outcome Improvement Plan and locality plans are developed by October 2017.
4. **Legal** – N/A

5. **Property/Assets** – N/A
6. **Information Technology** – N/A
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - Community planning focuses on improving outcomes and reducing inequalities.
8. **Health & Safety** – N/A
9. **Procurement** – N/A
10. **Risk** – N/A
11. **Privacy Impact** – N/A

List of Background Papers

- (a) Appendix A: Review of Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Governance Arrangements

Author: David Amos, Chief Executive's Service 0141 618 4702
David.amos@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Appendix A: Review of Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Governance Arrangements

Diagram 1: Current Community Planning and Partnership Governance

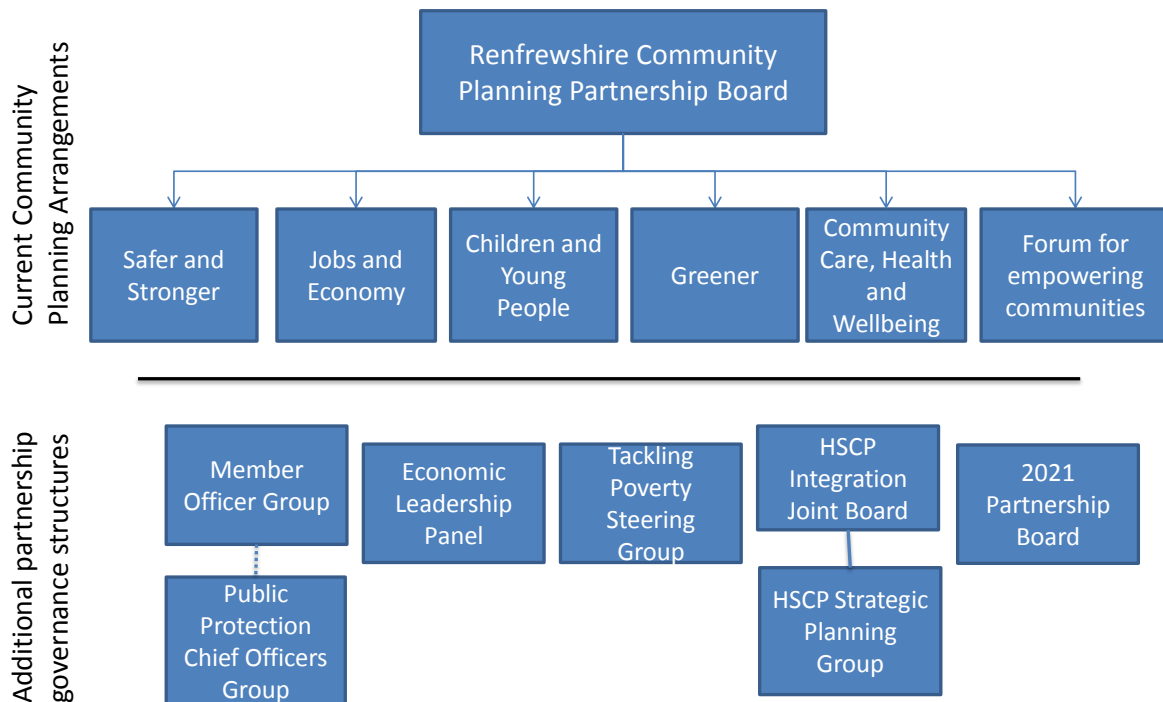
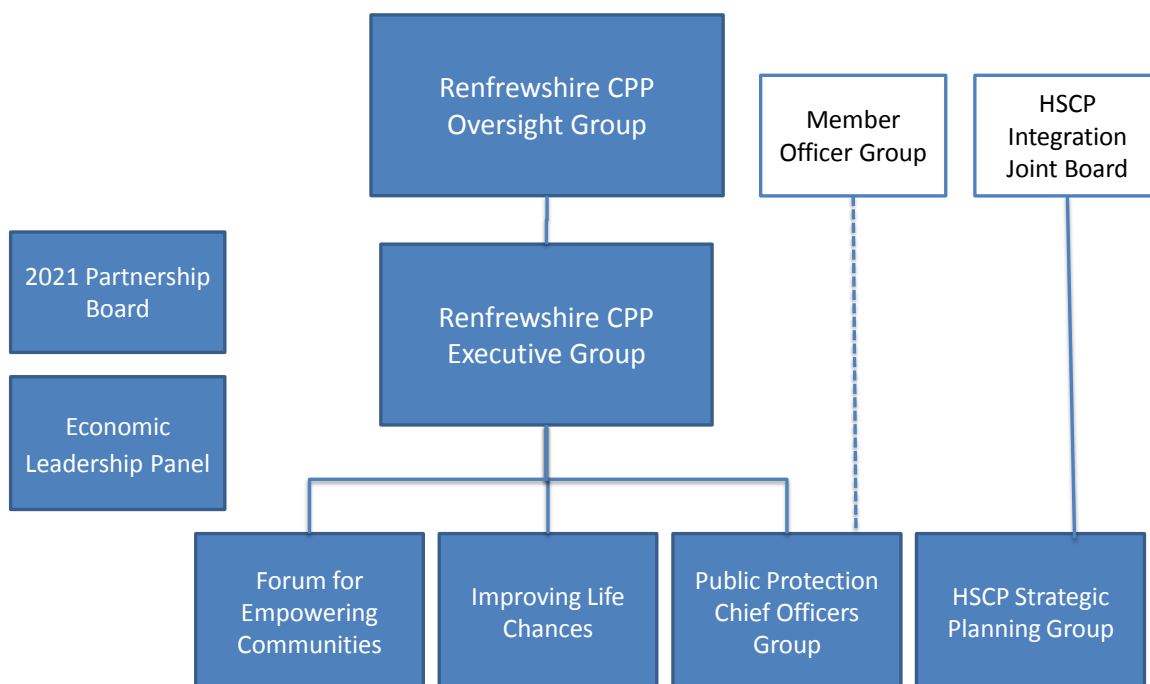


Diagram 2: Proposed Community Planning Governance Structure



Proposed Governance Arrangements

Renfrewshire Community Planning Oversight Group

The Renfrewshire Community Planning Oversight Group would provide oversight, scrutiny and challenge by Renfrewshire Council Elected Members to the activity and performance of Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership. The Board would meet twice per year.

Proposed Membership

- Leader, Renfrewshire Council
- Convenors of Housing and Community Safety, Environment, Economy and Jobs, Education and Children and Finance and Resources Policy Boards
- Chair/Vice-Chair of Integration Joint Board
- Elected Member of the Opposition of Renfrewshire Council

Proposed Role

- (a) Provide oversight to the strategic work of the Community Planning Executive Group in directing the Council's contribution to the work of Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership. This will be done by scrutinising the work commissioned by the Executive Group through Community Planning groups and providing challenge as necessary to policy direction, resourcing, performance and impact of this work.
- (b) Agree outcomes and targets for the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans with the Community Planning Executive Group, following periodic Direction Setting exercises.
- (c) Considering any future changes to partnership working and governance structures in Renfrewshire prior to their establishment.
- (d) In addition to strategic-level involvement in setting direction, reviewing and scrutinising progress, members may be involved as appropriate within individual work programmes.

Community Planning Executive Group

The Community Planning Executive Group would consist of Chief Officers of key community planning partners with significant budgets/resources and be responsible for coordinating partnership strategy development and resourcing plans. It is proposed that the Community Planning Executive Group would meet four times per year.

Proposed Membership

- Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Council
- Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland
- Director of Public Health, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
- Chief Officer, Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership,
- Area Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue
- Chief Executive, Engage Renfrewshire
- Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce
- Principal, West College Scotland
- Principal, University of the West Of Scotland
- Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Leisure Limited
- Area Director, Scottish Enterprise
- Area Director, Skills Development Scotland.

Proposed Role

The key roles of the Executive Group would be:

- (a) Lead periodic Direction Setting exercises that prioritise policy areas for change and set outcomes and targets for the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans.
- (b) Develop a strategic approach to achieve the agreed outcomes and targets and commission work programmes to deliver these, through the Community Planning groups. This would include agreeing any allocation of pooled budgets or resources to support these programmes and ensuring that community planning activity is integrated with each partner's organisational and budgetary planning.
- (c) Scrutinise and review the performance and outcomes of the commissioned work programmes and provide direction as necessary.
- (d) Report to the Renfrewshire Community Planning Oversight Group regarding collective performance of the commissioned work programmes and the impact being made on outcome targets. Use feedback from Oversight Group members to provide further direction to work programmes as necessary.
- (e) Commission any future changes to partnership working and governance structures, prior to their establishment.

Community Planning Groups

Proposed changes to the thematic group structure are shown in the table below. Work would be undertaken by the Executive Group to update existing thematic boards and to establish links to separately incorporated boards such as the Public Protection Chief Officers Group, Renfrewshire Economic Panel and Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Planning Group.

Proposed Community Planning Group	Purpose of Change
Renfrewshire Economic Panel	The Executive Group to establish links to the Renfrewshire Economic Panel. The Panel is scheduled to be established from March 2017 and will oversee the implementation of the Economic Framework and facilitate the role and contribution of the private sector in driving investment and the creation of job opportunities.
Public Protection Chief Officers Group	The Executive Group to establish links to the Public Protection Chief Officers Group currently in existence, with linkages to those partnership groups which also report to Safer and Stronger Thematic Board.
Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities	Continued and enhanced role for the Forum to ensure that the third sector and communities have a voice and influence in shaping partnership decisions and activity.
Improving Life Chances	The Improving Life Chances Board would bring together the work of the Children and Young People Board and the Tackling Poverty Steering Group. An additional focus would be the contribution of partner organisations to health improvement, reducing inequalities and addressing the attainment gap.
Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Planning Group	Removing the Community Care, Health and Wellbeing Board would reduce a layer of duplication, subject to ensuring that all the business of the Community Care, Health & Wellbeing Board is fully covered by the Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Planning Group. The Integration Joint Board, which is a statutory group, will be represented within the Oversight Group.

Proposed Role

- (a) Links to be established to the updated boards:- Forum for Empowering Communities and Improving Life Chances Board and to separately incorporated groups such as the Public Protection Chief Officers Group, Renfrewshire Economic Panel and Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Planning Group

- (b) Implement work activity as commissioned by the Community Planning Executive Group.
- (c) Develop a work programme and rolling action log, with outcomes and targets, and report progress on a regular basis to the Executive Group.

Proposed Membership

Membership of the Forum for Empowering Communities and Improving Life Chances Board would consist of senior officers from core partner agencies for each theme, with additional partners as appropriate. Appropriate partner agencies would chair these two boards, with support from a lead officer from Renfrewshire Council.

The membership arrangements for the Public Protection Chief Officers Group, Renfrewshire Economic Panel and Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Planning Group would be agreed in accordance with the existing established arrangements.



To: Council

On: 15 December 2016

Report by: Director of Finance and Resources

Heading: Review of Polling Places and Polling Districts Following the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland- Fifth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements

1. Summary

- 1.1 In terms of the Representation of the People Act, 1983, as amended, local authorities are required to divide their area into polling districts for the purposes of parliamentary and other elections and to designate polling places for these polling districts and keep them under review.
- 1.2 In conducting a review, authorities must:
- (a) seek to ensure that all electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances; and
 - (b) seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practical, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled, and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of persons with disabilities.
- 1.3 The Council at its meeting on 27th February 2014 approved a Polling Scheme agreeing the location of the polling districts, polling places and polling stations for use in all elections and referenda until the next review.

- 1.4 The Council at its meeting on 27th September 2016 noted that the Scottish Government had approved the electoral arrangements for the Renfrewshire Council area recommended by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland and that as a result an immediate review of the Council's Polling Scheme was required. This was to enable the revised Scheme to be in place for the Local Government elections on 4th May 2017.
- 1.5 A polling scheme and plans showing the polling places and polling district boundaries is attached as Appendices 1 and 2 for consideration and adoption
-

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council approve the polling districts, polling places and polling stations as set out in the Appendices to this report for use in all elections and referenda hereafter until the next review.
-

3. Background

- 3.1 The Renfrewshire (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016 came into force on 30 September 2016. The new electoral arrangements will apply to any election held on or after 4 May 2017. The main consequences of the Order are:
- a) Increases the number of councillors on Renfrewshire Council from 40 to 43
 - b) Increases the number of electoral wards in the Renfrewshire Council area from 11 to 12; and
 - c) Creates an additional ward in the south east of Paisley from areas that are currently within Wards 3 and 5.

In addition there are a number of other boundary changes affecting other wards.

- 3.2 The Council's arrangements for undertaking electoral events are set out in a Polling Scheme which was approved by Council on 27 February 2014. The Polling Scheme divides the Council area into polling districts and identifies polling places for each polling district. There have been six major elections/referenda held since the adoption of the Polling Scheme. The next statutory review was due to be commenced in 2018 with a view to implementation in 2019. However, taking into account the changes set out above, an immediate review of the current Polling Scheme was required. This

has identified a number of areas where polling districts require to be redrawn as they are now dissected by the new ward boundaries.

- 3.3 In terms of the Representation of the People Act, 1983, as amended, where there is a review of the Polling Scheme, the Returning Officer is required to comment on the proposals. Although the location of the proposed polling districts and polling places are the responsibility of the local authority, the number and location of the polling stations within the polling places is the responsibility of the Returning Officer, and it is recommended by the Electoral Commission that the review process be undertaken in a joint manner in recognition of the fact that, although the Returning Officer is an officer of the local authority, it is a distinct role and the responsibility for conducting the review rests with the local authority. Accordingly, the proposals presented here represent the joint view of the officers and the Returning Officer.
- 3.4 The Boundary Commission for Scotland has commenced consultation on the 2018 review of the UK Parliament constituencies in Scotland. It is intended that there will be a reduction in the number of Scottish constituencies from 59 to 53. While that consultation is at an early stage, it is considered likely that the outcome of these consultations will see an alteration in the boundaries of the existing UK Parliament constituencies covered by the Returning Officer. That in turn may require a further review of the Polling Scheme.
- 3.5 While it is desirable to maintain existing voter arrangements, that must be balanced with the need to avoid the difficulties that can arise from voters being allocated to polling places lying out with their ward. Accordingly, the proposals presented here maintain as far as is reasonably possible existing voter arrangements. A full statutory review will be required in 2018/19. That will take in to account the outcome of the UK Parliament boundary review and will be the subject of full public consultation.
- 3.6 In conclusion therefore it is recommended that the polling districts, polling places and polling stations instanced in Appendices 1 and 2 to this report be approved for adoption.
- 3.7 It should be noted that, in accordance with normal practice, the Chief Executive is delegated to alter or amend any polling place if an approved place becomes unavailable or unviable, e.g. through fire or flood or otherwise.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial-** There are no direct financial consequences arising from this report.

2. **HR & Organisational Development** None –

3. **Community Planning –**

Children and Young People – None

Community Care, Health & Well-being - None

Empowering our Communities – The new electoral arrangements referred to in this report are intended to improve the democratic representation of communities within Renfrewshire

Greener - None

Jobs and the Economy – None

Safer and Stronger - None

4. **Legal-** The report reflects the outcome of a statutory review of electoral arrangements undertaken to comply with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973

5. **Property/Assets -**None -

6. **Information Technology -**None

7. **Equality & Human Rights**

- (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because the report is only for noting. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

- 8. **Health & Safety** None –
 - 9. **Procurement** None –
 - 10. **Risk** -None –
 - 11. **Privacy Impact** - None
-

List of Background Papers

Author: Mark Conaghan, Legal and Democratic Services Manager, ext 7177

Polling Plan 15th December 2016

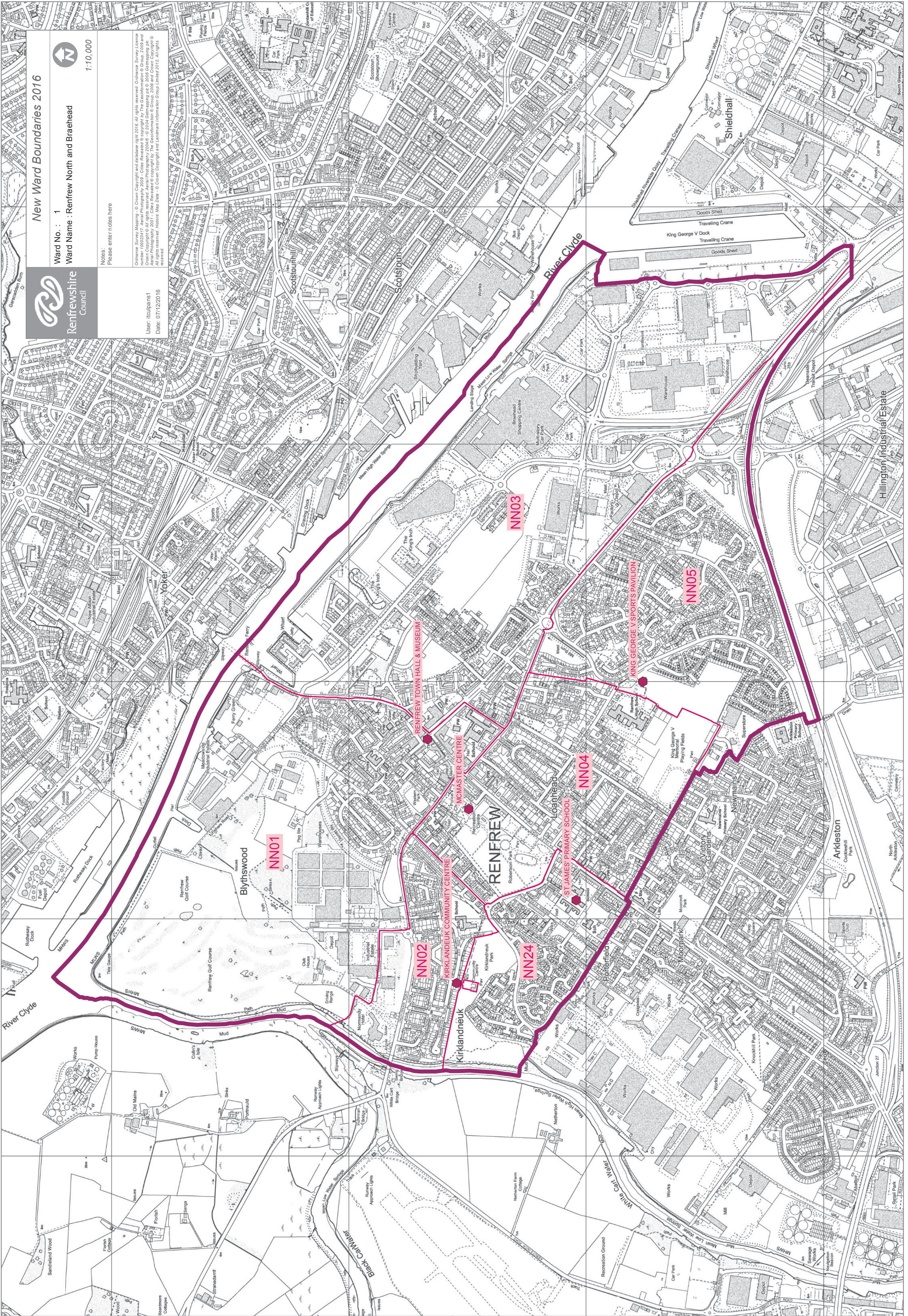
District Code	Ward	Polling Place and address	UK Parliament/Scottish Parliament Constituency	Anticipated Number of Stations For This District
NN01	Renfrew North and Braehead	Renfrew Town Hall & Museum, Renfrew Cross, Renfrew, PA4 8PF	PRN/RNW	2
NN02	Renfrew North and Braehead	Kirklandheuk Community Centre, Ness Road, Renfrew, PA4 9DE	PRN/RNW	2
NN03	Renfrew North and Braehead	Renfrew Town Hall & Museum, Renfrew Cross, Renfrew, PA4 8PF	PRN/RNW	3
NN04	Renfrew North and Braehead	McMaster Centre, Robertson Park, Donaldson Drive, Renfrew, PA4 8LX	PRN/RNW	2
NN05	Renfrew North and Braehead	King George V Sports Pavilion, Dean Park Road, Renfrew, PA4 0AN	PRN/RNW	4
NN24	Renfrew North and Braehead	St James' Primary School, 10 Brown Street, Renfrew PA4 8HL	PRN/RNW	2
NN06	Renfrew South and Gallowhill	St Catherine's Primary School, 28a Brabloch Crescent, Paisley, PA3 4RG	PRN/RNW	2
NN07	Renfrew South and Gallowhill	Gallowhill Community Centre, 210 Netherhill Road, Paisley PA3 4SF	PRN/RNW	2
NN08	Renfrew South and Gallowhill	Glynhill Hotel, 169 Paisley Road, Renfrew, PA4 8XB	PRN/RNW	2
NN09	Renfrew South and Gallowhill	Arkleston Primary School, 125 Cockels Loan, Renfrew, PA4 0EL	PRN/RNW	2
NN10	Renfrew South and Gallowhill	Newmains Primary School, 8a Lang Avenue, Renfrew PA4 0DA	PRN/RNW	2
NN11	Renfrew South and Gallowhill	St James' Primary School, 10 Brown Street, Renfrew PA4 8HL	PRN/RNW	2
NP01	Paisley Northeast and Ralston	Williamsburgh Primary School, Lacy Street, Paisley PA1 1QF	PRN/PAI	3
NP02	Paisley Northeast and Ralston	Ralston Community Sports Centre, Penilee Road, Ralston, Paisley, PA1 3AX	PRN/PAI	2
NP03	Paisley Northeast and Ralston	Ralston Community Centre, 6 Allanton Avenue, Paisley, PA1 3BL	PRN/PAI	2
SP02	Paisley Northeast and Ralston	Williamsburgh Primary School, Lacy Street, Paisley PA1 1QF	PRS/PAI	1
SP03	Paisley Northeast and Ralston	Williamsburgh Primary School, Lacy Street, Paisley PA1 1QF	PRS/PAI	3

District Code	Ward	Polling Place and address	UK Parliament/Scottish Parliament Constituency	Anticipated Number of Stations For This District
NN12	Paisley Northwest	Beechwood Community Centre, 26 Shortroods Road, Paisley, PA3 2NT	PRN/RNW	Combined
NP04	Paisley Northwest	Beechwood Community Centre, 26 Shortroods Road, Paisley, PA3 2NT	PRN/PAI	3
NP05	Paisley Northwest	Disability Resource Centre, Love Street, Paisley, Renfrewshire, PA3 2EA	PRN/PAI	1
NP06	Paisley Northwest	St Ninian's Church (St Ninian's Centre), 85 Blackstoun Road, Paisley PA3 1NR	PRN/PAI	4
SP06	Paisley Northwest	Martyrs Church Hall, 5 King Street, Paisley, PA1 2LS	PRS/PAI	1
SP07	Paisley Northwest	Church of New Jerusalem, 17 George Street, Paisley, PA1 2LB	PRS/PAI	1
SP08	Paisley Northwest	St Mary's Primary School, 4 Maxwellton Road, Paisley, PA1 2RJ	PRS/PAI	2
SP09	Paisley Northwest	St Charles Church Hall, 5 Union Street, Paisley, PA2 6DU	PRS/PAI	2
SP10	Paisley Northwest	St Ninian's Church (St Ninian's Centre), 85 Blackstoun Road, Paisley PA3 1NR	PRS/PAI	Combined
SP11	Paisley Northwest	West End Community Centre, 5A Underwood Lane, Paisley, PA1 2SL	PRS/PAI	1
SP12	Paisley Northwest	7th Paisley Scout Hall, The Bield, 40 Broomlands Street, Paisley, PA1 2NP	PRS/PAI	1
SP01	Paisley East and Central	St Andrew's Academy, 125 Barrhead Road, Paisley, PA2 7LG	PRS/PAI	1
SP04	Paisley East and Central	Hunterhill Community Centre, Blackford Road, Paisley PA2 7EP	PRS/PAI	1
SP05	Paisley East and Central	Paisley Marriage Suite, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1BU	PRS/PAI	1
SP17	Paisley East and Central	Todholm Primary School, 260 Lochfield Road, Paisley, PA2 7JE	PRS/PAI	3
SP18	Paisley East and Central	South End Action Centre, Stock Street, Paisley PA2 6NL	PRS/PAI	2
SP26	Paisley East and Central	Williamsburgh Primary School, Lacy Street, Paisley PA1 1QF	PRS/PAI	1
SP27	Paisley East and Central	Williamsburgh Primary School, Lacy Street, Paisley PA1 1QF	PRS/PAI	1
SP28	Paisley East and Central	Lochfield Primary School, Quarry Road, Paisley, PA2 7RD	PRS/PAI	1
SP30	Paisley East and Central	South End Action Centre, Stock Street, Paisley PA2 6NL	PRS/PAI	1

District Code	Ward	Polling Place and address	UK Parliament/Scottish Parliament Constituency	Anticipated Number of Stations For This District
SP13	Paisley Southeast	Glenburn Community Centre, 30 Fairway Avenue, Paisley, , PA2 8DX	PRS/PAI	2
SP14	Paisley Southeast	Glenburn Resource Centre, 19 Donaldswood Road , Glenburn, Paisley, PA2 8EA	PRS/PAI	2
SP15	Paisley Southeast	Bushes Primary School, Grampian Avenue, Paisley PA2 8DW	PRS/PAI	3
SP16	Paisley Southeast	Lochfield Primary School, Quarry Road, Paisley, PA2 7RD	PRS/PAI	3
SP19	Paisley Southeast	St Charles Church Hall, 5 Union Street, Paisley, PA2 6DU	PRS/PAI	2
SP29	Paisley Southeast	Lochfield Primary School, Quarry Road, Paisley, PA2 7RD	PRS/PAI	Combined
SP20	Paisley Southwest	Brediland Community Centre, 30 Cardell Road, Paisley, PA2 9AF	PRS/PAI	2
SP21	Paisley Southwest	Brediland Primary School, 9 Achray Drive, Paisley, PA2 9DJ	PRS/PAI	4
SP22	Paisley Southwest	Foxbar Rivers Community Building, Spey Avenue, Paisley, PA2 0PA	PRS/PAI	2
SP23	Paisley Southwest	Heriot Primary School, 10 Heriot Avenue, Paisley PA2 0DS	PRS/PAI	2
SP24	Paisley Southwest	Foxbar Community Centre, 30 Amochrie Road, Paisley PA2 0LB	PRS/PAI	2
SP25	Paisley Southwest	Langcraigs Primary School, 245 Glenfield Road, Paisley PA2 8QE	PRS/PAI	2
SS01	Johnstone South and Elderslie	Wallace Primary School, Greenhill Crescent, Elderslie PA5 9AW	PRS/RES	4
SS02	Johnstone South and Elderslie	Johnstone Castle Community Centre, Pine Crescent, Johnstone PA5 0BX	PRS/RES	3
SS03	Johnstone South and Elderslie	St David's Primary, West Johnstone Shared Campus, Beith Road, Johnstone PA5 0BB	PRS/RES	2
SS04	Johnstone South and Elderslie	Cochrane Castle Community Centre, 1 Burns Drive, Johnstone, PA5 0HJ	PRS/RES	1
SS05	Johnstone South and Elderslie	Fordbank Primary School, 23B Teviot Terrace, Johnstone PA5 0NP	PRS/RES	1
SS06	Johnstone South and Elderslie	Spateston Bowling Club, Spateston Road, Johnstone, PA5 0SX	PRS/RES	2
SS07	Johnstone South and Elderslie	Thorn Primary School, 4A Thorn Brae, Johnstone, , PA5 8HE	PRS/RES	1
SS19	Johnstone South and Elderslie	Spateston Bowling Club, Spateston Road, Johnstone, PA5 0SX	PRS/RES	Combined
NP07	Johnstone South and Elderslie	Wallace Primary School, Greenhill Crescent, Elderslie PA5 9AW	PRN/PAI	1
NP08	Johnstone South and Elderslie	St Ninian's Church (St Ninian's Centre), 85 Blackstoun Road, Paisley PA3 1NR	PRN/PAI	1

District Code	Ward	Polling Place and address	UK Parliament/Scottish Parliament Constituency	Anticipated Number of Stations For This District
SS08	Johnstone North, Kilbarchan, Howwood and Lochwinnoch	Howwood Village Hall, 10 Station Road, Howwood, , PA9 1BB	PRS/RES	2
SS09	Johnstone North, Kilbarchan, Howwood and Lochwinnoch	St Margaret's Primary School, 16 Buchanan Street, Johnstone PA5 8RY	PRS/RES	2
SS10	Johnstone North, Kilbarchan, Howwood and Lochwinnoch	Johnstone High Parish Church Hall, Quarry Street, Johnstone PA5 8DZ	PRS/RES	2
SS11	Johnstone North, Kilbarchan, Howwood and Lochwinnoch	Thorn Primary School, 4A Thorn Brae, Johnstone, , PA5 8HE	PRS/RES	2
SS12	Johnstone North, Kilbarchan, Howwood and Lochwinnoch	McKillop Institute, 2 Main Street, Lochwinnoch PA12 4AJ	PRS/RES	3
SS13	Johnstone North, Kilbarchan, Howwood and Lochwinnoch	Kilbarchan Scout Hall, Barn Green, Kilbarchan, PA10 2HG	PRS/RES	4
SS18	Johnstone North, Kilbarchan, Howwood and Lochwinnoch	Howwood Village Hall, 10 Station Road, Howwood, , PA9 1BB	PRS/RES	Combined
NN13	Houston, Crosslee and Linwood	St Fillans Primary School, 1a Main Street, Houston, PA6 7EL	PRN/RNW	Combined
NN14	Houston, Crosslee and Linwood	St Fillans Primary School, 1a Main Street, Houston, PA6 7EL	PRN/RNW	3
NS01	Houston, Crosslee and Linwood	Tweedie Hall, Ardlamont Square, Linwood, PA3 3DE	PRN/RES	Combined
NS02	Houston, Crosslee and Linwood	Tweedie Hall, Ardlamont Square, Linwood, PA3 3DE	PRN/RES	3
NS03	Houston, Crosslee and Linwood	Linwood Parish Church, Blackwood Avenue, Linwood PA3 3PY	PRN/RES	4
NS04	Houston, Crosslee and Linwood	Brookfield Village Hall, 45 Woodside Road, Brookfield, PA5 8UB	PRN/RES	1
NS05	Houston, Crosslee and Linwood	St Fillans Primary School, 1a Main Street, Houston, PA6 7EL	PRN/RES	3
SS14	Houston, Crosslee and Linwood	Linwood Parish Church, Blackwood Avenue, Linwood PA3 3PY	PRS/RES	Combined (No Current Electors)
SS15	Houston, Crosslee and Linwood	Linwood Parish Church, Blackwood Avenue, Linwood PA3 3PY	PRS/RES	Combined
SS16	Houston, Crosslee and Linwood	Brookfield Village Hall, 45 Woodside Road, Brookfield, PA5 8UB	PRS/RES	Combined
SS17	Houston, Crosslee and Linwood	Brookfield Village Hall, 45 Woodside Road, Brookfield, PA5 8UB	PRS/RES	Combined

District Code	Ward	Polling Place and address	UK Parliament/Scottish Parliament Constituency	Anticipated Number of Stations For This District
NN15	Bishopton, Bridge of Weir and Langbank	Cargill Hall, Lintwhite Crescent, Bridge of Weir, PA11 3LJ	PRN/RNW	3
NN16	Bishopton, Bridge of Weir and Langbank	Bridge of Weir Primary School, 7 Warlock Road, Bridge of Weir, PA11 3QB	PRN/RNW	1
NN17	Bishopton, Bridge of Weir and Langbank	Langbank Village Centre, 51 Middlepenny Road, Langbank, PA14 6XB	PRN/RNW	1
NN18	Bishopton, Bridge of Weir and Langbank	Bishopton Community Centre, 25 Gledstane Road, Bishopton, PA7 5AU	PRN/RNW	6
NN19	Bishopton, Bridge of Weir and Langbank	Bishopton Community Centre, 25 Gledstane Road, Bishopton, PA7 5AU	PRN/RNW	Combined
SN01	Bishopton, Bridge of Weir and Langbank	Cargill Hall, Lintwhite Crescent, Bridge of Weir, PA11 3LJ	PRS/RNW	Combined
NN20	Erskine and Inchinnan	Inchinnan Primary School, 96 Old Greenock Road, Inchinnan PA4 9PH	PRN/RNW	2
NN21	Erskine and Inchinnan	Barsail Primary School, 716 Park Moor, Erskine, PA8 7HL	PRN/RNW	3
NN22	Erskine and Inchinnan	St Anne's Primary School, 97 Park Drive, Erskine, PA8 7AL	PRN/RNW	6
NN23	Erskine and Inchinnan	Bargarran Primary School, 4 Barrhill Road, Erskine, PA8 6BX	PRN/RNW	6



New Ward Boundaries 2016

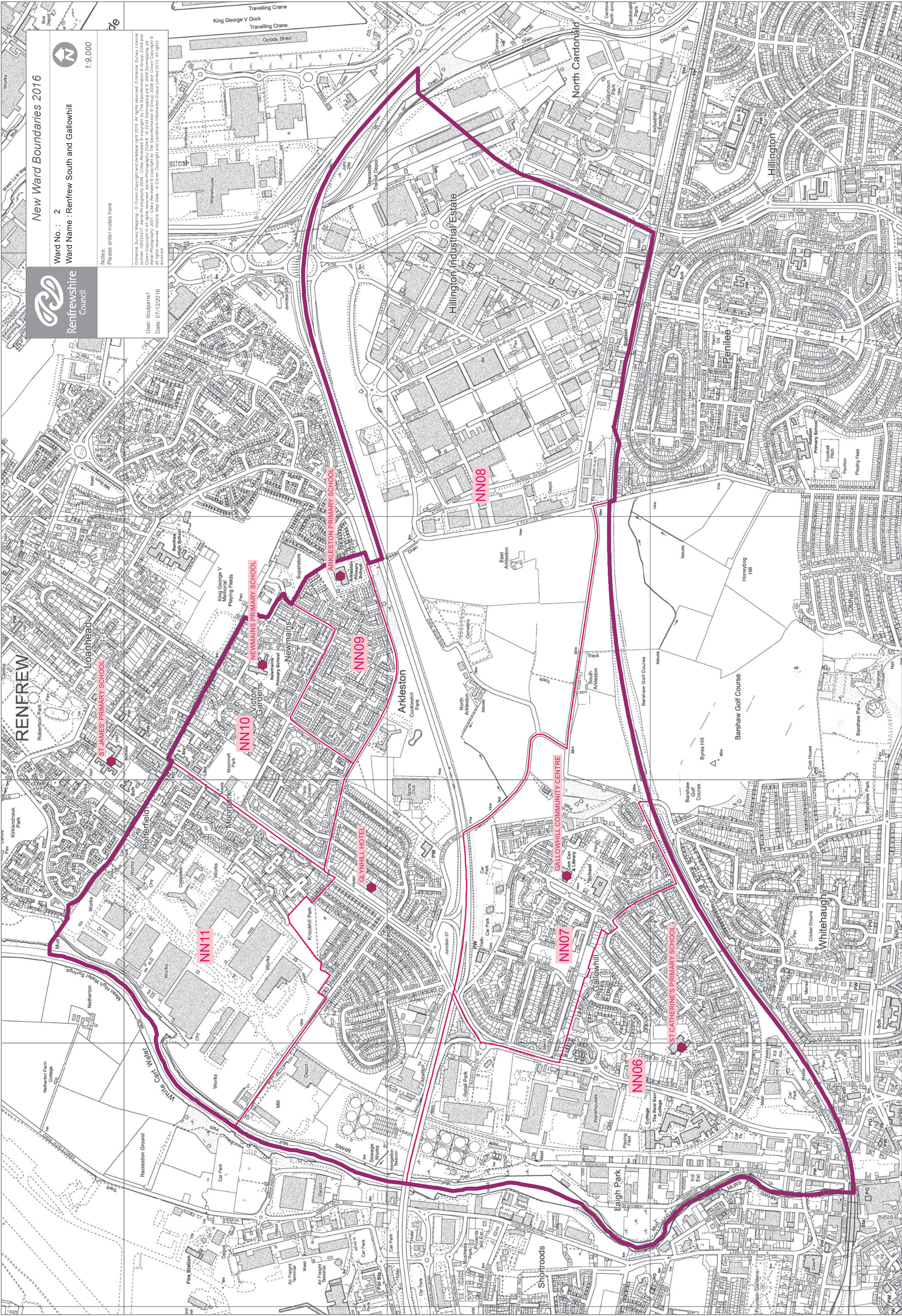
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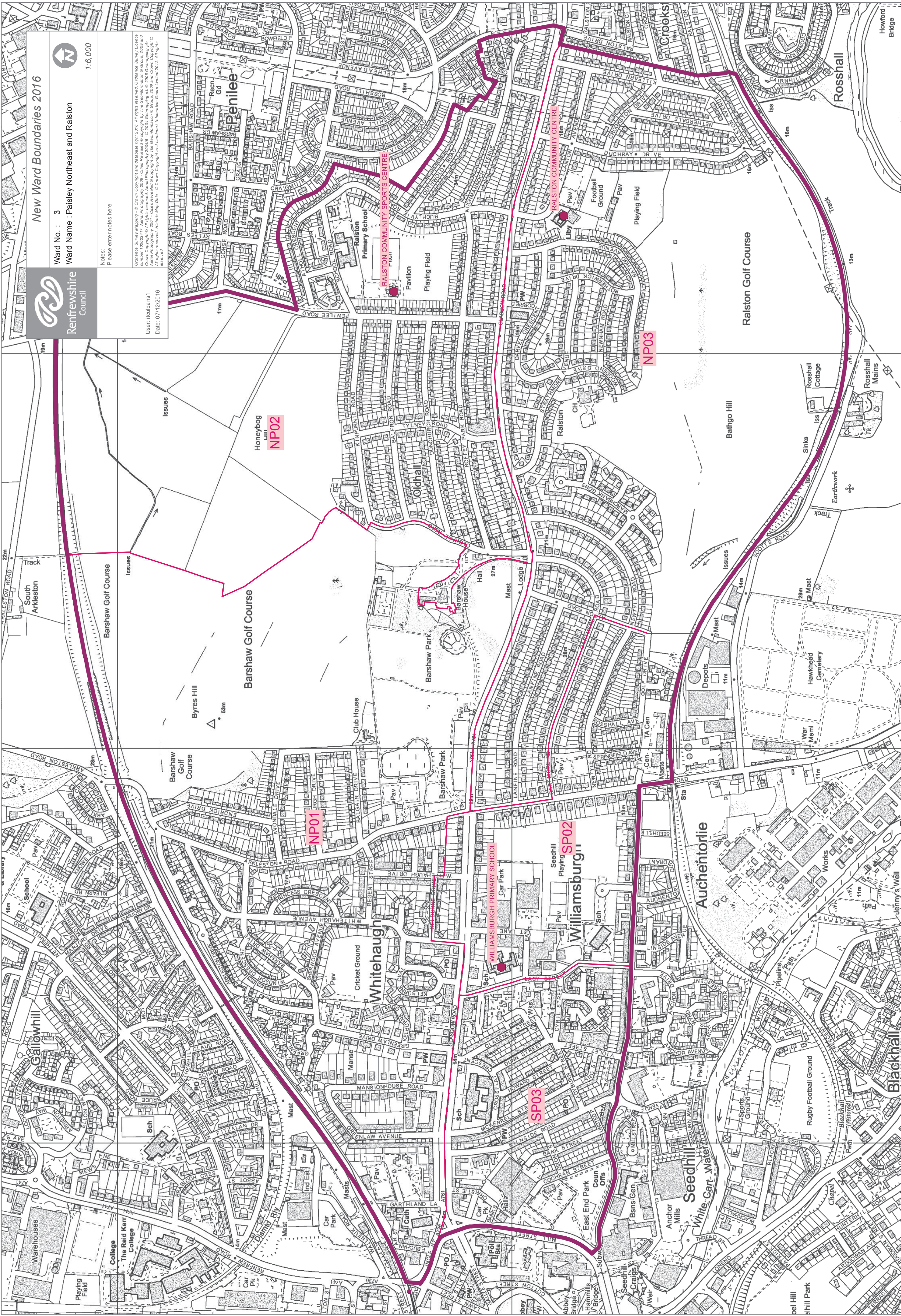
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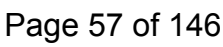
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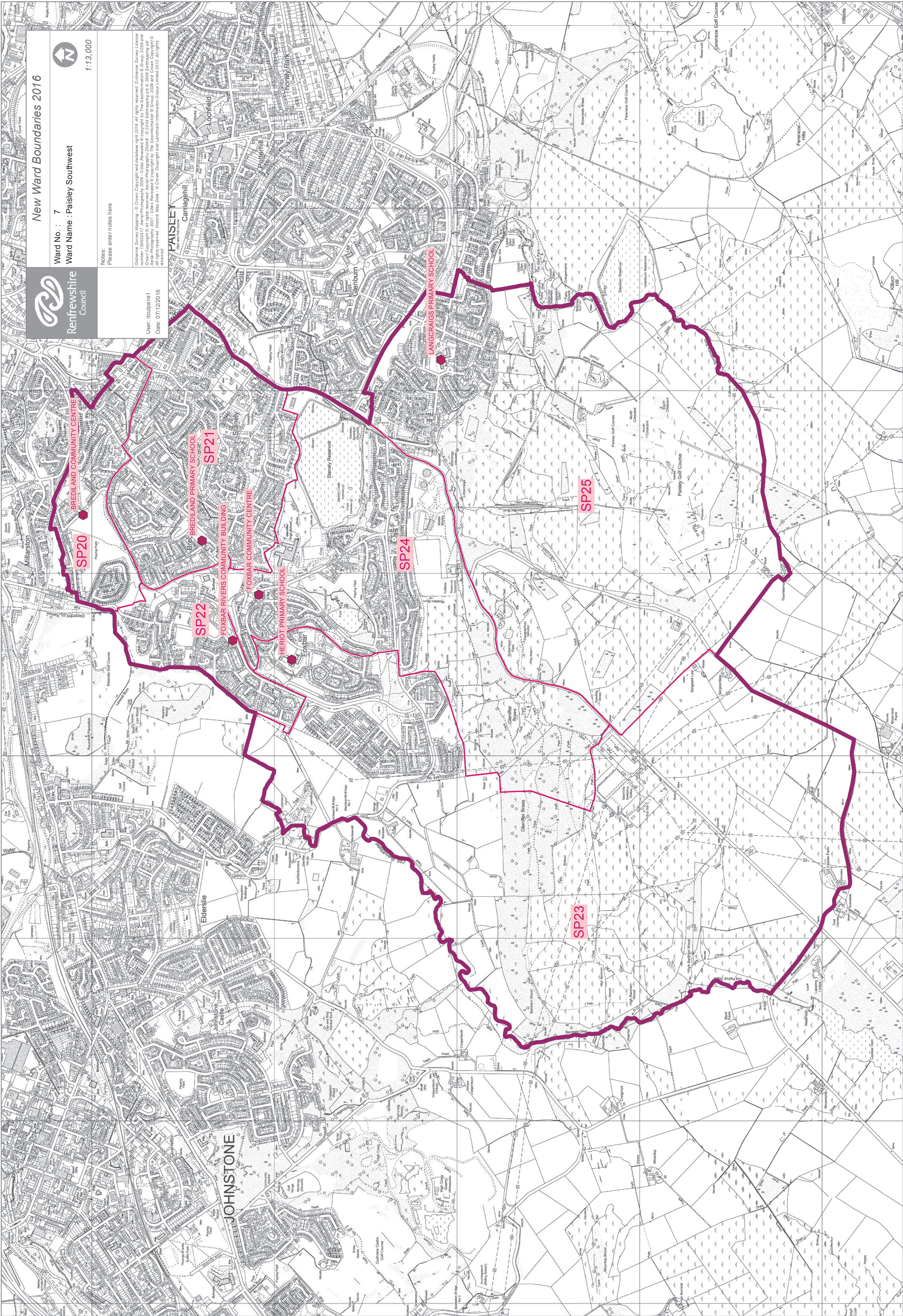
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Date: 07/12/2016















Renfrewshire
Council

New Ward Boundaries 2016

Ward No. : 7

Ward Name : Paisley Southwest

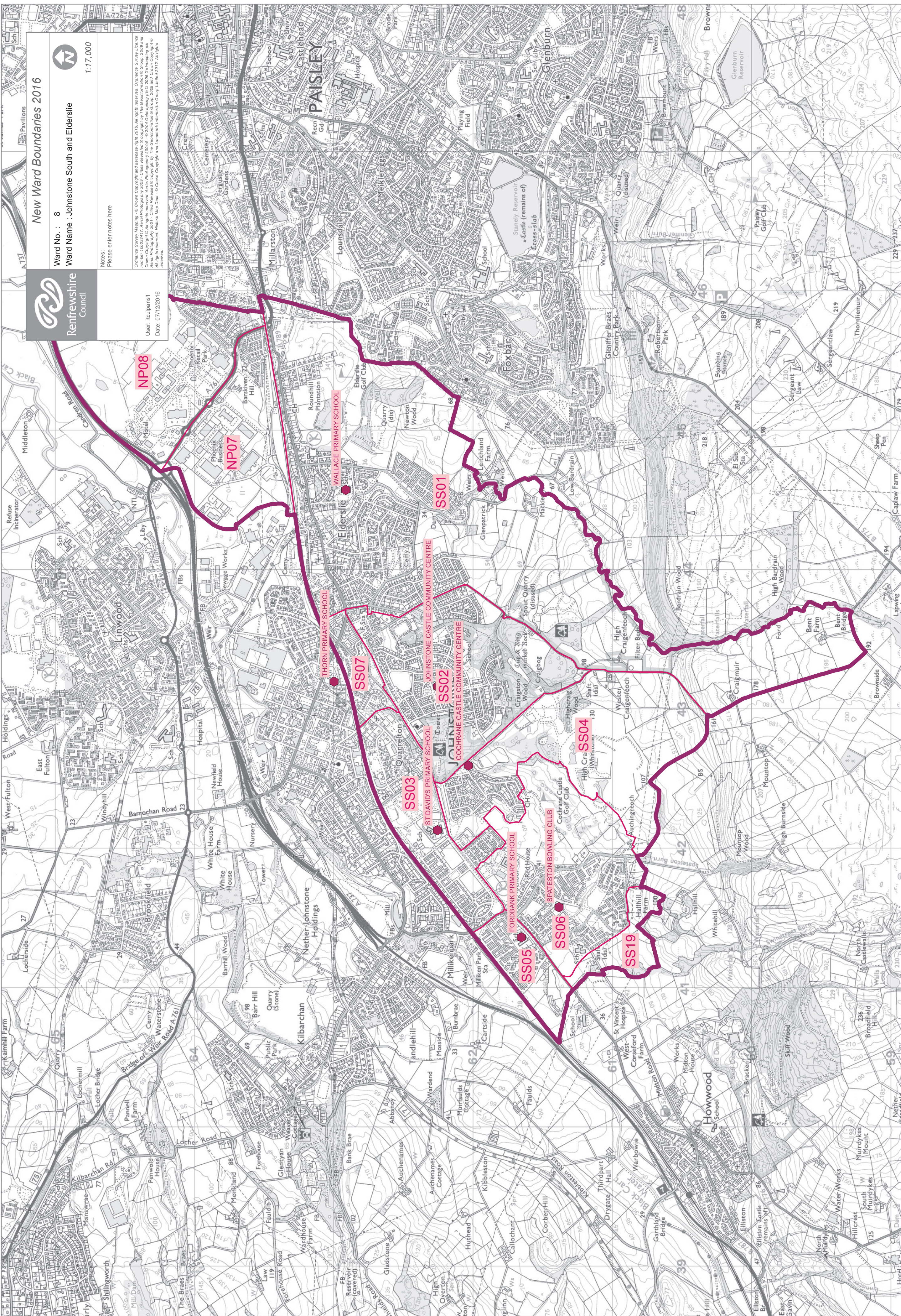


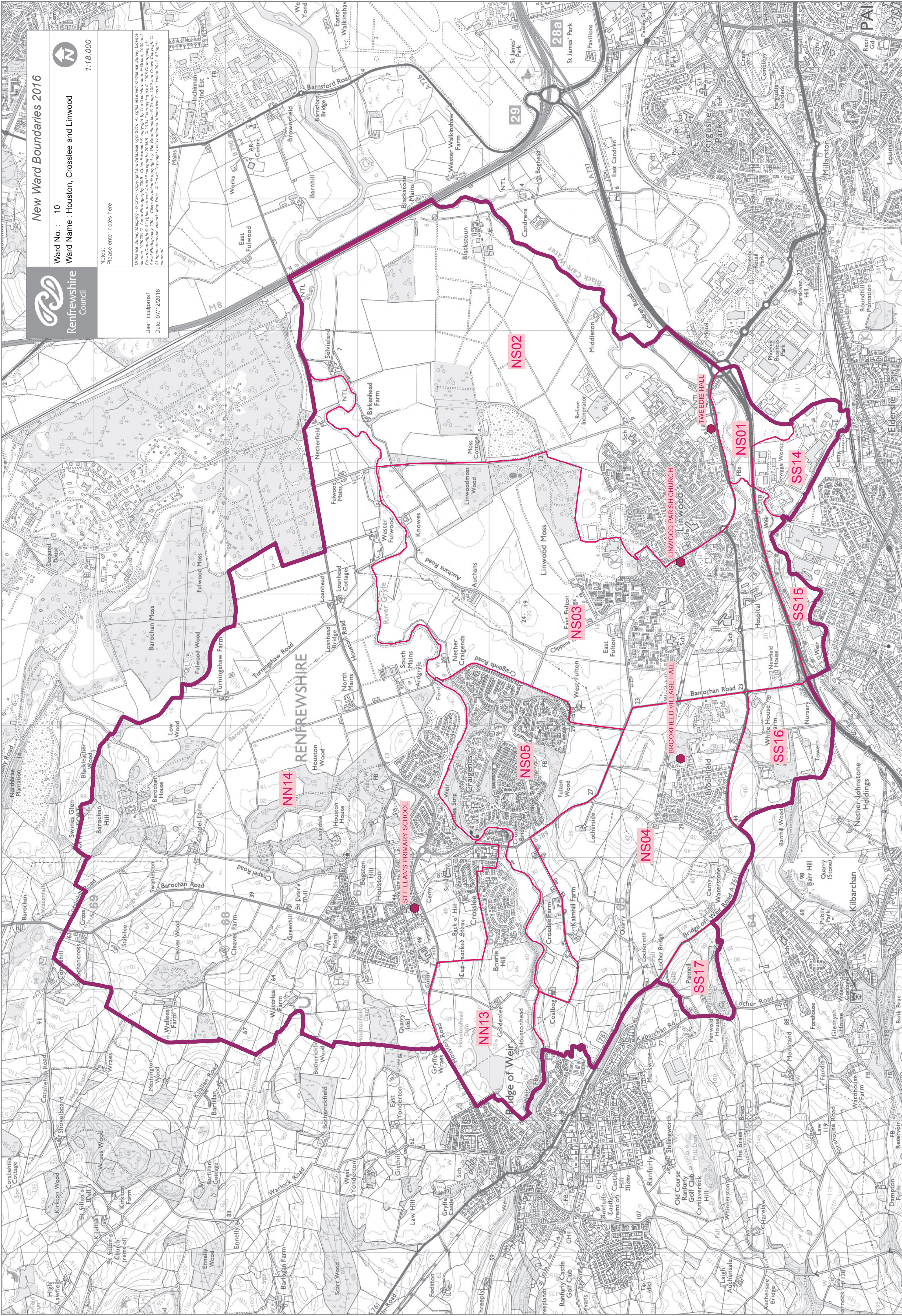
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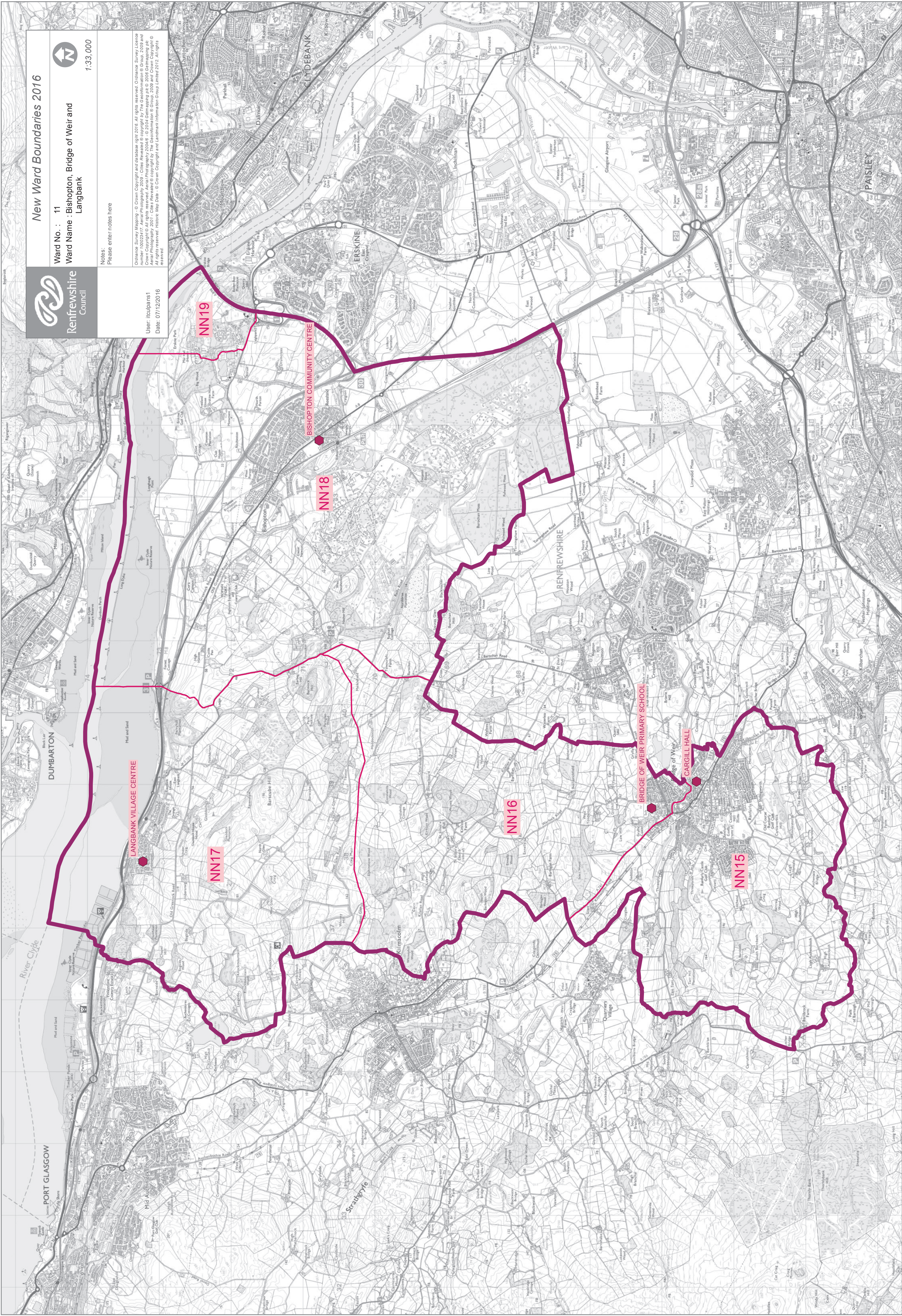
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User: tcupans1
Date: 07/12/2016

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New Ward Boundaries 2016

Ward No. : 11
Ward Name : Bishopston, Bridge of Weir and
Langbank



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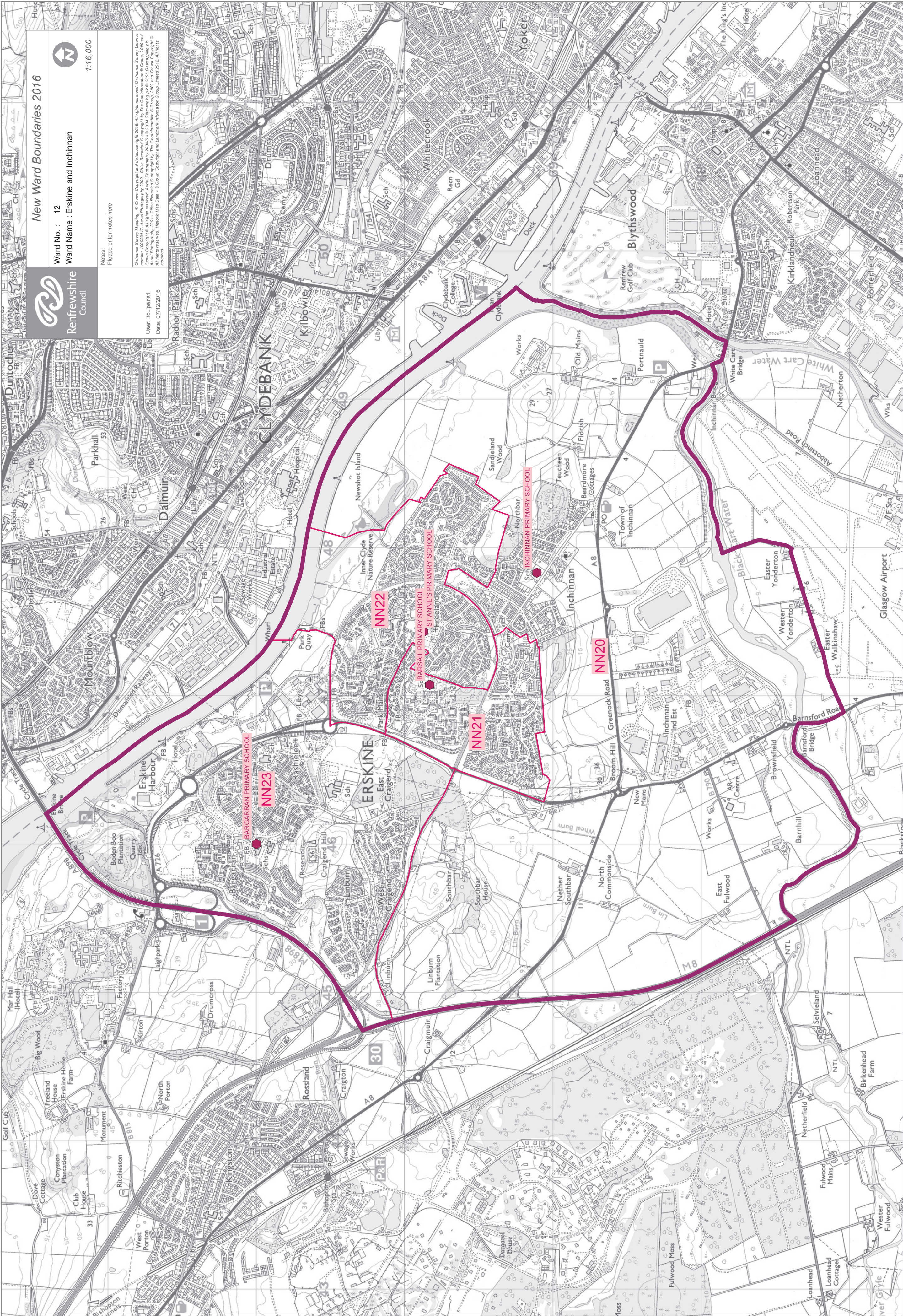
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User: tclupans1

Date: 07/12/2016

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New Ward Boundaries 2016

Ward No. : 12
Ward Name : Erskine and Inchinnan



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User: itcuplan1
Date: 07/12/2016



To: Council

On: 15 December 2016

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Empowering Teachers, Parents and Communities to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education : Consultation Response

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Scottish Government has committed to a review of governance arrangements for schools. This was announced as part of its delivery plan for education in June 2016. This review could have significant and far reaching implications for the way in which local authorities interact with and manage schools.
- 1.2. In order to inform the review a consultation was launched in September 2016. Responses to the consultation questions have to be submitted by 6 January 2017.
- 1.3. The administration of the council has suggested that a report is brought to council for consideration of the response to the consultation document 'Empowering Teachers, Parents and Communities to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education'. The proposed response is attached at Appendix 1 of this report.
- 1.4. The key proposals contained within the consultation document relate to setting up 'regional' arrangements for the organisation or delivery of education services. The other key suggested change is to devolve further responsibilities to schools and thus head teachers including greater devolved resource responsibility. The role of national bodies such as Education Scotland and the Scottish Qualifications Authority is referenced in the report and they are contained within the scope of the review. There is a specific question about the distribution of funding for schools. The review document also references early learning and child care and specifically whether there are opportunities for community led provision.

- 1.5. Individuals and schools have also been encouraged to engage with the consultation process. In addition there has been representation of Renfrewshire head teachers and officers at a number of national engagement events which have been arranged to provide further opportunities for interaction on the issues involved.
-

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Council is asked to consider the terms of the proposed response to the Scottish Government consultation on 'Empowering Teachers, Parents and Communities to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education' attached to this report.
-

3. Background

- 3.1. On 13 September 2016 the Scottish Government announced a consultation exercise on the way in which schools in Scotland are governed. This is part of its delivery plan for education as announced in June 2016 and reported in the programme for government earlier in September.
- 3.2. As has previously been noted, the Scottish Government has placed equity and excellence in education at the top of its priority list. Following the Scottish Government election, a number of commitments in this regard have now been further developed. One of these areas focuses on its aspiration to devolve more powers directly to head teachers and the second is to review how schools are governed in Scotland.
- 3.3. A consultation exercise was launched by the Scottish Government in September 2016. A series of seventeen questions have been posed in order to gather the views of a wide range of stakeholders from across Scotland. Consultation responses must be submitted to the Scottish Government no later than 6 January 2017.
- 3.4. The stated aim of the governance review is to enhance attainment and to close the poverty attainment gap by considering how to further empower teachers, parents and communities. The document cites the Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD) report. 'Governing Education in a Complex World' which identifies the components of good governance including a focus on process not structure and policy and reform informed by evidence and research.
- 3.5. The administration of the council has suggested that a report is brought to council for consideration of the response to the consultation document 'Empowering Teachers, Parents and Communities to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education'. The proposed response is attached at Appendix 1 of this report.

- 3.6. The key proposals contained within the consultation document relate to setting up 'regional' arrangements for the organisation or delivery of education services. The other key suggested change is to devolve further responsibilities to schools and thus head teachers including greater devolved resource responsibility. The role of national bodies such as Education Scotland and the Scottish Qualifications Authority is referenced in the report and they are contained within the scope of the review. There is a specific question about the distribution of funding for schools. The review document also references early learning and child care and specifically whether there are opportunities for community led provision.
- 3.7. The attached response is provided for the consideration of elected members. The responses to the questions should be read in tandem with the consultation report itself.

Implications of this report

1. Financial Implications

There could be far reaching implications for the financial planning of local authorities, including the established distribution formula given the question in the consultation on the funding formula for schools.

2. HR and Organisational Development Implications

Devolving additional duties to head teachers would result in changes to job sizing. This could lead to increased costs, changes to terms and conditions and training and development requirements. Any move to 'regional' arrangements for the delivery of services may have wider HR and organisational implications.

3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Empowering our Communities | - Changes to the governance of schools could have significant implications for all our communities. |
| Jobs and the Economy | - Implications for delivery across council services may be significant. |

4. Legal Implications

There would require to be far reaching changes to the statutory duties of local authorities.

5. Property/Assets Implications

The role of corporate landlord in managing assets may be changed, with further impact on facilities management and school estate management depending on the outcome of the review.

6. Information Technology Implications

Delivery of IT may require to be reviewed if governance impacts on the way these resources are organised.

7. Equality and Human Rights Implications

The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because for example it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. Health and Safety Implications

The duty for health and safety is currently shared between schools and corporate council functions but the balance of these could shift further towards schools based on proposals contained in the document.

9. Procurement Implications

Efficiency obtained by current models of procurement could see significant impact due to reduced volume and scope at a local authority level.

10. Risk Implications

Any organisational changes resulting from this review including further developed responsibilities to schools would be the subject of risk assessment.

11. Privacy Impact

None.

List of Background Papers

(1) Empowering Teachers, Parents and Communities to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education

The foregoing background papers will be retained within children's services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Gordon McKinlay, Head of Schools, Tel 0141 618 7194, gordon.mckinlay@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk

Children's Services

GMcK/LG/PMacI

30 November 2016

Author: Gordon McKinlay, Head of Schools, Tel 0141 618 7194,
gordon.mckinlay@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk



Empowering teachers, parents and communities to achieve

Excellence and Equity in Education

A Governance Review

RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response.

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- ☐ Individual
☒ Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Renfrewshire Council

Phone number

0141 618 7154

Address

Member Services
Renfrewshire House
Cotton Street
Paisley

Postcode

PA1 1WD

Email

cllr.mark.macmillan@renfrewshire.gov.uk

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- ☒ Publish response with name
☐ Publish response only (anonymous)
☐ Do not publish response

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

QUESTIONNAIRE

Question 1

What are the strengths of the current governance arrangements of Scottish education?

Comments

The current governance arrangements for education have served our children and communities well for many years. Schools are highly equitable and inclusive with the vast majority of children attending their local schools. These local schools provide high quality comprehensive education. They are at the heart of their local communities with head teachers having significant powers to make decisions which meet the needs of their area. The local education authority provides appropriate levels of support and challenge which empower head teachers and ensure efficiency of provision within financial constraints.

Children live in families which are served by a range of local services. Schools working in a local authority ensure collaboration and co-operation with a broad range of partners to ensure the child's needs are met. These arrangements are flexible and adaptable to local circumstances with the ability to make decisions in a way that is not overly bureaucratic or cumbersome. There is growing evidence of highly effective collaborative working on a regional basis. These examples demonstrate that flexibility and adaptability improve outcomes for children without the need for any externally imposed governance arrangement.

Question 2

What are the barriers within the current governance arrangements to achieving the vision of excellence and equity for all?

Comments

The inference of this question is not valid as there is a lack of clarity from the consultation report how a change to governance arrangements would improve decision making on a local basis or improve outcomes for children living in our most deprived communities.

Within current governance arrangements head teachers and teachers make the best decisions for their children at a local level. Where barriers appear to exist they often relate to areas which are well outwith the terms of reference of this consultation. These include national terms and conditions of teachers, using input measures such as global teachers numbers, legislative duties such as health and safety and employment, workload in relation to examinations and other national priorities. The consultation report refers to the OECD publication "Governing Education in a Complex World", and highlights that successful education systems are those where governance and accountability are inclusive, adaptable and flexible. This describes the current arrangements within the Scottish education system very well. It is not clear what issues and practice changes of the nature proposed would result in improvement for children. The OECD report also makes it clear that the good governance of education focuses on processes not structures and yet the governance review would appear to propose major structural change.

A number of national bodies are identified within the consultation paperwork. It will be important that the contribution made by each of these bodies is evaluated to ensure they support improved equity and excellence for all our children and young people. Any such review should allow a clearer differentiation between inspection, qualifications and curriculum development.

Question 3

Should the above key principles underpin our approach to reform? Are there other principles which should be applied?

Comments

The key principles which underpin any reform should reflect sound research evidence. The base of evidence clearly shows that the biggest impact on outcomes for children will come through improving the professional capacity of teachers and not necessarily through making changes to structures. The review report itself states that we should not be focussing on structures. As a consequence the key principles which underpin reform should reflect this evidence and not focus on issues which will not deliver the desired impact and ensure the quality of learning and teaching in every classroom is as high as it can possibly be. The clear focus should be on ensuring our children are always able to have access to high quality teaching at all times.

A fundamental key principle should be that children's services are integrated around the needs of the child as is the intention of the team around the child approach embedded in GIRFEC. This is of particular importance for those children with additional needs. The consultation documentation appears not to emphasise the joined up services approach to successfully deliver GIRFEC or to discuss the impact of any proposed changes on the integrated nature of services to children.

Question 4

What changes to governance arrangements are required to support decisions about children's learning and school life being taken at school level?

Comments

It is not clear from the consultation report how a change to governance arrangements could improve decision making on a local basis.

Decisions about children's learning and school life are already taken at school level. Only where other partners need to be involved to support a child does this change. An example may be where a child requires additional support from external agencies such as health services.

The legal responsibility for delivering education and raising standards is already a shared responsibility. Teachers and head teachers are employed by local authorities to discharge these duties. Schools do not and must not operate in isolation. Decisions about children's learning must be made in the context of the full range of children's services. GIRFEC is now well embedded with services and partners working closely together to ensure that we meet the needs of children so that they thrive and grow. It is unclear from the report what decisions could be made more effectively if schools were not part of an integrated approach with the communities they serve. Local authorities are best placed to ensure this duty is implemented.

Within Renfrewshire, teachers and head teachers work effectively as part of their local communities to ensure the needs of children are met in the context of an integrated children's service which puts the child at the heart of strategic and operational decision making. Any changes should only be considered where these will have the biggest impact on outcomes for children. To consider decision making at school level in isolation from wider children's services fails to consider this fully and appropriately.

Question 5

What services and support should be delivered by schools? What responsibilities should be devolved to teachers and headteachers to enable this? You may wish to provide examples of decisions currently taken by teachers or headteachers and decisions which cannot currently be made at school level.

Comments

In preparing this response it is not clear where schools could not make the decisions they needed to in order to improve outcomes for children.

The principle of devolving resources to schools is well established in Scottish education. The current national guidance on devolved school management makes this clear. Where decision making is not devolved to head teachers the issues relate to those of a statutory nature or where a more efficient approach frees the school from having to deal with aspects that do not have an impact on learning and teaching. For example, managing the contracts for home to school transport are best done at a local authority level based on decisions taken on policy and effective procurement. The school then is not distracted from its core purpose. Head teachers have raised significant concern about the proposal to devolve additional duties as these could lead to additional workload and the possibility of moving away from integrated approaches to planning for children.

Question 6

How can children, parents, communities, employers, colleges, universities and others play a stronger role in school life? What actions should be taken to support this?

Comments

Strong collaboration with children's services planning, GIRFEC, parents, communities, employers, colleges, universities and others already exist. These are effectively supported by the local authority to ensure efficient delivery within a very flexible approach to meet the needs of individual schools. It is important to note that the strength of these partnerships can often have a socio-economic element with communities in certain areas being far less willing or able to engage with schools without significant additional support. A number of parents and head teachers have reported significant challenge in engaging and sustaining parental involvement on an ongoing basis.

It is unclear from the consultation report what additional decision making would be devolved to teachers, parents, schools and communities. There needs to be far greater clarity about this before it is possible to make an informed comment. For example, there is no clarity around what is meant by community involvement.

Question 7

How can the governance arrangements support more community-led early learning and childcare provision particularly in remote and rural areas?

Comments

This question appears to be isolated in this consultation as it is the only one which relates to early learning and children in a much broader review of governance of schools. As a large quantity of early learning takes place in schools with teachers employed by the local authority, it would be appropriate to consider the wider implications of the review of school governance on the local delivery of early learning itself.

Much of the governance of early learning and childcare relates to the Care Inspectorate and Scottish Social Services Council. As regulators they have an influence over what is possible in any particular local area. In addition, much of this sector is market driven resulting in challenging circumstances around cost and flexibility of provision. Currently a local authority is able to support improvement in the quality of provision and support service provision when it is not possible to deliver on an economic or volunteer / community led basis.

Question 8

How can effective collaboration amongst teachers and practitioners be further encouraged and incentivised?

Comments

There are a number of very positive examples of effective collaboration between teachers and other practitioners. These include School Improvement Partnerships and Raising Attainment for All programmes led nationally. Opportunities exist across a variety of other areas. For example, where local authorities work together they are able to provide opportunities which would not be available otherwise. Within Renfrewshire we have strong partnership arrangements with the University of Strathclyde to focus on the teaching of literacy. This co-ordinated partnership is already showing improvements in both teacher and learner confidence.

Integrated children's services planning for GIRFEC demonstrates highly effective collaboration to ensure the team around the child includes the right professionals at the right time.

It is noted that collaboration and partnership working are already strong features of Scottish education. Within Renfrewshire cluster arrangements are well developed and have proved to be effective for many years. In addition, recent inter authority arrangements have encouraged clusters of schools to work together across local authority boundaries. Head teachers and teachers already recognise the value of collaboration. External incentives are not required in order to ensure such collaborative ventures can continue to grow and develop for the benefit of our children.

Question 9

What services and support functions could be provided more effectively through clusters of schools working together with partners?

Comments

Clusters of schools already work together effectively to develop positive outcomes for children. There is a range of models which have been utilised across Scotland to devolve particular services such as support staff, youth workers, etc to local clusters. The New Community Schools approach was one such example.

There are also a number of examples of locality approaches where services from across a broad range of professionals working with children are co-located. These arrangements break down barriers and provide services at the local point of contact. In Renfrewshire, Families First provides a locality based approach which ensures families and children are able to access the services they need when they need them. This strategic approach to tackling poverty and inequality has only been made possible due to an integrated approach to providing children's services across the whole community with all parties working together effectively. This has been highly evaluated by the University of Glasgow and demonstrates the value added by the current governance arrangements of schools working in clusters within a local authority support structure.

Question 10

What services or functions are best delivered at a regional level? This may include functions or services currently delivered at a local or a national level.

Comments

The consultation report gives little detail as to the arrangements for education regions. Further work is required to develop the required principles underpin the creation of such bodies. Whilst it is understandably the case that collaboration and partnership across local authorities can lead to improved outcomes for children it is important to note that much of the success of these approaches has been based on flexibility and adaptability rather than more formal approaches.

There are very good examples of inter authority partnerships across Scotland which bring together services on a flexible and adaptable basis. To suggest that formalising such arrangements into education regions would improve the sharing of best practice is more systematic appears to be quite a change in direction that does not have supporting evidence as a strong basis.

There are a number of services that are currently delivered at a national level that would benefit schools if they were delivered on a more regional basis. For example, inspection services based around a regional model could grow a better understanding of the local context and support external scrutiny in a more informed and consistent manner.

Head teachers and others have raised significant concern that the creation of education regions removes decision making further away from schools rather closer to them. As GIRFEC is at the core of effective integrated children's services decision making should put the child at the centre rather than at a regional level.

Question 11

What factors should be considered when establishing new educational regions?

Comments

If there is agreement to proceed towards a regional model then the range and scope of duties placed on these bodies and how these relate to duties on schools and local authorities must be specified clearly. Currently the employer is the local authority. Should this position change there are significant implications for the relationship between regions and individual schools. Consideration needs to be given as to where responsibility for areas such as school estate, planning, home to school transport, legal, HR and administrative support should reside. Currently these lie with local authorities with head teachers having little appetite to change this as it removes them from their prime purpose as leaders of learning. The commissioning of such services by individual schools could lead to an increase in workload and bureaucracy.

Significant concern has been raised about the sense of remoteness that could be evident upon the creation of bodies which could be perceived to be some distance from the delivery of service by teachers, parents and local children's services planning.

Question 12

What services or support functions should be delivered at a national level?

Comments

National bodies provide a consistent approach to the delivery of a range of services which do not vary dependent on local circumstances. These bodies are valued highly and need to ensure they are responsive to local needs within the national context.

External scrutiny and validation could be best retained at a national level but organised in a regional structure. This provides consistency across the whole system and ensures public transparency as to the quality of the system as a whole.

The current qualifications provider is best placed to ensure appropriate provision is in place at a national level.

Question 13

How should governance support teacher education and professional learning in order to build the professional capacity we need?

Comments

Professional learning is based on the relationship between the employer and the individual employee. The employer has a duty to ensure they support the workforce and the employee the responsibility to ensure they have the correct skills for the job. Whilst agencies such as Education Scotland and SCEL can support such learning the responsibility cannot lie there.

The professional autonomy of individual teachers is best supported at a school level with the opportunity to access professional learning opportunities from a range of sources being the norm.

Question 14

Should the funding formula for schools be guided by the principles that it should support excellence and equity, be fair, simple, transparent, predictable and deliver value for money? Should other principles be used to inform the design of the formula?

Comments

Funding should be transparent and based on the needs of children and families in the community. It should take into account significant local contexts such as poverty and rurality. The proposal to ensure a fair and transparent funding model is a welcome change from the current model where deprivation is not given sufficient priority.

The principle of accountability at local level should be included as a foundation of the formula.

Any model needs to cover the full cost of delivering education and not just the obvious elements such as teachers salaries. The nature of educational provision within the context of a local authority requires a broad range of services to be in place to support learning. School estate management, facilities management, administrative support, and a broad range of other services are all required to ensure teachers can play their own part.

Such a model would be welcomed as it would remove the need for input measures such as the aggregation of teacher numbers or pupil teacher ratio.

Question 15

What further controls over funding should be devolved to school level?

Comments

Devolving control of any funding to schools must be meaningful. There is no value in devolving a budget if the school has no ability to vary how that budget is utilised. For example, a number of areas such as home to school transport are based on statutory minima. A school could not vary provision outwith this. Although large schools are often in a position to be able to vire across budgets in order to make local decisions this is far more limited in small schools. The smaller of schools require the support of the local authority in many circumstances where devolved budgets fail to meet need. For example, a long term absence has a far more significant impact on a small school than on a large one. There is also a significant concern that additional resources without additional managerial and other capacities in schools could lead to unrealistic demands being placed on schools in the management of these resources.

Question 16

How could the accountability arrangements for education be improved?

Comments

It is agreed that schools should primarily be accountable to parents and their local communities. This is already the case. Parent councils provide a focus for engagement between schools and parents on a formal basis. Local authorities are led by elected members who are directly accountable to their communities. Further clarification would be helpful in identifying how such levels of accountability would be improved by the proposals as outlined in their current form. In fact, many have commented that the creation of education regions could have the effect of reducing and distancing accountability from the communities schools serve.

It is occasionally perceived that the burden of scrutiny comes in too many differing forms as outlined in the report. Whilst it is acknowledged that external scrutiny is very important it would be helpful if this could be more streamlined with fewer separate bodies involved in the process.

Question 17

Is there anything else you would like to add regarding the governance of education in Scotland?

Comments

The proposals outlined do not explicitly set out how its plans would promote equity and excellence. Before any changes are implemented it will be important to set out explicitly how additional powers and education regions will enable the government to achieve this aim.

It is unclear what the expected outcomes of this review will be and how it will relate in practice to improving outcomes for our children. Parents in particular felt that the report was overly complex, did not use accessible language and lacked an understanding of the work that they already do in supporting their local school.

Local authorities provide strategic direction, local accountability, ensure school improvement, support and challenge for schools. In an environment where there is significant financial constraint they ensure efficient and effective delivery of education whilst empowering head teachers, teachers, parents, children and others to make decisions about their learning which are appropriate. Schools work effectively when the work is part of an integrated children's service model that places GIRFEC at its heart. Should there be a change to the governance of schools there needs to be clarity as to how the current arrangements would be improved to meet the needs of children and their families.



To: Council
On: 15 December 2016

Report by: Director of Development and Housing Services

Heading: Paisley Town Centre Regeneration (Learning and Cultural Centre)

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Paisley Heritage Asset Strategy which was approved in January 2014 set out an ambitious vision for Paisley including the development of a signature museum project of national status, developing opportunities to improve the visitor offer and rebrand Paisley as a visitor destination, providing employment and regeneration opportunities. The Paisley Museum redevelopment is the flagship project of the strategy and linked to this is the relocation of the existing Paisley Library to a new location in the High Street.
- 1.2 The Economy and Jobs Policy Board on 18 November 2015 approved an allocation of £2.7million from approved regeneration funds toward the relocation of the library as part of the wider museum regeneration project.
- 1.3 The existing library attracts a large number of visits per year (131,000) and provides a space for a broad spectrum of local residents to browse and borrow books and take part in activities. The relocation of the library will enable the current service to be enhanced and, will facilitate a growth in activities for children and young people, and will provide a fully modern and accessible facility. The High Street location provides the additional benefit of bringing back into use a vacant property and will fulfil one of the aims of the Regeneration Strategy by encouraging additional footfall with potential positive benefits for local traders.
- 1.4 Following the purchase of 22/22a High Street in June 2016 work has been undertaken to examine options for refurbishment of the property to make it suitable to house the new Learning and Cultural Centre. In the course of this work a number of options have been considered the estimated cost of which range from £2.6 million to £5.1 million, depending on the extent of refurbishment or rebuild involved. The recommended optimal solution retains the existing facade at the upper levels with a complete new build behind at an estimated cost of £5 million.

- 1.5 This report sets out the options available to members and recommends that option 4 be approved as the preferred solution, subject to the outcome of the current bid for Regeneration Capital Grant Funding.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council:-
- i. Approve option 4, as the preferred option for the new learning and cultural centre.
 - ii. Subject to the outcome of the Regeneration Capital Grant Funding application, agree to allocate an additional £800,000 capital resources towards the cost of the project, funded from secured capital receipts.
 - iii. Agree that officers will take forward the commissioning of detailed studies and surveys of the building at 22 High Street which would be required regardless of which option proceeds.
 - iv. Agree that should the Scottish Government RCGF funding application be unsuccessful the matter will be brought back for member's further consideration.

3. Background

- 3.1 Paisley and its town centre is vital to the economic and social performance of all of Renfrewshire. The Paisley Heritage Asset Strategy which was approved in January 2014 sets out an ambitious vision for Paisley including the development of a signature museum project of national status, developing opportunities to improve the visitor offer and rebrand Paisley as a visitor destination, providing employment and regeneration opportunities. The Strategy highlights the potential to significantly improve the performance of Paisley's tourism economy. The Paisley Museum redevelopment is the flagship project of the regeneration strategy, and linked to this is the relocation of the existing Paisley Library to a new location in the High Street.
- 3.2 The Economy & Jobs Board of 18 November 2015 agreed to allocate funding of £2.7m toward the redevelopment of Paisley Central Library. In keeping with the aims of the regeneration strategy, a town centre location was sought and the property at 22/22a High Street Paisley was identified as a suitable location, to accommodate the new Learning and Cultural Hub. The purchase was concluded in June 2016. The relocation of the library will enable the current service to be enhanced and, will facilitate a growth in activities for children and young people, and will provide a fully modern and accessible facility. The High Street location provides the additional benefit of bringing back into use a vacant property and will fulfil one of the aims of the Regeneration Strategy by encouraging additional footfall with potential positive benefits for local traders.
- 3.3 Following the purchase of the property work was undertaken to investigate options to make it suitable to house the Learning and Cultural Centre. A design options appraisal was completed. This has presented four potential development opportunities:

- Option 1, minimal intervention Estimated £2.6million
- Option 2, major refurbishment Estimated £4.0million
- Option 3, complete demolition and new build Estimated £5.1million
- Option 4, retention of existing façade at upper floors Estimated £5.0million

3.4 Option 1: The structure is retained to the ground and first floors, and where possible on the second floor. No use is made of basement or third floor. The building envelope is brought up to contemporary insulation standards and all services renewed. While this option can be delivered within the funding currently set aside, the building layout limits natural light, and the space available would be less than currently provided within the existing library.

Option 2: This option would make use of all floors and involves a major remodelling of the upper floors; this would bring natural light into the depth of the plan, and create additional display space. This meets the requirements of the brief. However, the rear emergency exit route although compliant is sub optimal.

Option 3: is based on a demolition and new build. This would make full use of the available space, and bring natural light into the building. It would provide space for display of all items, as a purpose built facility it would deliver fully on the brief and requirements, but would require demolition of the historic building frontage.

Option 4: provides all the benefits of a new build development together with the retention of the historic building frontage. This is considered the most appropriate development particularly due to the historic value of the upper level facade within the Conservation Area and adjacent to a number of listed buildings.

4. **Scottish Government Grant**

- 4.1 The Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) opened to applicants in early 2016. This fund supports locally developed regeneration projects that involve local communities and build local capacity.
- 4.2 The Council was successful in its application to the first stage of the (RCGF) 2017/18 programme, seeking £1.5million towards the Learning and Cultural Centre project. The original RCGF programme would have seen the Council submit a second stage application in the Autumn of 2016 with the outcome known in November 2016. A change to the RCGF programme resulted in the second stage application being submitted in November, with the outcome now due in February 2017.
- 4.3 Subject to approval of members of option 4, should the Council secure RCGF grant, the funding gap to deliver this option will be approximately £800,000. If

the Council is unsuccessful and fails to secure RCGF grant, then officers will submit a further report to members for consideration.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The Council and its partners are committed to delivering a Learning and Cultural Hub in Paisley High Street as part of the ongoing regeneration of Paisley Town Centre. This project is a key milestone of the associated Paisley Museum Redevelopment, the flagship project of the Paisley Town Centre Heritage Asset Strategy.
 - 5.2 The Council is currently in the process of commissioning a series of more detailed studies and surveys of the building at 22 High Street which will allow a more accurate determination of anticipated project costs and help refine the design brief for the building.
 - 5.3 The ongoing survey and initial work is required regardless of the final design agreed, and therefore this work will continue while the decision on RCGF funding is outstanding.
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – Existing agreed funding for this project utilises approved Council budgets for the implementation of the Paisley Town Centre Heritage Asset Strategy, approved by Council in February 2014 and February 2015. Financial monitoring of this budget is undertaken by the Paisley Regeneration Programme Board. Grants awarded to the Council supplement this budget and will be monitored in accordance with the terms and conditions of grant. The £800,000 additional funding required will be allocated from available capital resources and secured capital receipts.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – The Learning and Cultural Hub, once implemented, will be operated and run by Renfrewshire Leisure. They will determine the HR and OD specification for the operation in due course.
3. **Community Planning –**
Community Care, Health & Well-being - The delivery of actions within the Heritage Asset Strategy have the potential to positively impact on physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing.
Jobs and the Economy – The Learning and Cultural Hub project will contribute to meeting the outcomes of the Community Plan to;
 - Be one of the best locations in Scotland to invest, in terms of its people, businesses and local communities.
 - Have a growing local economy creating employment for a well trained, qualified and motivated workforce where unemployment is reduced and employment opportunities are growing.
 - Have attractive environments and successful town centres created through successful area regeneration that contribute positively to local community and economic growth

Safer and Stronger - Implementing the Learning and Cultural Hub project will assist Renfrewshire citizens to have a positive attitude to their community.

4. **Legal** – None
5. **Property/Assets** – The Council now own the property identified for the new Hub at 22 High Street, Paisley.
6. **Information Technology** - None
7. **Equality & Human Rights**
The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety** – None
9. **Procurement** – None
10. **Risk** – In compliance with potential Scottish Government grant terms and in accordance with the Council's Project Management Framework, the Learning and Cultural Hub project will actively monitor key risks, budgets and issues associated with project delivery.
11. **Privacy Impact** - None

List of Background Papers

- (a) Report to Planning and Property Board: 15th March 2016 'Paisley Library Relocation'
- (b) Economy and Jobs Board: 18th November 2015 'Paisley Heritage Asset Strategy: Progress Report 4'

Author: Alasdair Morrison, Head of Regeneration
Tel: 0141 618 4664, email: alsadair.morrison@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk



To: Council

On: 15 December 2016

Report by: Lead Officer

Heading: Review of Ward 15 (Children's Ward) Royal Alexandra Hospital

1. Summary

- 1.1 As part of the annual programme of activity in 2015/16 the Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board agreed to undertake a review of Ward 15 (Children's Ward) at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.
- 1.2 At the meeting of the Board held on 28th November, 2016 the Board approved the attached report and agreed that it be submitted to the Council for its consideration.
- 1.3 The scope of the review focussed on gathering information from parents and service users; consulting with colleagues at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde; carrying out an online consultation; analysing data on travel times to Ward 15 and the Queen Elizabeth University hospital; and providing updates on the recent decisions taken by the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Board.
- 1.4 The report summarises the evidence and findings presented to the Board and makes a number of recommendations.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council considers the final report approved by the Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board.
- 2.2 That the Council's thanks be conveyed to those who participated in the review.

Implications of this report

1. **Financial Implications – none.**
2. **HR and Organisational Development Implications – none.**
3. **Community Plan/Council Plan Implications – none.**
4. **Legal implications – none.**
5. **Property and Assets implications – none.**
6. **Information Technology implications – none.**
7. **Equal & Human Rights implications –** The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health and Safety implications – none.**
9. **Procurement implications – none.**
10. **Risk implications – none.**
11. **Privacy impact – none.**

Author: Colin Grainger, Service Planning and Policy Development Manager

Tel: 0141 618 7199

Email: colin.grainger@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk

List of background papers: None

To: Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board

On: 28 November 2016

Report by: Lead Officer

Heading: Review of Ward 15 (Children's Ward) Royal Alexandra Hospital

3. Summary

- 1.1 As part of the annual programme of activity in 2015/16 the Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board agreed to undertake a review of Ward 15 (Children's Ward) at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

Purpose of the review

- 1.2 The purpose of the review was to provide an evidence-based analysis of the current provision at Ward 15 within the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley and to inform the Council's position on any NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde consultation on the future of the Ward.

Scope of the review

- 1.3 To undertake the review the Audit, Petitions and Scrutiny Board tasked the Lead Officer to:
- Gather testimonials from patients and parents of service users of Ward 15;
 - Consult and gather information from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde in terms of previous consultation and option appraisal exercises;
 - Provide information on travel times and associated costs for families and patients travelling to both Ward 15 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow;
 - Carry out public consultation in respect of the review;
 - Invite the Leader of the Council to attend a meeting of the Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board; and
 - Provide updates on any subsequent decisions taken by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde as it relates to Ward 15.

Findings of the Review

- 1.4 The findings of this review have been informed by information provided by and discussion with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, the witnesses who attended the Board meeting in January 2016 and by those individuals who responded to the online survey carried out between April and June 2016.
- 1.5 In summary, the findings of this review are:
- Local parents and carers highlighted the ‘first class service and level of care provided by staff at Ward 15’ and raised concerns relating to transport difficulties they had experienced when attending at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, particularly in terms of the complexity of bus routes, the distance and time spent travelling as well as the cost incurred;
 - Claims for the reimbursement of travel expenses are available to patients providing they meet certain criteria;
 - Analysis of average drive times from locations in Renfrewshire to both hospitals highlighted that nearly 90% of residents in Renfrewshire had shorter car journey times travelling to the Royal Alexandra Hospital than they did to the new Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow;
 - The most common themes arising from the online consultation were that there was a need for local services to be kept local, local families required the services; and that services provided at Ward 15 were seen as invaluable to the hospital and to the people of Renfrewshire and surrounding villages and towns;
 - The preferred option for transferring services from Ward 15 to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, agreed in 2012, remains the preferred option for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde in 2016;
 - The NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Board has proposed that inpatient and day case care should move from the Royal Alexandra Hospital to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital;
 - Children’s services would continue to be provided at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in terms of outpatient clinics, with A&E continuing to receive paediatric patients who self-present, and the Specialist Community Paediatric services (PANDA Centre) would also be retained; and
 - A formal consultation process on the proposed changes will commence in November 2016 and conclude in February 2017.
- 2 **Background**2.1 The Royal Alexandra Hospital is situated in Paisley and serves a population of around 170,000 from a mix of rural and urban areas. Ward 15 is a children’s ward which provides paediatric in-patient services. Alongside the ward, there is an outpatient department and the PANDA Centre provides community led child development facilities including therapies. Ward 15 is currently the only remaining acute inpatient facility for children in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde out-

with the new Children's facility at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Govan, Glasgow.

- 2.2 In June 2011, the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Board agreed to explore the potential to consider the relocation of the in-patient paediatric service from Ward 15, the Royal Alexandra Hospital to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children (RHSC) at Yorkhill, Glasgow.
- 2.3 A formal consultation and engagement process, including an Options Appraisal exercise was carried out by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde in 2011/12. The preferred option arising from the consultation sessions was to maintain the current children's inpatient service at Ward 15, RAH until 2015, and then transfer inpatient services to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Govan, Glasgow.
- 2.4 Subsequently the review of Ward 15 was incorporated within NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's wider Clinical Services Review (CSR). The proposal to incorporate the preferred option into the CSR was agreed by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's Board at its meeting on the 21 February 2012.
- 2.5 At its meeting on 28 June 2016 NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's Board further considered the future of Ward 15. The Board brought forward proposals, as part of its Local Delivery Plan, to move inpatient and day case care from the Royal Alexandra Hospital to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.

3. Information Gathering – Local Testimonials

- 3.1 On 25 January 2016 the Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board heard testimonies from local parents and full-time carers, Sandra Webster and Karyn Mickle, who are members of the local campaign, Kids Need Our Ward (KNOW). Sandra and Karyn have children with complex and life threatening conditions and attended the board meeting to provide commentary and feedback as part of the review.
- 3.2 Sandra and Karyn expressed their gratitude for the 'first class service' and level of care the staff at Ward 15 had provided over the years while raising concerns about the potential closure of the ward. They highlighted transport difficulties they had experienced when attending at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, particularly in terms of the complexity of bus routes, the distance and time spent travelling as well as the cost incurred. Given the life-threatening conditions of their children, concerns were raised regarding the impact of not having a local service in Ward 15 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

4. Information Gathering - NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

- 4.1 Engagement with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has been a critical element of this review of proposals relating to Ward 15 (Children's Ward) at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. Colleagues from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde have been fully engaged in the process and were very supportive in their contribution.
- 4.2 A special meeting of the Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board was held on 23 May 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to provide members with an opportunity to

discuss, with representatives from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHS GGC), the services provided at Ward 15, currently and in the future.

- 4.3 Two representatives of NHS GGC attended the meeting; Catriona Renfrew, Director Planning and Policy and Neil Ferguson, Head of Planning (South Sector and Women and Children's Services).
- 4.4 Neil Ferguson provided the Board with a presentation on the paediatric services provided at Ward 15 and an overview of the drivers for change which informed the options appraisal exercise carried out in 2011/12.
- 4.5 The presentation was followed by a question and answer session. The key points arising from this session are noted below.
 - a) NHS GGC noted that the drivers for change identified in 2011 still remained. The Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board were informed that the preferred option of transferring inpatient services to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, would be included as part of NHS GGC's Local Delivery Plan proposals which was being considered by NHS GGC Board on 28 June.
 - b) Colleagues from NHS GGC also noted that any changes to the current service provision, arising from the Local Delivery Plan, would be preceded by a formal public consultation exercise.
 - c) Transport and travel issues were raised by Board members. Issues of concern included travel times and the cost of travel to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow from Renfrewshire as was the car parking capacity at both hospitals. In response, colleagues from NHS GGC highlighted the effort being put into public transport links at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and the opening of another multi-storey car park at the Children's Hospital. They also noted that there had been good feedback on parking provision which was seen to be better than that previously available at the Southern General.
 - d) Concerns were also raised about under representation from Renfrewshire Council residents at the consultation events in 2011. It was noted that there had been a greater representation from East Renfrewshire at the events. NHS GGC welcomed this comment and agreed to take this on board in any future consultation exercise.
 - e) Members thanked NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde representatives for the information previously submitted to the Board regarding the decision taken to include the review of Ward 15 within the wider Clinical Services Review. It was agreed that it would be useful for the Board to receive further information on the outcome of this review. Colleagues from NHS GGC agreed to provide this information.

- f) The statistical information included in the overview presentation was welcomed by the Board but it was recognised that further information should be provided to explain the detail of the charts and tables. Members sought further clarifications on information relating to the quality healthcare standards dashboard. Colleagues from NHS GGC agreed to provide a more detailed explanatory narrative to accompany the charts and tables.
- g) From the presentation it was also noted that Renfrewshire residents accounted for 60% of inpatient/daycase work at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, meaning that a proportion of patients came from outside Renfrewshire. It was agreed that colleagues from NHS GGC would provide an 'activity map' identifying where patients, attending Ward 15, came from.

4.6 Both parties agreed that the session had been helpful with colleagues from NHS GGC agreeing to provide:

- An overview of how any future consultation would be conducted;
- Additional documentation on the Clinical Services Review;
- Further information on transport links and car parking capacity;
- Detailed explanatory notes on the statistical data provided in the presentation, i.e. the Quality – Healthcare Standards Dashboard slide; and
- Activity maps identifying where the occupants of in-patient beds in Ward 15, RAH came from.

4.7 The detailed response from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to this information request can be found at Appendix 1. Colleagues from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde indicated that no further documentation was available in terms of the Clinical Services Review.

4.8 NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde also extended an invitation to members of the Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board to visit both the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and Ward 15 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley. The visits provided members with an opportunity to see, at first hand, the facilities and services provided at each hospital and to discuss provision with clinicians at both sites.

5. Information on Travel

5.1 The availability of travel subsidies for assisting parents and carers was separately requested from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. It was found that the following support was available.

5.2 Patients can claim reimbursement of their travel expenses providing they meet certain criteria:

- Patients must be in receipt of certain benefits (income support, income based job-seekers allowance, income related Employment and Support Allowance, pension credit, universal credit);
- Be referred to the hospital for an appointment;
- Provide receipts for public transport;
- Mileage is paid at 18p per mile.

5.3 Patients can claim when they attend their appointment and the claim form is completed in the Hospital cashier/ Travel office. Patients can also claim travel expenses by writing a letter and providing the necessary documentation.

5.4 Patients can also claim for an escort but only if it is deemed medically necessary. This would require a letter from the patient's GP or consultant. This also applies if a taxi is necessary as reimbursement for taxi costs is not made under routine circumstances.

6. Drive Time Analysis

6.1 Internal research was undertaken to calculate the average time it takes to travel, by car, from locations across Renfrewshire, to both the Royal Alexandra Hospital and to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow.

6.2 2011 census data zones were used to carry out the analysis. These are small-area statistical geographies which are typically made up of populations between 500 and 1,000 households. There were 225 data zones within Renfrewshire in 2011.

6.3 Output from the analysis highlighted that nearly 90% of residents in Renfrewshire had shorter car journey times travelling to the Royal Alexandra Hospital than they did to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow.

6.4 The drive time analysis also looked at the proportion of Renfrewshire residents, aged 16 or under, who lived within a:

- 5 min car journey of each hospital,
- 5-10 minute journey; and
- 10-15 minute journey.

6.5 Results showed that almost 25% of the age group lived within a 5 minute car journey of the RAH with a further 45% living within a 5–10 minute journey. This means that nearly 70% of children aged 16 or under lived within a 10 minute car journey of the RAH. Similar analysis for the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital highlighted that only 22% of children aged 16 or under lived within a 10 minute car journey.

7. Online Consultation

7.1 Individuals or groups, who wished to contribute to the review, were invited to complete an online survey which was used to capture this information. The form was made available through the Renfrewshire Council website. The survey was also highlighted via the Council's Facebook page and Twitter feed.

7.2 The survey was published on the website on 14th April 2016 and remained online until the 20th June 2016. There were 15 submitted responses. All respondents had home postcodes within the Renfrewshire area, spread across Paisley, Renfrew, Johnstone and Bridge of Weir. 14 of the respondents were Parent / Guardians and the other respondent was a service user who had been treated in Ward 15 as a child.

7.3 The most common themes arising from the responses were as follows:

- there was an expressed desire for local services to be kept local;
- local families required the services; and
- services provided at Ward 15 were seen as invaluable to the hospital and to the people of Renfrewshire and surrounding villages and towns.

7.4 In addition, respondents identified a number of specific issues relating to the review. They included:

- The ability to have local consultations at Ward 15 in the Royal Alexandra Hospital;
- Ward 15 staff were seen to be providing added value to families during difficult times;
- Respondents highlighted that having a range of services and specialties within the staff of Ward 15 meant there was no need for referrals to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital;
- Retaining services at Ward 15 was also seen to have benefits for people who had limited transport means;
- Recognition of the economic and financial constraints faced by some parents in Renfrewshire;
- Consideration of the strong links that Ward 15 had formed over many years within the community in terms of the services and jobs provided locally;
- The benefit to child recovery of having their parents / guardians living close to the hospital;
- Other respondents thought it made sense to retain the services at both Ward 15 and the new services provided at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital;
- Only one comment saw more benefits arising from the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.

8. Attendance at Board by Councillor M Macmillan

8.1 In line with an action agreed at the Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board on Monday 25 January 2016, Councillor M Macmillan attended the Board meeting on Monday 6 June 2016. At the meeting Councillor Macmillan indicated that he welcomed the opportunity to speak to the Board in terms of its review. Councillor Macmillan:

- Referred to the meeting of the Health Board in March 2012 at which the option to 'maintain the current children's inpatient service at Ward 15 RAH until 2015 and then transfer inpatient services to the new Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow' had been agreed as the preferred option;
- Anticipated that the Health Board's meeting on 28 June 2016 would consider the Health Board's local delivery plan and that this which would include this option;

- Noted that the decision on the Health Board's local delivery plan was subject to approval by the Cabinet Secretary for Health;
- Highlighted NHSGGC's £69 million budget deficit as well as the cost pressures which had led to this;
- Emphasised his commitment to improved paediatric services at the RAH and across the Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board area.

9. NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Board Decisions and Future Engagement

- 9.1 In their presentation to the Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board meeting on 23 May, colleagues from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde noted that a decision on the future of Ward 15 would be considered as part of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's Local Delivery Plan proposals and that these would be considered by their Board at its meeting on 28 June, 2016.
- 9.2 At its meeting on 28 June 2016, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's Board debated whether the Plan should or should not include the proposed service moves. Concerns were expressed by some members that they were being included when similar proposals made previously had not been supported at government level. Local councillors wished also to record the local reaction to proposals which would see services being re-located.
- 9.3 Following a vote the Board agreed that the service changes outlined in the Plan should be brought to the August 2016 Board meeting for approval to launch a process of public engagement. This was subsequently agreed at a NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Board meeting in August 2016.
- 9.4 The proposed changes would see inpatient and day case care move from the Royal Alexandra Hospital (RAH) to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital. Children's services would continue to be provided at the Royal Alexandra Hospital (RAH) as follows:
- A&E will continue to receive paediatric patients who self present;
 - Outpatient clinics will continue to be provided;
 - Specialist Community Paediatric services (PANDA Centre).
- 9.5 Services that would transfer to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital would be:
- Emergency inpatient admissions, including short stay medical assessment;
 - Elective inpatient admissions;
 - Day case activity including day surgery and planned investigations.
- 9.6 Based on NHS greater Glasgow and Clyde data from 2015/16, the impact of the proposed changes would see a total of around 8,006 episodes of care transferring to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and 12,063 continuing to be delivered at Ward 15, Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley.

Engagement

9.7 NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's approach for the engagement process has two phases:

- Establish an extensive engagement programme with all stakeholders to describe the proposed change and give visibility to all elements of the previous process, particularly the option appraisal. This process was scheduled to run from the beginning of September until mid October with a report going to the October Board for a decision on proceeding to formal public consultation;
- The formal consultation process would run from November 2016 for 3 months and would report back to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's Board in February 2017, for final decision.

9.8 At its meeting on Tuesday 18 October 2016 NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board agreed, following strong support from Board members, to proceed to formal public consultation for the transfer of inpatients and day cases from Ward 15 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital. A three month consultation process will commence in November and conclude in February 2017.

10. Conclusion

10.1 This paper concludes the Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board's review of Ward 15 (Children's Ward) at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. The information gathered during the review will allow information to be publically available to inform interest from local people, elected members and other stakeholders in relation to this current, and any further consultation, relating to Ward 15 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

Appendix 1



Renfrewshire Council
Audit, Scrutiny & Petitions Board

Ward 15, Royal Alexandra Hospital

Follow up information to session on 19 May 16

Neil Ferguson, Head of Planning
[South Sector and Women & Children's Services]

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Planned Consultation Process

Date	Activity
16 August 2016	Board decision to proceed with informing and engaging on the proposal to transfer paediatric inpatient and day case care from the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley to the Royal Hospital for Children, Govan
Early September 2016 - 4 October 2016	<p>Informing and engaging with people on the proposal, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of a Stakeholder Reference Group. The group will be made up of patients and carers or representatives from patients' and carers' groups, or community groups, that have an interest in this area. Its purpose is to advise and support NHSGGC in its approach to informing and engaging with stakeholders on the proposal • An information leaflet which is clear, easy to read and written in plain English describing engagement undertaken to date • A dedicated web page on the Board's website with details of the proposal; details of the new facilities at the RHC; and a timeline for the engagement • Use of social media to connect with, and raise awareness of the proposal among stakeholders • Press releases to local media • Dissemination of information leaflet to wider community via agencies databases • On site engagement with children, young people and their families on Ward 15 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital • Outreach to local parenting and youth groups.
18 October 2016	Report to Board describing the informing and engaging process, and what we have heard. NHS GGC Board decision on whether to proceed to formal 3 month public consultation on the proposal to transfer paediatric inpatient and day case care from the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley to the Royal Hospital for Children, Govan
November 2016 – February 2017	If the Board decides to proceed to consultation, a twelve week consultation period culminating with Board decision to accept recommendations in February.

Quality - Healthcare Standards Dashboard

Infection Control Report

NHS GG&C Infection Control team operate a regime of unannounced inspections to patient areas. This report captures the outcome of these inspections for Children's services.

The audit will be repeated within 12 months.

SICPS- Standard Infection control Procedures:

GAP- Represents the gap between the old version of this audit and the new one.

TBP- Includes audits on the management of linen and waste

Quality Improvement- Includes an audit on Peripheral Venous Cannula (PVC) and Central Venous Catheter (CVC) compliance

Infection Control :		Print Data Capture Sheet			
Thresholds		66% - 79%	80% - 90%	91% - 100%	
Re-Audit in 3 months		Re-Audit in 6 months	Re-Audit in 12 months	Re-Audit in 12 months	
Full Audits					
Hospital	Ward	SICP	GAP	TBP	Overall Score
Glasgow Royal Infirmary	Prm SCBU	90%	82%	100%	89%
Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Glasgow	Neo Icu	90%	89%	97%	91%
Royal Alexandra Hospital	Schu	93%	87%	100%	92%
Royal Alexandra Hospital		84%	81%	94%	86%
Royal Hospital for Children	Area 1C / Day Care Unit	96%	100%	100%	97%
Royal Hospital for Children	Ward 1D	89%	77%	97%	88%
Royal Hospital for Children	Ward 1E	91%	71%	100%	86%
Royal Hospital for Children	Ward 2A	94%	73%	100%	91%
Royal Hospital for Children	Ward 2C	95%	76%	97%	89%
Royal Hospital for Children	Ward 3A	86%	74%	100%	86%
Royal Hospital for Children	Ward 3B	90%	70%	100%	88%
Royal Hospital for Children	Ward 4	88%	79%	100%	87%

Quality - Healthcare Standards Dashboard

Team	Date Confirmed to Programme:	Months in Programme:	EWS	Safety Brief	SBAR Use	SBAR Quality	PVC Maint	PVC Insert	CVC Maint
R4H-15	Jan-13	40	SD	SD	SD	SD	3	E	n/a
RHC-01a	Jun-15	11	5	5	5	5	5	n/a	n/a
RHC-01c	Jan-14	28	SD	SD	SD	SD	n/a	SD	E
RHC-01e	Jan-13	40	SD	SD	SD	SD	2	n/a	E
RHC-02a	Jan-13	40	SD	SD	SD	SD	SD	n/a	5
RHC-02b	Nov-13	30	5	SD	SD	SD	n/a	SD	SD

Report relates to the **Scottish patient safety paediatric** programme work. Ward 15 were an early adopter for this work and so have been in the programme since the start which is 40 months.

EWS- Early warning scoring measures if patient observations are abnormal by collectively scoring heart rate, temperature, Blood pressure, respirations and conscious level. This data has two parts- is the score complete? Has appropriate escalation taken place? Ward 15 have evidenced a reliable process in place and so have stepped down (SD) from monthly data collection to quarterly as per SPSP national guidance.

Safety Brief- Effective employment of reliable system (SD) to ensure at every shift handover (nursing and medical) safety briefs flag any potential issues are highlighted e.g. 2 patients with same name, drug name change, child protection issue.

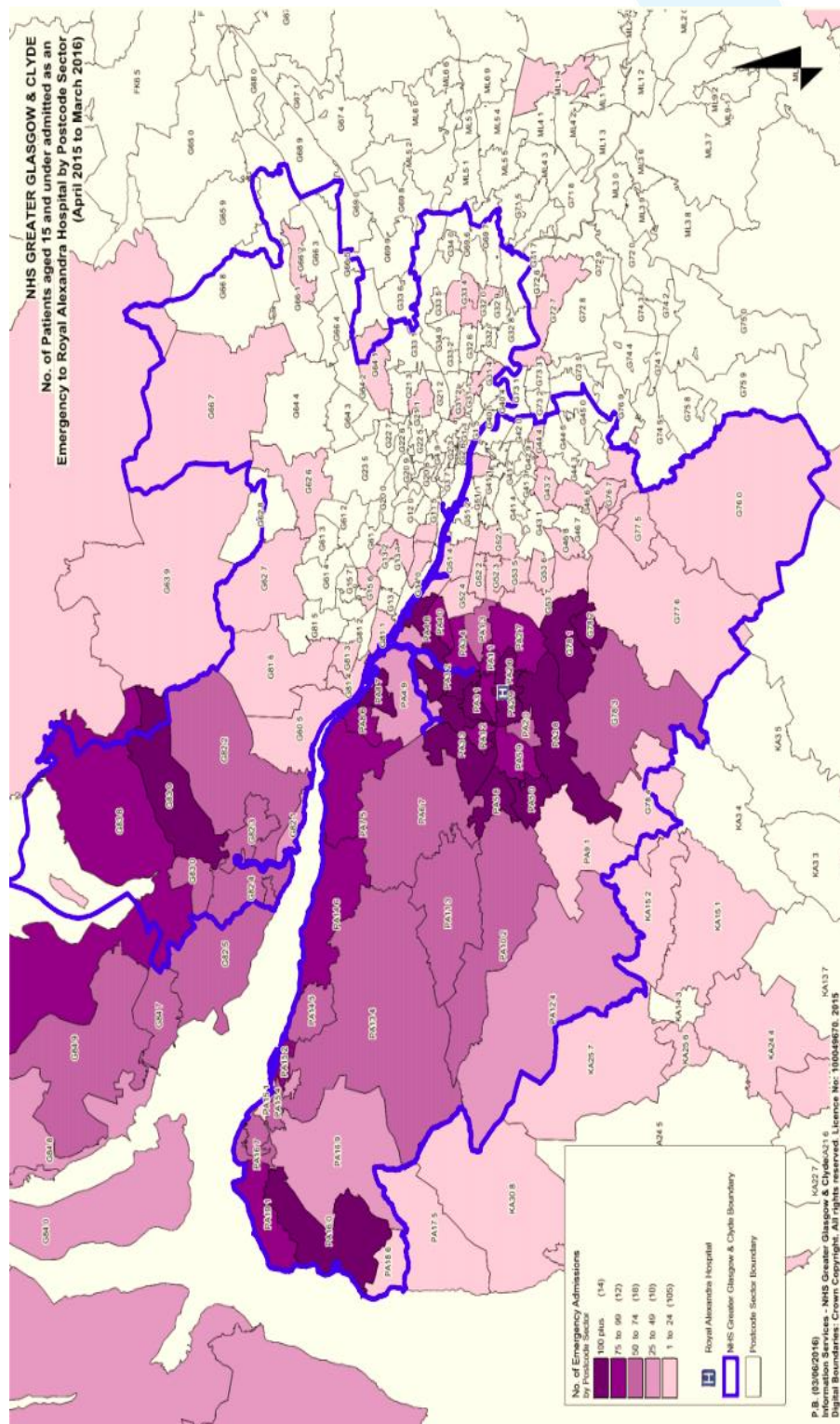
SBAR & SBAR Quality- Situation, Background, Assessment and Recommendation. Format of reporting to ensure consistent quality of information.

PVC Maintenance- Peripheral Venous Cannula Maintenance Bundle. This data is collected based on the completion of the 'pvc paperwork' and on inspection of a random sample of 20 pvc's a month. The pvc and documentation are both checked to ensure the appropriateness of the pvc remaining insitu, that it does not show signs of infection, that the dressing is clean and intact and that appropriate care is being taken when staff are accessing the pvc. Ward 15 have demonstrated >95 % capability, but not yet reliably. The team are working closely with the SPSP team to achieve reliability.

PVC Insert- Peripheral Venous Cannula Maintenance Bundle. The paperwork is currently being implemented and the team at ward 15 are engaged in this process (E)

CVC Maintenance – Central Venous Catheters. Ward 15 do not look after enough patients with cvc's to collect data on this bundle.

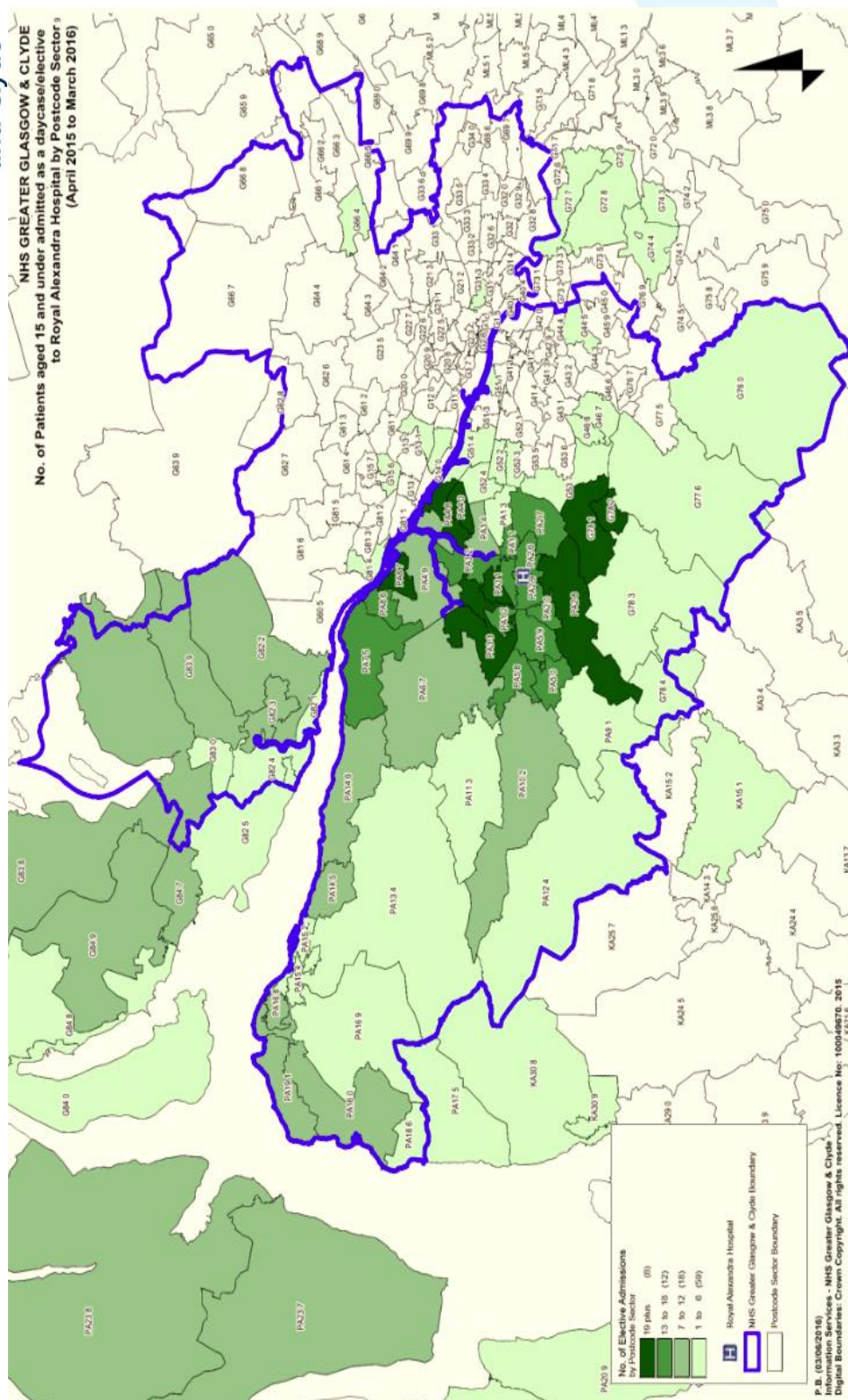
Residency by postcode of Children admitted as an emergency to RAH



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Residency by postcode of Children with a planned admission to RAH



Car Parking & Public Transport



Car Parking

The QEUH & RHC campus has patient and visitor car parking capacity for:

- 1924 (incl. 217 disabled)

The RAH has:

- 461 spaces

Bus Services to Royal Alexandra Hospital

- [McGill's Bus Service 17](#): Glasgow City Centre - Charing Cross - Sandyford - Kelvingrove (for **Yorkhill Hospital**) - Partick Bridge (for **University** of Glasgow, Western Infirmary and West End) - Partick - Thornwood Roundabout – Linthouse - **Queen Elizabeth University Hospital** - Shieldhall - Cardonald (Paisley Road West) - Crookston - Oldhall - Barshaw Park - Paisley - [**University** of the West of Scotland (Paisley Campus)] - [Ferguslie] - [Elderslie] - [Johnstone Community Sports Hub] - [Milliken Park]
- [McGill's Bus Service 21](#): [Inchinnan] - Paisley - Reid Kerr College - Abbotsinch - Dean Park - Newmains - Renfrew - Braehead Centre - Shieldhall - **Queen Elizabeth University Hospital** - Linthouse - Govan - [Inchinnan]
- [McGill's Bus Service 23A](#): Glasgow City Centre - Tradeston - Kingston (for Springfield Quay) - Pacific Quay (for Glasgow Science Centre and SECC) - Govan - Linthouse - **Queen Elizabeth University Hospital** - Shieldhall - Braehead Centre - Renfrew - Inchinnan Business Park - Red Smiddy - Park Mains - Erskine Bridgewater Centre - Rashielee - Bargarran - North Barr (commuter service)

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To: Council

On: 15 December 2016

Report by: Director of Finance and Resources

Heading: Appointments to Boards and Membership of Outside Organisations

1. Summary

1.1 Board Appointments

The Council at its meeting held on 29 September 2016 agreed to increase the membership of the six policy boards (Economy & Jobs, Education & Children, Environment, Finance & Resources, Housing & Community Safety and Planning & Property) by one additional member and that all of those additional positions be allocated to the main opposition group.

1.2 Councillor Lawson has advised that these places have been allocated as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Economy & Jobs: | Councillor Paterson |
| • Education & Children: | Councillor Andy Doig |
| • Environment: | Councillor Paterson |
| • Finance & Resources: | Councillor Paterson |
| • Housing & Community Safety: | Councillor Paterson |
| • Planning & Property: | Councillor Kenny MacLaren |

1.3 Mayors for Peace

The Council at its meeting held on 5 November 2009 agreed to become a member of Mayors for Peace, an international organisation established by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to pursue eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons and to address all issues which impact on world Peace. Mayors for Peace is a registered UN non-governmental organisation and has special consultative status with the UN.

- 1.4 There are over 7,000 members in 160 countries and activities within the United Kingdom are co-ordinated through Manchester City Council. There are no costs associated with membership. However, correspondence has been received requesting a small donation of £120 to allow the organisation to develop and to link with councils in supporting important peace-related events like Holocaust Memorial Day, International Peace Day, International Days for Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and also areas around community tolerance and cohesion. The donation would help with the development of a UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Flag Day, a Mayors for Peace local chapter website and some resource to fund meetings around the UK and Ireland.
-

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council notes the appointments of (a) Councillor Paterson to the Economy & Jobs, Environment, Finance & Resources and Housing & Community Safety Policy Boards; (b) Councillor Andy Doig to the Education & Children Policy Board; and (c) Councillor Kenny MacLaren to the Planning & Property Policy Board; and
- 2.2 That the Council considers the request for a donation of £120 from Mayors for Peace.
-

Implications of this report

- 1. Financial Implications – none**
- 2. HR and Organisational Development Implications – none**
- 3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications – none**
- 4. Legal Implications – as detailed in the report**
- 5. Property/Assets Implications – none**
- 6. Information Technology Implications – none**
- 7. Equality and Human Rights Implications**
 - (a) The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because for example it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
- 8. Health and Safety Implications – none**
- 9. Procurement Implications – none**

10. Risk Implications – none

11. Privacy Impact – none

List of Background Papers – e-mailed correspondence dated 14/7/16 from Mayors for Peace.

Author: Lilian Belshaw, Democratic Services Manager, 0141 618 7112



To: Council
On: 15 December 2016

Report by: Director of Development and Housing Services

Heading: Coats Memorial Church: Referral by the Paisley North Local Area Committee

1. Summary

1.1. At its meeting on 10 November 2016, the Paisley North Local Area Committee considered a report titled "Coats Memorial Church: Update". That report recommended that the Local Area Committee approved the retention by the Trustees of the awarded grant of £13,000 for temporary repairs to the boiler and heating system to enable the building to remain in active use.

1.2. Following consideration of the report the Local Area Committee approved an amendment which included the following :-

"The committee will refer this issue to the next full Council meeting on Thursday 15th December 2016 with a proposal that a full investigation is carried out on this application included the progress towards establishing a new community trust to own the building and options for funding the boiler replacement or repair, in part or in full, from the other council budgets such as the £1.85 million underspend from last year's council budget."

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Council:-

- i. considers the proposal put to it by the Paisley North Local Area Committee as described in this report.
-

3. Background

3.1 In May 2016, the Trustees of the Coats Memorial Church were awarded a multi-area LAC grant of £30,000 consisting of £13,000 from the Paisley North LAC, £15,000 from the Paisley South LAC and £2,000 from the Renfrew and Gallowhill LAC. The grant was awarded for repairs to the boiler which is part of the heating system for the church building.

- 3.2 Following the award of the grant, the Trustees appointed a suitably qualified specialist consultant to examine the boiler and recommend the most cost-effective solution. The outcome of the survey stated that due to the extensive works required to an old heating system of such a large scale, the cost of the works was estimated to be in the region of the £350,000 to £500,000 which was higher than expected and out with the reach of available funding.
- 3.3 As a result of the outcome of the survey, reports were submitted to each of the three Local Area Committees which had approved funding in May 2016 recommending that the grant funding be retained by the Trustees for temporary repairs to the boiler and heating system to enable the building to remain in active use.
- 3.4 The recommendation was approved by the Renfrew and Gallowhill Local Area Committee on 8 November 2016 and the Paisley South Local Area Committee on 15 November 2016.
- 3.5 However, at the Paisley North Local Area Committee on 10 November 2016 the following amendment to the recommendation in the report was submitted to the LAC and was approved.

“Amendment: replace recommendation 2.1 with the following:

2.1 It is recommended that the committee only transfers the awarded grant to the new community trust which we were informed about in the Paisley North LAC meeting of 12 May 2016, which was meant to be taking over the ownership of the building.

2.2 If the new community trust is not established the grant should be returned to the committee to be re-allocated to any suitable community groups seeking funding.

2.3 The committee will refer this issue to the next full council meeting on Thursday 15th December 2016 with a proposal that a full investigation is carried out on this application including the progress towards a new community trust to own the building and options for funding the boiler replacement or repair, in part or in full, from other council budgets such as the £1.85million underspend from last year’s council budget.”

- 3.6 In view of the decision of the Paisley North Local Area Committee, the Council is asked to consider the proposal set out in paragraph 3.5 above.
- 3.7 In terms of the future use and ownership of the building, initial discussions with the Princes Regeneration Trust and Scottish Redundant Churches Trust have not yet identified a definitive way forward and neither organisation has indicated an interest to take ownership. The Trustees of the church are in discussion with their legal advisor and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) to identify potential opportunities for the formation of a new organisation to take responsibility and ownership of the building. These discussions are ongoing.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – The LAC contributions to the project are from approved budgets
 2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
 3. **Community Planning – Community Care, Health & Well-being** - the project will help promote health and well being by making the space safer and more accessible for community use.
Empowering our Communities: this is a community led project
 4. **Legal** – None
 5. **Property/Assets** – None
 6. **Information Technology** - None
 7. **Equality & Human Rights**
The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report as this is a project that will benefit the public in general with no exclusions likely
 8. **Health & Safety** – None
 9. **Procurement** – None
 10. **Risk** – None
 11. **Privacy Impact** - None
-

List of Background Papers

- (a) Report to Renfrew and Gallowhill LAC: 8th November 2016 'Coats Memorial Church: Update'
 - (b) Report to Paisley North LAC: 10th November 2016 'Coats Memorial Church: Update'
 - (c) Report to Paisley South LAC: 15th November 2016 'Coats Memorial Church: Update'
-

Author: Alasdair Morrison, Head of Regeneration
Tel: 0141 618 4664, email: alsadair.morrison@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk



To: Council

On: 15 December 2016

Report by: The Chief Executive

Heading: Contract Authorisation Report - Public Access WiFi

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to seek the approval of Council to authorise The Head of Corporate Governance to conclude the award of a single source Framework Agreement for the Public Access WiFi, tender reference RC-FA-130-16.
 - 1.2 The procurement exercise was conducted in accordance with the above EU Threshold Open Procedure for Services and the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts.
 - 1.3 A contract strategy document was approved by the Strategic Commercial Procurement Manager (as delegated by the Head of Policy and Commissioning) and the Head of ICT on the 15th September 2016.
-

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council:
 - a) Authorise the Head of Corporate Governance to conclude on behalf of Renfrewshire Council and all other Framework Agreement Public Bodies and, subject to disclosure of insurance document all to the satisfaction of the Council, the award of the single source Framework Agreement for the Public Access WiFi, tender reference RC-FA-130-16 to Boston Networks Limited;

- b) note the Framework Agreement duration is 4 years from the Commencement Date, which will be specified in the letter of award, and
 - c) note the ceiling value of Call Off Contracts made under this Framework Agreement by all participating Public Bodies is £6,000,000 ex VAT.
-

3. Background

- 3.1 Renfrewshire Council has a requirement for a secure access Public WiFi platform to be provided within Paisley, Renfrew and Johnston town centres. In addition, a number of Council public buildings are in scope for public Wi-Fi provision including buildings that already have a public Wi-Fi service and new buildings to be enabled with the new service.
- 3.2 This requirement will support delivery of the Renfrewshire Council Digital Strategy, which has the vision “In a Digital Renfrewshire we will make sure that everybody has the opportunity to reach their digital potential and maximise the wider economic, educational, health, social and cultural benefits for all”. Digital Participation is a key driver of this strategy, which was informed by input from over 40 different representatives from the public, private and third sector, and local academic institutions.
- 3.3 Having access to the internet is an essential component of 21st century life and is often referred to as the ‘fourth utility’, but it is estimated that a fifth of UK households do not have basic internet services in their home. This rises to more than a third of households in the lowest socioeconomic groups and to nearly 70% of households aged over 75. Research reveals that those who can benefit the most from technology are those most likely to be digitally excluded and already facing social inequality. Data from GoOnUk, the leading UK Digital Skills Charity, indicates that Renfrewshire has a high likelihood of digital exclusion.
- 3.4 Lack of affordable access to the internet was one of the key barriers to digital participation for those on low incomes identified through the Council’s Tackling Poverty programme. The provision of an easy to use and free of charge Public Wifi service in key locations across Renfrewshire is seen as an important mechanism of reducing this barrier.
- 3.5 The procurement process and specification for the service included for the inclusion of various partner public bodies, namely Renfrewshire Leisure, University of West of Scotland, West College Scotland and Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board (within the Renfrewshire area). This enables them to utilise the framework for their own requirements and provide access to the Renfrewshire free public wifi service within their premises. This creates the opportunity for the public to benefit from the same free public wifi service across a wide range of indoor and outdoor public realm locations across Renfrewshire. The public wifi service will also extend access to the “Eduroam” service used by staff and students at the University of the West of Scotland and West College Scotland across all public buildings and outdoor areas covered by the new service, greatly benefiting the educational experience of their students.

- 3.6 To allow for this provision, a procurement exercise was undertaken on behalf of the Council and the all Framework Agreement Public Bodies. This exercise was conducted in accordance with Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts for above EU Threshold Open Procedure for Services and the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016. A contract notice advertising the opportunity was dispatched to the Public Contracts Scotland portal on 19th September 2016 and published on the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) on 20th September 2016. Tender documentation was available for immediate download through the online e-tender system.
- 3.7 Forty five (45) suppliers noted an interest of which seven (7) tender submissions were received by the closing date for the receipt of tender submissions at noon, on 3rd November 2016.
- 3.8 The seven (7) tender submissions were evaluated against a pre-determined set of criteria in the form of the European Single Procurement Document (ESPD) by representatives from the Corporate Procurement Unit and Health and Safety against pre-determined criteria which assessed competence and expertise. Three (3) of the seven (7) submissions failed to meet the minimum requirements with four (4) submissions moving on to Award Evaluation.
- 3.9 The four (4) successful tender submissions were then evaluated against a set of award criteria which was based on a quality / price ratio of 60% / 40%. The scores relative to the award criteria of the tenderer are as follows:

Tenderer Name	Quality Score (60%)	Price Score (40%)	Total Score (100%)
Boston Networks Limited	47.15	37.67	84.82
AWTG Limited	39.13	40.00	79.13
PinacI Solutions UK Limited	41.05	32.37	73.42
Virgin Media Business Limited	45.40	23.50	68.90

- 3.10 It is recommended that the Single Source Framework Agreement is awarded to Boston Networks Limited who has provided the most economically advantageous tender.
- 3.11 The Council requirements will be subject to a separate call off contract and the cost for this call off contract will be met from current capital and revenue budgets.
- 3.12 Boston Networks Limited have committed to delivery of the following community benefits as a result of delivery of this Framework:

Outcomes/Activity	No of People/Activity
New Entrants	
Modern Apprenticeships Boston Networks would propose to engage with Invest in Renfrewshire and Skills Development Scotland to identify two potential candidates to undertake a Wireless Engineer Modern Apprenticeship. The modern apprentices would gain a formal qualification and work side by side with a team of experienced engineers to learn and develop on the job skills.	2
Graduates We propose to employ a Project Management graduate from the University of the West of Scotland to undertake a Project Coordinator role. As a member of the Association for Project Management (APM), which the University of West of Scotland Project Management Course is aligned with, we would be well placed to help a graduate to carve out a successful career	1
Jobs (Unemployed) Boston Networks is headquartered in Renfrew and has numerous customers in and around the area. This would allow us to employ a minimum of one new entrant over the course of the contract. We would propose to engage with local organisations, such as Invest in Renfrewshire or Skills Development Scotland, to utilise their recruitment services to encourage school leavers or unemployed young people to apply.	1
Education Support Initiatives	
Workplace Visits We would organise 8 visits to give unemployed young people/students the opportunity to visit our headquarters in Renfrew, where we would help them to understand and develop employability skills. Working with Invest in Renfrewshire and Curriculum for Excellence, we would tailor the visits to help maximise their understanding of what is expected in a workplace.	8
Supply Chain Development Activity	
Supply Chain Briefings with SME's	1
Business Support Social Enterprises, Supported Businesses, Third Sector Organisations	1
S/NVQ Training	
S/NVQ's or equivalent for Existing Employees Existing employees will also have the opportunity to undertake S/NVQ's to support their development or to extend their existing skills.	10
S/NVQ's or equivalent for New Entrants As part of the contract we would offer S/NVQ's to new entrants to help develop job related skills.	3
Community Projects	
Non financial support for a community project Boston Networks would work with its technology partners to obtain decommissioned equipment which could then be redeployed into local community plan projects.	1
Other CSR Project outcomes (details must be provided) Each year we would offer 20 employee days, to volunteer during working hours, on activities to improve and add value to the local Renfrewshire community, Social Enterprises or Charities.	1

Implications of the Report

1. Financial

Financial costs in respect of this Framework will be met from the approved capital and revenue budgets of each partner organisation listed within the Framework.

2. HR and Organisational Development

None.

3. Community Planning

The provision of the Renfrewshire free public wifi service will support the delivery of a number of community planning objectives and promotes collaborative working between the Council and a number of community planning partners.

4. Legal

The procurement exercise was tendered in accordance with Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts for Above EU Threshold Open Procedure (Supplies and Services) and the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016.

5. Property

All property and assets aspects have been discussed, agreed and noted by the Council's Community Recourses Service.

6. Information Technology

The implementation of a Public Access WiFi provision is aligned with the strategic direction of ICT in the Council and the Council's digital strategy.

7. Equality & Human Rights

The provision of the Renfrewshire free Public Access WiFi service will reduce barriers to digital participation for those on low income within Renfrewshire.

8. Health and Safety

None

9. Procurement

The procurement procedures outlined within this report shall ensure that the Council meets its statutory requirements in respect of procurement.

10. Risk

Implementing a provision of the scale of a Public Access WiFi has inherent risks which will be closely managed through robust project and programme governance. Insurable risks have been addressed by way of the supplier's insurances arrangements having been evaluated by the council's Risk and

Insurance section as part of the tender evaluation process.

11. Privacy Impact

The Public Access Wifi service will be delivered in accordance with data protection legislation following initial discussion with the Council's Information Governance team and formal assessment will be carried out prior to award.

List of background papers

1. **None**
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Author: *Craig Laughlan, Strategic Commercial Category Manager ICT services, 0141 618 7047.*

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Application No: 16/0594/PP

DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING SERVICES
RECOMMENDATION ON PLANNING APPLICATION

Regd: 26/08/2016

Applicant**Agent**

EPIC Ltd / Elderslie Estates and Hallam
Land Management
Corunna House
39 Cadogan Street
Glasgow
G2 7AB

Lambert Smith Hampton
33 Bothwell Street
Glasgow
G2 6NL

Nature of proposals:

Erection of residential development (in principle).

Site:

Site between Dunvegan Avenue and Gleniffer House, Glenpatrick Road, Elderslie, Johnstone

Application for:

Planning Permission in Principle

Introduction

This application was the subject of a Pre-Determination Hearing in line with the requirements set out in Section 38A of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 and the related Development Management Regulations.

Section 14(2) of the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 requires that where an application has been subject of a Pre Determination Hearing under Section 38A, then the application must thereafter be referred to the Full Council for determination.

The Pre Determination Hearing took place at the Planning and Property Policy Board on 08 November 2016.

The issues raised at the Pre Determination Hearing and through objection have been summarised in this report under the section 'Objections/Representations' and have been fully considered in the assessment of the application.

Description

Planning permission is sought, in principle, for the erection of a residential development on an area of agricultural land located within the greenbelt to the south of Elderslie. The application site extends to approximately 14 hectares and is located to the south of land accessed from Abbey Road, Elderslie, at its boundary with the green belt. This adjoining area of land is currently under consideration by the Scottish Government's Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA) on appeal against refusal of planning permission for a residential development. To the north east and north west lies residential development and surrounding the site on all other boundaries is green belt land.

As the application is in principle only, no details of the proposed residential layout have been provided. Within the applicant's Design and Access Statement, accompanying the application, however, an indicative road layout, open space and landscaping provision are demonstrated. This document also states that the development could accommodate 200 units, with access arrangements proposed from Abbey Road, (through the development, currently under consideration by the DPEA) and from two additional openings off Glenpatrick Road.

History

15/0434/NO - Site between Dunvegan Avenue and Gleniffer House, Glenpatrick Road, Elderslie, Johnstone. Proposal of Application Notice accepted June 2015.

Policy & Material Considerations

Scottish Planning Policy

Scottish Planning Policy highlights the primacy of the Development Plan. The extant Development Plan is the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan 2012, Clydeplan's Strategic Development Plan Proposed Plan (2016) and the Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan 2014 as detailed below with relevant policies identified.

Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan 2012

Strategy Support Measure 1: Delivering the Spatial Development Priorities
 Strategy Support Measure 8: Green Infrastructure: An Economic Necessity
 Strategy Support Measure 10: Housing Development and Local Flexibility
 Diagram 3: Spatial Development Strategy and Indicative Compatible Development
 Diagram 4: Sustainable location assessment

Clydeplan's - Strategic Development Plan Proposed Plan (2016)

The Proposed SDP is a material consideration as it is the settled view of the Clydeplan Authority.

Policy 1: Placemaking
 Policy 7: Joint Action Towards the Delivery of New Homes
 Policy 8: Housing Land Requirement
 Policy 14: Green Belt
 Policy 16: Managing Flood Risk and Drainage
 Policy 18: Strategic Walking and Cycling Network
 Table 1: Placemaking Principles
 Schedule 14: Strategic Scales of Development
 Diagram 11: Assessment of Development Proposals

Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan 2014

Policy ENV1: Green Belt
 Policy P2: Housing Land Supply
 Policy I5: Flooding and Drainage

New Development Supplementary Guidance

Delivering the Environment Strategy: Green Belt; Housing in the Green Belt; Contaminated Land
 Delivering the Places Strategy: Places Development Criteria
 Delivering the Infrastructure Strategy: Flooding and Drainage and Infrastructure Development Criteria

Material considerations

Renfrewshire's Housing Land Supply Supplementary Guidance 2015 requires to be considered in addressing the Council's shortfall in housing land supply. The replacement Renfrewshire Local Development Plan will set out a framework for new and appropriate housing sites for meeting housing need and demand in Renfrewshire.

Planning legislation requires that planning decisions are made in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In this case the proposal requires to be considered against the policies and guidance set out above, the supporting information submitted, the comments of the consultees, any objections received and any other relevant material considerations.

Publicity

The application was advertised in the Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette on 14 September 2016, with a deadline for representations to be received of 07 October 2016.

Objections/Representations

One hundred and three letters of representation have been received (one in support of the development), the substance of which can be summarised as follows:-

1. The application should be rejected as the site is within the Green Belt and there are brownfield and gap sites available which could be developed.
2. Planning application 15/0470/PP (for the adjacent site) was refused on the grounds of increased traffic and the detrimental effects on road safety. The same or worse conditions would be generated by this larger development.
3. The proposal would result in a considerable increase in the risk of flooding to adjoining properties on Glenpatrick Road as the field acts as a floodplain in the winter months.
4. The development will overlook and overshadow properties on Glenpatrick Road resulting in a loss of privacy and a breach of human rights.
5. Local amenities will not cope with the increased demand on them that this development would bring, including schools, and there is concern whether children would be safe in the play park close to the development.
6. The land is well used farmland, also used for walking, with the proposals resulting in a loss of this type of available land. In addition, the Abbey Road field will be cut off making it useless and inaccessible.
7. Development of this land would result in a loss of views and reduction in value of property.
8. There are mine workings below the entire area which resulted in previous developers abandoning plans.
9. The proposals would have a significant impact on wildlife and trees and it is assumed an Environmental Risk Assessment has been carried out.
10. Development would create noise, disturbance and pollution due to construction works and traffic.
11. Granting permission will increase the likelihood of further development of this kind in the future at the expense of the green belt and would result in Elderslie losing its village feel with it becoming an extension of Johnstone.
12. Johnstone is already experiencing poor air quality, with this development increasing pollution.
13. Not aware of any consultation in relation to this development prior to submission of this application. In addition, it can only be assumed that the lack of information given to the local community about this proposal was a deliberate omission on the part of the Council and despite living within 20 metres of the application site boundary no neighbour notification has been received.
14. Weight associated with the volume of traffic using the site will cause structural damage to existing properties.
15. Residential development will help Elderslie and the community as a whole.

Consultations

The Director of Community Resources (Roads) – Has raised a number of concerns which require to be addressed and recommends deferral on a decision being taken on the application at this time due to an incomplete Transport Assessment having been submitted.

The Director of Community Resources (Environmental Services) - No objections, subject to the submission of a site investigation report, remediation strategy/method statement and a verification report.

The Director of Community Resources (Design Services) - The Flood Risk Assessment is suitable and sufficient, with recommendations contained within to form the basis of any future full or Approval of

Matters Specified in Conditions (AMSC) application. In relation to the Drainage Report, incorrect information has been used to calculate site surface water runoff and storage, surface water flows to cater for climate change and urban creep.

West of Scotland Archaeology Service - No objections, subject to a condition requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prior to the commencement of any development on site.

The Coal Authority - No objections subject to conditions requiring the submission of a scheme of intrusive investigations, identification of zones of influence for the mine entry and definition of 'no-build' zones; and a scheme of remedial works for the shallow coal workings.

The Director of Education and Leisure - Proposal would impact upon St Anthony's and Wallace Primary Schools and if approved would result in an increase in pupil roll beyond operational capacity to the detriment of education provision.

SEPA - Request that a planning condition be applied to any consent given, requiring the provision of appropriate flood management measures as recommended by the FRA. If the condition required cannot be imposed SEPA object to the granting of planning consent.

Historic Environment Scotland - No objections.

Glasgow Airport Safeguarding - No objections, subject to conditions requiring the submission of details of the location, height, form and materials of buildings and structures proposed and of soft and water landscaping works.

Strathclyde Partnership Transport - Suggest that a Sustainable Transport Strategy be a conditioned requirement of any planning consent given. Any consent should also be subject to a planning obligation, covering the delivery of the recommendations set out in the public transport strategy, with a legal agreement providing a funding mechanism to deliver the public transport strategy. Travel information packs should also be made available for each dwelling prior to occupation advising of travel options beyond the private car.

Summary of Main Issues

Environmental Statement - The application proposal was screened under the terms of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2011, to determine the requirement for an Environmental Statement to be submitted with any future planning application. It was concluded that although the proposal falls within Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment)(Scotland) Regulations 2011, it is not likely that the proposed works would have a significant environmental impact which would require an Environmental Assessment to be carried out. It was concluded that no significant long term impacts on the environment were anticipated having regard to the characteristics of the development, the location of the development and the characteristics of the potential impact.

Design & Access Statement - The applicant's Design and Access Statement submitted provides a brief history to the site and its location including its landscape character and ecological context. The document also considers the proposals against the relevant planning policies and guidance, with regard to local amenities, access arrangements/provision and flood risk. In terms of design, the applicant has considered built form in conjunction with environmental integration and enhancement and includes a development framework.

Proposal of Application Consultation Report - The applicant submitted a proposal of application notice (15/0434/NO) to the Council on 09 June 2015. This required a Pre-application Consultation (PAC) process prior to the submission of a planning application. The PAC report provides an overview of all pre-application consultations which have been undertaken, including details of a pre-application consultation event held on 31 August 2015. The public consultation event was held at Elderslie Village Hall, with the local Community Council and local Members invited and the event open to all interested parties. The summary states that attendees expressed concern in relation to the principle of residential

development at this location within the green belt and the lack of infrastructure to support the development.

Planning Statement - The Planning Statement provided advises that the proposal is an effective site which has the potential to contribute to addressing Renfrewshire Council's Housing Land shortage in accordance with the relevant policies of the Strategic and Adopted Local Development Plans. The document further states that suitable infrastructure and amenities either exist or could be provided, with two new junctions onto Glenpatrick Road proposed to provide access to the site as well as access via the refused Abbey Road site to the north. Reference is also made to the creation of a defensible boundary to the south, negating the requirement for formal open space within the development itself (due to existing provisions and connections available to this). The document analysis states that the site could be substantially completed or completed by 2019, although the tabular supporting information allows for up to 110 of the 200 units to require until 2021 for completion.

Flood Risk Assessment - The applicant's Flood Risk Assessment undertakes a hydrological analysis to estimate design flows for an unnamed watercourse that flows through the site and the Old Patrick Water that flows north to the east of the site, which has been used to assess flood risk to the site. The findings indicated flooding near to the southern boundary of the site along the length of the unnamed stream. Flood management measures are also suggested as a result of these findings including:- no development to take place within the 200 year floodplain of the watercourse; the opening of a culvert in line with SEPA policy; finished floor levels of properties adjacent to flood risk areas to be set no lower than 600mm above predicted 200 year peak water level in the area; surface water runoff entering the site from higher ground to the north to be either captured and diverted to the unnamed stream or taken into the drainage system; and surface water runoff from the site to be attenuated to greenfield rates before being discharged to the unnamed stream. The site is not considered to be at risk from flooding from other sources.

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey - The applicant's Habitat Survey identifies that due to the location of a potential otter couch (day bed), a survey is recommended to confirm the presence of otter on site or if the species is using the site as a commuting habitat. In addition, an assessment on the presence of bats, reptiles and nesting birds is proposed.

Education Impact Report - The applicant has submitted an Education Impact Report which states that based on their research there will be no capacity problems at any of the catchment denominational primary, non-denominational secondary or denominational secondary schools as a direct result of the proposed development being approved and built. With regards to the non-denominational primary education position, it is considered that it may be appropriate to include the area of the proposed development within a revised catchment area for Auchenlodment Primary School to ensure that sufficient non-denominational primary places would be available for children arising from the proposed development.

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment - The applicants state that adjacent urban areas to the north, east and south east of the proposed development would limit its visual influence. The rolling topography of much of the study area and extent of woodland cover would further limit visibility of the site from much of the east and western parts. From Gleniffer Braes, the applicant opines that the proposed development will locally be seen in the context of the existing settlement at Elderslie and Johnstone and within the wider context of urban development across the Clyde Valley. Other areas which have potential visibility of the site are those located in close proximity to the site boundary, including residential areas, adjoining areas of open farmland and areas of open and elevated ground along the northern parts of Windyhill. Potential significant effects are expected to be restricted to the immediate vicinity of the site and are likely to be localised to parts of the settlement edge of Elderslie and Johnstone as well as parts of the local road network at Auchenlodment Road and Glenpatrick / Mackiesmill Road. The design and layout of the proposed development as well as additional mitigation measures are proposed to contain the development and limit its effects upon the surrounding area. Although the development has the potential to result in localised and potentially significant effects on the Green Belt south of Elderslie, in light of the future housing requirements, the applicant considers that the development could contribute significantly to the integration of urban settlement within the wider green network at this location. In assessing effects on landscape character, no effects are considered to impact on Brookfield Urban Fringe Farmland due to distance and limited intervisibility.

The proposed development is located entirely within the Johnstone and Elderslie Urban Fringe LLCA and it is considered that impact would be moderate in nature. In terms of the Glennifer Braes Rugged Farmland LLCA impact is considered to be low from the proposed development as with the Urban LLCA. On the Core Path John/10 impact is considered to be medium, low on Glennifer Country Park and low on Windyhill (WIAT).

Engineering Assessment and Drainage Report - The applicant's Engineering Assessment provides a background to the site and its characteristics and identifies the requirement for ground levels to be regraded in order to accommodate the development proposed. Utilities and ground conditions are also considered.

Initial Geological & Mining Risk Assessment - The applicant's Initial Geological & Mining Risk Assessment concludes that there is potential for mining related instability at the surface across the site due to recorded shallow abandoned mine workings. Historical evidence also indicates the presence of at least two former mineshafts on the site and one other close to the site boundary. As the presence of these mineshafts represents potential development constraints, further measures are required to assess the instability associated with these features. A site investigation shall also be required to confirm the location and condition of an old quarry on the site.

Appropriate Assessment - N/A

Planning Obligation Summary - N/A

Scottish Ministers Direction - N/A

Assessment

Section 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, requires that planning applications are determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In this case, the Development Plan comprises the Approved Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan (GCVSDP) 2012 and the Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan 2014 and associated New Development Supplementary Guidance, including the Housing Land Supply Supplementary Guidance. The proposal also requires to be assessed taking account of Scottish Planning Policy and Clydeplan's Strategic Development Plan Proposed Plan 2016. In addition, the comments of consultees and the issues raised through representations are material considerations in the assessment of the application.

Scottish Planning Policy

Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) sets out national planning policies which reflect Scottish Ministers' priorities for the operation of the planning system and for the development and use of land. SPP aims to support sustainable development and the creation of high quality places. It sets out two overarching policy principles namely a presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development; and, placemaking which seeks the creation of high quality places. It considers that the planning system should support economically, environmentally and socially sustainable places by enabling development that balances the costs and benefits of a proposal over the longer term. The aim is to achieve the right development in the right place. It is not to allow development at any cost.

The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not change the statutory status of the development plan for decision making. For proposals that do not accord with development plans, the primacy of the plan is maintained. The presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development is a material consideration. The proposal subject of this application

comprises a significant housing development on green belt land with no defensible green belt boundary. There is limited services and facilities to serve this new development along with a lack of necessary infrastructure to successfully deliver homes at this location. Therefore it is considered that the proposed development is not sustainable, nor will it enhance the existing settlement of Elderslie.

In relation to Placemaking, it is difficult to see how this development will complement the local features such as landscape, topography and skylines when development of this site will have an adverse impact on these features.

SPP indicates that planning the right development in the right place requires the promotion of sustainable patterns of development appropriate to the area. The location chosen for this development does not optimise the use of existing resource capacities. There are resource capacity constraints at this site. It is located adjacent to the existing settlement, however it is difficult to see how this particular site would have the most benefit for the amenity of local people or the vitality of the local economy.

On Enabling the Delivery of New Homes SPP indicates the planning system should identify a generous supply of land within the plan area to support the achievement of the housing land requirement across all tenures, maintaining at least a 5 year supply of effective housing land at all times; enable provision of a range of attractive, well-designed, energy efficient, good quality housing, contributing to the creation of successful and sustainable places.

In this regard the LDP identified land across the Renfrewshire area to meet the housing land requirements with the focus on brownfield land to meet the majority of the housing land requirements along with a number of green belt release sites to help stimulate supply in the short term. However, following the examination of Renfrewshire's Local Development Plan, the Reporter concluded that there was a potential shortfall in housing land in Renfrewshire and that the LDP did not identify sufficient land to meet the housing need and demand. In response, three additional green belt housing sites, identified by the Reporter, were released to address the potential shortfall in housing land supply. Furthermore, the Housing Land Supply Supplementary Guidance 2015 (HLSSG) was produced in order to provide a framework to assess sites which could come forward in the short term to contribute to the housing land supply. The application site under consideration is not one of those sites identified by the Reporter for release and neither does it meet all of the requirements set out in the HLSSG.

Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan 2012

The Approved Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan 2012 provides the framework for local authority development management decisions and outlines a Spatial Vision for the city-region to 2035 along with a Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) to deliver that vision. The Approved SDP establishes the principle of development where development proposals conform to its policy direction and provisions. Strategy Support Measure 1 'Delivering the Spatial Development Priorities' states that the Spatial Development Strategy is clear and consistent in its intent, to support sustainable economic growth and development.

The Fundamental Principles of the Strategic Development Plan include the acceptance that development and investment proposals whose location and development compatibility accords with the Spatial Development Strategy and its related frameworks, will be deemed to support the Spatial Vision and Strategy. Diagram 3 sets out the range and type of development which the Authority would expect as part of the Spatial Development Strategy and with regard to Green Belt indicative forms of development considered to be in line with the strategy include: green infrastructure; woodland creation; sustainable access and natural leisure facilities; biodiversity and biomass planting. This proposal for a significant residential development within the green belt is therefore not a development considered to conform to the Spatial Development Strategy.

It further considers that new strategic development proposals which do not reflect the Spatial Development Strategy and its related frameworks are deemed not supportive of the Spatial Vision and Strategy. Where this is the case, it states that proposals will require to be assessed upon their own merits by the relevant local authority adopting the sustainable location assessment set out in Diagram 4. When the proposal is assessed against Diagram 4, the following conclusions can be made:

Climate Change - Minimising the Development footprint of the city-region/minimising the carbon footprint of the city- region/mitigating greenhouse gas emissions - The development of the site subject of this application, due to its size, and location in the green belt will not contribute toward the aims of minimising the development footprint or carbon footprint of the city-region or mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. Notwithstanding this, Renfrewshire Council accepts that additional sites are required to facilitate the development of new homes to meet identified need and that there may be a requirement for development of green belt land, however, the application proposal, due to its size and location is not considered to be a sustainable development.

Low Carbon Economy - Supporting sustainable economic competitiveness/supporting key economic sectors and new environmental technology sectors/supporting the farming and rural economy -

Although it is widely accepted that the housebuilding industry makes a significant contribution to the Scottish economy, this is not dependant on the development of the application site. The application site, although identified as primarily Class 4.2 (non-prime) under the McCauley Land Capability for Agriculture classification, is defined as being land capable of producing crops and could be utilised for farming purposes. Therefore the development of this site would neither support sustainable economic competitiveness, new environmental technology sectors nor farming and the rural economy.

Sustainable Transport - Supporting sustainable access and active travel/providing appropriate public transport access/supporting future public transport services - The application was accompanied by a Transport Assessment which the Director of Community Resources (Roads Traffic) has deemed to be incomplete. As such it has been recommended that the Planning Authority defer taking a decision on the application until a number of issues can be considered and possibly resolved. Given that the principle of the development does not accord with the strategic and local components of the development plan it has not been considered necessary or appropriate to invite the applicant to address or seek to resolve the technical concerns of the Director of Community Resources (Roads Traffic).

Green Network - Developing green infrastructure/supporting green belt objectives/ supporting biodiversity networks and designations - Paragraph 4.48 of the Approved SDP and Strategy Support Measure 8 'Green Infrastructure: an economic necessity' establishes that the green belt is central to the sustainable planning of the city-region, that it is an important strategic tool and has a significant role to play in achieving key environmental objectives by directing planned growth to the most appropriate locations, supporting regeneration, creating and safeguarding identity through place-setting and protecting the separation between communities. Although the application site is located on the edge of Elderslie in proximity to some areas of existing housing, it comprises a large natural agricultural site in a prominent green belt location, which adds to the local landscape character and setting of Elderslie. Additionally it has no obvious spatial connection to Elderslie, particularly given the development void to the north (currently the subject of appeal against refusal of planning approval for residential development) and lack of a defensible green belt boundary, given the indicative road/pedestrian linkage demonstrated within the applicant's supporting information to land to the south of the site. The present settlement edge is considered, in land use terms, as being acceptable in the manner in which it terminates the urban envelope along the northern boundary of the application site (subject to a suitable development being proposed at Abbey Road which accords with the relevant policies of the Adopted Local Development Plan and road safety objectives) and which could provide a more robust settlement edge. The application site is not considered to be an infill site as it is located to the south of the established settlement, which already acts as a defensible green belt boundary, and as such is set apart from the remainder of the built up area of Elderslie. The development of this site does not therefore support the green belt objectives of maintaining the identity of settlements and protecting and enhancing their landscape setting.

Water Environment - Managing flood-risk/improving and safeguarding water quality - The Director of Community Resources is satisfied that the Flood Risk Assessment provided is suitable to form the basis of any future full or AMSC application, however the Drainage Report provided has been based on incorrect data requirements for the purpose of calculating site water runoff and storage and surface water flows to cater for climate change and urban creep. This document would require amendment to allow further consideration in terms of impact on the site itself and surrounding area.

Network of Centres - The application is for residential development and it is not therefore considered that this part of the assessment criteria is directly relevant.

Low Carbon Energy - Developing green energy and/or energy smart-grids/contributing to a low carbon energy and technology future - It is not evident that the proposal would contribute to developing green energy or that it would contribute to a low carbon energy and technology future.

Taking all of the above considerations together leads to the conclusion that the application site is not a sustainable location, and as such the set tests under Diagram 4 are not satisfied.

With regard to housing land supply the Approved SDP indicates that Local Development Plans should allocate sufficient land which is effective, or likely to be capable of becoming effective, so as to deliver the scale of house completions required across all tenures both in the period to 2020, and from 2020 to 2025.

It is stated in Strategy Support Measure 10 that where the supply needs to be augmented, priority should be given to bringing forward for earlier development any sites which have been allocated in the Local Development Plan for construction in the period 2020 to 2025. It continues that if further sites are needed, their identification for release should be guided by the criteria in Diagram 4 to find the most suitable locations. It considers that these sites must be absent of insurmountable infrastructure constraints and be of a scale which is capable of delivering its house completions in the next five years. Such sites should also be compatible with the vision and planning principles of both the Strategic Development Plan and the Local Development Plan. It is accepted that there remains a potential Housing Land Supply shortfall within Renfrewshire and that additional housing sites are required. However, such sites require to be in sustainable locations.

The application site has not been identified as a housing development site through the preparation and adoption of the Local Development Plan or as one of the additional housing sites identified by the Reporter following the Examination of the Local Development Plan. The application site has been assessed against the criteria of Diagram 4 but fails to satisfy the set tests. It is considered that the proposal does not contribute to sustainable development nor does it accord with the Vision and Spatial Development Strategy of the Approved SDP.

Proposed Strategic Development Plan 2016(SDP)

The Proposed SDP 2016 was submitted to the Scottish Ministers for Examination on 26th May 2016 and represents the settled view of Clydeplan, the Strategic Development Planning Authority of which Renfrewshire is a constituent part and therefore it has to be considered in the assessment of this proposal.

The Proposed SDP 2016 sets out a Spatial Development Strategy which supports a presumption in favour of sustainable development that contributes to economic growth. It acknowledges the city region's legacy of development and infrastructure and recognises that maximising the benefit of those resources is fundamental to ensuring the long term success of the city region. Through Policy 1 'Placemaking', it seeks to embed the creation of high quality places firmly as part of its Vision and Spatial Strategy.

It considers that in support of the Vision and Spatial Development Strategy, new development proposals should take account of the Placemaking Principles set out in Table 1, including maintaining and enhancing landscape character and supporting the objectives of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Belt. The application proposal would neither maintain nor enhance the landscape character of Bridge of Weir nor support the objectives of the Green Belt in this location and therefore does not comply with Policy 1 Placemaking.

The Proposed SDP advocates a consistent approach to the consideration of development proposals across the city region and considers that proposals which are in locations or at a scale or of a nature not identified in the SDP could undermine the Vision and Spatial Development Strategy. To assist in the development management process Section 10 of the Plan 'Implementing the Plan and Development Management' sets out 'thresholds for strategic scales of development ', within Schedule

14. With regard to Greenfield Housing Schedule 14 considers that 10 or more units outwith the Community Growth Areas or sites outwith those identified in LDP's are considered to be strategic. Given that the proposal comprises a housing development where an indicative number of 200 dwellings is proposed on a site located within the Green Belt designated through the Adopted LDP, it is considered to fall within the definition of strategic scale of development.

The Proposed SDP states that Diagram 11: 'Assessment of Development Proposals' should to be used by local authorities when assessing strategic scale development proposals or other proposals that may impact on the Plan Strategy. This Diagram will determine whether strategic scale development proposals comply with the policies, schedules and diagrams of the SDP, and Box 1, sets out the

considerations relevant to each development type which will ascertain whether it supports the Vision, Spatial Development Strategy and Placemaking Policy. When the proposal is assessed against the relevant policies and schedules, the following conclusions can be made.

Policy 8 'Housing Land Requirement', states that Local Authorities should make provisions in Local Development Plans for the Housing Land Requirement set out in Schedule 8 and Schedule 9, allocate a range of sites which are effective or expected to become effective in the plan period to meet the housing land requirements, provide for a minimum of 5 years effective land supply at all times, undertake annual monitoring of completions and through Section 10 of the Plan 'Development Management' take steps to remedy any shortfalls through the granting of planning permissions that contribute to sustainable development and accord with the Vision and Spatial Development Strategy, Local Development Plans and other local strategies. It is accepted that there is a shortage in the effective housing land supply in Renfrewshire and therefore the application proposal is being assessed against Section 10, of the Plan.

Policy 14 'Green Belt' states that in support of the Vision and Spatial Development Strategy, Local Authorities should designate within Local Development Plans, the boundaries of the Green Belts to ensure that the objectives set out in paragraph 8.15 are achieved. Paragraph 8.15 considers that the Green Belt is an important strategic tool which has a significant role to play in supporting the delivery of the Spatial Development Strategy and achieving the objectives set out below. When the potential impact of the application proposal is considered against these objectives, the following conclusions can be made:

Directing planned growth to the most appropriate locations - the application site is located within the designated Green Belt and has not been identified through the LDP as an appropriate location for planned growth.

Supporting regeneration - the application site is located within the designated Green Belt and will not therefore support the regeneration of Renfrewshire or the city-region as a whole.

Creating and safeguarding identity through place-setting and protecting the separation between communities/landscape setting and identity of settlements - the application site is a large green belt site in a prominent green belt location, which currently adds to the local landscape character and setting of Elderslie. Development of the application site would breach the existing settlement boundary and would not therefore safeguard the setting of Elderslie. Additionally, as a result of the existing green belt boundary the application site has no obvious spatial connection to the village and no defensible green belt boundary, whereas the existing boundary provides a more robust settlement edge.

Protecting open space and sustainable access and opportunities for countryside recreation - the application does not propose any development over existing open space and will see an extension to the existing park, immediately to the south of the application site. The indicative Development Framework also aims to maximise connectivity through the proposed street and path network to connect the open space network and beyond to wider rural Elderslie, although full details have not been provided at this time due to the 'in principle' nature of the application.

Maintaining the natural role on the environment - the proposal is for a large housing development which will not maintain the natural role of the environment in this location but will impact on the setting of Elderslie and the surrounding agricultural landscape.

Supporting the farming economy of the city region - the proposal is for housing development and will not support the farming economy of the city-region.

Meeting requirements for the sustainable location of rural industries including renewable energy, mineral extraction and timber production - the application proposal does not comprise a rural industry.

The application site is designated as Green Belt within the Adopted LDP and currently performs the functions set out in paragraph 8.15 of the Proposed SDP. Development of the site for housing would

undermine many of these functions including protection of the identity of Elderslie, and its landscape setting and would not therefore support the delivery of the Spatial Development Strategy.

Policy 16 'Improving the Water Quality Environment and Managing Flood Risk and Drainage'. This policy seeks to support the Vision and Spatial Development Strategy and to achieve the objectives set out in paragraph 8.28 which include securing improvements to water and drainage capacity and reducing flood risk. The Director of Community Resources is satisfied that the Flood Risk Assessment submitted in support of the application is sufficient at this stage, although an amended Drainage Report would be required to determine impact on the site and surrounding area in terms of the calculation of site water runoff and storage and surface water flows to cater for climate change and urban creep.

Policy 18 'Strategic Walking and Cycling Network' requires that development proposals should maintain and enhance the strategic walking and cycling network. The application proposal does not identify maintenance of the existing walking and cycling network, although supporting documentation advises that future detailed submissions shall include a series of pedestrian and cycle routes.

Taking all of the above considerations together leads to the conclusion that the application proposal does not meet the relevant criteria in Box 1 and is therefore regarded as a Departure from the Strategic Development Plan. To ascertain whether this Departure is acceptable, the proposal requires to be assessed against the criteria of Box 2. When the proposal is assessed against these criteria, the following conclusions can be made:

Given its location in the designated Green Belt, with no defensible green belt boundary, the proposal will not make a significant or positive contribution to sustainable development through either a modal shift or contribution to carbon reduction;

The proposal will not provide significant economic benefit which would otherwise be lost to the city region or Scotland;

The proposal would not respond to economic issues, including the protection of jobs or create a significant number of net additional permanent jobs to the city region;

There is no specific locational need for the proposal;

The proposal would not enhance nor promote natural or cultural heritage, including green infrastructure, landscape and the wider environment;

The proposal would not improve health and well-being by offering opportunities for social interaction and physical activity, including sport and recreation;

It is not evident that the proposal would support the digital connectivity to a rural area which does not presently benefit from such connectivity.

It can be concluded therefore that the development proposal is an unacceptable departure from the Strategic Development Plan and it is therefore deemed contrary to the Proposed Strategic Development Plan 2016.

Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan 2014

When the proposal is assessed against the relevant policies of the LDP and New Development Supplementary Guidance, the following conclusions can be made.

The application site is located in the green belt and is subject to assessment against Policy ENV1 'Green Belt'. Policy ENV 1 states that, amongst others, the green belt in Renfrewshire aims to identify appropriate locations to support planned growth, where required, as well as maintaining the identity of settlements and protecting and enhancing the landscape setting of an area. It states that appropriate development within the green belt will be acceptable where it can be demonstrated that it is compatible with the provisions of the New Development SG.

The New Development SG 'Delivering the Environment Strategy – Green Belt' considered that development within the green belt is appropriate in principle where it is for the purposes of or in support of a use which requires a green belt location including agriculture, forestry and recreational uses. The application proposal for residential development does not support one of these purposes and is not an acceptable form of development in the green belt.

The New Development SG 'Delivering the Environment Strategy – Housing in the Green Belt', sets out a number of criteria against which proposals for residential use in the green belt require to be assessed and considers that the majority of the criteria must be met. When the application proposal is assessed against these criteria the following conclusions can be made:

The development is required to maintain and support an established activity that is suitable in the green belt; The application proposal is not required to maintain or support an established activity that is suitable in the green belt.

It is demonstrated that there is a need for the residential use to be located out with the settlement; it has not been demonstrated that there is a need for the residential use to be located outwith a settlement.

The proposal demonstrates outstanding quality of design; The application is in principle only and it has not been demonstrated that the proposal will constitute outstanding quality of design.

The proposal integrates with, complements and enhances the established character of the area and has no significant impact on the landscape character - In this case the applicant has provided a Design and Access Statement (D&A), Planning Statement and Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) in justification of development at this location. The documentation states that the application site consists mainly of undulating farmland, with existing residential development providing containment to the north and east, whilst woodland cover and elevated landform limit the extent to which the proposed site is likely to be visible to the south and west. To address areas with potential visibility of the development it is proposed to retain and expand the existing woodlands on the site as part of the open space strategy, to define the southern and western edges of the settlement and to integrate the development when seen from longer distance views from elevated land to the south. In this regard, although the application is in principle, the indicative layout for the development suggests that the site could accommodate in the region of 200 houses which is not considered to be small scale in the context of the surrounding landscape and in relation to the existing settlement of Elderslie. Although the indicative layout illustrates a development set within landscaped buffers, the site is on a prominent edge of Elderslie with little containment on its boundaries which could be identified as an appropriate and defensible edge to the green belt. It is not considered therefore that the proposal integrates with, complements or enhances the established character of the area but would have a significant adverse impact.

The proposal is therefore considered to be contrary to the provisions of policy ENV 1.

Policy P2 'Housing Land Supply' states that the Council will maintain a 5 year supply of effective housing land at all times and prepare Supplementary Guidance including a framework to guide the release of additional housing land where a 5 year supply of effective housing land is not being

maintained. It is accepted that there is a potential shortfall in the supply of effective housing land and the Housing Land Supply Supplementary Guidance was approved in 2015.

Policy P2 further states that the Council will grant planning permission in accordance with the detailed guidance provided that a number of criteria are met. When the application proposal is assessed against these criteria the following conclusions can be made.

The site is shown to be effective and can be delivered to address the identified shortfall - The applicant has submitted a representative site delivery timetable which claims that 30 units could be completed by the end of 2018, 60 units by end of 2019, 60 units by end of 2020 and a final 50 units by the end of 2021. This timetable would appear to be achievable, demonstrating that the site can be delivered to

address the identified potential shortfall, although it contradicts the text within the applicant's supporting analysis which advises that the site could be delivered by 2019 in totality.

It will not undermine the spatial strategy of the plan – With regard to the criteria of the Spatial Strategy, it has been demonstrated above that the proposed development will not contribute positively to the character and appearance of Elderslie nor will it protect its setting or the natural environment. The proposal does not accord with the adopted LDP Spatial Strategy the focus of which is on the development of previously used sites, concentrating on existing built-up areas and key redevelopment sites, aiming to facilitate sustainable development and a low carbon economy. It is acknowledged that sites have been identified outwith Renfrewshire's urban areas but these have been of a scale which are able to be supported by existing infrastructure, services and facilities.

Its design would comply with the criteria for implementing the spatial strategy – The application is in principle only and therefore these details would require to be assessed through the submission of further planning applications.

It is concluded therefore that the application proposal does not comply with Policy P2 - Housing Land Supply.

The Housing Land Supply Supplementary Guidance 2015 (HLSSG) provides a framework for release of further housing land against which residential planning applications are to be assessed. The HLSSG sets out the circumstances within which the additional release of land for housing will be supported but demands that those sites meet the "main" and "other" considerations.

For the reasons set out earlier in this report, the proposals are not considered to satisfy the first three 'Main Considerations' set out in the HLSSG with reference to (1) Scottish Planning Policy - Sustainability and Placemaking Principles; (2) compliance with the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan - Spatial Development Strategy, sustainable location assessment (Diagram 4) or Strategy Support Measure10; nor the adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan - including the Spatial Strategy or Policy P2 - Housing Land Supply.

Similarly, the proposals are not considered to have satisfied all of the HLSSG 'Other Considerations' and in particular with reference to failing to create or be contained within robust defensible boundaries, setting a precedent for further expansion, by having a significant effect on the character and amenity of the surrounding area and the potential to impact on the prior provision of infrastructure required by existing housing land allocations which are either not yet consented or are committed.

It is concluded therefore that application proposal does not comply with the framework for release as required by the HLSSG.

The New Development Supplementary Guidance 2014, Places Development Criteria, sets out a number of criteria which new residential developments are required to meet. It considers that development proposals require to ensure that the layout, built form, design and materials of all new developments will be of a high quality; density will require to be in keeping with the density of surrounding areas; surrounding land uses should not have an adverse effect on the proposed residential development and that development proposals should create attractive and well connected street networks which will facilitate movement.

Although the indicative layout illustrates a development set within a degree of landscaping including landscaped edges to the north east, south east and south west on the boundaries to the green belt, there is no robust, well defined established defensible green belt edge and it is considered that to allow development in this location could encourage further encroachment into the designated green belt. Given that the application is in principle only, it is not possible to make an assessment in relation to density, design and materials other than that a development of a similar density to surrounding areas could be accommodated within the plot and design and materials could be reflective of the surrounding area.

Policy I5, 'Flooding and Drainage' considers that new development must not have an impact on existing drainage infrastructure or increase the risk of flooding elsewhere and requires to be assessed

against the New Development SG which sets out a number of criteria which require to be considered. These generally require minimum standards to reduce the risk of flooding in new developments and to ensure that the risk of flooding is fully considered in the assessment of new development proposals.

In this regard, the Director of Community Resources requires the submission of a revised drainage report for the development to demonstrate that the site can be appropriately drained.

In relation to the Infrastructure Development Criteria the applicant's Transport Assessment is considered to be incomplete. In addition, the Director of Community Resources (Roads Traffic) has raised a number of concerns relating to access, visibility, the provision of footways, sustainable access arrangements and carriageway capacity.

The SG on 'Contaminated Land' requires sufficient information to be submitted to establish whether contamination is present at an application site so that appropriate conditions can be attached to ensure that the necessary remediation action will be undertaken to prevent unacceptable risks to human health or the environment. In this regard the Director of Community Resources (Environmental Services) has requested the submission of a site investigation report and remediation method statement for the site by way of a planning condition should consent be given.

With regard to the issues raised through objection and through the pre determination hearing which have not been addressed within the main body of the assessment above, the following conclusions can be made. A large volume of objection relates to matters of the principle of the development, i.e. loss of green belt land and detailed matters which are not known at this time. The site has not been identified through the Adopted Local Development Plan 2014 as a housing site and, for the reasons already outlined, its release from the green belt would not comply with the Spatial Strategy of the plan. Further concerns extend across a number of detailed considerations including access arrangements and overlooking. These specific details cannot be assessed through a Planning Permission in Principle application but would be assessed through the mechanism of further detailed applications.

With regard to issues raised in relation to educational capacity and other service provision, it is noted that the Director of Education has highlighted that the existing school provision within the area will require to be addressed.

Following consultation with the Director of Community Resources (Environmental Services) no objections have been raised in relation to the potential for impact on air quality or resultant pollution from the proposed development.

With regard to wildlife on the site, a Habitat Survey was submitted in support of the application which sets out a series of measures to ensure that ecological issues are adequately addressed.

Due to the lack of supporting information submitted with the application in relation to mine workings, the Coal Authority initially objected to the proposal. A mining risk assessment was latterly submitted and in response, the Coal Authority recommended a suite of conditions requiring the submission of a scheme of intrusive investigations, identification of zones of influence for the mine entry and definition of 'no-build' zones; and a scheme of remedial works for the shallow coal workings. Until these matters have been fully addressed it remains inconclusive whether the applicant's aspirations in terms of their site delivery timetable to satisfy the HLSSG timescale requirements are deliverable.

In relation to pre-application consultation the applicant has complied with the relevant legislation for major applications, holding a public consultation event, which was advertised in the local press, allowing interested parties to attend and obtain further information in relation to the nature of the development, prior to submission of this application. With regard to neighbour notification, all notifiable neighbours within 20 metres of the application site boundary were notified of the development by the Council in accordance with statute.

In terms of the loss of views, values of property and impact from noise and disturbance during construction works, these concerns do not constitute material planning considerations in the assessment of the current proposal.

Any structural damage to existing properties as a result of any development approved would be a civil matter to be addressed by the developer and the affected party.

Although planting is proposed it is considered that there would be no well-defined or defensible green belt boundary formed. The existing boundary provides a more robust settlement edge which should not be compromised or eroded. Development of this site is therefore unacceptable and would not comply with the Spatial Development Strategy of the Approved Strategic Development Plan 2012, Proposed Strategic Development Plan 2016 and Adopted Local Development Plan 2014. Nor does it represent an exception which can be justified through the Housing Land Supply Supplementary Guidance 2015.

Recommendation and reasons for decision

In light of the above assessment, it is concluded that notwithstanding the potential shortfall of an effective land supply, as set out in the Housing Land Supply Supplementary Guidance 2015, the supporting information submitted with the application and the justification provided for the development, it has not been demonstrated that this is an appropriate site for residential development, which would not impact unacceptably on the purposes of the green belt in this location and which can be developed with a defensible green belt boundary. The proposal is therefore considered to be contrary Policy ENV1 and associated New Development Supplementary Guidance. For these reasons it is considered that the proposal cannot satisfy the requirements of Policy P2 and the Housing Land Supply Supplementary Guidance 2015, as the residential development of this site would not comply with the Spatial Strategy of the LDP.

There is no justification for setting aside the policies of the SDP and LDP for a site which is in an unsustainable location and greater weight should be given to the development plan at both strategic and local levels. It is therefore recommended that this application be refused.

RECOMMENDATION

Refuse

Conditions and Reasons

- 1 The proposal does not accord with the Spatial Development Strategy and related Spatial Frameworks of the approved Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan and Clydeplan's Strategic Development Plan Proposed Plan 2016 in terms of its location and development compatibility and therefore fails to support the Spatial Vision of the Plan.
- 2 The proposal is contrary to Policy ENV 1 of the Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan in that it would result in development within the designated Green Belt without appropriate justification and due to its location and scale would not be commensurate with the aims of maintaining the identity of settlements and protecting and enhancing the landscape setting of an area.
- 3 The proposal is contrary to the Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan New Development Supplementary Guidance - Delivering the Environment Strategy as it does not require a specific green belt location and does not maintain or support an established activity which is suitable in the green belt. The proposal would thereby introduce an inappropriate form of development into the Green Belt, result in an unacceptable erosion of the Green Belt and result in an adverse and detrimental impact on its character.
- 4 The proposal is contrary to Policy P2 of the Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan and the Housing Land Supply Supplementary Guidance 2015, and due to its scale and location, the proposed development would undermine the

Spatial Strategy of the Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan. The proposal would thereby introduce an inappropriate form of development into the Green Belt, result in an unacceptable erosion of the Green Belt and result in an adverse and detrimental impact on its character.

Fraser Carlin
Head of Planning and Housing

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Background Papers

For further information or to inspect any letters of objection and other background papers, please contact David Bryce on extension 7892.



Renfrewshire
Council

16/0594/PP

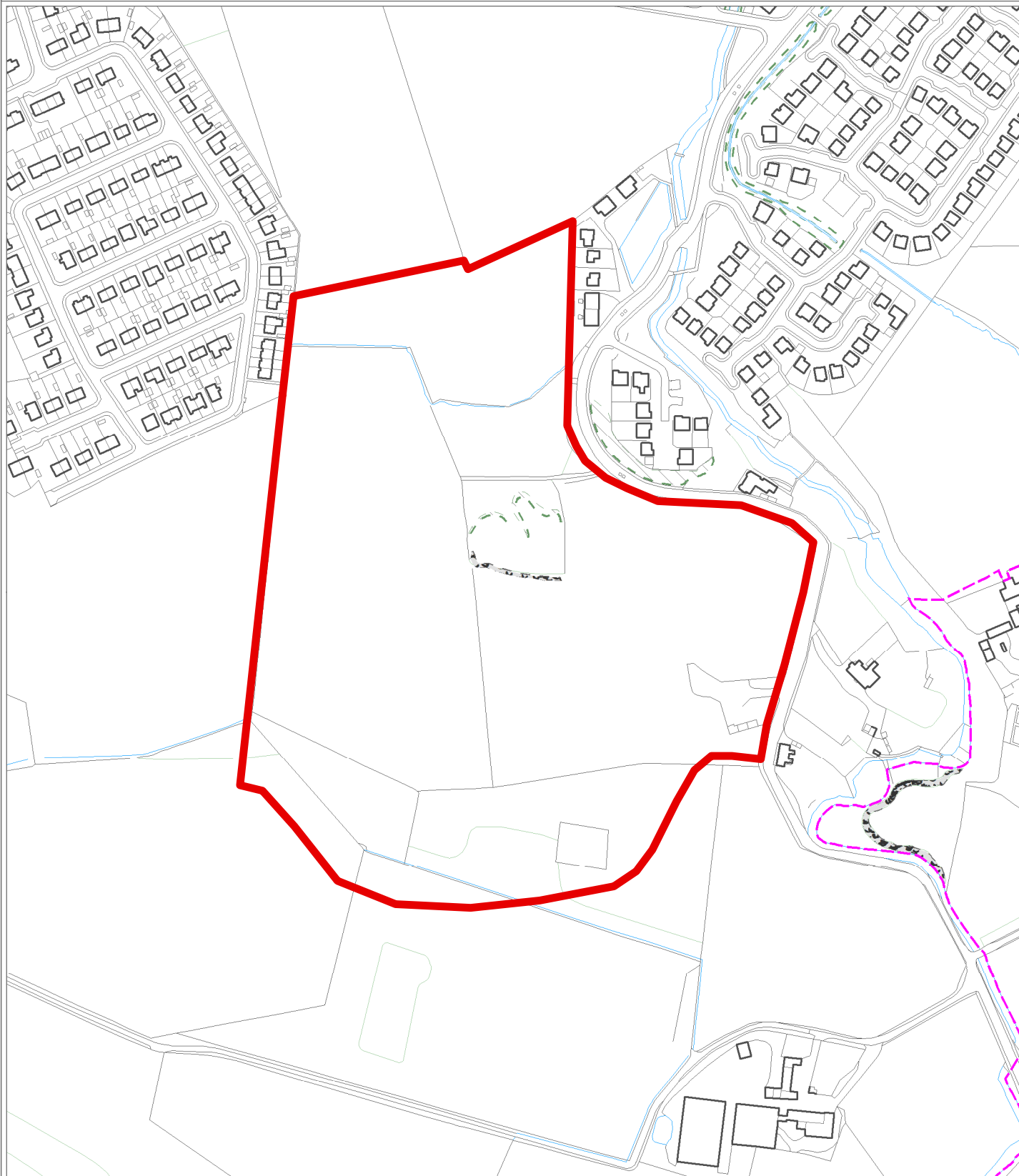
Site between Dunvegan Avenue and Gleniffer House,
Glenpatrick Road, Elderslie



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User: ptcameronr1

Date: 11/10/2016



Notes:
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To: Council

On: 15 December 2016

Report by: Head of Corporate Governance

Heading: Standards Commission for Scotland: Decision of the Hearing Panel of the Commission

1. Summary

- 1.1 A complaint was made to the Commission for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland alleging that Councillor Paul Mack had contravened the councillors' code of conduct by failing to respect the chair at the meeting of the Education & Children Policy Board meeting held on 20 August 2015 and failing to comply with her rulings.
- 1.2 The Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland (the Commissioner) conducted an investigation into the complaint and concluded that Councillor Mack had contravened the code. The Commissioner subsequently submitted a report to the Standards Commission for Scotland (the Commission) on the outcome of his investigation.
- 1.3 The Commission, following receipt of the Commissioner's report, decided to hold a hearing in relation to the complaint and this hearing took place in Renfrewshire House on 17 October 2016.

- 1.4 The Hearing Panel issued an oral decision at the conclusion of the hearing that (1) The Councillor's Code of Conduct applied to the Respondent [Councillor Mack]; and (2) The Hearing Panel found, on the balance of probabilities, the Respondent had breached paragraph 3.2 of the Code, which obliges councillors to respect the Chair at meetings of the Council, its Committees or Sub-Committees and to comply with their rulings in the conduct of the business of such meetings. They then imposed a sanction of suspension to suspend Councillor Mack from meetings of the Education and Children Policy Board for a period of three months with effect from Friday, 21 October 2016. This sanction is made under terms of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000 section 19(1)(b)(ii). The effect of the sanction is that Councillor Mack was unable to attend the meeting of the Board held on 3 November 2016 and will be unable to attend the meeting of the Board to be held on 19 January 2017.
- 1.5 The written decision of the Hearing Panel has now been received and a copy is appended to this report. This sets out the reasons for the decision that a breach of the code had been proven and the factors taken into account in deciding on the sanction imposed.
- 1.6 In terms of the Ethical Standards in Public Life (Scotland) Act 2000 a council receiving a copy of findings from the Standards Commission requires to consider those findings within three months of receiving them (or within such longer period as the Commission may specify).
- 1.7 Members are reminded that training on governance (which includes the councillors' code of conduct) has been and will continue to be provided to members as part of their training and development programme. Individual members can seek advice from the Head of Corporate Governance on any particular issues relating to the provisions of the Code.

2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Council, in accordance with the terms of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc (Scotland) Act 2000, note the findings of the Standards Commission on this complaint.
-

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - none
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - none
3. **Community Planning** – none
4. **Legal** – in terms of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc (Scotland) Act 2000 a council requires to consider the findings of the Standards Commission within 3 months of receipt (or within such longer period as the Commission may specify).
5. **Property/Assets** - none
6. **Information Technology** – none
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The recommendation contained within this report has been assessed in relation to its impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety** - none
9. **Procurement** – none
10. **Risk** – none.
11. **Privacy Impact** – none
12. **CoSLA Policy Position** – not applicable

List of Background Papers – none – report on Standards Commission's findings is appended.

Author: Lilian Belshaw, Democratic Services Manager, 0141 618 7112
e:mail – lilian.belshaw@renfrewshire.gsx.gov.uk

Decision of the Hearing Panel of the Standards Commission for Scotland following the Hearing held at Renfrewshire Council Headquarters, Cotton Street, Paisley, on 17 October 2016.

Panel Members: Mr Kevin Dunion, OBE, Chair of the Hearing Panel
Mr Ian Gordon, OBE, QPM, LL.B (Hons)
Mrs Julie Ward

The Hearing arose in respect of a Report by Mr Bill Thomson, the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland ("the CESPLS") further to complaint reference LA/R/1800 ("the Complaint") concerning an alleged contravention of the Councillors' Code of Conduct ("the Code") by Councillor Paul Mack ("the Respondent").

COMPLAINT

A complaint was received by the CESPLS about the alleged conduct of the Respondent. Following an investigation, the CESPLS referred the complaint to the Standards Commission for Scotland.

The substance of the referral was that the Respondent had failed to comply with the provisions of the Councillors' Code of Conduct at a meeting of the Education and Children Policy Board of Renfrewshire Council on 20 August 2015 and, in particular, that he had contravened paragraph 3.2, which obliges councillors to respect the Chair at meetings of the Council, its Committees or Sub-Committees and to comply with their rulings in the conduct of the business of such meetings.

The relevant provision was:

Conduct at Meetings

3.2 You must respect the chair, your colleagues, Council employees and any members of the public present during meetings of the Council, its Committees or Sub-Committees or of any Public Bodies where you have been appointed by, and represent the Council. You must comply with rulings from the chair in the conduct of the business of these meetings.

The CESPLS submitted a report to the Standards Commission on 15 August 2016 in accordance with section 14(2) of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000, as amended. In essence, the conclusions reached by the CESPLS were that the Respondent had been disrespectful towards the Chair and had failed to comply with a ruling the Chair had made, in contravention of paragraph 3.2 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

Preliminary Matters

Both parties identified the witnesses they intended to call.

The Respondent indicated he was unhappy that the Hearing was being held at the Council Headquarters as he considered it was not a neutral venue. The Chair of the Hearing Panel explained that the decision was made in accordance with the Standards Commission's Hearing Process Guide & Rules 2016, which state that Hearings will normally be held in the Headquarters of the Local Authority where the Respondent is elected are located. The reason for this is that the

Standards Commission is publicly funded and, as such, it aims to minimise costs to the public purse.

Evidence Presented at the Hearing

The Hearing Panel heard evidence to the effect that the complaint had been made by Councillor Jacqueline Henry, who was the Convener of Renfrewshire Council's Education and Children Policy Board. The complaint concerned the Respondent's conduct at a meeting of the Policy Board on 20 August 2015.

The CESPLS advised that Councillor Henry had chaired the meeting and that the Respondent was in attendance. Item 13 of the Agenda concerned an invitation from a Dr Thomas Jung, the Oberbürgermeister of the Council's twin town of Furth in Germany. Approval was being sought from the Policy Board for a proposal that a delegation comprising of the Convener, the Provost and two senior education officers visit Furth. The CESPLS indicated that Councillor Henry had proposed a motion that the Policy Board approve the proposal. Councillor Lorraine Cameron, the opposition Education Spokesperson had moved an amendment, which had been seconded by Councillor Brian Lawson. Councillor Henry had then invited the Respondent to speak.

The CESPLS advised that during his speech the Respondent made a comment that he could envisage the headlines in the local newspaper that Councillor Henry and the Provost were going to Germany 'on the lash' to play 'hide the frankfurter with the Oberbürgermeister'.

The CESPLS indicated that Councillor Henry objected to the Respondent's comments and threatened to adjourn the meeting if he did not stop talking. He failed to do so and continued to talk loudly over her. As a result, Councillor Henry made the reasonable decision to adjourn the meeting. The CESPLS indicated that, as Councillor Henry was leaving the room, the Respondent made a further comment to the effect that 'there are no dirty words, only dirty minds'. When the meeting resumed, the Respondent intervened when someone else was speaking and had asked if he could speak again. Councillor Henry declined the request and moved that a vote be taken. The meeting had concluded after the vote.

The CESPLS advised that, on 21 August 2015, Councillor Henry submitted a written complaint to the Council's Chief Executive Officer about the Respondent's conduct at the meeting. The Respondent subsequently sent a letter to all Renfrewshire councillors accusing Councillor Henry of 'histrionics' and arguing he had made his comments 'sotto voce'.

The CESPLS noted that, in the main, the facts of the complaint were not in dispute. What was in dispute was whether the Respondent's remarks and language used were humorous and appropriate or whether they were offensive and disrespectful, in breach of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. The CESPLS contended that the Respondent's remarks, the manner in which they were delivered and his failure to desist from speaking when directed to do so had been disrespectful towards Councillor Henry, as Convener of the Policy Board. In particular, the Respondent's remark about hiding the frankfurter was a sexual innuendo. It was intended to be, and indeed was, both demeaning and offensive to the recipients. As such, the Respondent's conduct amounted to a contravention of paragraph 3.2 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

The CESPLS drew the Hearing Panel's attention to the Standards Commission's own Guidance on the Councillors' Code of Conduct and, in particular, point 17, which states that abusive or offensive language in the Chamber or at Committee meetings should not be tolerated.

The CESPLS led one witness, being, Councillor Henry. Councillor Henry advised that when she had invited the Respondent to speak at the meeting on 20 August 2015, he did so for some several minutes. Councillor Henry gave evidence to the effect that the Respondent had become increasingly agitated and kept raising his voice. She had been forced to speak over him. When he made the remarks that she and the Provost were going to Germany 'on the lash' to play 'hide the frankfurter with the Oberburgermeister', she told him she found these comments to be offensive and abusive and asked him to stop talking. Councillor Henry advised that when the Respondent failed to do so, she decided to adjourn the meeting for five minutes.

Councillor Henry gave evidence that her recollection was that, when making his remarks, the Respondent referred to her and the Provost as 'wee Annie and wee Jackie' and also referred to the Oberburgermeister as 'Oberburgermeister Tommy'. He made the comments in a very loud voice. Councillor Henry indicated that when she adjourned the meeting, left her chair and was walking out of the room, the Respondent said 'there are no dirty words in here, only dirty minds'.

Councillor Henry advised that when the meeting resumed after the adjournment, the Respondent asked whether he could finish his contribution but she said no and proceeded to move to voting on the agenda item. She wrote to the Chief Executive the next day to complain about the Respondent's behaviour at the meeting. Councillor Henry indicated her concerns were that he had disregarded her directions, as Convener of the Policy Board, and that he had inappropriately used sexual innuendo.

The Respondent attempted to lead evidence about Councillor Henry's motives in making the complaint but was advised by the Hearing Panel Chair that the Hearing Panel would only hear and consider relevant evidence, which was evidence that directly related to the events in question and whether his conduct amounted to a breach of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

The Respondent led one witness, being Councillor Lawson.

Councillor Lawson gave evidence to the effect that the previous administration's policy was that councillors should not visit Furth or any of the Council's other twin towns. The proposal was, therefore, a controversial one and the amendment proposed by Councillor Cameron at the Policy Board meeting on 20 August 2015 was that any delegation to Furth should only comprise of officers. Councillor Lawson advised that he was concerned that the real purpose of the visit was not to study educational practices in Furth but rather was simply a twinning visit and, as such, it did not fall within the remit of the Policy Board. Councillor Lawson argued that the proposal should have gone to a full Council meeting. He indicated remarks he made at the meeting had been to this effect and that, as such, the Respondent's use of the word 'hide' might have been in the context of agreeing with him that the proposal was a 'smokescreen' to cover the real purpose of the visit.

Councillor Lawson confirmed that the meeting had been conducted in a 'business like' manner until the agenda item in question. In response to a question about the atmosphere of the meeting he described it as being 'controversial'. He indicated that while he remembered the Respondent's

remark about Councillor Henry going to play 'hide the frankfurter with the Oberburgermeister', he could not recall whether the Respondent used the Convener and Provost's first names. Councillor Lawson indicated that his recollection was that Councillor Henry had taken offence at the respondent's comments and had not known how to handle the situation. Councillor Lawson advised he had been surprised when Councillor Henry got up and left the meeting.

The Respondent argued that Councillor Henry's reaction to his remarks was disproportionate and that the CESPLS investigation and Standards Commission Hearing were a charade. The Respondent indicated he considered that the Hearing Panel was being used as a means to silence councillors. He argued that no one could have been offended by his remarks. The only person that had been was Councillor Henry.

The Respondent argued that up until that point his remarks were made, the Policy Board meeting had been good humoured. The Respondent submitted that his remarks that Councillor Henry and the Provost were going to play 'hide the frankfurter with the Oberburgermeister' were made humorously. He had been using a euphemism to make a serious point and, further, was using parlance that was common in Paisley. If anything, all he was guilty of was plagiarising a joke.

The Respondent gave evidence to the effect that he had not used the Convener or Provost's first names. He did not recall whether or not he had said anything when the Councillor Henry had left the room after calling the adjournment, although he accepted this was a possibility as he had a habit of saying things 'off piste'.

He disputed the notion that he had been disrespectful to a fellow councillor and argued he did not know anyone who was more respectful than he was, although he considered all politicians to be 'fair game'.

When asked if he was familiar with the Councillors' Code of Conduct, the Respondent said he was not. The Respondent argued he had not read the Code as his right to absolute privilege as a politician trumped it. He stated that he was at 'a more superior level than the Code'. He had been elected on a manifesto to be honest and transparent and would continue to demonstrate these values. The Respondent indicated he would not be silenced.

When referred to the paperwork, the Respondent confirmed that a week or so after the meeting on 20 August 2015 he had issued an email to all Renfrewshire councillors in which he referred to the meeting and confirmed that he had said he could envisage the deadline in the local newspaper as being 'you're just going off on the lash. Playing hide the frankfurter with the Oberburghmeister'.

DECISION

The Hearing Panel considered in detail all of the submissions, including the presentations made during the Hearing by the CESPLS and Respondent, and the evidence provided by the witnesses.

The Hearing Panel found as follows: -

1. The Councillors' Code of Conduct applied to the Respondent.

2. The Hearing Panel found the Respondent had breached paragraph 3.2 of the Code, which obliges councillors to respect the Chair at meetings of the Council, its Committees or Sub-Committees and to comply with rulings of the Chair in the conduct of the business of such meetings.

The Hearing Panel determined that, at a meeting of the Education and Children Policy Board of Renfrewshire Council on 20 August 2015, during an item to discuss an invitation for a small delegation from Renfrewshire Council to visit a the Council's twin town of Furth:

- Councillor Mack addressed the Convener and said she was going to Germany 'on the lash' with the intention of 'playing hide the frankfurter with the Oberburgermeister'. Whether or not Councillor Mack used specific names, the comment was directed at identifiable individuals; namely the Convener and the Provost.
- While it may have been the case that Councillor Mack did not intend these remarks to be offensive, his comments and, in particular, the use of a sexual innuendo, were inappropriate and disrespectful. He gave no consideration to the impact or potential impact of his comments on the recipients.
- Councillor Mack failed to comply with a ruling from the Convener and continued to speak despite being asked to cease, which resulted in her having to adjourn the meeting.
- It was Councillor Mack's personal responsibility to be aware of, and comply with, the provisions in the Councillors' Code of Conduct. He had failed to do so and, moreover, has openly admitted he was wilfully ignorant of the content of the Code.

The Hearing Panel therefore concluded that the Respondent had breached paragraph 3.2 of the Code.

Evidence in Mitigation

The Hearing Panel heard that the Respondent took exception to the finding that he had been wilfully ignorant of the content of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. This did not take into account his incredibly high caseload and workload, the fact that he had never missed a full Council meeting and that the Council had withdrawn secretarial services.

The Respondent indicated it had never been his intention to offend anyone and there had been no malice behind his remarks. He made them in good humour and had simply lapsed into working class argot. No impartial observer had been offended and Councillor Henry's reaction was simply aimed at traducing and maligning him in order to generate disparaging headlines about him in the local newspaper.

SANCTION

The decision of the Hearing Panel was to suspend the Respondent from meetings of the Education and Children Policy Board for a period of three months with effect from Friday, 21 October 2016.

This sanction was made under terms of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000 section 19(1)(b)(ii).

Reason for Sanction

In reaching their decision, the Hearing Panel noted:

- The Respondent's statement in mitigation and, in particular, that he said he had not intended any malice.
- The Respondent's view that his workload was such that he could not give time to familiarise himself with the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

However, the Hearing Panel:

- Found the Respondent had failed to respect the Convener and failed to respect her rulings as Chair during the meeting of Renfrewshire Council's Education and Children Policy Board meeting on 20 August 2015.
- Found there had been a clear breach by the Respondent of the Councillors' Code of Conduct concerning a lack of respect. While councillors are entitled to challenge other councillors, they should not do so in a personal or offensive manner. Abusive or offensive language and/or unnecessary disruptive behaviour should not be tolerated.
- Found the Respondent had wilfully ignored the Councillors' Code of Conduct. The Hearing Panel would remind the Respondent that councillors hold public office under the law and must observe the rules of conduct stemming from the law, including the Code.
- Considered the breach of the Code by the Respondent was exacerbated by his continuing lack of awareness that his comments may have been offensive, as evidenced by the email he had sent all councillors a week or so after the meeting on 20 August 2015. The Hearing Panel considered the Respondent had not reflected on his behaviour and had not demonstrated any insight into the effect it may have had on the recipients.

RIGHT OF APPEAL

The attention of the Respondent was drawn to Section 22 of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000 as amended which details the right of appeal in respect of this decision.

Date: 25 October 2016



**Professor Kevin Dunion OBE, M.A.(Hons); MSc, LLd FRSA
Chair of the Hearing Panel**