
To: Education and Children Policy Board

On: 12 May 2016

Report by: Director of Children's Services

**Heading: Consultation Report
Proposal re: a Catchment Review affecting Glencoats and
West Primary Schools**

1. Summary

- 1.1 On 5 November 2015 the education and children policy board agreed to a formal consultation on the proposal to review catchment areas affecting Glencoats and West Primary Schools.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, a formal consultation on the proposal was undertaken and a consultation document was prepared and issued simultaneously to parents and interested parties affected by the proposal.
- 1.3 The consultation formally opened on 24 November 2015 and closed at 12 noon on 19 January 2016.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to provide the education and children policy board with recommendations which recognise the issues raised and comments made in the course of the consultation exercise. There was a minimal response to the consultation and those responses received were predominately positive and supportive. Details of such responses are contained within appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.5 This report also highlights an omission in the original proposal document to consult on the catchment review.
- 1.6 Further to the conclusion of the consultation period Education Scotland notified the Council that during their engagement with parents it was highlighted that Park Lane in Ferguslie was not recorded on the list of streets affected by the proposal.
- 1.7 While this omission is not material to the Council's consideration of the appropriateness of the catchment review affecting these schools the details of the omission and the actions taken to address the inaccuracy are explained in section 6 of this report and a revised list of streets affected by the proposal is attached as appendix 5 to this report.

- 1.8 As set out in Section 5 of the 2010 Act, Education Scotland has been informed of how Renfrewshire Council has classified this omission and they have been given the opportunity to make representations regarding this.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The education and children policy board is asked to:
- note the issues raised through the formal consultation detailed in appendix 1;
 - note the comments made by Education Scotland in relation to the educational benefits of the proposal detailed in appendix 4;
 - note that Park Lane in Ferguslie was omitted from the original list of addresses affected by this catchment review. The revised list including Park Lane is attached as appendix 5 to this report;
 - note that all properties on Park Lane are included in the revised catchment area for Glencoats Primary School;
 - note that Education Scotland have made no representation relating to this omission;
 - note that having reviewed the proposal, with regard to the representations received and the report from Education Scotland, no changes have been made to this proposal;
 - approve the revised catchment arrangements affecting Glencoats and West Primary Schools; and
 - note that the catchment changes would be implemented from August 2016.
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3. Background

- 3.1. As part of Renfrewshire Council's approach to school estate management a schools' project team, including officers from various council services, continually assesses the performance of the school estate.
- 3.2. The project team identified that the condition and sufficiency of a number of primary schools and pre 5 centres present significant challenges for the Council at this time.
- 3.3. A focussed review of the primary and pre 5 estates was therefore undertaken to inform Children's Service's School Estate Management Plan (SEMP) which was approved by the education policy board in May 2014.
- 3.4. As part of this ongoing development the education and children policy board agreed to a formal consultation on the proposal to review catchment arrangements affecting Glencoats and West Primary Schools at its meeting in November 2015.
- 3.5. Elected members agreed a consultation document which was subsequently issued to parents and interested parties affected by the proposal. A copy of the consultation document is attached to this report as appendix 2.
- 3.6. The consultation formally opened on 24 November 2015 and closed at 12 noon on 19 January 2016.
- 3.7. There was a minimal response to the consultation. Those responses received were predominately positive and supportive and details of such are contained within appendix 1 to this report.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. Following agreement to consult on the proposal to review catchment arrangements affecting Glencoats and West Primary Schools a consultation document was issued to parents and interested parties affected by the proposal.
- 4.2. The consultation document invited members of the public to respond to the proposal either through contributions to a public consultation meeting or by written submissions in hard copy or email to the Director of Children's Services. Interested parties also had the opportunity to take part in the consultation through the Council's online survey.
- 4.3. A public meeting was arranged for parents and members of the public as part of the consultation process on 24 November 2015.
- 4.4. No parents, members of the public or interested parties attended the public meeting; however a report on written responses received and comments made through the Council's online survey is attached as appendix 1 to this report.

5. Comments and observations arising from the consultation

- 5.1. During the course of the consultation, questions were raised regarding how the Council would progress this proposal. Appendix 1 to this document, "Response to the proposal to review catchment arrangements affecting Glencoats and West Primary Schools" details the questions asked and the responses provided.
- 5.2. Education Scotland have been consulted on the proposal in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The response received from Education Scotland was supportive of the Council's proposal and is attached to this document as appendix 4. A summary of this finding is noted below:
- 5.3. Renfrewshire Council's proposal is of clear educational benefit. It has the support of almost all parents, children and staff involved. If the proposal is implemented, all children residing in Ferguslie will be able to attend their local school. This will help to promote their health and wellbeing by allowing them to walk to school. Overall, fair and equitable access to schools in the area will be achieved while also potentially increasing social cohesion through an increased sense of community within the local area. In its final consultation report, the council will need to set out the action it has taken to address the alleged omission notified to it.
- 5.4. Renfrewshire Council welcomes the comments made by Education Scotland and sets out the actions taken to address the omission of Park Lane from the list of streets affected by the proposed catchment review in section 6 of this report.

6. Addressing inaccuracy or omission

- 6.1. Section 7.9 of the original proposal document on this catchment review states that “If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this proposal document, either by Children’s Services or any individual, Children’s Services will determine if relevant information has been omitted or, if there has been an inaccuracy.”.
- 6.2. On 3 February 2016, after the closure of the consultation period which ended on 19 January 2016, Education Scotland advised the Council that during their engagement with parents it was highlighted to their inspector that Park Lane in Ferguslie was not recorded on the list of streets affected by the proposal; this list was included as appendix 4 to the original proposal document.
- 6.3. This matter was investigated and it was established that unless specifically named in a street search, Park Lane was not visible on either the Council’s mapping system or Google Maps.
- 6.4. Additionally, while appendix 4 did not record Park Lane as a street affected by the proposal the revised Glencoats Primary School catchment map, included as appendix 5 to the original proposal, clearly demonstrated that Park Lane was within the area of the revised Glencoats catchment.
- 6.5. The Scottish Government provides guidance to support Councils in addressing inaccuracy or omission. This guidance advises that the Council must decide whether the omission is significant enough in its nature (a material consideration) to alter its perspective on the proposal i.e. does this omission change the Council’s opinion that there is a need for a catchment review.
- 6.6. Having reviewed the issue it is clear that the omission is not a “material consideration” as it does not alter the requirement to revise the catchment areas affecting these schools.
- 6.7. While this omission is not a material consideration and the notification to the Council was received after the consultation closed, it is good practice to ensure that all bodies associated with either school are advised of the definitive catchment area for both establishments. Accordingly, Children’s Services will issue a letter to all interested parties affected by the proposal. This letter is attached as appendix 6 to this report. It advises of the omission and provides revised catchment maps for both schools.
- 6.8. As set out in Section 5 of the 2010 Act, Education Scotland has been informed of how Renfrewshire Council has classified this omission and they have been given the opportunity to make representations regarding this.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1. In terms of section 9 (1) of the 2010 Act Renfrewshire Council has a duty to review its proposal having regard to relevant representations and the report from HMIE.

- 7.2. This review was undertaken with due regard to the comments and observations submitted through the consultation process; demonstrating the Council's commitment to a consultative approach and adherence to the terms of the 2010 Act.
- 7.3. The conclusion reached through this process is that the review of catchment arrangements affecting Glencoats and West Primary Schools will be beneficial to both school communities and should be implemented in August 2016.

Implications of this report

1. **Financial Implications**
None
2. **HR and Organisational Development Implications**
None
3. **Community Plan/Council Plan Implications**

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Children and Young People | · All non-denominational pupils within the defined area will have the opportunity to attend Glencoats Primary School. |
| Community Care, Health and Well-being | · The travel distance to and from school will be reduced and pupils may have the opportunity to walk to school. |
| Greener | · The travel distance to and from school will be reduced and pupils may have the opportunity to walk to school. |
4. **Legal Implications**
This Consultation Report has been prepared following on from consultation on a relevant proposal in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
5. **Property/Assets Implications**
None
6. **Information Technology Implications**
None.
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. An equalities impact assessment is attached as appendix 3 to this report.
8. **Health and Safety Implications**
None.

9. Procurement Implications

None

10. Risk Implications

None.

11. Privacy Impact

None.

List of Background Papers

- (a) Background Paper 1: Consultation Proposal for the Development of the School Estate Management Plan (SEMP) 2013
- (b) Background Paper 2: Report on the consultation to develop the School Estate Management Plan (SEMP) and proposals to address the property challenges in the primary and pre 5 estate.
- (c) Background Paper 3: Proposal to consult on: A Catchment Review affecting Glencoats and West Primary Schools.

The foregoing background papers will be retained within ELS 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 Ian Thomson, education manager (resources). 0141 618 7241, ian.thomson@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Children's Services
IT/GMcK
21 March 2016

Author: Ian Thomson, education manager (resources). 0141 618 7241,
ian.thomson@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Responses to the consultation on the proposal to review catchment arrangements affecting Glencoats and West Primary Schools

1. Consultation Process

- 1.1. Following agreement to consult on a proposal to review catchment arrangements affecting Glencoats and West Primary Schools a consultation document was issued to all interested parties.
- 1.2. A public meeting was arranged for parents and members of the public as part of the consultation process on 24 November 2015, however, no parents or members of the public attended.
- 1.3. Meetings were also held for staff from the affected schools.
- 1.4. The consultation formally opened on 24 November 2015 and closed at 12 noon on 19 January 2016.
- 1.5. Copies of the consultation document were issued to parents of every pupil in attendance at Glencoats Primary School and West Primary School and nursery class and to all parent council groups. Copies of the document were also distributed to local libraries and a copy was placed on the Council website. An advert to notify the public of the consultation meeting was also placed in the local press. In addition the consultation document was issued to council officers, local elected members, MSPs and MPs for the Renfrewshire area and Education Scotland.
- 1.6. All formal responses submitted as part of the consultation exercise have been retained and can be viewed on request to the Director of Children's Services.

2. Responses to the Consultation

- 2.1. A number of written responses were received from interested parties registering their comments on the proposal. The following is a breakdown of written responses received:

| Category | Number of Responses | Type of Response |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Parent / Carer | 7 | 2 Online questionnaire / 5 written responses |
| Renfrewshire Council employee | | |
| Staff | | |
| Pupils | 2 | Email from head teachers on behalf of the pupil bodies |
| Other | | |

- 2.2. A public meeting was arranged for parents and members of the public as part of the consultation process however no parents or members of the public attended.
- 2.3. Arrangements were also made to consult directly with the staff of both schools.

- 2.4. A note of these meetings was taken and can be obtained by request to the Director of Children's Services and can be viewed on the Council website at www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/haveyoursay.

3. Analysis of the consultation responses

- 3.1. 9 responses were received.
- 3.2. 6 responses (67%) were supportive of the proposal and 3 (33%) responses were against the proposal.

4. Responses to key issues raised in the consultation responses

- 4.1. Questions, comments and responses from the Council's online questionnaire which asked contributors to comment on why they were supportive or against the proposal.
- C: Easier for my children to attend. They are already in Glencoats and my youngest child will be coming when he is ready to start school.
- C: My granddaughter has just 2yrs in primary school to go and I want her to stay in West school. It is too far for her to travel to Glencoats as we would have to get two buses to get there from our address.
- R: All pupils affected by this catchment review would be entitled to remain at the schools they are currently attending.**
- C: As a parent of 3, I feel that it is my child's right to attend any school I choose. It is their human right to attend any school I choose.
- R: All pupils affected by this catchment review would be entitled to remain at the schools they are currently attending. Placing request legislation allows for parental choice in relation to choosing a school.**
- C: I think you should be able to send your child to a school of your choice and West is a very good school.
- R: Placing request legislation allows for parental choice in relation to choosing a school.**
- C: Residents near Glencoats are being forced to attend West Primary which is far away from their homes.
- R: This will be addressed through the review of catchment areas to ensure all pupils living in Ferguslie will be entitled to attend Glencoats Primary School.**
- C: I think all children that stay in Ferguslie should be able to go to their local school without having to put a placement form in to see if they can go to that school. Why should kids that stay in Ferguslie have to go to another school when all their friends go to a local school in their area?
- R: This will be addressed through the review of catchment areas to ensure all pupils living in Ferguslie will be entitled to attend Glencoats Primary School.**
- C: Would agree that it appears an anomaly and if most children attend Glencoats via placement request then far more sensible to adjust catchment area.
- C: Too many pupils in West primary.

- 4.2. Responses from pupils attending West Primary School and nursery class. All pupils and young children were consulted on the proposal and some concerns regarding the impact on friendships were raised by pupils attending the school.
- R: If the proposal is approved by elected members the head teacher will ensure that pupils are informed of the rationale for the decision made. She will also ensure that it is explained that all pupils currently attending West Primary School have the right to remain in the school.
- 4.3. Responses from pupils attending Glencoats Primary School. All pupils were consulted on the proposal and the majority of pupils supported the proposal.

THIS IS A CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Proposals relating to: The revision of catchment areas affecting Glencoats and West Primary Schools

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Renfrewshire Council's vision for its school estate is to promote learning and achievement, and to give our children and young people the opportunity to learn in the best possible environment.
- 1.2 The SEMP sits within the Council's corporate asset management plan to ensure the most effective use of all council assets. The purpose of the SEMP is to set out a strategy to focus the resources available for new and redesigned school and pre 5 accommodation.
- 1.3 The SEMP is guided by Scottish Government's 9 principles for school estate management planning and the Council's 4 objectives for the school estate in Renfrewshire:

Scottish Government Principles:

- Good consultation to support better outcomes;
- Innovative design and change informed by experience;
- A more integrated, holistic and longer term approach to change;
- Schools must be in a condition to support and enhance their functions;
- Schools must be more suitable and inclusive, better future proofed for flexibility and adaptability;
- Schools should be greener, more sustainable and environmentally efficient;
- A well managed estate should represent and deliver best value;
- Schools should drive and support effective learning and teaching; and
- Schools should best serve their communities.

Council Objectives:

- To provide the best educational experience for all learners in Renfrewshire;
 - To satisfy the condition, sufficiency and suitability core facts;
 - To retain services within communities where possible; and
 - To provide environmentally and economically sustainable facilities with lower carbon footprints.
- 1.4 The Council's SEMP aims to improve the fabric, efficiency and suitability of school buildings. To assist councils in making progress towards this objective a set of indicators referred to as 'core facts' are gathered on an annual basis. These core facts provide ratings with respect to a school's condition, sufficiency and suitability.
 - 1.5 Core facts ratings are as follows:
 - A Good

- B Satisfactory
- C Poor
- D Bad

- 1.6 Through its school estate project team the Council continually reviews the performance of the school estate in terms of these core fact findings.
- 1.7 This process identified that the geographical boundary between Glencoats and West Primary Schools zones an area within the Ferguslie neighbourhood outwith its natural boundary and therefore the catchment areas for both schools should be reviewed.
- 1.8 In line with legislative requirements detailed in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, amended through the enactment of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, this report seeks approval to consult on the proposal to revise catchment arrangements between Glencoats and West Primary Schools.
- 1.9 Subject to approval by the education and children policy board to proceed with this proposal, the catchment review could take effect from August 2016.

2. Rationale for catchment review

- 2.1 As part of the SEMP development exercise in October 2013 the views of communities were sought in respect of the principle of catchment reviews in specific areas.
- 2.2 Through its survey, "Renfrewshire Schools Questionnaire", which was about the development of the school estate management plan, the Council gathered intelligence which suggested there was broad support for the review of catchment areas where it was obvious that a geographical anomaly existed.
- 2.3 Through this consultative process it was acknowledged that some pupils attend schools outwith their immediate neighbourhood in Ferguslie. Accordingly, council officers conducted a review of catchment arrangements affecting Glencoats and West Primary Schools; finding that the boundary line between both schools did not follow a natural border line.
- 2.4 It is therefore proposed that new Glencoats and West Primary School catchment areas be created with a natural geographical boundary line formed between the two schools at the railway line; mirroring the catchment review affecting St Fergus' and St Mary's Primary Schools which was approved by the Education and Children Policy Board in March 2015.
- 2.5 The impact of this proposal is illustrated through existing and proposed catchment maps for Glencoats and West Primary Schools attached as appendix 5 to this report.
- 2.6 Additionally, the full list of addresses affected by this alteration is detailed in appendix 3 to this report.
- 2.7 While it is important to address this particular issue the number of pupils affected is moderate as most pupils (from addresses affected by the proposal) already choose to attend Glencoats Primary School through placing requests. For completeness however council officers have considered the potential impact on school rolls which might result from this catchment review. Appendix 4 illustrates the numbers of pupils attending Renfrewshire schools from the addresses affected by this proposed catchment alteration.

- 2.8 It is proposed that, if approved, the catchment changes would be implemented to take effect from August 2016.
- 2.9 If the proposal is approved then all pupils living in affected addresses would be entitled to continue attending the schools they are currently in and if they are entitled to free school transport, in line with the Council's transport policy, then this entitlement would also continue.
- 2.10 Siblings of those pupils attending either school would be entitled to attend the school their sibling attends as long as their sibling is registered in the school when they enrol.
- 2.11 Free school transport for new primary 1 pupils would only be provided in instances where the pupil enrolls in the school at a time when their sibling still attends the school and where that sibling is entitled to free school transport.

3. Educational benefits statement

- 3.1 In line with legislative requirements detailed in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, amended through the enactment of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 it is incumbent on the Council to produce an educational benefits statement which describes the impact the proposal might have on the pupils of any affected schools; other community groups using the schools; children who would be likely to become pupils at the schools; and other pupils within the Council area.
- 3.2 Having carried out a review of the educational benefits of this proposal the following paragraphs detail some of the benefits that would be experienced by children and young people attending both schools if this proposal was implemented by the Council.
- 3.3 This catchment review means that all pupils living in Ferguslie will have the opportunity to attend their local non-denominational primary school and this will contribute to a greater sense of community within Glencoats Primary School.
- 3.4 As Glencoats Primary School is within walking distance of the addresses affected by this proposal it will be possible for those pupils, who are currently transported, to walk to school; encouraging a more active lifestyle which will improve the health and wellbeing of some pupils.
- 3.5 The level of placing requests from West Primary School to Glencoats Primary School from the addresses affected by this proposal is high. By addressing this catchment anomaly the uncertainty and anxiety experienced by families waiting to find out if their placing request has been accepted will be removed.
- 3.6 The educational experience of pupils attending both schools would not be adversely affected by this catchment alteration because the Council's reviews of both establishments reports that pupils experience education of a high quality.
- 3.7 All pupils affected by this catchment review would be entitled to continue attending the schools they are currently in. However, Children's Services would provide transition support to any pupils opting to change school as a result of this proposal.

4. Impact on communities

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment was undertaken as part of the development of the school estate management plan and no adverse comment was received from the Glencoats and West school communities.
- 4.2 The recommendations contained within this report have also 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 and an equalities impact assessment is available on request.

5. Consultation arrangements

- 5.1 The consultation document, attached to this report as appendix 2, provides background information to the catchment review. It details the proposal and indicates a timeframe for implementation should the proposal be approved.
- 5.2 The consultation will adhere to the procedures required to take forward the proposal in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, amended through the enactment of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
- 5.3 The Act defines ten types of proposal that trigger the consultation process. Proposals requiring consultation are those where a council proposes to:
- discontinue permanently a school (this includes special schools and nursery schools) or a stage of education in a school (this includes years in a secondary school or a special class in a mainstream school or where the Council proposes to discontinue Gaelic medium provision);
 - establish a new school or stage of education in a school;
 - relocate a school or nursery class;
 - vary the catchment area or modify the guidelines for placing requests for a school;
 - vary the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school;
 - change the school commencement date of a primary school;
 - vary arrangements for the constitution of a special class in a school other than a special school;
 - discontinue arrangements for the provision of transport by the Council for pupils attending a denominational school;
 - change a denominational school into a non-denominational school; and
 - discontinue a further education centre which is managed by the Council.
- 5.4 The consultation document also includes an educational benefits statement which sets out an assessment of the effects of the proposal if implemented.
- 5.5 Involvement of Education Scotland.

- A copy of this proposal has been sent to Education Scotland and at the end of the formal consultation period Children's Services will prepare a report for Education Scotland which will include all relevant written and oral representations that are received by the service from any individual during the consultation period;
- Education Scotland will then provide the Council with a report on the educational aspects of this proposal no later than 3 weeks after Children's Services has sent them all of the representations and documents noted above; and
- In preparing their report, Education Scotland may visit establishments affected by the proposal.

5.6 Children's Services will then reassess the proposal in relation to the comments made in the report provided by Education Scotland. Thereafter the service will prepare a consultation response report for consideration by the education and children policy board.

5.7 In line with the recommendations of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, amended through the enactment of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, the Council will publish its final consultation report. The final consultation report will contain:

- an explanation of how the Council has reviewed the proposal;
- the report from Education Scotland in full;
- a summary of points raised during the consultation – both written and oral – and the Council's response to them; and
- the substance of any alleged or discovered inaccuracies and omissions details of the Council's response and the action taken.

5.8 The report will be available on the Council's website, at the schools affected by the proposal, at education and leisure HQ and at all public libraries. Additionally, all mandatory consultees who received direct notification of the consultation will be sent a copy of the response report.

5.9 If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this proposal document, either by Children's Services or any individual, Children's Services will determine if relevant information has been omitted or, if there has been an inaccuracy. Children's Services will then take appropriate action which may include:

- the issue of a correction;
- the reissue of the proposal paper; or
- the revision of the timescale for the consultation period as appropriate.

5.10 The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, amended through the enactment of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 does not require referral to Scottish ministers in cases other than closure of schools.

Equality Impact Assessment relating to:

SEMP Development: Glencoats and West Primary Schools

| | |
|---|---|
| Officer and department responsible for completing the assessment. | Ian Thomson, Children's Services |
| Name of policy, strategy or project. | SEMP: Proposal to revise catchment areas affecting Glencoats and West Primary Schools. |
| What is the main purpose or aims of the policy, strategy or project? | To address historical catchment anomalies to better serve communities. |
| Who will be the beneficiaries of the policy/strategy/project? | This strategy would specifically affect the Glencoats and West Primary School communities. |
| Has the policy/strategy/project been explained to those it might affect directly or indirectly? | <p>Yes. This has been undertaken through an informal consultation which highlighted the challenges and opportunities available to address the inefficiencies within the school estate.</p> <p>Written representation were made to The Director of Children's Services, Renfrewshire Council, Children's Services, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1LE.</p> <p>All participants were provided with an equalities proforma which provided the opportunity to record any concerns relating to this proposed strategy; no responses were received in this respect. Additionally this proforma was made available on-line; again no responses were received.</p> <p>Further to this exercise members of the public were asked to nominate themselves for a series of focus groups to discuss SEMP matters on a geographical basis in more detail. These focus group meetings took place during January 2016.</p> <p>Notes from the public meetings and the focus group meetings have been collated and have been made available through the Council's website.</p> <p>In line with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, a formal consultation was undertaken regarding this particular proposal between November 2015 and January 2016.</p> <p>A public consultation meeting took place on 24 November 2015; no parents or members of the public attended. An equalities proforma was made available on-line; again no responses were received.</p> |
| Have you consulted on the policy? | As above. |

Complete the following table and give reasons/comment where:

- a) The policy/strategy/project could have a positive impact on any of the equality target groups or contributes to promoting equality, equal opportunities and improving relations with equality target groups.
- b) The policy/strategy/project could have a negative impact on any equality target groups. (If the impact is high a full EIA should be completed)

| Equality group | Positive impact | | Negative impact | | Reason/comment |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|---|
| | High | Low | High | Low | |
| Race | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Sex | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Disability | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Religion / Belief | | ✓ | | ✓ | It is recognised that the main challenges within the school estate relate to denominational schools. However, the proposed strategy does not recommend the closure of any denominational schools and the proposed actions to address the property challenges facing the Council are common to both denominational and non-denominational schools. |
| Sexual Orientation | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Age | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Gender Reassignment | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Marriage and Civil Partnership | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Pregnancy and Maternity | | ✓ | | ✓ | |

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Renfrewshire Council to review and amend the catchment areas affecting Glencoats and West Primary Schools**Introduction**

This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the amendments contained in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of Renfrewshire Council's proposal to revise the catchment areas affecting Glencoats and West Primary Schools. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include a copy of this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision. Where a council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all legislative obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the schools; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 24 November 2015 in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- visits to the sites of Glencoats Primary School and West Primary School, including discussion with children, staff and parents.

Consultation Process

Renfrewshire Council undertook the consultation on its proposal with reference to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the amendments in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Renfrewshire Council's consultation on the proposal to review and amend the catchment areas affecting Glencoats and West Primary Schools ran from 24 November 2015 to 19 January 2016. The council held a public meeting on 24 November 2015 at Glencoats Primary School. No parents or members of the public attended. The council received nine written responses on the proposal. Seven of these were from parents/carers. Almost all responses were in support of the proposal.

Educational Aspects of Proposal

The proposal is of clear educational benefit. Glencoats Primary School is located in the Ferguslie area of Paisley. Current catchment arrangements mean that children living at particular addresses have to travel outwith the immediate area to attend their catchment school, West Primary School. For some children this involves being transported by bus or car. If implemented, the proposal ensures that all children from Ferguslie, as of August 2016, will be zoned for their local school, Glencoats Primary School. As a result, children living at the addresses affected by the proposal will be able to walk to school, therefore encouraging a healthy lifestyle.

Implementation of the proposal will have a positive impact on the local community. It has the potential to promote a greater sense of community both within the school and within the Ferguslie area. If implemented, all children from Ferguslie will be entitled to attend their local non-denominational school.

There is currently a significant number of placing requests from West Primary School to Glencoats Primary School from the addresses affected. By addressing the current catchment anomaly, the number of placing requests is likely to decline. As a result, uncertainty or anxiety which families may currently have in waiting to hear the outcomes of their placing requests will be reduced.

The council has taken appropriate steps to minimise any adverse impact of the proposal. This includes a guarantee that children who live in addresses affected by the proposal will be able to continue to attend their current school and will remain entitled to free school transport. The proposal also gives a guarantee to siblings of those children who already attend West Primary School.

Parents and staff who met with HM Inspectors were strongly in favour of the proposal. They felt that it was positive that the council was proposing to give children fair and equitable access to their local school. They also appreciated that the council would make fair provision for children already attending West Primary School to remain there if they so wish. Children who met with HM Inspectors agreed, overall, that the proposal was sensible and felt it would have minimal impact on them.

When stakeholders engaged with HM Inspectors an alleged omission was identified. The council were notified of this and will need to ensure that it takes the necessary steps to investigate this alleged omission. In its final consultation report, the council will need to set out the action it has taken to address any alleged omission notified to it.

Summary

Renfrewshire Council's proposal is of clear educational benefit. It has the support of almost all parents, children and staff involved. If the proposal is implemented, all children residing in Ferguslie will be able to attend their local school. This will help to promote their health and wellbeing by allowing them to walk to school. Overall, fair and equitable access to schools in the area will be achieved while also potentially increasing social cohesion through an increased sense of community within the local area. In its final consultation report, the council will need to set out the action it has taken to address the alleged omission notified to it.

HM Inspectors

Education Scotland

February 2016

Glencoats Primary School catchment review with West Primary School.

Numbers currently attending Renfrewshire schools from affected streets; amended to include Park Lane in Ferguslie.

| Number of Pupils Affected | School | | |
|--|-----------|------|-------------|
| Pupil's Street | Glencoats | West | Grand Total |
| Barochan Crescent | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| Barochan Way | 3 | | 3 |
| Dalskeith Avenue | 7 | 3 | 10 |
| Dalskeith Road (No.s 33+ and 44+) | 7 | | 7 |
| Ferguslie Park Avenue (No.s 167+ and 216+) | 13 | | 13 |
| Park Lane | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Grand Total | 41 | 8 | 49 |

To whom it may concern

As you are aware Renfrewshire Council has recently consulted on a catchment review affecting Glencoats and West Primary Schools. The consultation period ended on 19 January 2016.

On 3 February 2016 Education Scotland advised the Council that it was highlighted to their inspector that Park Lane in Ferguslie was not recorded on the list of streets affected by the catchment review.

I would take this opportunity to confirm that Park Lane in Ferguslie should have been included on the list of addresses affected by the consultation about catchment areas but, owing to an administrative error, was not included on that list. However, I would also note that the area where Park Lane is located was shown clearly on the Glencoats Primary School catchment map, which was included as Appendix 5 to the catchment review proposal. In all the circumstances, the Council will not reopen consultation on the proposal about the catchment review.

The catchment maps are provided for you with this letter to advise of the definitive catchment areas for both Glencoats and West Primary Schools in accordance with the catchment review proposal.