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**To:** Education Policy Board

**On:** 5 March 2015

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**Report by:** Director of Children's Services

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**Heading:** Response to proposal to consult on a catchment review affecting St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace Primary Schools

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 On 21 August 2014 the education policy board agreed to a formal consultation on a proposal to review catchment arrangements affecting St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace Primary Schools.
- 1.2 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, 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 6 October 2014 and closed at 12 noon on 26 November 2014.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to provide the education policy board with recommendations which recognise the issues raised and comments made in the course of the consultation exercise. A report on the issues raised and a consideration of these is included as appendix 1 to this document.
- 1.5 Responses to the proposal to review catchment arrangements affecting St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace Primary Schools were positive and details of such responses are contained within appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.6 The outcome of this consultation demonstrates support for the proposal and the education policy board is therefore asked to approve the recommendation to alter the catchment areas affecting St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace Primary Schools to create a natural geographical boundary which will allow all denominational pupils the opportunity to attend the local denominational school in Houston.

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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. The education 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 proposals detailed in appendix 4;
  - approve the revised catchment arrangements affecting St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace Primary Schools; and
  - note that the catchment changes would be implemented from August 2015.
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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 the 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 policy board agreed to a formal consultation on the proposal to review catchment arrangements affecting St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace Primary Schools.
  - 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 6 October 2014 and closed at 12 noon on 26 November 2014.
  - 3.7. Responses to the proposal to review the catchment areas affecting St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace Primary Schools were positive and details of such responses are contained within appendix 1 to this report.
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### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1. Following agreement to consult on the proposal to review catchment arrangements a consultation document was issued to parents and interested parties affected by the proposals.
- 4.2. The consultation document invited members of the public to respond to the proposals either through contributions to a public consultation meeting or by written submissions in hard copy or email to the director of education and leisure 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 held for parents and members of the public as part of the consultation process on 7 October 2014 however only one parent attended the meeting.
- 4.4. A brief presentation was made by officers from education and leisure services to outline the background to the proposal, highlighting the impact this would have on the school communities.

- 4.5. Questions were invited and notes of the questions asked and the answers provided by education officers were published on the Council's website.
- 4.6. A report on written responses received and comments made through the Council's online survey is attached as appendix 1 to this report.

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## **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 consultation on the proposal to review catchment arrangements affecting St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace Primary Schools" details the questions asked and the responses provided.
- 5.2. Education Scotland have been consulted on the proposal 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. 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:
  - 5.2.1. The proposal by Renfrewshire Council to review and amend the catchment areas affecting St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace Primary Schools is of clear educational benefit. The proposal has the full support of parents, staff, children, the Diocese of Paisley and the wider community. It addresses historical anomalies in the catchment areas of the schools. If the proposal is implemented it will enable children who live in the village of Houston to attend their local denominational primary school instead of having to travel to Our Lady of Peace Primary School in Linwood. This has the potential to provide fair and equitable access to the schools in the village of Houston whilst having a positive impact on the wider community of Houston. Implementation of the proposal will also enable the council to make more effective and efficient use of its resources and help it secure best value in the delivery of its services. In its final consultation report, the council needs to clarify whether implementation of the proposal will apply to children due to start school in P1 from August 2015.
  - 5.2.2. Subject to board approval, this catchment change will be implemented for the start of the school session 2015 / 2016 in August 2015. Arrangements will be made to ensure that all pupils enrolling for P1 from addresses affected by this change are notified in advance of the revision of the catchment area.

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## **Implications of this report**

1. **Financial Implications**  
Any additional transport cost will be contained within current resources.
2. **HR and Organisational Development Implications**  
None.

### **3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications**

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Children and Young People             | · All denominational pupils within the defined area will have the opportunity to attend St Fillan's Primary School. |
| Community Care, Health and Well-being | · The travel distance to and from school will be reduced.   |
| Greener                               | · The travel distance to and from school will be reduced.   |

### **4. Legal Implications**

This proposal adheres to the procedures required to take forward any proposal in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 amended through the enactment of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

### **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.

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## **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 St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace 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](mailto:ian.thomson@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

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IT/GMcK/LG  
23 February 2015  
Children's Services

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



## Response to the Consultation on the Proposals Relating to: The review of catchment arrangements affecting St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace Primary Schools.

### 1. Consultation Process

- 1.1. Following agreement to consult on a proposal to review catchment arrangements affecting St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace Primary Schools a consultation document was issued to all interested parties.
- 1.2. A consultation meeting was held with parents and members of the public and meetings were also held with staff from the affected schools.
- 1.3. The consultation formally opened on 6 October 2014 and closed at 12 noon on 26 November 2014.
- 1.4. Copies of the consultation document were issued to parents of every pupil in attendance at St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace Primary Schools 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.
- 1.5. All formal responses submitted as part of the consultation exercise have been retained and can be viewed on request to the director of education and leisure services.

### 2. The Consultation

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

Category	Number of Responses	Type of Response
Parents	10	Recorded via online survey
MSP / Elected Members	1	Recorded via online survey

- 2.2. The public meeting was held in St Fillan's Primary School on 7 October 2014, one member of the public attended.
- 2.3. A note of the meeting was taken and can be obtained by request to the director of education and leisure services and can be viewed on the Council website at [www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/haveyoursay](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/haveyoursay)
- 2.4. Arrangements were made to consult directly with the staff of both schools.

### **3. Analysis of key issues raised during the consultation**

- 3.1. 11 responses were received and recorded through the Council's online survey and all responses were supportive of the proposal.
- 3.2. 11 comments were made in relation to this proposal. Of the 11 comments made all were supportive. Questions asked through the online survey and at the public meeting held on 7 October 2014 are noted at 4 below.

### **4. Response to key issues raised during the consultation**

Q: If the proposal is approved when would free transport become available?  
R: If approved, free school transport would be provided in line with the Council's transport policy from August 2015, at the beginning of the new school session.

Q: Did the Council expect there to be any difficulties with the implementation of this review?

R: No, the community has been asking for this change for some time. It is envisaged that the proposal to change the catchment would be well received as it addresses a geographical anomaly which has denominational pupils living in Houston having to go to school in Linwood.

Q: As my address is in Houston my children should be able to attend any of the local schools and not bussed to Linwood. There was a review for Gryffe High School which as a result took in Craigends, so why should St Fillan's be the only school in Houston and Bridge of Weir that my children don't get an automatic place?

R: Gryffe High School's catchment area was not reviewed but Houston Primary School's was, to include the Craigends area of Houston. Approval of this proposal will address the concern regarding entitlement to attend St Fillan's Primary School for all denominational pupils living in the Craigends area of Houston however; it will not provide an automatic place at Gryffe High School.

C: Everyone living within the village should have the opportunity to go to the village RC school. The catchment area for St Fillan's should be the same as Houston Primary as it is discriminant at present.

R: Renfrewshire Council is committed to addressing geographical catchment anomalies which adversely affect school communities. Approval of this proposal will address this concern for the St Fillan's Primary School community.

C: St Fillan's catchment should be the same as Houston Primary's catchment. St Fillan's is struggling for pupils while Houston Primary bursts at the seams. Children are having to make own way to school at St Fillan's whereas they would have a school bus to Houston Primary, they pay a penalty for being at a 'fail school'.

R: Should the proposal to alter the catchment areas be approved transport will be provided for all catchment pupils entitled to free school transport under Renfrewshire Council's transport policy.

C: Makes sense for children who live in Houston to go to school in Houston. May help increase roll numbers for St Fillan's.

C: Increase intake into St Fillan's to make school more viable and increase potential pupil numbers. Help to secure future of the school for pupils, parents, staff and local community.

- C: It would bring in line with the other schools in the area; this may improve St Fillan's numbers.
- R: It is envisaged that the combination of capacity reduction and catchment review will result in the school's sufficiency rating improving to a minimum of category "B" – satisfactory.
- C: St Fillan's is the catholic school for the village and Craigends is part of the village of Houston and should therefore be included in the catchment. There are houses which are currently outwith the catchment area which are geographically closer to St Fillan's Primary than houses which are currently inside the catchment. This appears illogical and unfair.
- C: The Craigends estate falls within the boundary of Houston and as such the natural school is the village school.
- C: There have been a number of anomalies as a result of the current boundary, such as transport entitlements which differ and confusion over rights.
- C: Extending the St. Fillan's catchment area to include the Craigends area of Houston is consistent with the catchment areas for Houston Primary and Gryffe High thus ensuring all of the Houston community is treated equally.
- C: Extending the St Fillan's catchment to include the Craigends area of Houston ensures a consistent approach for all schools within the Houston area. It will help to ensure a smooth transition from nursery school to primary school for the catholic children within the Craigends area of Houston and strengthen the links with the local Roman Catholic parish of St. Fillan's.
- R: It is acknowledged that some pupils are zoned to attend schools outwith their immediate neighbourhood in Houston. This anomaly related to a point in time when the capacity of the St Fillan's building could not accommodate the denominational population within the area. Roll projections have identified that this is no longer the case and it is possible to accommodate all denominational pupils living in Houston at St Fillan's Primary School.



## THIS IS A CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

### Proposals relating to:

### The review of catchment areas affecting St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace 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:

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

#### Council Objectives:

1. To provide the best educational experience for all learners in Renfrewshire;
  2. To satisfy the condition, sufficiency and suitability core facts;
  3. To retain services within communities where possible; and
  4. 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 St Fillan's Primary School buildings were too big for the school's current and future rolls.

1.8. Building on this intelligence elected members approved an approach to engage school communities and interested parties in the development of the SEMP and in respect of the property performance challenges facing St Fillan's Primary School the review concluded that:

- the geographical boundary between St Fillan's Primary School and Our Lady of Peace Primary School zones an area within the Houston neighbourhood outwith its natural boundary and therefore the catchment areas for both schools should be reviewed;
- the sufficiency level at St Fillan's Primary School could be addressed through the removal of modular classrooms to reduce the capacity of the school; and
- to facilitate this capacity reduction the main school building required minor adaptation and extension to address operational challenges in respect of the school's administration and management accommodation and storage.

1.9. It is estimated that the cost of minor adaptation to address the operational challenges noted above would be approximately £0.050m.

1.10. 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 St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace Primary Schools.

1.11. If elected members decide to proceed with this proposal, following this consultation, the catchment review could take effect from August 2015.

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## **2. Rationale for change**

2.1. At the last school census date in September 2013, St Fillan's Primary School had a capacity of 262 with a pupil roll of 143 meaning its sufficiency rating was poor (category C) and it was only 54.58% full.

2.2. As the school population is split between the main school building and a two classroom modular unit it was identified that the school's sufficiency level could be addressed through the removal of the two modular classrooms.

- 2.3. To facilitate this capacity reduction the main school building requires minor adaptation and extension to address operational challenges in respect of the school's administration and management accommodation and storage. This work is scheduled to be undertaken during 2014 at an estimated cost of £0.050m.
- 2.4. In terms of planning accommodation for the future it is essential to consider not only the current roll but the potential variances in the pupil roll over a period of time.
- 2.5. The table below illustrates roll projections for St Fillan's Primary School over a 10 year period. A decrease in roll is indicated however, when assessed in relation to a possible roll increase, generated through a potential catchment review, it is determined that the revised capacity of 196 (achieved by the removal of 2 classes or 66 places) will be sufficient for the current and future roll.

Capacity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
262	148	138	128	134	125	122	127	127	125	127

- 2.6. It is envisaged that the combination of capacity reduction and catchment review will result in the school's sufficiency rating improving to a minimum of category "B" – satisfactory.

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### **3. Catchment review**

- 3.1. 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.
- 3.2. 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.
- 3.3. Through this consultative process it was acknowledged that some pupils were zoned to attend schools outwith their immediate neighbourhood in Houston. Accordingly, council officers conducted a review of catchment arrangements affecting St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace Primary Schools; finding that the boundary line between the schools did not follow a natural border line.
- 3.4. It is therefore proposed that new St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace Primary School catchment areas be created with a natural geographical boundary line formed between the two schools.
- 3.5. This alteration is suggested as opposed to maintaining the current boundary line which zones an area within Houston outwith its natural neighbourhood. This proposal is illustrated through existing and proposed catchment maps for St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace Primary Schools attached as appendix 5 to this report.
- 3.6. Additionally, the full list of addresses affected by this alteration is detailed in appendix 3 to this report.

- 3.7. While it is important to address this particular issue the number of pupils affected is fairly minimal. 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.
  - 3.8. It is proposed that, if approved, the catchment changes would be implemented to take effect from August 2015.
  - 3.9. 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.
  - 3.10. 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.
  - 3.11. 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.
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#### **4. Educational benefits statement**

- 4.1. 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 users of the schools; children who would be likely to become pupils at the schools within 2 years of the publication of the proposal paper; and other pupils within the Council area.
- 4.2. Having carried out a review of the educational benefits of this proposal with the head teacher and parent representatives the following paragraphs detail some of the benefits that would be experienced by children and young people attending St Fillan's Primary School if this proposal was implemented by the Council.
- 4.3. This catchment review means that all denominational pupils living in Houston will have the opportunity to attend their local denominational primary school as opposed to the current arrangement which involves transporting pupils to Our Lady of Peace Primary School in Linwood. This should lead to less time being spent getting to and from school.
- 4.4. This change will contribute to a greater sense of community within St Fillan's Primary School as all denominational pupils living in Houston will be entitled to attend their local denominational primary school.
- 4.5. The educational experience of pupils would not be adversely affected by this catchment review as the Council's recent review of St Fillan's Primary School reports that pupils experience education of a high quality.
- 4.6. All pupils affected by this catchment review would be entitled to continue attending the schools they are currently in. However, education and leisure services would provide transition support to any pupils opting to change school as a result of this proposal.

- 4.7. By improving the efficiency of St Fillan's Primary School, which is adapted specifically for the current and future pupil numbers, it is envisaged that the sufficiency of Renfrewshire Council's school estate will be improved to the benefit of all pupils within the Council area.
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## **5. Impact on school and community**

- 5.1. 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 St Fillan's or Our Lady of Peace school communities.
- 5.2. 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.
- 5.3. Appropriate disruption management plans are in place to support the school during the minor adaptation to the building during 2014. In due course, disruption management arrangements will be developed to support the school during the removal of the modular units.
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## **6. Consultation arrangements**

- 6.1. This 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.
- 6.2. 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.
- 6.3. The consultation document also includes an educational benefits statement which sets out an assessment of the effects of the proposal if implemented.

6.4. Involvement of Education Scotland.

- A copy of this proposal has been sent to Education Scotland and at the end of the formal consultation period education and leisure 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 education and leisure 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.

6.5. Education and leisure 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 policy board.

6.6. 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.

6.7. 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.

6.8. If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this proposal document, either by education and leisure services or any individual, education and leisure services will determine if relevant information has been omitted or, if there has been an inaccuracy. Education and leisure 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.

6.9. 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.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Approval for consultation sought from education policy board	21 August 2014
Consultation document to be issued outlining the proposal to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the parent council of any affected schools;</li></ul>	5 September 2014

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the parents of the pupils at any affected school;</li> <li>• the parents of any children expected by the education authority to attend any affected school within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper;</li> <li>• the pupils at any affected school (in so far as the education authority considers them to be of a suitable age and maturity);</li> <li>• the staff (teaching and other) at any affected school;</li> <li>• any trade union or professional body which appears to the education authority to be representative of the persons mentioned above;</li> <li>• the community council (if any);</li> <li>• any bodies which have been established by a local authority, whether formally or informally, for the purpose of assisting it in carrying out its functions under Part 2 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 (asp 1);</li> <li>• any other education authority that the education authority considers relevant; and</li> <li>• any other users of any affected school that the education authority considers relevant.</li> </ul>	
<p>Advert to advise of public consultation meeting and the commencement of the formal consultation period issued via local press.</p>	<p>22 September 2014</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public consultation meeting held to consult with affected community; and</li> <li>• Questionnaire to go live on the Council website.</li> </ul>	<p>7 October 2014</p>
<p>Public consultation period ends 6 weeks after the date of the public meeting. The total period excludes any school holidays or in-service days.</p>	<p>26 November 2014</p>
<p>Report to Education Scotland on outcome of consultation.</p>	<p>10 December 2014</p>
<p>Response from Education Scotland on outcome of consultation.</p>	<p>14 January 2014</p>
<p>Consultation response report (including Education Scotland response) presented to education policy board meeting stating consultation outcomes and making final recommendation.</p>	<p>5 March 2015</p>
<p>Copy of proposal paper and consultation response report sent to Scottish Ministers within 6 days of education policy board approval.</p>	

## St Fillan's Primary School catchment review with Our Lady of Peace Primary School - streets affected

Name of Street	Name of Town
Beatrice Gardens	Houston
Craigburn Avenue	Houston
Craigburn Crescent	Houston
Craigburn Place	Houston
Craigends Road	Houston
Crawford Road (No's 27+ and 42+)	Houston
Cunningham Gardens	Houston
Fulton Gardens	Houston
Gryfebank Avenue	Houston
Gryfebank Close	Houston
Gryfebank Crescent	Houston
Gryfebank Way	Houston
Gryfewood Crescent	Houston
Gryfewood Way	Houston
Hillfoot	Houston
Hillside	Houston
Locher Avenue	Houston
Locher Crescent	Houston
Locher Gait	Houston
Locher Gardens	Houston
Locher Way	Houston
Locherburn Avenue	Houston
Locherburn Grove	Houston
Locherburn Place	Houston
Netherburn Avenue	Houston
Netherburn Gardens	Houston
Woodburn Place	Houston

## St Fillan's Primary School catchment review with Our Lady of Peace Primary School

### Numbers currently attending Renfrewshire schools from affected streets

Address	Bridge of Weir Primary	Fordbank Primary	Houston Primary	Kilbarchan Primary	Newmains Primary	St Fillan's Primary	Grand Total
Beatrice Gardens			6			1	7
Craigburn Avenue			5				5
Craigburn Crescent			2				2
Craigburn Place							0
Craigends Road						2	2
Crawford Road	1	2	37			5	45
Cunningham Gardens			7				7
Fulton Gardens			3				3
Gryfebank Avenue			8				8
Gryfebank Close			10				10
Gryfebank Crescent			4			2	6
Gryfebank Way			5				5
Gryfewood Crescent			6			1	7
Gryfewood Way			2				2
Hillfoot	2		21			3	26
Hillside			14				14
Locher Avenue			7	1	1	1	10
Locher Crescent			7			1	8
Locher Gait							0
Locher Gardens							0
Locher Way	1		2				3
Locherburn Avenue			6				6

Address	Bridge of Weir Primary	Fordbank Primary	Houston Primary	Kilbarchan Primary	Newmains Primary	St Fillan's Primary	Grand Total
Locherburn Grove			1				1
Locherburn Place			5				5
Netherburn Avenue			1				1
Netherburn Gardens			5				5
Woodburn Place							0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>188</b>







Notes:  
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St Fillan's Primary School

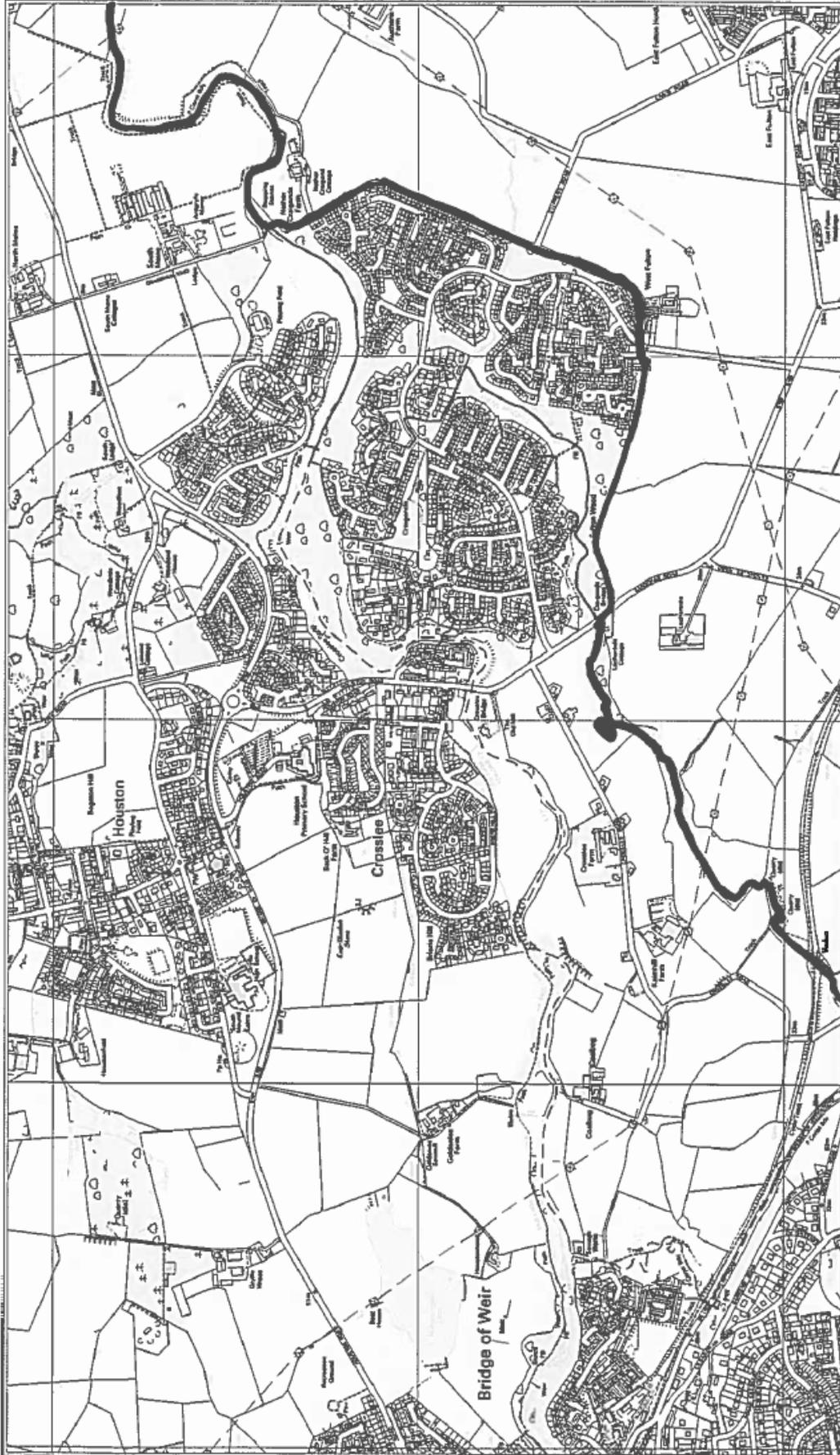


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Date: 10/01/2014

User: edbaltanyre.k1

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St Fillan's Primary School



1:10,000

**REVISED CATCHMENT**

Date: 10/6/2014



Renfrewshire  
Council

User: edballan@nck1

## Equality Impact Assessment relating to:

## SEMP Development: St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace

Officer and department responsible for completing the assessment.	Ian Thomson, Education and Leisure Services
Name of policy, strategy or project.	Proposal to consult on a catchment review affecting St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace Primary Schools.
What is the main purpose or aims of the policy, strategy or project?	To provide a learning environment which is conducive to education in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century and 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 St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace 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 Education and Leisure Services, Renfrewshire Council, Education and Leisure 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 2014.</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, amended through the enactment of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, a formal consultation was undertaken during Autumn 2014.</p> <p>This included a public consultation meeting which took place on 7 October 2014; one member of the public attended this meeting and no adverse responses were received in this</p>

	respect. Additionally an equalities proforma was made available on-line; again no responses were received.
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 the catchment areas affecting St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace Primary Schools

### 1. Introduction

1.1 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 review the catchment areas affecting St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace 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.

#### 1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

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

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

- attendance at the public meeting held on 7 October 2014 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
- a visit to the site of St Fillan's Primary School including discussions with staff, children, parents and representatives of the Catholic Church.

### 2. Consultation Process

2.1 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*.

2.2 Renfrewshire Council's consultation on the proposal to review and amend the catchment areas affecting St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace Primary Schools ran from 5 September to 26

November 2014. The council held a public meeting on 7 October at St Fillan's Primary School. This meeting was attended by one member of the public. The council received 11 written responses on the proposal. Ten of these responses were from parents. All of those who responded to the council supported the proposal.

### **3. Educational Aspects of Proposal**

3.1 The proposal to review and amend the catchment areas of St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace Primary Schools is of clear educational benefit. St Fillan's Primary School is located in the village of Houston. The current catchment area arrangements for the schools mean that some children from an area in the village of Houston have to travel to Our Lady of Peace Primary School in the village of Linwood. Implementation of the proposal will mean that children will spend less time travelling to school each day. The proposal will establish catchment areas for both schools that follow a natural border line. If implemented, the whole of the village of Houston will become part of the catchment area of St Fillan's Primary School. The council plans to implement the proposal from August 2015. However, it is not clear from the proposal paper that this will apply to children due to start P1 at this time. In its final consultation report, the council needs to clarify whether implementation of the proposal will apply to children due to start school in P1 from August 2015.

3.2 Implementation of the proposal will have a positive impact on the local community. It has the potential to create a greater sense of community within both the school and the village of Houston. Once implemented, children who live in the village of Houston will be entitled to attend their local denominational primary school.

3.3 The proposal will enable the council to make more effective and efficient use of its resources. The proposal is part of the council's School Estate Management Plan which aims to improve the fabric, efficiency and suitability of the council's school buildings. Included within the proposal is a commitment to improve the overall learning environment of St Fillan's Primary School by removing modular classrooms and combining this with some adaptation, refurbishment and extension of the main school building.

3.4 The council has taken a number of steps to minimise any possible adverse impact of the proposal. For example, it has given guarantees 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 range of guarantees to siblings of those children who attend the schools.

3.5 All those who responded to the council supported the proposal. They did so through the council's online survey. Some respondents raised questions about the proposal during the consultation. The council provided clear responses to these questions. Parents who met with HM Inspectors were strongly in favour of the proposal. They appreciated the fact that the council has consulted on this proposal in response to their earlier requests. They feel the proposal will ensure that all children who live in the village of Houston will have fair and equitable access to the schools in the village. They also feel that the proposal addresses current perceived anomalies in arrangements for providing children with transport to school. They very much welcomed the proposal and would wish it to be implemented as quickly as possible. They were particularly keen that the proposal would apply to children due to start school in P1 from August 2015. As the schools affected by the proposal are denominational schools, the council consulted with the Catholic Church. The Diocese of Paisley supported the proposal.

#### **4. Summary**

The proposal by Renfrewshire Council to review and amend the catchment areas affecting St Fillan's and Our Lady of Peace Primary Schools is of clear educational benefit. The proposal has the full support of parents, staff, children, the Diocese of Paisley and the wider community. It addresses historical anomalies in the catchment areas of the schools. If the proposal is implemented it will enable children who live in the village of Houston to attend their local denominational primary school instead of having to travel to Our Lady of Peace Primary School in Linwood. This has the potential to provide fair and equitable access to the schools in the village of Houston whilst having a positive impact on the wider community of Houston. Implementation of the proposal will also enable the council to make more effective and efficient use of its resources and help it secure best value in the delivery of its services. In its final consultation report, the council needs to clarify whether implementation of the proposal will apply to children due to start school in P1 from August 2015.

**HM Inspectors  
Education Scotland  
December 2014**