



Glasgow City Council

Executive Committee

Report by Stephen Curran, Executive Member for Children and Young People

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Item 1

19th February 2015

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION:

PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE CATCHMENT AREAS FOR MERRYLEE, CROFTFOOT, BATTLEFIELD, MOUNT FLORIDA PRIMARY SCHOOLS, AND KING'S PARK, HILLPARK SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND SHAWLANDS ACADEMY

Purpose of Report:

To advise the Executive Committee on the outcome of the publication consultations to amend the catchment areas for Merrylee, Croftfoot, Battlefield, Mount Florida Primary Schools, and King's Park, Hillpark Secondary Schools and Shawlands Academy.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Executive Committee:

- notes the content of this report;
- approves the amendments to the catchment areas as noted in section 6 of this report;
- approves the transitional arrangements for siblings as noted in paragraphs 5.2.5.3 and 5.2.5.7 of this report.

| Schools | Ward(s) | Strategic Planning Area | Learning Community |
|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Merrylee Primary School | 2 | South | Hillpark |

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| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-------|------------------------------|
| | | | |
| Crofffoot Primary School | 1 | South | King's Park |
| Battlefield Primary School | 7 | South | Shawlands |
| Mount Florida Primary School | 7 | South | King's Park Secondary School |
| King's Park Secondary School | 1 | South | King's Park |
| Hillpark Secondary School | 2 | South | Hillpark |
| Shawlands Academy | 7 | South | Shawlands |

| | |
|--|--|
| Local member(s) advised: Yes X No <input type="checkbox"/> | consulted: Yes X No <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--|

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1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 On 25 September 2014 the Executive Committee agreed to issue consultative documents, on proposals to amend the catchment areas for Merrylee, Croftfoot, Battlefield, Mount Florida Primary Schools and King's Park, Hillpark Secondary Schools and Shawlands Academy.

1.2 Glasgow's consulted in line with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended. This requires that local authorities adopt a robust and transparent framework for consultations on school closures and other major changes to the education estate, for example, catchment areas. The process requires authorities to actively involve and consult with all stakeholders and other school users. It is necessary to include an educational benefit statement – that is, the authority must produce a statement setting out its assessment of the effects on children and young people and other users of an affected establishment. There is a minimum six weeks term-time consultation period.

- consultation papers were distributed to a wide range of stakeholders and interested parties
- notices to advise of the consultation arrangements were placed in the local press
- dedicated pages were set up on the Council website for both information and to enable interested parties to respond to the proposals
- the public consultation period ran from 25 October 2014 to 1 December 2014
- public meetings were as follows:
 - 27 October 2014 Merrylee Primary School
 - 28 October 2014 Croftfoot Primary School
 - 30 October 2014 Battlefield Primary School
 - 3 November 2014 Mount Florida Primary School
 - 5 November 2014 Hillpark Secondary School
 - 10 November 2014 Shawlands Academy
 - 12 November 2014 King's Park Secondary School

1.3 Across the seven consultation meetings a total of 60 people attended.

1.4 In addition to the public meetings, arrangements were also put in place to discuss the proposals with parent councils, staff groups and area partnerships.

1.5 As part of the consultation process, officers ensured that the views and opinions of respondents were given due consideration. In order to ensure a rigorous and thorough examination of the responses received, a member of the Education Directorate read every response to validate key aspects of responses in order that Elected Members are provided with a detailed, objective analysis.

1.6 The statutory consultation period concluded on 1 December 2014.

- 1.7 Officers focused on identifying the main issues and concerns (see section 3) giving each response equivalent weighting in order to ensure the basis of the response, rather than the number of people who made it, was fully explored and evaluated prior to offering conclusions and recommendations.
- 1.8 In a major consultation there is the possibility that errors may occur therefore there are procedures in place to identify, amend and record any errors.
- 1.9 In the first few days of the consultation period a number of enquiries were received regarding the proposed changes to the Merrylee Primary School catchment area. Consequently a clarification notice was distributed to stakeholders and posted on the dedicated pages on the Council's website.
- 1.10 Feedback from the consultation process also highlighted that the maps of the current and proposed catchment areas were not sufficiently detailed. Consequently more detailed maps were issued with lists of street names that would be affected by the proposals and also posted on the dedicated pages on the Council's website.

2. Response to the Consultation

- 2.1 The Council received 74 responses to the proposals as follows:

| | Respondents | %age |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Merrylee PS | 30 | 41 |
| Battlefield PS | 5 | 7 |
| Mount Florida PS | 2 | 3 |
| Croftfoot PS | 1 | 1 |
| King's Park SS | - | - |
| Hillpark SS | 6 | 8 |
| Shawlands Academy | 23 | 31 |
| Parent Councils/Other | 7 | 9 |
| | <hr/> | |
| | 74 | 100 |

| | Respondents | %age |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Parents/Carers | 37 | 50 |
| Staff | 19 | 26 |
| Children/Young People | 11 | 15 |
| Residents | 4 | 5 |
| Parent Councils | 3 | 4 |
| | <hr/> | |
| | 74 | 100 |

3. Main Issues Raised on the Consultations

- 3.1 There was a general recognition that action is required to be taken to address over capacity at Merrylee Primary School and that in doing so the proposals

to remove shared catchment areas would provide families with greater certainty regarding their zoned schools.

A number of key issues were raised during the consultation process, namely:

- The area known as old Cathcart that is currently zoned to Merrylee is proposed to be re-zoned to Mount Florida. A number of respondents highlighted a strong sense of local identity with the Merrylee catchment area and that if the proposals were implemented this would have a negative effect on children's friendships and relationships, particularly during transition from nursery to primary school.
- A number of respondents also believed that the current shared catchment area between Battlefield and Merrylee Primary that is proposed to be split, with the part to the West becoming the Merrylee catchment and the part to the East becoming part of the Battlefield catchment, is counter intuitive in addressing the over capacity difficulties at Merrylee Primary School.
- The impact the proposed changes would have on the pupil rolls of Hillpark Secondary School and Shawlands Academy.
- The impact the proposed changes would have on the capacity/occupancy of Mount Florida Primary School that could, over time, limit the level of general purpose/flexible space available.
- The impact the proposed changes would have on P1 enrolment and P7/S1 transition, particularly given the intention to implement the changes from August 2015.
- Clarity on the timescales for the refurbishment of Battlefield and Croftfoot Primary Schools.

4. Report from Education Scotland

- 4.1 The Council has fully considered the report from Education Scotland.
- 4.2 Overall Education Scotland believes there is educational benefit from the Council's proposals, particularly in addressing the over-crowding at Merrylee Primary School and creating greater certainty for families regarding zoned schools through the removal of shared catchment areas.
- 4.3 Their report highlights a number of issues that were raised during the consultation process that the Council should consider in preparing its response to the consultation. Issues are as highlighted in Section 3 above.

5. Response to the Issues Raised during the Consultation

- 5.1 The primary purpose of the consultation process was to determine the level of support or otherwise for the Council's proposals and to establish whether

there were alternative, viable proposals, that would achieve the two key objectives of:

- Addressing the over-crowding difficulties at Merrylee Primary School and establishing greater equity of capacity and occupancy across the four primary schools.
- Remove the use of shared catchment areas that would provide families with greater certainty of their zoned schools and build on their identify with their local community.

5.2 Taking the two key objectives above into account, consideration and assessment of the main issues raised during the consultation was undertaken.

5.2.1 Old Cathcart

5.2.1.1 Under the original proposal the existing shared catchment areas between Merrylee and Mount Florida Primary Schools and the current part of the Merrylee Primary School area between the shared areas would become part of the Mount Florida catchment area.

5.2.1.2 It is now proposed that the area to the North of the railway line and bordered by the White Cart Water to the West will become part of the Mount Florida catchment area with the part to the South of the railway line being part of the Merrylee catchment area. In doing so this, in part, responds to comments made regarding Old Cathcart's long-standing association with the Merrylee catchment area, whilst still contributing to reducing the overcrowding issues at Merrylee Primary School. This also takes into consideration the concern regarding the potential impact on Mount Florida Primary School's capacity.

5.2.2 Merrylee/Battlefield Shared Catchment Area

5.2.2.1 Under the original proposals the shared catchment area between Merrylee and Battlefield Primary Schools is to be split, with the part to the West becoming part of the Merrylee catchment area and the part to the East becoming part of the Battlefield catchment area.

5.2.2.2 A number of respondents commented that this proposal is counter intuitive in addressing the over-crowding issues at Merrylee Primary School and proposed that the whole of the shared area be re-zoned to Battlefield Primary School thereby providing it with a more sustainable, long-term pupil roll relative to its overall capacity.

5.2.2.3 Consequently it is now proposed to re-zone the entirety of the current shared catchment area to Battlefield Primary School.

5.2.3 Mount Florida Primary School

5.2.3.1 The original proposed amendments to catchment areas will see the forecast occupancy level of Mount Florida Primary School rise and some concern was expressed at the potential loss of flexible/general purpose space over time as a consequence.

5.2.3.2 Linked to 5.2.1.2 above, it is now proposed to limit the amendment to the Mount Florida catchment area to the current shared area between Merrylee and Mount Florida to the North of the railway line and bordered to the White Cart Water to the West, thus reducing the impact on the occupancy level of Mount Florida Primary School.

5.2.4 Shawlands Academy and Hillpark Secondary School

5.2.4.1 The amendment of the proposed changes to the catchment areas for Merrylee and Battlefield Primary Schools will go some way to addressing the concerns raised by both Shawlands Academy and Hillpark Secondary School regarding the impact on their pupil rolls.

5.2.5 P1 Enrolment and P7/S1 Transitions

5.2.5.1 Without prejudice to the outcome of the consultation exercise, parents/carers of children enrolling for P1 for August 2015 have done so on the basis of the existing catchment area arrangements.

5.2.5.2 Based on the amendments to the original proposals for catchment area changes, it is predicted that the number of P1 enrolments affected will be reduced significantly. There will however, be some children who will no longer be zoned to the school in which they are currently registered.

5.2.5.3 In such circumstances families who already have a sibling, or siblings at the school affected by the changes will be treated as if they remain part of the original catchment area. This arrangement will continue for a period of up to seven years so long as a sibling is enrolled in the school.

5.2.5.4 For those families who wish their child to attend their previous catchment area primary school, then they will require to submit a placing request unless under 5.2.5.3

they have a sibling in the school. Their application will be considered in line with the priorities in the Council's placing requests policy relative to the number of spaces available after catchment area places are allocated.

- 5.2.5.5 Some concern was expressed about the proposed changes to secondary school catchment areas as a significant amount of work on transition arrangements into S1 with current P7 classes has already been undertaken.
- 5.2.5.6 The amended proposals for secondary school catchment areas will reduce the impact on P7/S1 transition arrangements. Notwithstanding this, any young person whose secondary school catchment area is amended by the proposals will be entitled to continue with their existing transition arrangements and will be able to transfer to secondary school with their existing class peers in August 2015, if this is their preferred option.
- 5.2.5.7 For those families affected by the proposed secondary school catchment area changes, for a period of 6 years, should they have a young person enrolled in their existing catchment area school at the point when they wish to enrol a sibling, the sibling will be deemed to have the same entitlement to attend as other young people in the revised catchment area.

5.2.6 Refurbishment Proposals

- 5.2.6.1 Both Battlefield and Croftfoot Primary Schools are in scope for investment as part of the Council's 4Rs Strategy. The Strategy covers the period 2012 to 2017 and investment in Battlefield and Croftfoot Primary Schools is scheduled to commence in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

6. Summary of Updated Proposals to Amend Catchment Areas

- 6.1 Based on the feedback received through the consultation process the amendments to catchment areas now proposed are:
 - i. the existing shared catchment area between Battlefield and Merrylee Primary Schools will become part of the Battlefield Primary School catchment area only.
 - ii. the part of the existing Merrylee Primary School catchment area to the East of the White Cart Water will become part of the Croftfoot Primary School catchment area.
 - iii. the existing shared catchment area between Merrylee and Mount Florida Primary School to the North of the railway line and bordered to

the West by the White Cart Water will become part of the Mount Florida catchment area whilst the area to the South of the railway line will become part of the Merrylee catchment area.

- iv. The area to the North of the railway line and East of the White Cart Water and in the North bordered by the shared King's Park/Hillpark Secondary School catchment area will all become part of the King's Park Secondary School catchment area.
- v. The area immediately around King's Park Secondary School, currently zoned to Hillpark Secondary School, will become part of King's Park Secondary School's catchment area.
- vi. The current shared catchment area between Shawlands Academy, King's Park and Hillpark Secondary Schools, to South of the White Cart will become part of the Hillpark Secondary School catchment area.
- vii. The area to the South of the railway line and East of the White Cart Water and bounded to the South by the current shared King's Park/Hillpark Secondary School catchment area will all become part of the Hillpark Secondary Schools catchment area.
- viii. The current shared catchment area between Shawlands Academy and Hillpark Secondary School, South of the White Cart Water and North of the railway line will become part of Shawlands Academy's catchment area.

6.2 Details of the existing catchment areas for Merrylee, Battlefield, Croftfoot and Mount Florida Primary Schools and King's Park, Hillpark Secondary Schools and Shawlands Academy are attached as Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 respectively whilst details of the proposed revised catchment area arrangements are attached as Appendices 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

6.3 Details of the impact of the proposed amendments to the primary school catchment areas on projected pupil rolls and occupancy levels are detailed in Appendix 15.

6.4 The proposals will only have a marginal impact on the pupil rolls of all three secondary schools.

7. Scottish Ministers' Call-In

7.1 The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended does not require referral to Scottish Ministers in cases other than school closures.

8. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| <i>Financial:</i> | The impact of redistributing pupil rolls over time will be contained within the services' overall revenue budget |
| <i>Legal:</i> | In line with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended |
| <i>Personnel:</i> | As noted under financial implications |
| <i>Procurement:</i> | Not Applicable |

Council Strategic Plan: Priority 5: A Learning City

Equality Impacts:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>EQIA carried out:</i> | Yes |
| <i>Outcome:</i> | No significant impact |

Sustainability Impacts:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| <i>Environmental:</i> | The proposed amendments to catchment areas will support the effective and efficient use of the education estate |
| <i>Social:</i> | The proposed amendments to catchment areas will ensure a more equitable distribution of children and young people relative to the available capacities of the schools that will support effective learning and teaching, socialising and play |
| <i>Economic:</i> | The proposed amendments to catchment areas will ensure that the Council effectively manages catchment area demand for families moving within and from outwith Glasgow |

9. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Executive Committee:

- notes the content of this report;
- approves the amendments to the catchment areas as noted in section 6 of this report;

- approves the transitional arrangements for siblings as noted in paragraphs 5.2.5.3 and 5.2.5.7 of this report.

10. LIST OF APPENDICES

| | | |
|-------------|---|-------------------|
| Appendix 1 | Existing catchment area | Merrylee PS |
| Appendix 2 | Existing catchment area | Croftfoot PS |
| Appendix 3 | Existing catchment area | Battlefield PS |
| Appendix 4 | Existing catchment area | Mount Florida PS |
| Appendix 5 | Existing catchment area | King's Park SS |
| Appendix 6 | Existing catchment area | Hillpark SS |
| Appendix 7 | Existing catchment area | Shawlands Academy |
| Appendix 8 | Proposed Revised Catchment area | Merrylee PS |
| Appendix 9 | Proposed Revised Catchment area | Croftfoot PS |
| Appendix 10 | Proposed Revised Catchment area | Battlefield PS |
| Appendix 11 | Proposed Revised Catchment area | Mount Florida PS |
| Appendix 12 | Proposed Revised Catchment area | King's Park SS |
| Appendix 13 | Proposed Revised Catchment area | Hillpark SS |
| Appendix 14 | Proposed Revised Catchment area | Shawlands Academy |
| Appendix 15 | Current and projected pupil roll projections for primary school proposals | |