Outcome of the statutory consultation on the proposal to realign Auldhouse Primary School’s catchment area and re-zone the proposed Shields Road development site to Castlefield Primary School

December 2015
(amended February 2016)

This report has been issued by South Lanarkshire Council in response to the consultation undertaken in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This report includes recommendations of the outcome of the consultation which will be presented to the Executive Committee of South Lanarkshire Council.

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1. **Purpose of the report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise all stakeholders on the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the proposal to realign Auldhouse Primary School’s catchment area and re-zone the proposed Shields Road development site to Castlefield Primary School with effect from August 2016. This includes a report from Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal and Education Resources’ responses to all questions and issues raised during the consultation period.

2. **Recommendations**

2.1 It is intended that the consultation report, along with any relevant documentation, will be considered by the Executive Committee of South Lanarkshire Council on 13 April 2016.

2.2 It is recommended that the Executive Committee:

- note the contents of the report;
- agree the proposal to realign Auldhouse Primary School’s catchment area and re-zone the proposed Shields Road development site to Castlefield Primary School.

3. **Background**

3.1 A consultation proposal document was issued as a result of a decision by the Executive Committee of South Lanarkshire Council on 24 June 2015 to consult on the proposal below:

- realign Auldhouse Primary School’s catchment area and re-zone the proposed Shields Road development site to Castlefield Primary School.

3.2 The statutory consultation, in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 was carried out over the period 21 September to 13 November 2015 which included a public meeting held on 6 October 2015 in Castlefield Primary School.

3.3 A consultation notice was placed in the East Kilbride News on 9 September 2015. The notice included a summary of the proposal, information on availability of the proposal document, how written representations could be made and also details of the public meeting.

3.4 Notification of the proposal was issued on 18 September 2015 to the consultees listed in Appendix 1. The full consultation proposal document was published on the Council website and a copy made available from all libraries and Q and As and both affected schools.

3.5 A public meeting was held on 6 October 2015 in Castlefield Primary School. A summary of the oral representations made at this meeting is included as Appendix 2 in this report.

3.6 South Lanarkshire Council sent a copy of the proposal document to Education Scotland (formerly HMie) on 18 September 2015 in their role as a statutory consultee. In addition, on 26 November 2015, Education Scotland was provided with a summary of all relevant written responses and oral representations made during the consultation period.

3.7 South Lanarkshire Council received a copy of Education Scotland’s report on 10 December 2015. A summary of this report and Education Resources’ response to the key points is included in Section 7 of this consultation report and a copy of the whole document is included as Appendix 3.
4. **Distribution of proposal document and summary of responses**

Notification of this consultation was sent to 193 stakeholders. The total number of responses that were received was 0 (zero).

For clarification, relevant statutory consultees are

- the Parent Councils of affected schools
- parents of pupils attending each affected school as well as the pupils themselves
- parents of pupils likely to attend an affected school
- staff at each affected school
- any trade union representative of those staff
- any other users whom the authority considers relevant

In this proposal, the affected schools are Auldhouse and Castlefield Primary Schools.

5. **Pupil comments**

Both affected school's Pupil Councils were asked for a representative view on the proposal. Comments are below.

**Auldhouse Primary School Pupil Council, Meeting on Thursday 19 November 2015**

- The Pupil Council had been told about the Shields Road consultation at a previous meeting and had been given the opportunity to go home and think about it. Most of the pupils present said that they would have liked it if there had been an opportunity to make our school slightly bigger – but not too big because being a small school is what makes us special.

- They all felt that it would have been good to make Auldhouse the local school for the children moving into the new houses because the children would have enjoyed coming to Auldhouse Primary as much as they do, however, they understood that this would be impossible because we don’t have enough space.

- They all agreed that rezoning the proposed houses to Castlefield probably would not have much impact on us, but some children from the houses might still choose to come here. They noted that we have some spaces in our infant class. All of the pupils said that they would welcome anyone who wanted to come to Auldhouse.
Proposal
South Lanarkshire Council is seeking views on the following proposal, namely:
• To re-align the catchment areas for Castlefield and Auldhouse Primary Schools

Feedback from pupils on the catchment re-alignment proposal

• We can have more friends (10 pupils)
• We can play different games (4 pupils)
• We’d have more children in our house, so we’d get more points (3 children)
• Our groups will be bigger (4 children)
• We can be kind to them (2 children)
• There will be more competition (1 P7)
• We’ll get more help (P7 buddies)
• There will be more people to play with at our clubs (4 children)
• We might need to have longer lunches to fit everyone in (1 child)
• We might need more space to play in (1 P6)
• We’ll need more money (1 child)
• Some of the children might not be nice (1 child)
• We will need bigger cloakrooms (1 child)

As at the last consultation, almost all children felt it would be beneficial to have extra children in school.
The Teacher welcomed all 14 pupil council class representatives.

The Teacher asked all the pupils if they knew anything about how Parents/Carers know and decide which school their child/ren should attend. The senior pupils discussed where their houses were placed and what the term ‘catchment’ meant.

The Teacher then shared the consultation proposal document issued by SLC. Each child read a small part (if they were able to) and as a whole group, each sentence was discussed and the implications that it may have for Castlefield.

Every child then agreed that this would be a great development and decided to make posters detailing the ‘positives’ should the proposal be granted for the pupils and community of Castlefield.

Action points
- Every child will complete their posters and return to The Teacher in Room 7
- The Teacher will mount these posters on the Pupil Council display board in the school foyer
- The Teacher will email Greenhills Primary School to find out whether all the Pupil Council reps from Castlefield can attend the cluster meeting on the 1st of December and whether we can discuss the catchment realignment proposal at this meeting.
6. **Summary of issues raised by Education Scotland (formerly HMIe) and Education Resources’ responses**

6.1 As part of the statutory consultation process, Education Scotland prepared a report on the consultation proposal by South Lanarkshire Council, addressing educational aspects of the proposal. This report is attached as Appendix 3.

6.2 Education Scotland commended the Council in its forward planning that should eliminate any uncertainty regarding education provision for future residents of the new housing development.

6.3 Education Scotland found, from its own discussions with stakeholders, that the proposal was positively received and that the Castlefield Primary School community welcome the future expansion of the school to incorporate the new housing development. It was also recognised that the Auldhouse Primary School community, who spoke with HM Inspectors, were in favour of the proposal although clarity over placing request priority was requested.

6.4 In summary, Education Scotland recognised that there was a sound rationale for the proposal and that it will allow the Council to make the most efficient and effective use of its educational accommodation. It did, however, suggest that the obvious educational benefits for children that could result from this proposal, many that were identified by Education Scotland, could have been articulated more explicitly in the Consultation Proposal Document.

6.5 **Response**

South Lanarkshire Council welcomes the very positive report and the recognition of the possible educational benefits for children arising from the proposal.

The main driver for this proposal is to address capacity pressures and achieve best value through making the most efficient use of available Council resources. There may be educational benefits that could be realised for the children coming from the Shields Road development and existing or future Castlefield Primary School pupils. This has been recognised by Education Scotland and could have been reflected in more detail within the Consultation Proposal Document.

Children could benefit socially and emotionally through opportunities to engage with a wider range of children in their age groups. This process of engaging with a greater number of young people would support individual learners to communicate with a variety of others, to share and understand alternative points of view and to empathise with a range of people who experience challenge or difficulty. However, children would also receive excellent learning and social opportunities if they were to attend Auldhouse Primary School. As previously demonstrated, there is insufficient capacity within the school or school site hence the need for the proposed catchment realignment.

Due to the location of the new housing development, as there are walking routes to other housing developments nearby in East Kilbride (such as Lindsayfield and Whitehills), there will be more opportunities for socialising after school with other, local children. This could contribute positively to creating a stronger school community.

Dependent on the pace of building completions in the new housing development, Education Resources, in conjunction with the Senior Management Team of Castlefield Primary School, will continue to monitor the impact of an increasing pupil roll and make necessary arrangements to enhance the existing educational facilities appropriately and in a timely manner.
There should be no detriment to existing or future Auldhouse Primary School pupils as they will continue to benefit from the excellent opportunities currently available to them through the modern, learning environment they have in their modernised school building. Parents of children from the Shields Road development will continue to be able to make placing requests to Auldhouse Primary School if this is their choice. However, as intimated at the Public Meeting held as part of this consultation exercise, children with siblings within the school would have a higher priority under the South Lanarkshire Council’s School Admissions Policy than any new placing requests made by parents without any children at the school.

7. **Review of proposals by South Lanarkshire Council**

7.1 The Council has reviewed the proposals having regard (in particular) to any relevant written representations received by the Council during the consultation, and representations made at the public meeting, and Education Scotland’s report.

7.2 A positive report from Education Scotland corroborates the educational benefits of the proposal and feedback received by the communities of both affected schools was favourable.

7.3 After review, the proposal to realign Auldhouse Primary School's catchment area and re-zone the proposed Shields Road development site to Castlefield Primary School is recommended.
8. **Resource, risk and policy implications**

8.1 **Resource implications**

8.1.1 **Property costs**
As this proposal aims to maximise the use of existing accommodation it represents best value and demonstrates the effective and efficient use of Council resources. Costs associated with any further extension and adaptation to Castlefield Primary School to accommodate additional children from the new housing development should be facilitated via developer contributions.

8.1.2 **Staffing costs**
In terms of employee resources, this will continue to be provided in each school by means of existing process e.g. annual class configuration protocols and agreed management allocations.

8.2 **Risk implications**

The Council has a duty to conduct risk assessments under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulation 1999. Any current risk assessments at the school would be reviewed if the proposal is implemented.

8.3 **Policy implications**

8.3.1 **Strategy**
This report supports Education Resources’ priorities for raising educational achievement and attainment and achieving efficient and effective use of resources.

8.3.2 **Consultation**
This report describes the outcome of the statutory consultation process with all key stakeholders. Further consultation with pupils, staff, parents, Trade Unions and other stakeholders would continue if the proposal is approved.
Appendix 1  Distribution of consultation proposals document

Distribution list and how to access a copy of the proposal document

Notification of the proposal was provided to the following consultees:
- The Parent Council of the affected schools
- The parents of the pupils at the affected schools
- Parents who have children who are expected to attend the affected schools within 2 years of the publication of this proposal document.
- The pupils at the affected schools and the pupil committees and councils
- All South Lanarkshire Council employees at the affected school
- Trade union representatives
- Community Councils within the affected locality
- Local churches
- All relevant users of the affected school
- South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partners

A copy of this proposal document was also made available to:
- All Elected Members of South Lanarkshire Council
- South Lanarkshire Youth Council
- Education Scotland (formerly Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Education, HMIe)
- The Constituency MSP of the affected school
- List MSP for the area of the affected school
- The MP of the affected school
- Police Commander for Lanarkshire Division of Police Scotland
- Chief Executive, NHS Lanarkshire
- Chief Executive, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
- Area Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services
- Care Inspectorate

The steps listed below were also taken to ensure that the proposal document was widely available.
- Notice of the proposals and of publication of the proposal document was placed within the East Kilbride News.
- The proposal document was also published on the South Lanarkshire Council website: www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk.
- This document could made available in alternative forms or translated by contacting Education Resources on 01698 454102 or at: education@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
- The proposal document was also available at the following locations:
  a. Council Offices, Education Resources, Almada Street, Hamilton, ML3 0AA. Phone 01698 454102.
  b. All libraries in South Lanarkshire
  c. All South Lanarkshire Council Q and A Offices
  d. The schools affected by the proposal
Appendix 2  Oral questions and responses at public meeting

Public Meeting
Auldhouse and Castlefield Primary Schools – catchment realignment proposal
Held on Tuesday 6 October 2015 at Castlefield Primary School at 6pm

Panel Members

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>VS</td>
<td>Vance Sinclair</td>
<td>Chair, Partnership Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>LK</td>
<td>Lisa Kirkwood</td>
<td>Project Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Clare Martis</td>
<td>Quality Improvement Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>GT</td>
<td>Gordon Turnbull</td>
<td>Project Officer</td>
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The meeting was opened at 6.06pm.

VS outlined the proposal as per the information circulated to all stakeholders. It was suggested that although firm timescales for house building in the development site were unknown at present, it was unlikely that any houses would be complete before August 2017. The statutory nature of the consultation process was described highlighting the need to continue the formal nature of the public meeting despite only one parent, from Auldhouse Primary School, being in attendance.

LK outlined the process and timeline of this statutory consultation. Key dates - start date 21 September and end date 13 November 2015. After the consultation period has closed, a summary document will be prepared that will be submitted to the Inspectorate of Education, Education Scotland, that will detail all comments and feedback received both by written means and verbally gathered at tonight’s public meeting. The role of Education Scotland is to write an independent and impartial report on the proposal for the council. To enable this report to be produced, Education Scotland will contact stakeholders (pupils, staff and parents) of all affected schools – in this case that is Castlefield and Auldhouse Primary Schools.

Once the report is received by the Council from Education Scotland, a final consultation report will be produced. This will be published for a period of at least three weeks before being considered by the Executive Committee of the Council with a decision made at that time taking into account all the information contained in the report. We anticipate that in the case of this proposal, a final decision could be made in February / March 2016.

VS opened the floor to questions.

General comment from Auldhouse Primary School Parent. Having spoken with Parents and Parent Council, we would like to point out that we feel the boundary realignment is unnecessary because we do not believe the housing development should go ahead. This housing development represents a massive encroachment on the green belt and it will impact on the village. I do appreciate that this is a planning issue and not related to this consultation. Parents do have a couple of questions.

Question: Parents at Auldhouse Primary School are concerned that there may be an influx of placing requests for Auldhouse Primary School from this new development. They would like the reassurance that any siblings of children attending Auldhouse would have priority over any other placing requests.
**Answer:** Castlefield Head Teacher. Children with siblings within the school would have a higher priority under the South Lanarkshire Council’s *School Admissions Policy* than any new placing requests made by parents without any children at the school.

**Question:** I believe it is outline planning only that this development has? You refer to negotiations over financial contributions. What if the developer does not agree and the negotiations over developer contributions are unsuccessful?

**Answer:** VS. This development has permission in principle subject to successful conclusion of a Section 75 which would set out necessary financial contributions that would include monies towards additional education accommodation at Castlefield Primary School. If the development was not to go ahead, there would be no housing and no additional pupils generated so there would be no requirement for additional accommodation. The same developer has concluded an agreement with the Council on another very large housing development so there is no reason to assume that this project will not have a similar outcome.

**Question:** Given there are no Castlefield Primary School parents in attendance, I assume there have been no issues raised by parents with the proposal?

**Answer:** Head Teacher – We have recently gone through a slight catchment realignment earlier in the year and parents are content. They know no-one will be ‘squeezed out’ and that there is capacity currently and know there are plans for a future extension.

**Answer:** VS – We will consult closely with the school and parents on any future adaptations and extension required for future growth.

As there were no more questions and no more interested parties had arrived, the meeting was closed early at 6.20pm.

Post meeting note: No other interested parties arrived between 6.20pm and 7pm on the evening after the meeting had been closed.

The contents of this note of the public meeting are not direct quotations but are as close a representation of what was said as the scribes were able to achieve while taking handwritten notes during the meeting. These should be regarded as paraphrased comments and they have been included to indicate the feelings and expressions of contributors as closely as possible.
Appendix 3  Report by Education Scotland

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by South Lanarkshire Council to realign Auldhouse Primary School's catchment area and re-zone the proposed Shields Road development site to Castlefield Primary School.

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 South Lanarkshire Council's proposal to realign Auldhouse Primary School's catchment area and re-zone the proposed Shields Road development site to Castlefield Primary School. 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 6 October 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;
- consideration of further information on all schools affected; and
- visits to the site of Castlefield and Auldhouse Primary Schools, including discussion with relevant consultees.
2. Consultation Process

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

2.2 The consultation ran from 21 September 2015 until 13 November 2015. The council posted the proposal document on its website and lodged copies in the schools concerned and in council offices. In addition it notified 193 stakeholders and placed an advert in a local newspaper. The council held a public meeting on 6 October 2015 and one stakeholder attended. The council received no written responses to the proposal. Appropriate arrangements were put in place to ensure that children’s views were heard.

3. Educational Aspects of Proposal

3.1 South Lanarkshire Council has set out a sound rationale for its proposal to realign Auldhouse Primary School’s catchment area and re-zone the proposed Shields Road development site to Castlefield Primary School. A housing development site at Shields Road which currently has planning permission in principle is predicted to generate 87 non-denominational primary aged children. Although firm timescales for building are not yet available, it is unlikely that any houses will be complete before August 2017. Commendably, the council is planning ahead to eliminate uncertainty for families with primary aged children who may come to live in the new housing development in the future.

3.2 The current catchment non-denominational primary school for the Shields Road development site is Auldhouse Primary School. The new-build Auldhouse Primary School opened to pupils in February 2014. During the design phase of the school, the Local Development Plan had no identified development site at Shields Road. As a result, the school does not have capacity to accommodate the projected 87 children.

3.3 The council has identified Castlefield Primary School as the more suitable of the two non-denominational primary schools closest to the development site to accommodate non-denominational primary aged children who may live in the new houses. In reaching this view, the council has taken good account of other planned housing developments in the area as well as other primary school catchment rezoning which it has recently agreed following statutory consultation. As a result, the proposal will assist the council to manage its school estate efficiently and effectively.

3.4 As reported by HM Inspectors in August 2015, Castlefield Primary School has a number of key strengths. These include its attractive learning environment, its positive ethos and stimulating learning opportunities for children. Children who may, in future, attend the school from the new housing development will benefit from these aspects of the school’s educational offer. In finalising its proposal the council will need to set out clearly the educational benefits that it believes will result from the implementation of the proposal.

3.5 Children, parents and staff from the Castlefield Primary School community who spoke to HM Inspectors were very positive about the proposal. They felt that the council had ensured that they were very well-informed and they had reached a view that by welcoming families from the proposed new houses, their school community would be made stronger. Children were enthusiastic about having more friends. Staff were looking forward to increased opportunities for professional learning as the staff group expanded as a result of more children attending the school. Parents felt that the future of the school would be more secure as a result of having a larger catchment area and more children on the roll.
3.6 Members of the Auldhouse Primary School community who spoke to HM Inspectors were in favour of the proposal. Auldhouse Primary School has a friendly and welcoming ethos. However, parents, staff and pupils recognised that there is insufficient space within the school to accommodate all the non-denominational primary-aged children who may live in the new houses. They were aware that some families from the new houses may in future seek to enrol children in Auldhouse Primary School. Parents were seeking reassurance that younger siblings of children who currently attend Auldhouse Primary School as a result of placing requests would be given priority should they seek a place at the school in future. This is a reasonable request and the council will need to engage with Auldhouse Primary School parents to outline its plans for managing placing requests in future.

4. Summary

The proposal has the potential to bring educational benefits to children and families who may live in the Shields Road development in future. The council’s forward planning will eliminate uncertainties for families. It will ensure that children have opportunities to benefit from the attractive learning environment, positive ethos and stimulating learning opportunities available in Castlefield Primary School. In addition it will assist the council to realise best value through efficient and effective management of its school estate. In taking forward the proposal, the council will need to strengthen its educational benefits statement.

HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
December 2015