

**REZONING REQUEST BY ACHAHOISH PARENT COUNCIL**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The request to rezone the catchment area of Achahoish Primary School was considered at the meeting of MAKI Area committee on the 3 June 2015. The Council's policy on responding to rezoning requests reflects the legislative process as laid out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

The recommendations in the report are that Council:

Notes the decision at the MAKI Area Committee meeting on 3 June 2015 whereby members agreed:

- To support the proposal to vary the catchment area of Achahoish Primary school;
- To support the recommendation that if the proposal be approved, existing children and younger siblings would not be required to transfer school for the duration of their primary education as a result of the proposal;
- To refer the report to Council on 25 June to request that officers are instructed to carry out a full consultation on the proposed changes as defined in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010; and
- To note that on completion of the consultation period a report will be presented to Council detailing the results of the consultation for consideration.

Council should consider the request to rezone the catchment area of Achahoish Primary school and to instruct officers if required to carry out a full consultation on the proposed changes as per the Councils policy on rezoning.

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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

2.1 A request to rezone the catchment area of Achahoish Primary School was considered at the meeting of MAKI Area committee on the 3 June 2015. The members agreed to support the proposal and refer the report to Council to request that officers are instructed to carry out a full consultation on the proposed change as defined in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland ) Act 2010

2.2 The Council's policy on responding to rezoning requests reflects the legislative process as laid out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The Council's policy requires a request from the parent council to vary the catchment area to be supported by the parent council of the school impacted by the boundary change. The request from Achahoish Parent Council is supported by Tarbert Parent Council.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Council:

- 3.1 Notes the decision at the MAKI Area Committee meeting on 3 June 2015 whereby members agreed:
- To support the proposal to vary the catchment area of Achahoish Primary school;
  - To support the recommendation that if the proposal be approved, existing children and younger siblings would not be required to transfer school for the duration of their primary education as a result of the proposal;
  - To refer the report to Council on 25 June to request that officers are instructed to carry out a full consultation on the proposed changes as defined in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010; and
  - To note that on completion of the consultation period a report will be presented to Council detailing the results of the consultation for consideration.
- 3.2 Council should consider the request to rezone the catchment area of Achahoish Primary school and to instruct officers if required to carry out a full consultation on the proposed changes as per the Councils policy on rezoning.

## **4.0 DETAIL**

- 4.1 The proposal from Achahoish Parent Council to increase their catchment area qualifies as a permanent change to a school as defined in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 4.2 As detailed in the September 2014 Argyll and Bute School Catchment Area Policy, the proposal to vary the catchment area of a school is a relevant proposal in terms of Schedule 1 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

Therefore if the Council makes such a proposal it requires

- to prepare an educational benefits statement which demonstrates the educational benefit for children from the area in question attending Achahoish rather than Tarbert Primary. Care is required in framing this requirement to avoid reputational risk to either school.
- prepare and publish a proposal paper
- give notice of the proposal to relevant consultees and invite representations
- to hold and give notice of a public meeting
- to involve Education Scotland

The consultation requires to be run over a period of not less than 6 weeks of school term time (ie the length of the consultation period cannot include holiday periods).

- 4.3 If Council were mindful to agree the changes to the boundary of Achahoish Primary School these changes could be made in time for registration for the 2016/17 academic year.
- 4.4 The appended paper presented to the MAKI Area Committee lays out the request by Achahoish Parent Council and the likely impact of the proposed changes.
- 4.5 Members should note that there will be no expected immediate financial consequences or changes to the existing transport arrangement by accommodating this change due to the needs of existing pupils. The financial consequences shown in the paper attached would be ongoing implications which would apply to future generations of pupils.

## **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Policy - if the proposal is adopted it will result change to the defined primary school catchment boundaries
- 5.2 Financial - there will be costs to the service in carrying out a public consultation,

as this will be the first consultation carried out under the new legislation an exact figure cannot be provided at this point. If, following the consultation, the Council agrees a change to the school catchment areas then it is expected that there will be no immediate financial consequences as a result of any change made. However, on an ongoing basis there may be additional costs as highlighted in paragraph 6.4 of the report to the Area Committee.

- 5.3 Legal - as per the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010
- 5.4 HR - there are no HR implications
- 5.5 Equalities – an equalities impact assessment will be carried out as part of the consultation.
- 5.6 Risk – There are potential reputational risks arising from the requirement to draft an education benefits statement demonstrating educational benefits for pupils from the area in question attending Achahoish rather than Tarbert Primary School.

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Appendices

1: Rezoning Request by Achahoish Parent Council – MAKI Area Committee