

REZONING REQUEST FOR KERRERA

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 In 19 June 2015 Park Parent Council made a formal request to the council to consider rezoning their current catchment area to include the island of Kerrera.
- 1.2 The island of Kerrera is currently within the catchment area of Rockfield / St Columbas primary campus and Rockfield Parent Council have indicated their support for this proposal.
- 1.3 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. The 2010 Act has recently been amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The amendments which came into force on 1st August 2014 include a requirement for a report from Education Scotland in the case of every proposal requiring consultation. Guidance has been prepared by the Scottish Government to support implementation of the amendments. In September 2014 Argyll and Bute Council Community Services Committee:
- a) Noted the amendments to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, the revised timeline and process for the public consultation.
 - b) Approved the process by which future requests to alter the catchment area of a school be considered.
 - c) Agreed that any proposal received from a Parent Council being taken forward to a public consultation would require to have the support all parent councils affected by the proposal.
 - d) Agreed that subsequent requests for altering the catchment area of a school following either a decision to refuse a request to do so or a decision following the publication of the consultation report not to proceed with such an alteration will only be considered if there has been a material change of circumstances from those originally considered.
- 1.4 **Recommendations**
It is recommended that the Oban Lorn and the Isles Area Committee Area:
- a) Agrees that the report should be presented to the Council in November 2015 to request that officers carry out a full consultation on the proposed change of the catchment area of Park Primary School, as defined in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

- b) Notes that on completion of the consultation period a report will be presented to Council detailing the results of the consultation for consideration.

REZONING REQUEST FOR KERRERA

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 A request to rezone the catchment areas of Park Primary School to include the island of Kerrera was received on the 19 June 2015.
- 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 Park Parent Council is supported by Rockfield Parent Council.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Oban Lorn and the Isles Area Committee Area:

- a) Agrees that the report should be presented to the Council in November 2015 to request that officers carry out a full consultation on the proposed change of the catchment area of Park Primary School, as defined in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- b) Notes that on completion of the consultation period a report will be presented to Council detailing the results of the consultation for consideration.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 The proposal from Park Parent Council to increase their catchment area to include the island of Kerrera 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 Park

rather than Rockfield 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 Park Primary School these changes could be made in time for commencement of the 2016/17 academic year.
- 4.4 There are currently 4 pupils of primary school age on Kerrera who are currently attending Park Primary School, having transitioned from the pre 5 unit at Park in June 2015. These pupils are currently receiving school transport to Park PS and an additional vehicle has been provided as there was no spare capacity on the existing mini bus
- 4.5 The island of Kerrera is served by two ferries, the north and south of the island having no road connection between them. The ferry servicing the south of the island sails from the slip two miles south of Oban at Gallanach. Gallanach is in the catchment area of Park PS. The north of Kerrera is served by a ferry sailing from the marina into the north pier in Oban town centre. The north pier is also within the catchment area of Park PS.

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 - If, following the consultation, the Council agrees to the change to the school catchment areas then the cost would be £19k, the cost of the additional vehicle which has been required to transport these pupils. There will also be costs to the service in carrying out a public consultation.
- 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 Park rather than Rockfield Primary School.

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30 September 2015

Appendix 1
Kerrera catchment area