

SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 – ST COLUMBA’S PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides details of the outcome and findings of the statutory consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the formal proposal to rezone the catchment area of St Columba’s Primary School as detailed in the published Consultation Report (Appendix A); and in accordance with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.
- 1.2 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee members:
- a) Note the contents of the Consultation Report (Appendix A); and
 - b) Approve the implementation of the following proposal:
 - i. The catchment area of St Columba’s Primary School be rezoned to match the current mainland catchment area for Oban High School with effect from 6th October 2019.

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2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 When considering a proposal to rezone a school the Education Authority must meet the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.
- 2.2 The Council is required to prepare and publish a Proposal Paper which clearly sets out the proposal on which the Council is consulting. The Proposal Paper must include details of the proposed date for implementation, the educational benefits statement, a summary of the consultation process and details of the supporting evidence or information used to formulate the proposal.
- 2.3 The 2010 Act also requires that at the close of the consultation process, Education Scotland must consider the educational aspects of the Council’s proposal and prepare and submit a report to the Council for consideration by the Council when preparing its final Consultation Report.
- 2.4 The Council is then required to review the proposal, taking into consideration the report from Education Scotland and all other responses received within the consultation period, and thereafter prepare and publish its final Consultation Report.
- 2.5 The Consultation Report must explain how the Council has reviewed the proposal, a summary of the points raised during the consultation period and the Council’s response to them, and details of any alleged inaccuracies or omissions.
- 2.6 The Council will then make a decision on whether or not to approve the proposal.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee members:
- a) Note the contents of the Consultation Report (Appendix A); and
 - b) Approve the implementation of the following proposal:
 - i. The catchment area of St Columba’s Primary School be rezoned to match the current mainland catchment area for Oban High School with effect from 6th October 2019.

4. DETAIL

- 4.1 This report provides details of the outcome and findings of the statutory consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the formal proposal to rezone the catchment area of St Columba's Primary School as detailed in the published Consultation Report (Appendix A); and in accordance with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.
- 4.2 In accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended, a report was produced by Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal (Appendix B). The Education Scotland Report supports the proposal in that it has clear educational benefits to children in the revised area. The proposal will provide greater equity for children and families and will make clear children's right to a place in St Columba's Primary School. Where appropriate, associated transport will be provided for the duration of a child's primary education. Education Scotland note that a few parents and staff expressed concern around additional costs and staffing levels and that the Council should continue to support their understanding through sharing the impact of any changes with relevant groups. The Council will work with parents and staff to ensure this understanding.
- 4.3 Having considered the report from Education Scotland and all other responses received within the consultation period, officers carried out a further review of the proposal in light of this information and a Consultation Report was thereafter prepared and published for public scrutiny on the Council's website (www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) from 15th August 2019. This provided a full three week period prior to a final Committee decision on Thursday 5th September 2019, in compliance with Section 9 (3) and Section 11 of the 2010 Act as amended.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Consultation Report for St Columba's Primary School has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.
- 5.2 Following the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise detailed in the Consultation Report (Appendix A), having due regard to relevant written and oral representations and to Education Scotland's Report it is recommended that the decision is made to implement the proposal that the catchment area of St Columba's Primary School be rezoned to match the current mainland catchment area for Oban High School with effect from 6th October 2019.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy – An authority that is formulating a proposal to change the catchment area of a school must satisfy the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.
- 6.2 Financial – there are financial implications for each option.
- 6.3 Legal – The Consultation Report for St Columba's Primary School has been

prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.

- 6.4 HR – None
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty: None at present
 - 6.5.1 Equalities – None at present
 - 6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty - None at present
 - 6.5.3 Islands – None at present
- 6.6 Risk – None at present
- 6.7 Customer Service – None at present

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