



Glasgow City Council

Executive Committee

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

Item 1

25th September 2014

Contact: Maureen McKenna, Executive Director of Education Services Ext: 74551

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:

The purpose of this report is to seek Executive Committee approval to consult on the above proposals

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Executive Committee approves the public consultations on the proposals and asks that the Executive Member for Education and Young People report on the outcomes to the meeting of the Executive Committee on 19 February 2015.

The full consultation documents will be available in the members' library from Monday 22 September 2014.

Schools	Ward(s)	Strategic Planning Area	Learning Community
Merrylee Primary School	2	South	Hillpark Secondary School
Croftfoot Primary School	1	South	King's Park Secondary School
Battlefield Primary School	7	South	Shawlands Academy

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

Citywide:

Local member(s) advised: Yes

consulted:

Yes

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

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1. Background and Context

- 1.1 After decades of depopulation in areas across the city the population of Glasgow is growing again. Over the next decade the primary age population is predicted to rise between 13 and 18%.
- 1.2 The Southside of the city has over recent years benefitted from significant housing developments and the resulting increase in demand for primary school places. This increase is set to continue and will result in some imbalance between current capacity and forecast demand for primary school places unless changes to catchment areas are implemented.
- 1.3 The Council is currently undertaking a phased review of catchment areas across the city and has, for example, recently concluded a review of non denominational primary schools within the Greater Pollok area and is currently consulting on proposed primary school catchment area changes in the West End of the City.
- 1.4 These proposals consider potential non denominational primary school catchment area changes consequent of the forecast demand for primary school places for Merrylee Primary School relative to the demand in neighbouring school catchment areas and the consequential proposed changes to associate secondary school catchment areas.
- 1.5 Merrylee Primary School is a popular, well managed school that provides high quality learning, teaching, experiences and outcomes for children. The school is part of the Hillpark Learning Community.
- 1.6 The school was relocated to its current new building in 2011 following the closure of Simshill and Holmlea Primary Schools. When construction of the new school commenced in 2009 the capacity of 410 was assessed to be adequate to meet the long term needs of the redefined catchment area, the combination of the three previous catchment areas.
- 1.7 However, for a variety of reasons, the number of families with young children within the current Merrylee catchment area has increased well beyond that forecast in 2009. It is worth noting that many of the children enrolled in Merrylee Primary School in August 2014 were not born when the construction of the new school commenced in August 2009. In addition, a significant number of children currently attend the school as a result of a placing request granted either prior to or shortly after the new school opened in 2011.
- 1.8 As at August 2014, 184 pupils (25%) attend Merrylee Primary School on placing requests.

- 1.9 Recognising that the pupil roll is increasing well beyond that predicted in 2009, the council has taken action to increase the capacity by extending the school to provide an additional 4 classrooms and ancillary accommodation. This is the maximum increase in capacity achievable given the design of the school and the requirement to maintain an appropriate amount of outdoor space for play and learning.
- 1.10 The new extension opened in August 2014 increasing the notional capacity of Merrylee Primary School from 410 to 549. The school roll at August 2014 is 454, equating to 83% occupancy. The school can only accommodate this number of children through utilisation of the two General Purpose (GP) rooms as classrooms. Ideally these GP rooms should be available as a whole school resource to provide flexibility for different learning and teaching styles and approaches.
- 1.11 Notwithstanding this increase in capacity, this alone will not be able to meet the predicted long term demand for catchment area places.
- 1.12 As a consequence of completing the extension to Merrylee Primary School this provides for a total of 18 classrooms inclusive of 2 rooms ideally designated as general purpose (GP) rooms.
- 1.13 Based on the forecast demand for primary school places it predicted that this will result in the school requiring to create 19 classes by 2023.
- 1.14 By contrast the neighbouring Croftfoot, Battlefield and Mount Florida Primary Schools will continue to have spare capacity over the period 2014 to 2024.
- 1.15 In order to address the capacity pressures of Merrylee Primary School it is proposed to amend the catchment areas for Merrylee, Croftfoot, Battlefield and Mount Florida Primary Schools. By doing so this would ensure that all four schools would operate at healthy occupancy levels that would ensure the continuation of high quality learning and teaching with access to the full range of opportunities and experiences.
- 1.16 As noted previously, Merrylee Primary School is a new build school that has benefitted from further investment to increase its capacity. Mount Florida is currently undergoing refurbishment whilst Battlefield and Croftfoot Primary Schools are scheduled for investment before 2017 as part of the council's 4Rs investment programme.
- 1.17 Prior to proposals contained in this consultation paper being finalised discussions were held with representatives from each of the parent councils, local elected members and headteachers.

2. Details of the Catchment Area Proposed Amendments

- 2.1 These proposals aim to ensure more equity of distribution of the local catchment demand for primary school places against the available capacity.

- 2.2 It is proposed that, if approved, the amendments to the catchment areas detailed in this consultation document would take effect from August 2015.
- 2.3 If the proposals are approved all children currently attending the four schools would continue to be entitled to remain in the schools for the remainder of their primary school education.
- 2.4 For those families who reside in the current catchment areas for Merrylee, Mount Florida, Battlefield and Croftfoot Primary Schools, but would no longer do so if these proposals are approved would, for a period of seven years from August 2015 should they have a child enrolled at the point when they wish to enrol a sibling, the sibling would be deemed to have the same entitlement to attend as other children in the revised catchment area.
- 2.5 As a consequence of the proposed changes to the primary school catchment areas it is also proposed to amend the catchment areas for the associate secondary schools of King's Park, Hillpark and Shawlands. These proposals aim to remove uncertainty regarding current shared catchment areas, reflect the current choices of parents and, where possible, within walking distance.
- 2.6 If the proposals are approved all young people currently attending the three secondary schools would continue to be entitled to remain in the schools for the remainder of their secondary school education.
- 2.7 For those families residing in the catchment areas for King's Park and Hillpark Secondary Schools and Shawlands Academy but would no longer do so if this proposal were approved would, for a period of six years from August 2015 should they have a young person enrolled at this point when they wish to enrol a sibling, the sibling would be deemed to have the same entitlement to attend as other young people in the revised catchment area.

3. Assessed Impact of the Proposed Amendments to Catchment Areas

3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 The existing part of the catchment area that is currently shared between Battlefield and Merrylee Primary Schools is proposed to 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.
- 3.1.2 The part of the existing Merrylee catchment area to the East of the White Cart Water is proposed to become part of the Croftfoot catchment area.
- 3.1.3 The existing catchment area that is currently shared between Merrylee and Mount Florida Primary Schools is proposed to become part of the Mount Florida catchment area.
- 3.1.4 The shared area that forms part of the catchment area of Shawlands Academy, King's Park and Hillpark Secondary Schools will be split; with the

west becoming solely part of Hillpark Secondary School and the East will become part of Shawlands Academy catchment area.

3.1.5 The part of the existing Hillpark catchment area to the East of White Cart River (this includes the two shared areas for King's Park and Hillpark Secondary School) and around King's Park Secondary School will become part of King's Park Secondary School catchment area.

3.1.6 The catchment area currently shared between Hillpark and King's Park Secondary School around Newlands Road will become part of Hillpark's catchment area

3.2 Assessed Impact of Proposed Changes

3.2.1 Merrylee Primary School

Based on the proposed changes to catchment areas it is predicted that by 2023 the school will have an occupancy level of 77% (422 pupils). At its highest, occupancy is forecast to be 83% in years 2015 to 2017. This forecast is based on amended catchment area demand and does not include the potential for placing requests.

3.2.2 Crofffoot Primary School

Based on the proposed changes to catchment areas it is predicted that by 2023 the school will have an occupancy level of 53% (246 pupils). This forecast is based on amended catchment area demand and does not include the potential for placing requests. However, it can be anticipated that the occupancy level will be higher based on existing placing request trends.

3.2.3 Battlefield Primary School

Based on the proposed changes to catchment areas it is predicted that by 2023 the school will have an occupancy level of 57% (260 pupils). The forecast is based on amended catchment area demand and does not include the potential for placing requests. However, it can be anticipated that the occupancy level will be higher based on existing placing request trends.

3.2.4 Mount Florida Primary School

Based on the proposed changes to catchment areas it is predicted that by 2023 the school will have an occupancy level of 85% (311 pupils). The forecast is based on amended catchment area demand and does not include the potential for placing requests.

3.2.5 King's Park Secondary School

If the proposed catchment area changes are agreed it is predicted that this would result in a maximum increase of 20 pupils entering S1 by 2017.

3.2.6 Hillpark Secondary School

If the proposed catchment area changes are agreed it is predicted that this will result in a maximum decrease of 20 pupils who would no longer enter S1 by 2017.

3.2.7 Shawlands Academy

If the proposed catchment area changes are agreed it is predicted that this will result in a maximum decrease of 3 pupils who would no longer enter S1 by 2018.

3.2.8 Details of the current and proposed catchment areas are contained in the full consultation document.

4. Roll Projection Methodology

The roll projections are calculated using roll projections methodology that is based on previous trends and take into account the following factors:

1. Migration factors based on five year trends in natural school movement on an individual school and stage basis (ie P1 and P2 progression etc).
2. Birth rates and trends in Glasgow for the appropriate years.
3. New housing data for the next 5 to 10 years by school catchment area.
4. Placing request information as a net positive or negative figure at P1 stage.
5. Previous trends in school rolls are considered as a background check.

Actual schools rolls as the school census for the base year (2012).

- Details of the school roll projections are contained in the full consultation document.

5. Educational Benefit Statement For The Proposals

- 5.1 If no action is taken to amend catchment areas then it will not be possible for Merrylee Primary School to accommodate all children residing within its catchment area over the coming years, providing great uncertainty for children and their families regarding their primary school education.
- 5.2 The proposed catchment area amendments would ensure a more equitable distribution of pupils across the schools that would ensure viable, sustainable pupil rolls for all, whilst retaining sufficient flexibility to support a variety of learning and teaching approaches aligned to the Curriculum for Excellence.
- 5.3 By ensuring that all schools have a viable and sustainable pupil roll this would ensure that effective teacher staffing levels are maintained, lead by a range of promoted teaching staff. Effective year group classification would be maintained and children would be able to learn within a variety of peer group opportunities.

5.4 The proposals would remove a number of the current shared catchment areas, including the three secondary schools, creating a clear and distinct association with their local community. This should encourage and foster already strong links with local communities.

5.5 As there are no changes planned to the general use of the seven school buildings or facilities there would be no detriment to other users of the schools either current or future.

6. Equality Statement

6.1 An Equality Impact assessment would be undertaken as part of the consultation exercise to assess if the proposal discriminates against anyone on the basis of;

- Age
- Gender
- Religion
- Racial Group
- Disability
- Sexual Orientation

6.2 In carrying out the equality impact assessment the council would take account of, and address, any equality issues raised in writing or oral representation made as part of the consultation process. The result of the equality impact assessment would be included in the consultation response document and would also be available on the Glasgow City Council website.

7. Proposed Date For Implementation

7.1 It is intended that the proposals, if approved, would be implemented from August 2015.

8. The Consultation Process

8.1 When a Council brings forward a proposal to change the entry requirements to a school or change a catchment/delineated area and/or modify the guidelines in respect of the handling of placing requests there is a requirement to carry out a public consultation within the statutory framework defined by the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010.

8.2 The following arrangements would be put in place:

Consultation papers would be distributed to a wide range of stakeholders and interested parties including:

- Parents/carers/children of establishments affected by the proposals
- Parent Councils of establishments affected by the proposals, including associated secondary schools

- Staff
- Trades Unions
- Education Scotland (HMI)
- Community Councils
- Area Partnerships
- Groups formed under Part 2 of the Local Government in Scotland Act (2003)
- Other users of the school premises
- A notice to advise of the consultation arrangements would be placed in the Press
- A dedicated page would be set up on the Council website for both information, and to enable interested parties to respond to the proposals.

Contact Details:

- **Phone number:** 0141 287 4327
- **Address:** Schools Consultation, Education Services, 40 John Street, Glasgow G1 1JL
- **Web site address:** <http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/schoolconsultations>
- **E-mail address:** Schoolconsultations@glasgow.gov.uk

The indicative timetable for the consultation is as per the table below

Date	Action
25 September 2014	Executive Committee
20 October 2014	Start of Public Consultation period (Advert)
27 October 2014 29 October 2014 30 October 2014 3 November 2014 5 November 2014 10 November 2014 12 November 2014	Public Meetings at: Merrylee Primary School Croftfoot Primary School Battlefield Primary School Mount Florida Primary School Hillpark Secondary School Shawlands Academy King's Park Secondary School All Meetings 6.30 to 8.00pm
1 December 2014	End of Public Consultation period
12 December 2014	Report to Education Scotland
29 January 2015	Consultation response report published at least 3 weeks prior to Executive Committee
19 February 2015	Report to Executive Committee

8.3 Arrangements would be put in place to enhance the inclusiveness of the process e.g. a summary version of the document would be produced, crèche facilities and language interpreting services would be available at the public meetings, upon prior request, to the Headteacher of the school at which the meeting is being held or Education Services as detailed in section 8.2.

8.4 As stated above public meetings would be held to discuss the proposals. Anyone wishing to attend the public meetings is welcome to do so. The meetings would be an opportunity for attendees to:

- Hear more about the proposal
- Ask questions about the proposal
- Have their views noted so that they can be taken into account as part of the Consultation response process
- Ask officers about the various ways in which they can respond to the proposal

9. Conclusions From The Consultation Exercise

9.1 The outcome and conclusion of the consultation exercise would be presented to the Executive Committee on 19 February 2015.

10. Scottish Ministers Call-In

10.1 The schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 does not make provisions for referral to Scottish Ministers in cases other than closures of schools.

11. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: There are no financial implications associated with these proposals

Legal: Consultation carried out in line with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Personnel: There are no personnel implications associated with these proposals

Procurement: N/A

Council Strategic Plan: Specify which theme(s) and outcome(s) the proposal supports:
Learning City – to ensure the availability of high quality learning and teaching space for all catchment area children and their families

Equality Impacts:

EQIA carried out: Yes, as part of the response to the consultation process

Outcome: Still to be assessed as part of the Consultation Process

Sustainability Impacts:

<i>Environmental:</i>	The proposed changes will improve opportunities for walking to/from school.
<i>Social:</i>	Ensuring, adequate capacity for catchment area children and their families
<i>Economic:</i>	N/A

12. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Executive Committee approves the public consultations on the proposals and asks that the Executive Member for Education and Young People report on the outcomes to the meeting of the Executive Committee on 19 February 2015.