



Moray Council

Rezoning Moray Secondary Schools

Public Meeting

**09 February 2016
24 March 2016**

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Milne's High School Public Meeting (16.02.2016)

In attendance:

Graham Jarvis (Head of Lifelong Learning, Culture & Sport)
Paul Watson (Senior Education Adviser for Schools Consultations)
Sarah Crowe (Community Support Officer)

Sally Stewart (Education Scotland)

Elected Members In Attendance:

Cllr John Divers (Scottish Labour Party)
Cllr Margo Howe (Scottish National Party)

Number of Community Representatives in Attendance:

4

Community Support Officer, Sarah Crowe welcomed all to the meeting and provided introductions of the staff in attendance and a brief introduction to the meeting.

Graham Jarvis and Paul Watson carried out a presentation on the rezoning Moray secondary school proposal. A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Questions & Answer Session

Q	Will the children be transported via chartered buses or will some be provided with passes to allow them to use public transport?
A	There will be school transport provided and it will be by contracted transport arrangements. We have investigated the use of service buses and it is not a feasible option due to operational times etc. The mode of this transport will depend on the numbers of pupils. (GJ)
Q	Regarding the transition; if someone is currently at Elgin Academy; what happens to their siblings?
A	<p>If the sibling wishes to attend the same school they would need to submit a placing request. Transport will not be provided for those pupils who have requested to attend an out of zone school. (PW)</p> <p>If the older sibling is currently in secondary education and receiving transport to and from the school; the younger child then starts secondary at the same out of zone school; do we then provide transport to allow this to happen? What happens when another sibling starts secondary a couple of years later? How long do we continue to do this; it would result in the rezoning procedure being redundant. We do need to discuss this further with those families this will affect, to help us gauge the best way to handle the situation. (GJ)</p>

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Q	Will the sibling have a choice of which school they attend?
A	Yes there is always a choice via a placing request. However if it is not the zoned school the Council does not pay for transport. (PW) We can only refuse out of area placing requests once a school is full. (GJ)
Q	The children at Troves, are they currently zoned for Lhanbryde?
A	Yes, but none of them actually attend Lhanbryde primary school, they are all placing requests for either East End or West End primary schools. (PW)
Q	They will be zoned for Milne's High School?
A	Yes, this is the proposal, but it will depend on the feedback during this consultation. (PW) Troves is one area we will need to look at in the future as the current zoned school is Lhanbryde primary school but the proposed school in south-east Elgin is nearer. Reviewing the zones needs to be a continual cycle. (GJ)

Paul Watson concluded this section of the meeting and progressed to the revised Admissions to Schools Policy presentation and question and answer session.

Lossiemouth High School Public Meeting (22.02.2016)

In attendance:

Graham Jarvis (Head of Lifelong Learning, Culture & Sport)
Paul Watson (Senior Education Adviser for Schools Consultations)
Sarah Crowe (Community Support Officer)

Sally Stewart (Education Scotland)
Linda Brown (Lossiemouth High School, Head Teacher)

Elected Members In Attendance:

Cllr John Divers (Scottish Labour Party)
Cllr Allan Wright (Scottish Conservative and Unionist)
Cllr James Allan (Scottish Conservative and Unionist)
Cllr John Cowe (Independent)
Cllr Chris Tuke (Independent)
Cllr Denis Slater (Independent)

Number of Community Representatives In Attendance:

2

Community Support Officer, Sarah Crowe welcomed all to the meeting and provided introductions of the staff in attendance and a brief introduction to the meeting.

Paul Watson carried out a presentation on the rezoning Moray secondary schools proposal. A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Questions & Answer Session

Q	The land west of Mosstowie is Hardhillock Farm and estate and there are approximately four or five houses being built there. We feel that this area should be zoned to Mosstowie primary school.
A	Due to legislation restrictions we cannot make this suggested change during this consultation; this would have to be considered via a separate consultation. This consultation proposal is to not zone anything to Mosstowie from the Alves catchment area. The area you are discussing is currently the Alves area. (PW)
Q	Your proposal is that Alves is not zoned to Elgin High School.
A	Yes the proposal is to remove that. Therefore all of the children that are zoned to Alves primary school will be zoned to attend Forres Academy. (PW)
Q	If a child is due to attend Elgin High School in September 2016; will transport still be provided?
A	If the child is currently zoned to Elgin High School there will be no change. Anyone who is on the school roll prior to October 2016 will continue to receive

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	transport. After the boundary change in October, those choosing to attend an out of zone school will not receive transport. Transport arrangements that are in place prior to 24 October 2016 will be honoured if the children continue to attend the current school. (PW)
Q	Can you provide the timescales of the changes?
A	<p>The Council must provide a proposal for consultation; this is subject to a six week consultation period. The information collected during this time needs to be analysed and collated. This is then sent to Education Scotland who have three weeks to examine the proposal and provide a report to the Council on the educational aspects. This is then scrutinised by Council officers who then produce a consultation report. This report is then considered and voted on by Elected Members; this is a minimum of three weeks after the publication of the consultation proposal. (PW)</p> <p>We can make reasonable adjustments to the consultation proposal but we cannot suggest something different that was not originally proposed. If there is an overwhelming support for an alternative suggestion, this would require a separate consultation process and timescale. (PW)</p>
Q	My understanding is that the larger the school, the more curriculum choices there will be; do smaller schools have restricted choices?
A	<p>A larger school will have more staff due to the pupil, teacher ratio. This does not mean there is a wider curriculum; for example Lossiemouth High school has a wide range of subjects available. Schools try to provide a wide range of choice to cater for the needs of each pupil. (LB: Lossiemouth Head Teacher)</p> <p>There is a perception that the size of a school and breadth of curriculum follow each other. During the School Estate Review it was suggested that Milne's High School should be closed. When research was carried out on the curriculum at Milne's High School it was found to be broader than those of other larger schools in Moray. The perception that the smaller the school the narrower the curriculum is not correct. (Cllr Allan Wright)</p>
Q	Is the new school at Lossiemouth definitely going ahead?
A	Yes, the land has been identified; we know what the outline design will be. We currently do not know the roll as this will be discussed with the Scottish Government in greater detail. We are confident that there will be a school on site by 2020. (GJ)

Paul Watson concluded this section of the meeting and progressed to the revised Admissions to Schools Policy presentation and question and answer session.

Elgin Library Public Meeting (23.02.2016) (Afternoon session)

In attendance:

Paul Watson (Senior Education Adviser for Schools Consultations)
Sarah Crowe (Community Support Officer)

Elected Members In Attendance:

Cllr John Divers (Scottish Labour Party)
Cllr Mike Shand (Scottish National Party)

Number of Community Representatives In Attendance:

4

Community Support Officer, Sarah Crowe welcomed all to the meeting and provided introductions of the staff in attendance and a brief introduction to the meeting.

Paul Watson carried out a presentation on the rezoning Moray secondary school proposal. A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Questions & Answer Session

Q	What is the position with regards to siblings of people who are currently zoned to Elgin Academy from Burghead; what happens in a couple of years' time with their siblings?
A	A placing request would need to be submitted to the chosen out of zone school. In the short term it may be possible to supply (privileged) transport; this would only be on the basis that there are spare seats on the bus. In the long term this would have to be discontinued. (PW)

Discussion took place on the misunderstanding of zoned schools.

Q	The statement that says ' <i>these children would have more in common with those children attending Milne's as they are living in a semi-rural location than attending Elgin High or Academy</i> '. This does not make sense to me as all our links are with Elgin.
A	From your personal experience, yes that is the case. The statement in the consultation document relates specifically to the children from that particular part of the catchment area who currently attend Lhanbryde Primary School. You are currently zoned for Lhanbryde Primary but are choosing to attend an Elgin school; this was very specific to those families living in a part of that catchment area who attend Lhanbryde. (PW)

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Q	The reason for not attending Lhanbryde is that it is much further away than any of the Elgin schools. How would I respond to this consultation?
A	You could respond during this consultation by suggesting to leave things as they are for the particular part of the catchment area in which you live and that the Council should revisit the catchment areas once the new Elgin primary school is built. (PW)
Q	If this catchment in the future was zoned to the new primary school; it would be zoned to Elgin High not Elgin Academy.
A	That would have to be considered but zoning to Elgin High would be more logical. (PW)
Q	My eldest child currently attends Elgin Academy and my younger children may end up being zoned to Elgin High School. I would not want my children attending different schools.
A	<p>The current policy of the Council is that no child will be forced to change school and all existing transport arrangements would be honoured. (PW)</p> <p>What we cannot do during this consultation is make any changes that are not listed in the proposal. What we can do is take suggestions for consideration for the future. As a result of this consultation we can either change that part of the zone to Milne's High School catchment area or we can leave it as the status quo. (PW)</p>
Q	The clear and distinct association between communities is part of the argument for the rezoning. This conversation has shown you that this is not the case.
A	I understand this, however there are children who attend Lhanbryde primary school who are in the Elgin Academy zone but choose to attend Milne's High school so they can stay with their friends. I understand that if other children are not attending Lhanbryde Primary School this is a separate issue. (PW)
Q	<p>I would think if you live on the Elgin boundary, then you should attend an Elgin school.</p> <p>Is your suggestion that the existing secondary arrangements continue, so that pupils attend Elgin Academy and not the High School (as per the arrangements for the new south-east primary school).</p> <p>Parents currently have an expectation of which secondary school their children will attend. Post October when these changes are implemented some parents will need to rely on placing requests. Are any of these schools going to struggle to meet these placing requests based on projected school rolls?</p>
A	Existing arrangements could continue for part of the current zone. Elgin Academy might at some stage in the future due to the number of houses being built. (PW)
Q	Does the removal of Burghead pupils make a difference to Elgin Academy school roll?
A	All of the proposed changes will make a difference to each of the school rolls. (PW)
Q	Are you confident that Elgin High School and Elgin Academy can cope with the pupils from all the Elgin primary schools?

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A	<p>Elgin High School will have a school roll of 800 with the ability to take up to 1000 children. (Cllr J Divers)</p> <p>Longer term there may be the demand for a further secondary school in Elgin. (PW)</p>
Q	The area being switched from Elgin High School to the Academy, how many children are affected there?
A	Based on the current numbers there is roughly a 50/50 children split between Elgin Academy and Elgin High School due to placing requests from the affected areas. There would be just over 50 primary school aged children, currently resident in the affected areas. (PW)
Q	Is Elgin expansion proof or will it need revisited soon? Will the Elgin limits need to be reviewed?
A	<p>A review of catchment areas will need to take place on a regular basis. (PW)</p> <p>It will need to be reviewed by the boundary commission; a lot of the new houses that are being built in the south of Elgin are actually in the Fochabers and Lhanbryde geographic area. The Scottish Boundary Commission are just starting to look at the boundaries and looking at the houses that are being built. (Cllr J Divers)</p>
Q	If the school catchment areas take this into account that this might happen; if the natural assumption is that it is part of Elgin then it should be part of Elgin.
A	<p>This is why the school roll for Elgin High School is 800 with the ability to expand to a 100 pupils. This is also why the boundaries are being reviewed. (Cllr J Divers)</p> <p>The review of the school catchments should be a regular occurrence, for example every five to six years. (PW)</p>
Q	The net effect of the zoning changes, what is the total number of spaces that will be freed up in the Academy?
A	The roll projection is difficult due to placing requests, which distort the actual numbers. The approximate net impact is 80 to 100 max; this is on the basis that there are no placing requests. The roll projections are revisited each year. (PW)
Q	Do you perceive a number of placing requests from Burghead Primary or do you think they will happily attend Lossiemouth High school?
A	The indication from the Head Teacher is that the community is generally happy for Burghead children to attend Lossiemouth High school. The Head Teacher has consulted with the Parent Council and pupils and the significant majority are happy with the proposal. (PW)
Q	Is the new Lossiemouth School going to be a secondary only or will it be designed for all-through school (nursery to secondary).
A	<p>It will be a secondary school. (PW)</p> <p>Discussions are taking place that it will be very similar to the new Elgin High School. (Cllr J Divers)</p>
Q	Can you give us an update for the new primary school and will it get stuck in a legal argument with the Findrassie people?

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A	<p>The proposal is currently being scrutinised by Education Scotland, who will respond in approximately one weeks' time. A report will be submitted to Children and Young People's Service committee in April 2016. I can see no legal impediment as the Council has complied with the Schools (Consultation) legislation. (PW)</p> <p>The land for the proposed school is Elgin Long 2 South Plan, which was discussed at committee on Tuesday 23 February. The Master Plan comes to committee March 2016. (Cllr J Divers)</p>
Q	Do you foresee any stumbling blocks?
A	The feedback from the consultation on establishing the new school in south-east Elgin is extremely positive. I cannot comment on the planning issues as these are out with my area of responsibility. (PW)

Paul Watson concluded this section of the meeting and progressed to the revised Admissions to Schools Policy presentation and question and answer session.

Elgin Library Public Meeting (23.02.2016) (Evening session)

In attendance:

Paul Watson (Senior Education Adviser for Schools Consultations)
Sarah Crowe (Community Support Officer)

Elected Members In Attendance:

Cllr John Divers (Scottish Labour Party)
Cllr Mike Shand (Scottish National Party)
Cllr Denis Slater (Independent)

Number of Community Representatives In Attendance:

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Community Support Officer, Sarah Crowe welcomed all to the meeting and provided introductions of the staff in attendance and a brief introduction to the meeting.

Paul Watson carried out a presentation on the rezoning Moray secondary school proposal. A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Questions & Answer Session

Q	Currently we live approximately five minutes away from Elgin Academy and there are a number of children who live in the area who attend Elgin Academy. I would like clarification as to what will happen after this consultation and if there will be flexibility as to which school the children attend.
A	Any child who currently attends a specific school will continue to do so. The Council's policy is to not force any mandatory school changes. (PW)
Q	What if the children are currently at primary school?
A	If this catchment area was to change, a placing request can be submitted to attend the chosen out of zone school. (PW) The Council is required by Law to make proposals during a consultation, we consult with all interested stakeholders and the received views are then collated and analysed and sent to Education Scotland. A final report is compiled and submitted to the Elected Members for a decision to be made. The proposals can be implemented in full, or part or not implemented. (PW)
Q	What are the timescales for this consultation?
A	All comments must be received by 5:00pm on Thursday 24 March 2016. During the Easter holidays we cannot carry out any consultation work; as all school consultations must take place during the school term. Analysis will take place during the first week after the Easter holidays; collated responses will be sent to Education Scotland, who have three weeks to scrutinise the data and provide feedback. A consultation report will be compiled and

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	submitted to Elected Members on the 22 June 2016.
Q	Are there any pressures on the current secondary schools that would result in placing requests being rejected in the future?
A	There could be potential accommodation problems in the future at Elgin Academy. (PW)
Q	One of the educational principles is not to split families; because families like all their children to attend the same school. When Elgin High school was created there were extinguishing principles set in place where an older sibling attended a specific school, the younger child could also attend. Has this been considered for these proposals?
A	It has been considered with regards to privileged transport, as long as transport was running. This would result in younger siblings being able to utilise this transport, if space was available. This would have to stop at some point in time. (PW)
Q	Surprised to see another change in catchment areas for primary schools being proposed?
A	There is currently no change to primary school catchment areas being proposed. In the future it may make sense to consider looking at certain catchment areas and the current zoned schools once a new primary school has been agreed and established. This is not part of this current consultation; it would be for future consultation. (PW)
Q	Has any analyses taken place on the effect on children who are due to being on transport for an extended period of time?
A	There will be negligible increase in time spent on school transport as transport routes can be reviewed and changed. The Public Transport department has reviewed this and are confident that changing bus routes should not have a significant impact on the time period children spend travelling. (PW)
Q	Will children who are currently at secondary school and receive transport to and from school continue to receive this?
A	Yes, this will continue until their education at that school is complete. (PW)
Q	With regards to extinguishing principle status; will siblings of those children who are currently attending a specific school receive the same transport (even though they are classified as out of zone)?
A	It will depend if that part of the catchment area is re-zoned as part of this consultation. If it is, and there is space on a bus (as privilege transport) then yes. (PW)

Discussion was held on the possible route of the transport which may not be directly from Elgin (outskirts) to Fochabers. The difference of children attending a school that is within two miles of where you live compared to the catchment school which is nine miles away may be more attractive to some, however PW noted the educational benefits of children transitioning to the ASG secondary school.

Paul Watson concluded this section of the meeting and progressed to the revised Admissions to Schools Policy presentation and question and answer session.