



## **THE MORAY COUNCIL**

### **Proposal Paper**

**To vary the catchment areas of Alves, Anderson's, Applegrove, Kinloss and Pilmuir Primary Schools.**

### **Statutory Consultation Period:**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 inclusive (30 school days)**

**All submissions expressing views on the proposals detailed in this document must be submitted by 5.00pm on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 for them to be taken into account as part of the consultation.**

**It is intended to respond to issues raised from correspondence within a consultation report that will be published before the Children and Young Peoples Services Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017.**

**This document has been issued by the Moray Council for consultation in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.**

## **1. THE PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 It is proposed to vary the catchment areas of Alves, Anderson's, Applegrove, Kinloss and Pilmuir Primary Schools based on geographical areas which are delineated on plans contained within this document and described below.
- 1.2 It is proposed that the implementation dates for these proposals will be 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 A pilot review, was undertaken by the Council of the Forres Associated Schools Group (comprising Forres Academy, Alves, Anderson's, Applegrove, Dallas, Dyke, Kinloss Logie and Pilmuir Primary Schools) using its 'Schools for the Future Criteria' as reported to the Children and Young People's Services Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016. 'Schools for the Future' is a policy designed to provide a transparent basis from which The Moray Council can review its school estate. This review indicated that there is justifiable case for retaining three primary schools in Forres town. However, as a result of various factors including demographics, new housing developments and transport issues, certain primary schools in the Forres Associated Schools Group (ASG) may experience capacity problems in the future. As a result it was recommended that the catchment areas (zones) of some of the Forres ASG primary schools should be reviewed.
- 2.2 Future housing developments in the current Anderson's Primary School zone, along with enrolment trends, indicate that Anderson's Primary could exceed capacity in the future. In the longer term relocating Anderson's Primary may need to be considered.
- 2.3 Pilmuir Primary School has the capacity to accommodate approximately an additional 80 pupils. There are certain parts of Forres, currently zoned to Applegrove Primary, which would have safer walking or cycling routes to Pilmuir Primary.
- 2.4 There may be increased roll pressures on Kinloss Primary in the future. There are also new housing developments lying on the Alves/Kinloss catchment area boundary. Alves Primary currently has considerable capacity for additional pupils and there is scope for increasing the Alves roll as a result of realigning its catchment area.
- 2.5 If primary school zones remain unaltered the following table provides roll forecasts for the Forres ASG primary schools, based on 2015 census:

School	Functional Capacity**	Current Roll*	Roll Forecasts						
			2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Alves	100	49	54	56	58	55	50	51	51
Anderson's	307	267	264	255	267	260	254	264	277
Applegrove	419	287	278	300	309	315	318	320	317
Dallas	50	26	24	19	17	15	12	12	10
Dyke	100	90	93	89	83	82	80	82	78
Kinloss	299	235	243	270	286	293	310	317	330
Logie	75	33	34	29	25	25	20	21	16
Pilmuir	249	168	169	173	175	161	156	150	157

\*Census Data September 2015

\*\* Functional Capacity 2015/16 – based on current national guidelines and current Moray Council practice.

- 2.6 For information, the number of out of zone pupils for each of the schools is given in the table below.

School	Current Roll*	Number of out of zone pupils	% out of zone pupils
Alves	49	13	26.5%
Anderson's	267	152	56.9%
Applegrove	287	82	28.6%
Dallas	26	2	7.6%
Dyke	90	44	48.9%
Kinloss	235	11	4.7%
Logie	33	14	42.4%
Pilmuir	168	59	35.1%

\*Census Data September 2015

Previous analysis across Moray has identified the following as the main reasons behind the requests:

1. Change of address (moving house and wishing to remain at current school).
  2. Siblings already attend the school.
  3. Child attended playgroup or nursery at that school.
  4. Child-minder lives close by the school.
- 2.7 At its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016 the Children and Young Peoples Services Committee agreed to formally consult on the above proposals in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 2.8 Proposals for altering the catchment areas of some of the Forres ASG primary schools will ensure that rezoning takes appropriate cognisance of safe routes to school and that schools have the capacity to enable children, who are living within an area zoned for a particular school, to attend that school.

2.9 Three Forres ASG primary schools are not included in the proposals for the following reasons:

2.9.1 Dallas Primary

There are no realistic changes which could be made to the Dallas Primary School catchment areas which could result in a significantly increased roll for the school. Therefore, having considered all of the current catchment areas in the Forres ASG, officers recommend there would be no benefits to rezoning Dallas Primary at this time.

2.9.2 Dyke Primary

The roll of Dyke Primary School is close to its current functional capacity of 100 and roll forecasts indicate that it is likely to remain around 80. The roll needs to be carefully monitored, particularly out-of-zone placing requests into the school, to ensure the school does not exceed capacity in the future and reserving places for in-zone pupils needs to be considered, however there would be no benefits to rezoning Dyke Primary at this time.

2.9.3 Logie Primary

There are no realistic changes which could be made to the Logie Primary School catchment area which could result in a significantly increased roll for the school. Therefore there are no changes recommended to the Logie Primary catchment area at this time.

## **THE PROPOSALS**

2.10 Proposals for individual primary schools in the Forres ASG are given below.

2.10.1 Alves Primary

The Alves school catchment area should be revised in order to make better use of the school's capacity, by potentially increasing the roll, therefore helping reduce possible capacity problems elsewhere. The catchment area boundary should be moved further to the west to incorporate rural areas, some with new housing developments, which are currently zoned to Kinloss Primary and also rural areas to the south of the A96 currently zoned to Anderson's Primary.

2.10.2 Anderson's Primary

The increasing roll needs to be carefully monitored to ensure the school does not exceed its capacity. In the short to medium term the catchment area boundary should be moved south to the A96, rezoning the area to the north of the A96 to Kinloss Primary, with the area to the west of the A940 and south of the A96 zoned to Pilmuir Primary. Part of the rural catchment area, to the south of the A96 should be rezoned to Alves Primary. In the longer term, new house-building in the east of Forres could mean that Anderson's Primary exceeds capacity and it may be necessary to investigate the potential for relocating the school in a new build, with greater capacity, in the future.

### 2.10.3 Applegrove Primary

The increasing roll needs to be carefully monitored to ensure the school does not exceed its capacity in the future. The area to the west of the A940 is zoned to Applegrove Primary but most of this area lies closer to Pilmuir Primary, with safer walking and cycling routes to Pilmuir Primary. This area should be rezoned to Pilmuir Primary. In addition, some of the new housing at Knockomie (South) should also be zoned to Pilmuir Primary, rather than Applegrove Primary, and there is a suitable safe road crossing of the A940 from Knockomie (South) leading to Pilmuir Primary.

### 2.10.4 Kinloss Primary

The transient roll needs to be carefully monitored, particularly in relation to potential impacts of an increase in roll on accommodation. The catchment area should be revised in the east (with rezoning to Alves Primary as described in 2.10.1) and the south and west (with rezoning from Anderson's Primary as described in 2.10.2).

### 2.10.5 Pilmuir Primary

Pilmuir Primary currently has the capacity to accommodate at least an additional 80 children. There is also significant under used nursery accommodation at Pilmuir Primary which, if nursery numbers were to increase, could result in an increased demand for enrolment into Pilmuir Primary. The area to the west of the A940 and south of the A96 should be rezoned from Anderson's Primary to Pilmuir Primary (as described in 3.10.2) and the area to the west of the A940 which is zoned to Applegrove Primary should be rezoned to Pilmuir Primary (as described in 2.10.3). In addition, some of the new housing at Knockomie (South) should also be zoned to Pilmuir Primary as there is a suitable safe road crossing of the A940.

- 2.11 The appendices to this proposal paper contain maps showing school catchment areas. These are: current Forres ASG (**Appendix 1**); current Forres town, including areas designated for new house-building (**Appendix 2**); proposed Forres ASG (**Appendix 3**); proposed Forres town (**Appendices 4 and 5**).

## **3. TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS**

- 3.1 Pupils living in the affected areas detailed in Section 2 who have already commenced their primary education at the time the new school zones become applicable can remain in their chosen primary school. No existing primary school pupils will be required to move school when new zones are established unless that is by parental choice.
- 3.2 Parents of children who make in-zone placing requests and subsequently enrol in their catchment area schools after catchment areas change, and have older siblings in the schools which would have been the zoned school under the previous catchment areas, will have to make out-of-zone placing requests if they wish to attend the same school as their older sibling.

#### **4. TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS**

- 4.1 While zoning is important in addressing capacity issues in Forres, pupil safety is also of paramount importance. These proposals are designed to make travel to school as safe as possible.
- 4.2 Moray Council currently provides free school transport for primary school pupils who reside more than 2 miles from their designated zoned school, determined following any decision on zoning taken by the Moray Council.
- 4.3 Parents who make successful placing requests for their children to attend schools, other than their catchment area school, have to make their own transport arrangements and meet the costs thereof.
- 4.4 School travel plans are an essential part of the Moray Council's strategy to address issues related to transport to school. School travel plans also include promotion of initiatives to increase the number of children who walk or cycle to school. School travel plans can help reduce congestion, increase road safety, make routes to school safer, help protect the environment and encourage children to adopt healthy lifestyles.
- 4.5 If these proposals are adopted there should be no significant changes to school transport arrangements for eligible pupils. However, it is recognised that there may be changes to methods of travel for some pupils who will, in the future, be within closer walking or cycling distance to their zoned school. School travel plans will require to be revisited once school catchment areas are confirmed. These will be available prior to the effective dates of new school zones.

#### **5. EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT**

- 5.1.1 Families who live in the affected areas will have clear information on their zoned primary school. Pupils who are resident within the delineated zone for a school will be able to attend their zoned school and be taught with peers from their community. The proposals will ensure that all Forres ASG primary schools will have clear and distinct associations with their local communities.
- 5.1.2 Revised catchment areas will have a positive impact on the balance between the numbers of pupils in the Forres ASG primary school communities, Forres town schools in particular. It will help alleviate projected pupil roll pressures from potential housing developments identified in the adopted Local Development Plan.
- 5.1.3 If any younger siblings are zoned to a different school to an older sibling, following catchment area changes, their parent may make an out-of-zone placing request to the same school as an older sibling. The Council policy on Admissions to Schools will apply as usual.

## **5.2 Likely effects for children currently attending Forres ASG primary schools**

- 5.2.1 By alleviating current and future capacity pressures on the existing school estate, the ability to create flexible learning spaces in all schools will improve the range of learning environments across the schools. This will allow aspirations, attainment and achievement to continue to improve across Moray primary schools.
- 5.2.2 The proposals will bring a better balance between the numbers of pupils in the Forres primary school communities and the capacities of these schools, ensuring the schools will have sustainable rolls which will deliver the full breadth of Curriculum for Excellence.
- 5.2.3 The alleviated roll pressures will enhance the opportunity to create more adaptable environments for learning, in which to facilitate co-operative and interdisciplinary learning, reduce pressure on technology and practical teaching spaces, and improve the social environment.
- 5.2.4 The curriculum in all schools will provide the opportunity for learners to achieve across all curricular areas and develop skills, attributes and capabilities through courses aligned with the design principles of Curriculum for Excellence: challenge and enjoyment, breadth, progression, depth, personalisation and choice, coherence and relevance.
- 5.2.5 Children and young people will be provided with a broad range of opportunities for personal achievement and interdisciplinary learning across all curriculum areas and subjects by building on best practice in curriculum design in Moray schools.

## **5.3 Likely effects for children who become pupils of Forres ASG primary schools in the next two years.**

- 5.3.1 There would be no detriment to future users of the provision.
- 5.3.2 Where new zones for Alves, Anderson's, Applegrove, Kinloss and Pilmuir primaries become applicable, children who have had places accepted at their in-zone schools will enrol in these schools from the effective date following any decision of the Moray Council Children and Young People's Services Committee to implement changes to the catchment areas.

## **5.4 Likely effects on other users of the schools' facilities**

There would be no detriment to other users of the schools' facilities.

## **5.5 Likely effects on children and young people in other Moray Council schools**

This proposal will have no significant adverse impact on children attending other schools in Moray. This proposal has the potential to bring financial

benefits to the Moray Council and therefore allow for a more equitable distribution of resources.

## **5.6 Other likely effects of the proposal**

No other effects of the proposal have been identified.

## **5.7 How the Council intends to minimise or avoid potential adverse effects**

5.7.1 Teaching and support staff will work closely with all affected primary schools to ensure that the learning, pastoral and social needs of children are fully supported during any transition process, including enhanced arrangements for children and young people with Additional Support Needs.

5.7.2 An equality impact assessment has been carried out on this proposal and consultation process. This concludes that introducing this proposal will not have an adverse impact on any of the groups considered. From the impact assessment, it is concluded that this proposal would have potential positive benefits for young people. The equality impact assessment is attached as **Appendix B**.

## **5.8 Summary of benefits resulting from implementation of this proposal**

5.8.1 The benefits are all highlighted in the preceding paragraphs, but they can be summarised as follows:

- i. By far the most important driver of the proposal is the prospect that rezoning should ensure, first and foremost, that children who are living within an area zoned for a particular school are able to attend that school.
- ii. There is an opportunity here for the Council to make best use of the finances available, and make the most effective use of resources at a time when the need for these is acute.

5.8.2 The Council has arrived at these conclusions, primarily, from a comprehensive analysis of out-of-zone placing requests within Forres and a detailed study of future housing developments. There has also been consultation with head teachers on the potential impacts of roll forecasts on schools' ability to continue to deliver good quality learning and teaching in suitable learning environments. There has also been a range of informal discussions with authority officers within Education and Social Care, Planning and Transportation which have supported these proposals.

5.8.3 In delivering these broad benefits, the authority is confident that it is discharging its duty to secure best value by continuous improvement in the performance of its functions, as required in the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

## **6. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS**

- 6.1 Formal consultation will run from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 inclusive (30 school days)
- 6.2 As required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, formal consultation includes:
- the preparation of this proposal paper;
  - a letter to the parents/carers of children at all Forres ASG primary schools
  - a letter to the parents/carers of children expected to attend the affected schools within two years of the publication of these proposals, distributed through Forres ASG pre-school centres and child-minders;
  - information, including the proposal paper, placed on the Council's website and publicised through social media;
  - information on the proposals communicated through social media;
  - an announcement of the proposal in the local press, inviting any person to make written representation to the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care);
  - a public meeting as shown below;
  - meetings with the parent councils of all affected Forres ASG primary schools;
  - meetings with the staff of the establishments;
  - consultation with pupils of all affected Forres ASG primary schools;
  - consultation with Community Councils in all affected areas;
  - consultation with representatives of the teacher and support staff trade unions, and
  - meetings with any other interested bodies, if requested.
- 6.3 A Formal Consultation Meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2016 at 7.00 pm in Forres Academy.
- 6.4 It is hoped that the Children and Young Peoples Services Committee will be able to take a final decision on whether or not to implement the proposals at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

## **7. INVOLVEMENT OF EDUCATION SCOTLAND**

- 7.1 A copy of this proposal document has been sent to Education Scotland. Education Scotland will also receive a copy of any written representations that are received by Moray Council from any person during the consultation period. Education Scotland will also receive a summary of any oral representation made to the Moray Council at the public meetings and a copy of any other relevant documentation.
- 7.2 After the Moray Council has sent Education Scotland all representations and documents mentioned above, Education Scotland will prepare a report on the

educational aspects of the proposal. This will take place during the period 31<sup>st</sup> October – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016. In preparing their report, Education Scotland may visit the affected establishments and make such reasonable enquiries of such people there, or such other people as they consider appropriate.

- 7.3 On receipt of the Education Scotland report, it will be necessary to review the proposal, and thereafter, the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care), on behalf of the education authority, will prepare and publish a consultation report, containing the views of Education Scotland and including an explanation of how the Moray Council proposes to deal with any issues raised. After a period of no less than three weeks, the Children and Young Peoples Services Committee will consider the consultation report and decide whether or not to implement the proposals.

## **8. NOTE ON CORRECTIONS**

- 8.1 If any apparent inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this proposal document either by the Moray Council or any person, the Moray Council will determine if relevant information has been omitted or if there has been an inaccuracy. If it is determined that there has been an inaccuracy or omission the Moray Council will then take appropriate action which may include the issue of a correction or the reissuing of the proposal paper or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period as appropriate. In that event, any person highlighting the inaccuracy to the Moray Council, relevant consultees and Education Scotland will be advised.

## **9. EQUALITY STATEMENT**

- 9.1 An equality impact assessment has been carried out on this proposal and consultation process to assess the proposal's relevance to the public sector equality duties on the basis of:

- Sex
- Religion
- Racial group
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity

- 9.2 The equality impact assessment concluded that introducing this proposal will not have an adverse impact on any of the groups listed. From the impact assessment, it is further concluded that the proposals could have potential positive benefits for young people. Any impacts identified through the consultation process will be investigated prior to the final consultation report being issued and a decision being made. The equality impact assessment is attached as **Appendix B**.

## **10. SUBMISSION OF VIEWS**

10.1 Responses to the consultation should be made by writing to:

Forres Primary School Rezoning Consultation  
The Moray Council  
Community Support Unit  
High Street  
Elgin  
IV30 1BX

or by e-mail to: [futureschools@moray.gov.uk](mailto:futureschools@moray.gov.uk)  
or by completing the attached consultation response form  
or by completing the on-line consultation form by following the links at  
[www.moray.gov.uk](http://www.moray.gov.uk)

**All responses must be submitted by 5.00pm on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 for them to be taken into account as part of the consultation.**

## **11. OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION**

11.1 A consultation report, including a summary of the submissions, will be published on the council website. This will be available by following the links at: [www.moray.gov.uk](http://www.moray.gov.uk)

11.2 It is intended that a report on the consultation will be presented to the Children and Young People's Services Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017. This will provide information for Elected Members to make a final decision on implementation of the proposal.