



**THE MORAY COUNCIL
EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE**

**CULLEN CATCHMENT AREA SECONDARY SCHOOL
REZONING PROPOSAL**

Proposal Paper

To vary the catchment areas of Buckie High School and Keith Grammar School.

Statutory Consultation Period:

Wednesday 1st February – Friday 17th March 2017 (31 school days)

All submissions expressing views on the proposals detailed in this document must be submitted **by 5.00pm on Friday 17th March 2017** for them to be taken into account as part of the consultation.

It is intended to respond to issues raised during the consultation within a consultation report that will be published in May 2017.

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

1. THE PROPOSAL

- 1.1 It is proposed to vary the zones (catchment areas) of Keith Grammar School and Buckie High School based on geographical areas which are delineated on plans contained within this document and described below.
- 1.2 It is intended that the implementation date for this proposal will be 14 August 2017.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Cullen Primary School catchment area is split zoned between the catchment areas of Buckie High School and Keith Grammar School.
- 2.2 On 27 May 2015 the Children and Young People's Services Committee agreed that the whole of the zone of a primary school should form part of the zone of one secondary school only, except where there is an exceptional case for a different arrangement; existing arrangements under which a primary school is dual zoned, or has a zone which is split between two secondary schools, should be reassessed with a view to altering zoning arrangements; and a zone change should be made where it has the potential to result in educational benefits for children and young people.
- 2.3 Earlier in 2016, the head teacher of Cullen Primary School held informal discussions, around both social and educational matters, with the parents of the children currently attending Cullen Primary School who could be affected by any catchment area changes. Almost all of these parents indicated that they would be likely to support moving the boundary line between the Buckie High School and Keith Grammar School catchment areas further south.
- 2.4 On 9 November 2016, following a report by officers into the various options which could be considered for the Cullen Primary School catchment area's secondary zones, the Children and Young People's Services Committee agreed to instruct the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) to progress to statutory consultation on amending the catchment area boundary of Buckie High School and Keith Grammar School, within a split secondary zone for Cullen Primary School, by moving the boundary line further to the south.
- 2.5 It is recognised that the large rural area served by Cullen Primary School makes it an exceptional case for a different zoning arrangement; therefore a split catchment area should remain. The proposed new catchment area boundary line is geographically, approximately half-way between Keith and Buckie.
- 2.6 The proposals would affect only a few pupils, currently attending Cullen Primary, and would not create any capacity issues for Buckie High School.

3. DETAILED PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The boundary line which delineates the catchment areas of Keith Grammar School and Buckie High School should be moved further south. This would result in the communities of Deskford, Berryhillock and Hoggie being within the catchment area of Buckie High School. The proposed boundary line and area affected is shown on the map in **Appendix 1**.

4. EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

- 4.1.1 Split zoning increases the risk of children experiencing a discontinuity in their learning as a result of transition from primary school to a non-ASG (Associated Schools Group) secondary school. Implementing this proposal will improve continuity and progression for some learners.
- 4.1.2 Partnership working between the schools means that children within the ASG study similar progressions of work which have been agreed between schools and have similar starting points when they arrive at secondary school. Implementing this proposal will therefore result in improved curricular coherence for some pupils.
- 4.1.3 As a member of an ASG children have many opportunities throughout their school life to work collaboratively with children from other ASG primary schools. This is an excellent transition both educationally and socially for those children going to the associated secondary school. These opportunities are available because of the close working relationships which exist between the staff, head teachers and other agencies supporting the ASG schools. Zoning a few more pupils to the ASG secondary school will ensure they can enjoy these benefits.
- 4.2 Likely effects for children currently attending the affected secondary schools**
- 4.2.1 There would be no detriment to current users of the provision. All children currently attending Keith Grammar School will be able to remain at that school for the remainder of their time at school.
- 4.2.2 The number of children likely to be affected by this proposal is very small therefore implementing the proposal will have a negligible impact on school rolls.
- 4.3 Likely effects for children who become pupils of the affected secondary schools.**
- 4.3.1 This proposal will ensure that a few more children living in the Cullen Primary catchment area will be able to attend the same secondary school as most of their peers from primary school.

4.3.3 These few additional Cullen Primary pupils will benefit from being zoned to Buckie High School through improved pastoral transition.

4.3.4 These few additional Cullen Primary pupils will benefit from a curricular transition, shared curriculum rationale and common teaching and learning strategy which prepares Buckie ASG pupils for a smooth transition to Buckie High School.

4.4 Likely effects on other users of the schools' facilities

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

4.5 Likely effects on children and young people in other Moray Council schools

4.5.1 This proposal will have no significant adverse impact on children attending other schools in Moray.

4.6 Other likely effects of the proposal

4.6. The proposal has the potential to reduce the roll of Keith Grammar School by up to twelve pupils over the next six years.

4.7 How the Council intends to minimise or avoid potential adverse effects

5.7.1 The education authority will continue to monitor the provision in all its schools in accordance with established procedures and will provide support and challenge in order to secure continuous improvement in the quality of education.

4.7.2 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. The equality impact assessment is attached as **Appendix B**.

4.8 Summary of benefits resulting from implementation of this proposal

4.8.1 The benefits can be summarised as follows:

- A few additional pupils will be able to attend their ASG secondary school along with peers from their primary school.
- A few additional children will experience the same pastoral and curricular transitions to secondary school resulting in continuity in their learning.

4.8.2 The Council has arrived at these conclusions through studying current zone maps, discussing primary-secondary transition with head teachers and discussing transport issues with the Public Transport Manager.

4.8.3 In delivering these 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.

5. TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

- 5.1 No existing school pupils will be required to move school when new zones are established unless that is by parental choice.
- 5.2 Children in Primary 7 at Cullen Primary, resident in the affected area, will transfer to Buckie High School in August 2017.
- 5.2 From 14 August 2017 all enrolments to secondary schools will be based on the proposed catchment areas shown in **Appendix 1**.

6. TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS.

- 6.1 Travel distance from Deskford to Buckie is approximately 6.5 miles and from Deskford to Keith is approximately 9 miles; from Berryhillock to Buckie is approximately 7.5 miles and from Berryhillock to Keith is approximately 9 miles; from Hoggie to Buckie is approximately 8.5 miles and from Hoggie to Keith is approximately 9 miles.
- 6.2 Moray Council currently provides free school transport for secondary school pupils who reside more than 2 miles from their designated zoned school, determined following any decision on zoning taken by the Moray Council. If these proposals are adopted there should be no significant changes to school transport arrangements for eligible pupils. Transport will be provided to whichever of Keith Grammar School or Buckie High School is the zoned school.
- 6.3 Transport will continue to be provided for pupils who reside in the area which is proposed for amendment, and who currently attend Keith Grammar School, to enable them to continue to attend Keith Grammar School, for the remainder of their time at that school. Thereafter transport will only be provided to Keith Grammar School from within the Keith Grammar School delineated catchment area.
- 6.4 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.

7. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 7.1 Formal consultation will run from Wednesday 1 February to Friday 17 March 2017 (31 school days).
- 7.2 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 Cullen Primary School (including those children expected to attend the affected schools within two years of the publication of these proposals);
 - information on the proposal to parents of Keith Grammar School and Buckie High School;
 - information, including the proposal paper, placed on the Council's website;
 - information on the proposal 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);
 - public meeting as shown below;
 - consultation with the parent councils of all affected schools;
 - consultation with the staff of the affected establishments;
 - consultation with the pupil councils of all affected schools;
 - consultation with Community Councils in the affected areas;
 - consultation with representatives of the teacher and support staff trade unions, and
 - consultation with other interested bodies.
- 7.3 Formal Consultation Meetings are arranged as follows:

Date	Venue	Time
Tuesday 7 February 2017	Cullen Primary School	19.00-20.00

- 7.4 Following consultation, it is hoped that the Children and Young People's Services Committee of the Moray Council will be able to take a final decision on the proposals before the end of June 2017.

8. INVOLVEMENT OF EDUCATION SCOTLAND

- 8.1 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 the Moray Council from any person during the consultation period. In addition, Education Scotland will receive a summary of any oral representation made to the Moray Council at the public meetings and a copy of any other relevant documentation.
- 8.2 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 24 March – 28 April 2017. 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.

- 8.3 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 Moray Council will consider the consultation report and decide whether or not to approve the proposal.

9. NOTE ON CORRECTIONS

- 9.1 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.

10. EQUALITY STATEMENT

- 10.1 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
- 10.2 The equality impact assessment concluded that introducing this proposal will not have an adverse impact on any of the groups listed. 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**.

11. SUBMISSION OF VIEWS

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

Cullen Secondary School Rezoning Consultation
The Moray Council
Community Support Unit
High Street
Elgin
IV30 1BX

or by e-mail to: 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

All responses must be submitted by **5.00pm on Friday 17 March 2017** for them to be taken into account as part of the consultation.

12. OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

12.1 It is intended that 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 .

12.2 It is intended that a report on the consultation will be presented to the first meeting of the Children and Young Peoples Services Committee following the council elections in May 2017. This will provide information for Elected Members to make a final decision on the proposal before the end of June 2017.