

## **EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE**

# **Revised Admissions to Schools in Moray - Policy and Procedures**

## **CONSULTATION REPORT**

**27 May 2016**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### ***Background***

At its meeting on 9 December 2015, the Moray Council agreed to consult on a revised Admissions to Schools Policy and Procedures.

### ***Proposals***

It was proposed to introduce a revised Admissions to Schools in Moray – Policy and Procedures.

### ***Implementation Date***

It was recommended that the implementation date for this proposal would be 4 January 2017.

### ***Purpose of Consultation***

Modifying the guidelines for admissions to schools requires a formal consultation to be carried out in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This report documents the formal consultation undertaken on these proposals between 9 February and 24 March 2016.

### ***Consultees***

During the consultation period, views were sought from a range of stakeholders and interested parties including:

- Parents
- Pupils
- Teaching and support staff
- Parent councils
- Community Councils
- Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers (LNCT)
- Trade Unions
- Representatives of the Roman Catholic Church
- Other interested members of the public.

***Reviewing the proposal***

The written and oral responses were analysed by one of the Council's Research and Information Officers and Senior Education Adviser (Schools Consultations). The main issues arising have been considered by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care), Head of Life Long Learning, Culture and Sport and Senior Education Adviser (Schools Consultations) and the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) has provided the Education Authority response to the issues. This analysis and response and the contents of the Education Scotland report inform the conclusions and recommendations in this report.

## 2. ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

### **Summary**

As part of the consultation the Council conducted a survey (on-line and paper) to ascertain people's views.

The survey asked if respondents agreed with the proposed revised Policy on Admissions to Schools in Moray.

A total of 12 responses were received as detailed below.

### **Response Analysis**

Statutory Consultation for a revised Admissions to Schools Policy					
Type of Respondent	Number of survey Responses	Number Agree	Number Disagree	% Agree	% Disagree
Parent	3	2	1	66.7%	33.3%
Parent Council	4	4	0	100.0%	0.0%
Staff Member	4	4	0	100.0%	0.0%
No Designation	1	1	0	100.0%	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>91.7%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>

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### 3. SUMMARY OF MAIN ORAL POINTS RAISED and EDUCATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE

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Most questions at the public meetings were of a factual nature and were responded to at the meetings.

#### ***Issues***

**1. Can the implementation date for the new policy be brought forward to August 2016?**

As the implementation date does not form part of the relevant proposal, the same restriction on varying it under section 11 of the Act (i.e. that the proposal can only be implemented in whole or in part but not varied) does not apply to the implementation date as it would to part of the proposal itself.

The implementation date can be brought forward to 22 August 2016, which will be after all placing requests for August 2016 have been dealt with under the current policy.

**2. There is a perceived lack of transparency over the early entry criteria.**

The criteria are transparent. Nevertheless the wording of Appendix 1 can be amended to clearly state 'transparent criteria'. Parents can therefore be confident that the policy will entitle them to see the criteria against which assessments for early entry have been made.

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## 4. SUMMARY OF WRITTEN POINTS RAISED and EDUCATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE

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The main issues raised in written correspondence are listed below along with the Council's response.

### ***Issues***

1. **The wording in the draft policy, at Appendix 8, should be amended to state: “When placing children who arrive in Moray from other parts of the UK, including service children, their age will be taken into account along with many other factors including, the number of years the child has spent in formal education (see table in the document), their academic ability, maturity and special needs etc. Indeed the wishes of the parent and child must also be given serious consideration by the teaching professionals, when assessing the most appropriate class in which to enrol the child. Furthermore the longer term impact of the child’s needs should be taken into account, noting that service children, in particular, will return to England within c.24 months.”**

The draft wording of Appendix 8 made it clear that each child will be entered into the Scottish system according to what is best for that particular child. Appendix 8 notes that the table provides a guide on this (only) and exceptions to the guide can be made. In every aspect of a child’s education, the head teacher must take the considerations noted by the military families into account in any case (being the wishes of the child and parent etc.). Therefore, whilst not explicitly noted in Appendix 8, practically speaking, that is what will happen. Nevertheless, the wording of this paragraph can be amended, for clarity, without altering the proposal. As a result the families who requested this amendment can be confident that their wishes are taken into account.

2. **With reference to paragraph 5.7 of the policy and procedures – what would happen if the false information provided is discovered *after* the child has started at the school in question?**

All cases will be reviewed on an individual basis and any decision taken will be made in the best interests of the child.

3. **If the parent or carer can demonstrate that the child has specific medical needs (which fall short of the severe and complex needs detailed in Priority Order 1) which can be better met by attending that particular school as opposed to the child’s catchment area school, then that should rank as new Priority Order 3.**

This is unlikely ever to be an issue. If such situations did arise then they would be dealt with on an individual basis, recognising that medical needs will be

addressed by support staff, not teaching staff. There is no need to amend the policy in this regard.

- 4. Grounds of Refusal of Placing Requests – when a written intimation of a refusal is sent to a parent or carer that it not rely solely on the written language from the statute alone. Words of explanation in simple language should be added to the letter to explain.**

While not a legal requirement, this point is agreed. It is however an operational matter and does not form part of the policy.

- 5. There is only direction about where to find Grounds for Refusal of a Placing Request for pupils with ASN. It would be better if this list could be included as part of Appendix 6.**

The wording of Appendix 6 can be amended for clarity, with more detailed information provided.

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## 6. REPORT BY EDUCATION SCOTLAND

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The main points from the Education Scotland report, along with the Council's response were:

- **This proposal offers clear educational benefits to stakeholders across Moray. If the proposal is implemented, it will enable children across the Council to have fair and equitable access to education in line with the Council's statutory responsibilities.**

This point is agreed.

- **It will enable the Council to ensure best value in managing its school estate.**

This point is agreed.

- **In taking this forward, the Council needs to continue to engage with parents and carers so that they fully understand the implications of the proposal.**

**Officers also need to continue to engage with those families who move into The Moray Council area from other parts of the UK and beyond.**

Revised information on Admissions to Schools for parents and carers will be provided. Information will be provided in print form and on the Council's internet site. Head teachers and senior officers will discuss and explain procedures to families as and when required.

- **The Council should also consider implementing this proposal from August 2016 in response to stakeholders' wishes.**

This point is agreed.

- **The Council's consultation proposal did not include the Diocese of the RC Church amongst the list of those consulted. The Council will need to clarify in its final consultation report whether it has formally consulted with the Diocese of the RC Church. In taking forward its proposal, the Council will need to demonstrate that it has engaged appropriately with all relevant consultees as determined by legislation.**

The Council is confident that it has consulted with all relevant consultees as required by legislation, including Parent Councils and the Roman Catholic Diocese. All consultees were sent copies of the proposal paper and had opportunities to discuss the proposals with senior officers of the Council. In relation to the Roman Catholic Diocese, discussion took place between a senior education officer and a representative of the Roman Catholic Diocese. The fact that any consultee has chosen not to submit a formal response should not be interpreted as that consultee not being consulted.

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## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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### ***Reviewing the proposal***

Officers of the Education Authority have listened carefully to the points made at the public meetings and have considered equally carefully the written representations and the report from Education Scotland. The main issues arising have been considered by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care), Head of Life Long Learning, Culture and Sport and Senior Education Adviser and the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) has provided an Education Authority response to the issues in terms of powers delegated to him.

### ***Summary***

1. There are clear educational benefits to the proposal.
2. For clarity, some minor amendments should be made to the wording of parts of the policy document.
3. The implementation date should be brought forward to 22 August 2016.
4. The Council needs to continue to engage with parents and carers, including those families from other parts of the UK and beyond, so that they fully understand the implications of the proposal. To address this, revised information on Admissions to Schools for parents and carers will be provided. Information will be provided in print form and on the Council's internet site.
5. In response to the Education Scotland comment on consultation, the Council is confident that it has consulted with all relevant consultees as required by legislation. The fact that any consultee has chosen not to submit a formal response should not be interpreted as that consultee not being consulted.

### ***Conclusions***

The Council now has four broad options for the proposed changes:

- a) abandon the proposal and maintain the status quo; or
- b) adopt the proposal; or
- c) adopt the proposal in part and maintain the status quo for other parts of the proposal; or
- d) amend the proposal in some way and undertake a further consultation exercise a new proposal.

## ***Recommendations***

Having considered all of the responses, officers recommend that:

- minor amendments are made to the wording of Appendices 1, 6 and 8 for the purposes of clarity and which do not vary the original proposal (as detailed in Appendix A);
- the Council then adopts the revised Admissions to Schools Policy and Procedures; and
- the implementation date is brought forward to 22 August 2016 in accordance with the wishes of stakeholders.

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## Appendix A: SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

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The following amendments have been made to the Policy and Procedures for clarity.

### **Appendix 1 – Early Entry to School**

Additional sentence added to paragraph 2.1 to read:

“Each assessment will be on a case by case basis against clearly defined criteria.”

### **Appendix 6 – Placing Requests for Pupils with Additional Support Needs**

The following additional text has been included for clarity:

“The grounds for a placing request refusal are set out in paragraph 3 of Schedule 2 of the 2004 Act. These grounds of refusal are the same as those in the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, as set out in Appendix 4 (page 19) of this document, with the addition of the following ground of refusal which applies in the case of children with additional support needs:

if all of the following conditions apply, namely:

- i. the specified school is not a public school,
- ii. the authority are able to make provision for the additional support needs of the child in a school (whether or not a school under their management) other than the specified school,
- iii. it is not reasonable, having regard both to the respective suitability and to the respective cost (including necessary incidental expenses) of the provision for the additional support needs of the child in the specified school and in the school referred to in paragraph (ii), to place the child in the specified school, and
- iv. the authority have offered to place the child in the school referred to in paragraph (ii), or  
if, where the specified school is a special school, placing the child in the school would breach the requirement in section 15(1) of the Standards in Scotland's Schools Act (2000).

The grounds for refusal will be clearly stated in the letter of refusal sent to the parent. In refusing a placing request for a pupil with Additional Support Needs, it will be made clear to parents their right to access independent mediation, dispute resolution or the ASN Tribunal.

Where a placing request for a pupil with Additional Support Needs is refused, parents can appeal to the education authority Appeals Committee. However, where a placing request is for a pupil who has, or is in the process of having considered or established, a Co-ordinated Support Plan, the appeal route is to the ASN Tribunal. The appeal should also be to the ASN Tribunal where the placing request is for a special school in Scotland managed by the education authority or where the request is for an independent or grant-aided school in Scotland, or a school in England, Wales or Northern Ireland, which is for children with additional support needs and the managers are willing to accept the child.

In any case of refusal, the grounds of refusal and the route for appeal will be set out clearly for parents.”

### **Appendix 8 – Pupils from Other Parts of UK Including Military Families**

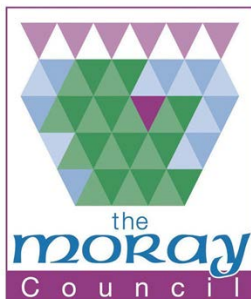
The following sentence has been included in the introductory paragraph for clarity:

“Other factors which must be considered include the number of years the child has spent in formal education, their academic ability, maturity, any additional support needs and the child’s longer term educational needs. The wishes of the parent and child must also be taken into account.”

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## **Appendix B: PROPOSAL PAPER**

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### **THE MORAY COUNCIL EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE**

## **ADMISSIONS TO SCHOOLS POLICY PROPOSAL**

### **Proposal Paper**

### **To introduce revised Admissions to Schools in Moray – Policy and Procedures**

**Statutory Consultation Period: Tuesday 9 February – Thursday 24 March 2016 (30 school days).**

All submissions expressing views on the proposals detailed in this document must be submitted **by 5pm on Thursday 24 March 2016** 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 before the meeting of the Children and Young People's Services Committee on **22 June 2016**.

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 introduce revised Admissions to Schools in Moray – Policy and Procedures as per **Appendix A** attached.
- 1.2 It is proposed that the implementation date for this proposal will be 4 January 2017.

## 2. **BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Moray Council's current Admissions to Schools – Policy and Procedures were approved on 5 December 2001. Minor updates to wording to reflect changes of titles of organisations and Committees were made in November 2010.
- 2.2 In recent years, the numbers of placing requests for schools have resulted in increased pressures on accommodation and resources in certain schools. While actions have been taken to alleviate pressures on school capacities, including reserving places for in-zone pupils and roll capping particular schools, by limiting their intake, it has become increasingly clear that the Council's current policy and procedures are in need of updating. Revising policy and procedures should help to address current pressures on school rolls, arising from placing requests, and ensure procedures are transparent and operated consistently.
- 2.3 It is also important to ensure that the policy continues to reflect any legislative changes, particularly with regard to provision for children with Additional Support Needs and equalities legislation.

## 3. **EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT**

### 3.1 **Overall educational benefits**

- 3.1.1 The proposed policy provides clarity on the arrangements to be put in place, by the education authority, in the event of oversubscription to any school, through the use of consistent prioritisation.
- 3.1.2 The proposed Admissions Policy includes specific arrangements for early entry to school, provision for admission to denominational schools, provision for admission of pupils from non-EU countries and arrangements for placing requests for pupils with Additional Support Needs.
- 3.1.3 The proposed policy provides clarity on the provision of transport to schools for entitled pupils.
- 3.1.4 The implementation of the proposed Admissions Policy is unlikely to have any adverse impact on curriculum delivery.
- 3.1.5 The proposed Admissions Policy will enable the Education Authority to respond to changing patterns of demand for school places in a consistent and

timeous way. This will ensure all children and young people have equal access to adequate and efficient education in line with the Council's statutory responsibilities.

### **3.2 Likely effects for children currently attending Moray schools**

3.2.1 There would be no detriment to current users of the provision.

### **3.3 Likely effects for children who become pupils of the affected schools in the next two years.**

3.3.1 There would be greater transparency in terms of dealing with placing requests to schools.

3.3.2 Roman Catholic pupils will have higher priority over other pupils when making placing requests to Roman Catholic schools.

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

3.4.1 There would be no effect and therefore no detriment to other users of the schools' facilities.

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

3.5.1 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.

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

3.6.1 The education authority will continue to monitor the provision in all its schools and where necessary reserve places at schools for in-zone pupils.

3.6.2 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**. Any impacts identified through the consultation process will be investigated prior to the final consultation report being issued and a decision being made.

## **4. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS**

4.1 Formal consultation will run from Tuesday 9 February – Thursday 24 March 2016 inclusive (30 school days).

4.2 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 Moray schools;
- a letter to the parents/carers of children expected to enrol in schools within two years of the publication of these proposals;
- information, including the proposal paper, placed on the Council's website;
- 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);
- public meetings as shown below;
- consultation with the parent councils of all schools;
- consultation with the staff of all schools;
- consultation with the pupil councils of all schools;
- consultation with Community Councils; and
- consultation with representatives of the teacher and support staff trade unions.

4.3 Formal Consultation Meetings are arranged as follows:

Date	Venue	Time
16 February 2016	Milne's High, Fochabers	19.00-20.30
22 February 2016	Lossiemouth High School	19.00-20.30
24 February 2016	Elgin Library Gallery	13.30-15.00
24 February 2016	Elgin Library Gallery	18.30-20.00

- 4.4 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 at its meeting on 22 June 2016.

## 5. **INVOLVEMENT OF EDUCATION SCOTLAND**

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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 18 April – 9 May 2016. In preparing their report, Education Scotland may visit establishments and make such reasonable enquiries of such people there, or such other people as they consider appropriate.
- 5.3 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 proposals.

## 6. **NOTE ON CORRECTIONS**

- 6.1 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.

## 7. **EQUALITY STATEMENT**

- 7.1 An equality impact assessment has been carried out on these proposals and consultation process to assess the proposals' relevance to the public sector equality duties on the basis of:
- Sex
  - Religion
  - Racial group
  - Disability
  - Sexual orientation
  - Gender reassignment
  - Pregnancy and maternity
- 7.2 The equality impact assessment concluded that introducing these proposals 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**.

## 8. **SUBMISSION OF VIEWS**

- 8.1 Responses to the consultation should be made by writing to:
- Schools Admissions Policy 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 Thursday 24 March 2016** for them to be taken into account as part of the consultation.

## **9. OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION**

- 9.1 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](http://www.moray.gov.uk)
- 9.2 It is intended that a report on the consultation will be presented to the Children and Young Peoples Services Committee on 22 June 2016. This will provide information for Elected Members to make a final decision on the proposal.

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## Appendix C: EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT

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**Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by The Moray Council to introduce a revised admissions policy and procedures to schools in Moray from 4 January 2017.**

### 1. Introduction

This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments contained in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of the Moray Council's proposal to introduce a revised admissions policy and procedures to schools in Moray from 4 January 2017. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the Council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The Council's final consultation report should include a copy of this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the Council's response to them. The Council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision. Where a Council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all legislative obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

#### 1.1. HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people in the Moray Council and any other stakeholders in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the Council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

#### 1.2. In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at public meetings held on 16 February 2016 in Milne's High School and on 22 February 2016 in Lossiemouth High School in connection with the Council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and

- visits to Milne's High School, Fochabers and Bishopmill Primary School in Elgin to meet with focus groups of headteachers. HM Inspectors also met a focus group of parent council representatives in Elgin Academy and a representative of the Moray Council in Elgin.

## **2. Consultation Process**

- 2.1. The Moray Council undertook the consultation on its proposal with reference to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the amendments in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
- 2.2. The Moray Council carried out an extensive consultation process which ran from 9 February to 24 March 2016. As part of its consultation arrangements, the Council consulted with school staff and Parent and Pupils Councils of all schools. Letters were sent to parents and carers at all Moray schools and also to parents and carers of children expected to enrol in schools within two years of the publication of this proposal. During the consultation period, the Council held four public meetings on 16, 22 and 24 February. Attendance at these meetings was very low. There was a total of 18 people attending these. The Council reported that they had informed the Diocese about the proposal.
- 2.3. The Council received 12 written responses to the proposal. One of these written responses summarised the views from 24 military families whose main concern was regarding their children being placed in the year below their academic peer group when they moved to Moray schools from other parts of the UK or from abroad. They feel that there is a lack of transparency over the early entry criteria. They also asked for the implementation date for the new policy to be brought forward to August 2016. The Council's online survey received responses from four Parent Councils who all supported the proposal. Three parents also responded, with two being in support of the proposal. Of these 12 written responses, almost all were in favour of the proposal.

## **3. Educational Aspects of Proposal**

- 3.1. Overall, the council's proposal offers clear educational benefits. The proposal should ensure that all information which schools need to allocate places is contained in a single policy document. The proposal provides greater clarity for parents on how places will be allocated across the Moray Council area in the event of oversubscription to any school(s). It provides clear information about admission to denominational schools, admission of pupils from non-EU countries and arrangements for making placing requests for pupils with additional support needs. The Council should continue to liaise with military families in taking forward the proposal. The proposal provides helpful guidance on admissions policy, including specific arrangements for early entry to school. The proposed policy provides clarity on the provision of transport to schools for entitled pupils. If implemented,

the proposal will help ensure best value and children and young people will have equitable access to education in line with the council's statutory responsibilities.

- 3.2. Overall, staff and parent council representatives who spoke with HM Inspectors were positive and saw the benefits of the proposal. Stakeholders were pleased that all admission information was to be located in one document. They felt that the consultation had been well publicised, helpful and provided much needed clarity on the policy and procedures. A few felt that it might be helpful to have some information in the policy on cross-boundary arrangements. Head teachers welcomed the advice and guidance on transport and also on placing requests for pupils with additional support needs. They were pleased that there was now clarity on where children should be placed and at what stage when they moved to the area from other parts of the UK and abroad. They felt strongly that the education authority now needed to ensure that the admissions policy and procedures were consistently implemented across all schools in the Moray Council area. A few would like a link in the document to help parents find information on admissions for children's early learning and childcare settings. Those who met with HM Inspectors wanted more information on how this proposal linked to two other proposals being undertaken at the same time. Overall, stakeholders felt that the proposal should be implemented from the earlier date of August 2016.

#### **4. Summary**

This proposal offers clear educational benefits to stakeholders across Moray. If the proposal is implemented, it will enable children across the council to have fair and equitable access to education in line with the council's statutory responsibilities. It will enable the Council to ensure best value in managing its school estate. In taking this forward, the Council needs to continue to engage with parents and carers so that they fully understand the implications of the proposal and any others being undertaken at the same time. Officers also need to continue to engage with those families who move into the Moray Council area from other parts of the UK and beyond. The Council should also consider implementing this proposal from August 2016 in response to stakeholders' wishes. The Council's consultation proposal did not include the Diocese of the RC Church amongst the list of those consulted. The Council will need to clarify in its final consultation report whether it has formally consulted with the Diocese of the RC Church. In taking forward its proposal, the Council will need to demonstrate that it has engaged appropriately with all relevant consultees as determined by legislation.

**HM Inspectors**  
**Education Scotland**  
**April 2016**

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## **Appendix D: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC MEETINGS AND WRITTEN RESPONSES**

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A summary of the public meetings is available at:

[http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray\\_standard/page\\_98118.html](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_98118.html)

A summary of the comments and enquiries received is available at:

[http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray\\_standard/page\\_98118.html](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_98118.html)