

The City of Edinburgh Council

10am, Thursday, 11 March 2021

Outcome of the Statutory Consultation Process on the Proposal to Realign the Catchment Areas of Queensferry Primary School and Echline Primary School

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Approve that the proposal to realign the catchment areas of Queensferry Primary School and Echline Primary School is implemented in November 2021.
- 1.2 Approve that a P1 place at Queensferry Primary School be guaranteed for children (if they wish to take it):
 - that live within the area identified in the statutory consultation paper that will be realigned from the catchment area of Queensferry Primary School to the catchment area of Echline Primary School; and
 - whose parent(s) or guardian were resident in the area on 11 March 2021; and
 - that will have an older sibling in Queensferry Primary School at the time they would attend the school.
- 1.3 Note that the implications of the sibling guarantee offered and its continued application will be reviewed as part of a future statutory consultation concerning a new school building as part of the 'Builyeon Road' housing site.

Andrew Kerr

Chief Executive

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Outcome of the Statutory Consultation Process on the Proposal to Realign the Catchment Areas of Queensferry Primary School and Echline Primary School

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 A [statutory consultation](#) was undertaken at the end of 2019 proposing to realign the catchment areas of Queensferry Primary School and Echline Primary School. Areas of existing housing that are currently within the catchment area of Queensferry Primary School would become part of the catchment area of Echline Primary School. This outcomes report was due to be published in April 2020 but was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2.2 The reason for the proposed change was that new housing developments are progressing within the Queensferry Primary School catchment area but there will not be enough capacity at the school to accommodate the additional pupils.
- 2.3 Following the consultation, this report recommends that the proposal as set out in the statutory consultation paper is implemented in November 2021. The catchment changes will only apply to new P1 pupils.
- 2.4 This report also recommends that a 'sibling guarantee' at Queensferry Primary School is applied to the P1 intake for August 2022 and that the implications of this and its continued application are reviewed as part of the statutory consultation to establish the location and catchment area for the new 'Builyeon Road' primary school.

3. Background

- 3.1 On [8 October 2019](#) the Education, Children and Families Committee approved that a statutory consultation should be undertaken on a proposal to realign the catchment areas of Queensferry Primary School and Echline Primary School.

- 3.2 The full [statutory consultation paper](#) is available on the Council's Consultation Hub. A summary paper is provided in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 In summary, the statutory consultation paper proposed the following:
- 3.3.1 Realign the existing catchment boundary so that the areas around Cluffet, Cluffet Brae, Farquhar Terrace, Forth Place, Inchgarvie Park, Society Road, Walker Drive, Port Edgar and the western end of Stewart Terrace become part of the catchment area of Echline Primary School rather than Queensferry Primary School;
 - 3.3.2 Implement the change in November 2020 in time for the P1 registration process for the start of the August 2021 school year;
 - 3.3.3 All children living in the area directly affected by this proposal and with an older sibling already attending Queensferry Primary School will be guaranteed a place at Queensferry Primary School if they register for a P1 place in November 2020 for the start of the August 2021 school year.
- 3.4 The statutory consultation paper also identified a requirement to increase capacity at Echline Primary School to support the larger catchment area that was proposed as well as additional pupils from early phases of new housing development. In the longer term, the delivery of a new primary school within the 'Builyeon Road' housing site is expected to reduce the roll at Echline Primary School.
- 3.5 The proposal did not include any changes to secondary school or Roman Catholic primary school catchment areas.
- 3.6 This Consultation Outcomes report was scheduled to be published in April 2020. However, the Covid-19 pandemic delayed its publication until February 2021 due to the reprioritisation of resources.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The statutory consultation to which this paper relates has been undertaken according to the requirements set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
- 4.2 The statutory consultation period ran from Monday 28 October 2019 to Monday 9 December 2019. The consultation comprised an online questionnaire, two public meetings and a discussion with pupils at the affected schools.

Written Representations and Pupil Consultation

- 4.3 Respondents were encouraged to use an online questionnaire that could be accessed via the Council's Consultation Hub. Responses could also be

submitted by email or letter. Twenty-two representations were received, all of which were submitted using the online questionnaire. The full submissions are available to Elected Members on request.

- 4.4 Most of the submissions were from parents or local residents. Queensferry Primary School Parent Council also submitted a representation.
- 4.5 Those who responded using the online questionnaire were asked whether they support the proposal. Of the 22, ten responded that they did support the proposal and 12 responded that they did not.
- 4.6 The main issue raised by the online questionnaire submissions was the need to have a 'sibling guarantee' for an extended period to prevent parents having children at two different schools.
- 4.7 Other issues that were raised in the written representations included the impact on Echline Primary School, the potential for alternative catchment arrangements, and the need to improve walking routes. A summary of the comments received, as well as the Council response on each issue, is set out in Appendix 2.
- 4.8 A consultation exercise with pupils at Queensferry Primary School and Echline Primary School was also carried out by a Council Quality Improvement Officer (QIO). The QIO discussed the proposal with groups of children from both schools. Appendix 4 has a summary of each discussion.

Public Meetings

- 4.9 Two public meetings were held during the consultation period. The first public meeting was held on Wednesday 13 November 2019 at Queensferry Primary School which two members of the public attended. Council officials answered questions following a short presentation. The second public meeting was held at Echline Primary School on Thursday 21 November 2019 but no members of the public attended.
- 4.10 A minute of both meetings is provided in Appendix 3, setting out the issues that were raised and how the Council responded at the meeting.
- 4.11 The main issue discussed at the public meetings was the need to have a 'sibling guarantee' for an extended period to prevent parents from having to have children at different schools.

Education Scotland

- 4.12 As required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, all the responses received during the public consultation were made available to Education Scotland for their consideration. Education Scotland visited both schools directly affected by the statutory consultation and discussed the educational aspects with staff, parents and pupils before producing their final report. The

purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of the proposal. The report was submitted to the Council in December 2019 and is attached in Appendix 5.

- 4.13 Education Scotland found that overall the views of stakeholders was mixed. Parents, staff and children at Echline Primary School were broadly in favour of the catchment change. They felt it will lead to a better social mix and extended friendship groups within the school. Many Queensferry Primary School parents agreed with the proposal in principal, but a number expressed concern about the sibling guarantee.
- 4.14 The Education Scotland report concludes that *'overall there is a strong case for the council to change the catchment area of Echline and Queensferry Primary Schools. This should address the short to medium term issues for the school estate. In the longer term the council is proposing to build an additional non-denominational primary school in South Queensferry which should address capacity issues going forward. The council's case for the proposal is well-considered. However, it should now take steps to ensure that as a result of the proposal, children from the same family do not attend different schools.'*
- 4.15 The Act requires that the Council's Outcome of Consultation report include 'a statement of the authority's response to Education Scotland's report'. The key issue raised by Education Scotland related to the provision of a sibling guarantee. The Education Scotland report states *'the Council should take reasonable steps to ensure that the sibling guarantee at Queensferry Primary School is extended beyond November 2020. This will be important for parents to have confidence that their children will not have to attend two different primary schools'*. The Council's statement in response to this matter is set out in section 4.17- 4.25 of this report.

Key Issues and Council Response

- 4.16 The table in Appendix 2 provides a summary of the key issues that were raised during the consultation and the Council response.

Sibling Guarantee

- 4.17 The main issue raised during the consultation was the duration of the 'sibling guarantee'. The statutory consultation paper proposed that all children living in the area directly affected by this proposal and with an older sibling already attending Queensferry Primary School will be guaranteed a place at Queensferry Primary School if they register for a P1 place in November 2020 for the start of the August 2021 school year. (As a result of the Covid-19 delays the principle of this proposal remains the same but the guarantee would apply if they register for a P1 place in November 2021 for the start of the August 2022 school year.)
- 4.18 However, during the consultation period a longer 'sibling guarantee' was requested. Several representations raised this issue on the basis that they

had younger siblings who were not due to start P1 until a later year which could mean that they would be forced to have children at different schools. Education Scotland stated that the Council should take reasonable steps to ensure that the sibling guarantee at Queensferry Primary School is extended beyond November 2020 (which due to the Covid-19 delay should read 'November 2021').

- 4.19 The Council has considered the impact of extending the 'sibling guarantee'. It is recommended that the 'sibling guarantee' put in place at Queensferry Primary School for the P1 intake in August 2022 be extended until such point as it may be reviewed as part of the forthcoming statutory consultation to establish a new school at Builyeon Road.
- 4.20 This review will allow the impact of siblings on the capacity at Queensferry to be considered and reflected in any catchment changes required as a result of the new school.
- 4.21 It is also recommended that to minimise the potential for any adverse impact on Queensferry Primary School, the 'sibling guarantee' is only available to families living in the affected area at the time that a decision to progress with the catchment change is taken by the City of Edinburgh Council (i.e. 11 March 2021).
- 4.22 Although there are clear benefits of a 'sibling guarantee' to the families affected, there is uncertainty about how quickly South Queensferry's pupil population will grow because of new housing development and the impact this will have on Queensferry Primary School. However, further catchment change in the area will be necessary to allow the establishment of a new primary school within the 'Builyeon Road' housing site. A separate statutory consultation is expected to take place in the next year proposing the new school's catchment area and setting out the impact this will have on neighbouring schools including Queensferry Primary School. Until that statutory consultation has been approved, the catchment area of the new school cannot be confirmed.
- 4.23 Accordingly, it is recommended that the 'sibling guarantee' set out as a recommendation in this paper be reviewed as part of the outcomes of the consultation for the new school. This means that a decision about whether the 'sibling guarantee' offered is maintained will be made with a greater understanding of its likely impact and consequently the options presented as part of the new school consultation.
- 4.24 In summary it is recommended that a P1 place at Queensferry Primary School be guaranteed for children (if they wish to take it):
 - 4.24.1 that live within the area identified in the statutory consultation paper that will be realigned from the catchment area of Queensferry

Primary School to the catchment area of Echline Primary School;
and

- 4.24.2 whose parent(s) or guardian were resident in the area on 11 March 2021; and
 - 4.24.3 that will have an older sibling in Queensferry Primary School at the time they would attend the school.
- 4.25 It is also recommended that the 'sibling guarantee' outlined above is reviewed as part of the future statutory consultation to establish the catchment area for a new primary school within the 'Builyeon Road' housing site.

Conclusion

- 4.26 New housing developments are progressing within the Queensferry Primary School catchment area but there will not be enough capacity at the school to accommodate the additional pupils. The proposal set out in the statutory consultation paper will address this issue.
- 4.27 Following the statutory consultation, it is recommended that the Council proceeds with the proposed catchment changes as set out in the statutory consultation paper.
- 4.28 It is also recommended that a 'sibling guarantee' is in place at Queensferry Primary School and that this is reviewed as part of the future statutory consultation to establish the catchment area for a new primary school within the 'Builyeon Road' housing site.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If the recommendations set out in this paper are approved catchment boundary changes will be implemented in time for the P1 registration process in November 2021.
- 5.2 The provision of the 'sibling guarantee' will be administered through the regular P1 intakes process.

6. Financial impact

Capital Works Required

- 6.1 An implication of the proposal is that a three-classroom extension Echline Primary School will be required. However, once the new housing site at Builyeon Road progressed new classrooms would most likely be required anyway. Accordingly, feasibility work to develop this extension is underway.
- 6.2 Conversely, the proposal makes it less likely that any further extension would be required at Queensferry Primary School.

Capital Costs and Funding.

- 6.3 The Council will secure financial contributions from housing developers in the area to fund additional education infrastructure. It is anticipated that most of this funding will be used for the delivery of the new primary school at Builyeon Road. Therefore, the funding to deliver the extension at Echline Primary School has been secured in the Council's Capital Programme.

Revenue Costs

- 6.4 An extension at Echline Primary School will result in additional building running, maintenance and repair costs for the school estate. The maintenance burden for a new building is likely to be low in the short to medium term but would increase over time.
- 6.5 The additional revenue costs associated with any expansion at Echline Primary School would be met through current demography funding. It should be noted that if the proposal did not go ahead and the affected area remained in the catchment of Queensferry Primary School, additional revenue funding may have to be directed there instead in response to an increased roll. Furthermore, as this extension would most likely have been required as a result of the new housing at Builyeon Road progressing anyway, these costs may not be fully attributable to the proposals in this paper.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The statutory consultation to which this paper refers has been undertaken according to the requirements set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
- 7.2 The purpose of the proposal is to meet demand and alleviate accommodation pressures at existing schools. The provision of a 'sibling guarantee' and the provision of additional accommodation at Echline Primary School will address some of the concerns that were raised during the consultation period.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 Education, Children and Families Committee, 8 October 2019, '[Statutory Consultations – Kirkliston and Queensferry](#)'.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 Summary of the Statutory Consultation Paper
- 9.2 Appendix 2 Key Issues Raised and Council Response

9.3 Appendix 3 Minutes of the Statutory Consultation Public Meetings

9.4 Appendix 4 Summary of Pupil Responses

9.5 Appendix 5 Education Scotland Report

APPENDIX 1 - Summary of Statutory Consultation Paper

Consultation on Proposal to Realign the Catchment Areas of Queensferry Primary School and Echline Primary School

Summary Paper

What is being proposed?

The catchment boundary between Queensferry Primary School and Echline Primary School will be realigned so that existing housing areas currently within the catchment area of Queensferry Primary School become part of the catchment area of Echline Primary School. The catchment changes will only apply to new P1 pupils.

Maps showing the existing and proposed catchment areas are included in this summary paper. The addresses of existing properties which will be directly affected by the proposal have also been provided.

Why is the catchment change being proposed?

The Council aims to provide catchment school places for pupils living within a catchment area. New housing developments are progressing within the Queensferry Primary School catchment area but there will not be enough capacity at the school to accommodate the additional pupils. The proposed catchment change is to make sure that there are places at the school for new P1 pupils living within its catchment area, including those from early phases of the new housing developments.

When will the proposed change be implemented?

If the proposal is approved by the Council, the catchment change will be implemented in November 2020, in time for the P1 registration process for the start of the August 2021 school year.

Is there enough space at Echline Primary School?

Echline Primary School may have to grow from a 12-class organisation to a 14-class organisation. A feasibility study will be carried out in conjunction with the school management team and parents to determine the most appropriate way of making sure that there is enough space at the school.

In the longer term there are plans to deliver a new primary school in the area.

Will a 'sibling guarantee' be offered?

All children living in the area directly affected by this proposal and with an older sibling already attending Queensferry Primary School will be guaranteed a place at Queensferry Primary School if they register for a P1 place in November 2020 for the start of the August 2021 school year.

Before the Council reports on the outcomes of this statutory consultation it will consider if it is appropriate to provide a longer 'sibling guarantee', taking account of the latest August 2020 intake information and school roll projections.

Why are we consulting?

We want to hear from anyone affected by the proposal. There is a legal obligation to carry out a statutory consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young people (Scotland) Act 2014.

How will I know if my views have been considered?

All comments made during the statutory consultation period will be recorded and responded to in an 'Outcomes of the Consultation Report' that we expect to be considered by Council in April 2020. The report will be published three weeks before the Council meeting. Parent and carers of pupils attending affected schools and anyone who has responded to the consultation will be notified of its publication.

How can I find out more about the proposals or make my views heard?

If you want more information you can find the full consultation paper and other supporting information at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/queensferrycatchments.

We have also organised two public meetings which anyone can attend, as below:

Venue	Date	Time
Queensferry Primary School	Wednesday 13 November	6.30pm – 8.30pm
Echline Primary School	Thursday 21 November	6.30pm – 8.30pm

At each meeting there will be a short presentation about the proposal, followed by a question and answer session. We will take a note of the meeting and all the points made will be captured in the final 'Outcomes of the Consultation Report'.

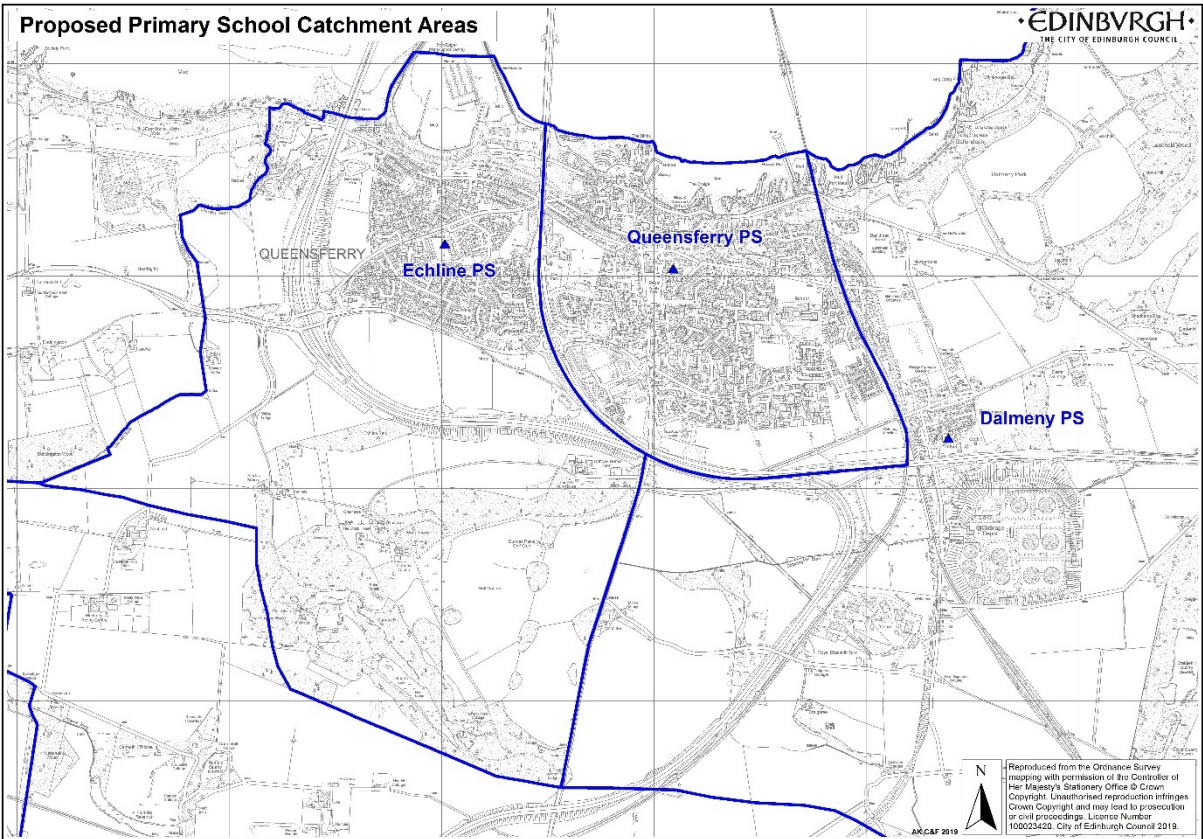
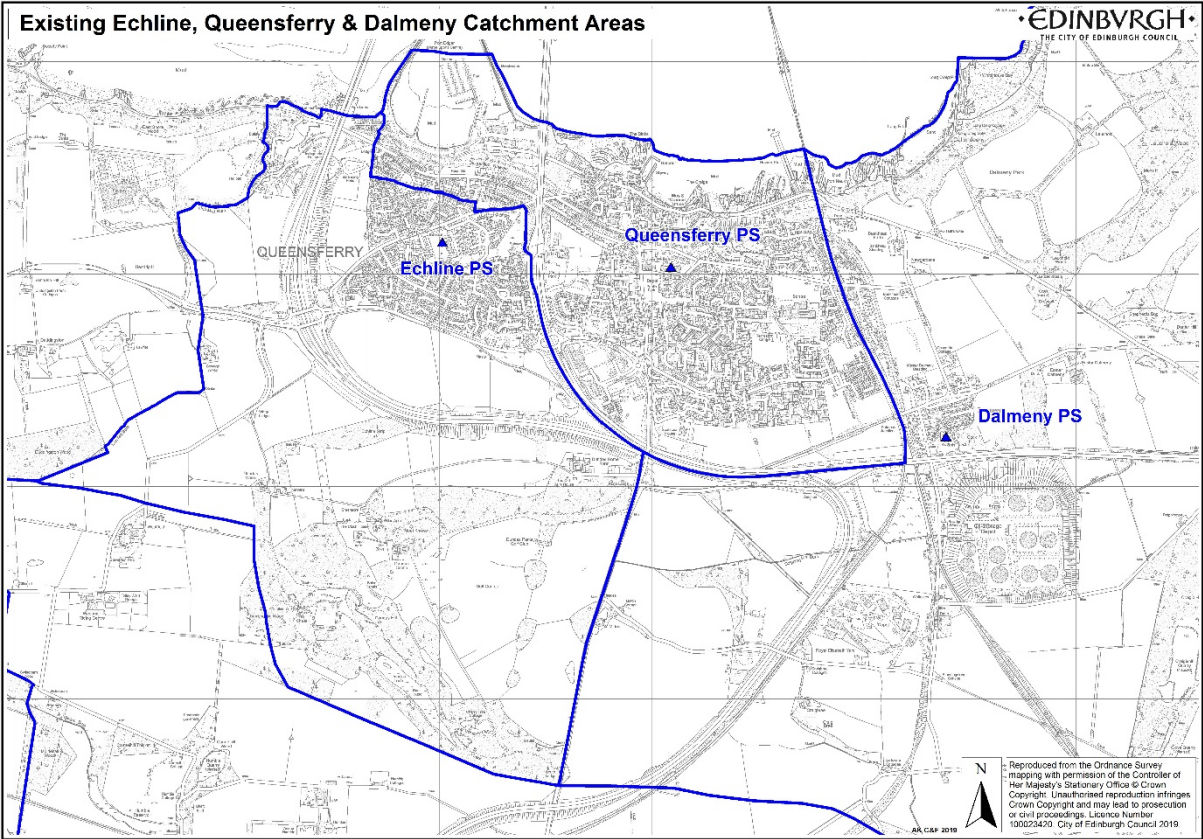
Please email queensferrycatchments@edinburgh.gov.uk by Wednesday 6 November 2019 if you need translation services at the meeting.

Tell us your views: consultation period closes Monday 9 December 2019

Please take time to complete our short survey – you can find it online at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/queensferrycatchments. If you don't have internet access then you can view the full consultation paper at one of the affected schools, at South Queensferry Library or the Council Offices at Waverley Court.

You can also email comments to us directly at queensferrycatchments@edinburgh.gov.uk or if you prefer, they can be posted to:

Alistair Gaw
Executive Director of Communities and Families
City of Edinburgh Council
Level 1:3, Waverley Court
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
EH8 8BG



List of Affected Addresses

The addresses listed below are properties which were registered with the Council as at November 2018 and will be directly affected by the proposals. For confirmation of which catchment area will apply to properties not listed below please refer to the proposed catchment area maps or email queensferrycatchments@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Properties which will change from being within the catchment area of Queensferry Primary School to Echline Primary School:

Street	Numbers
Clufflat	No.2,4
Clufflat Brae	No.1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,26,28
Farquhar Terrace	No.13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64
Forth Place	No.1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,25,27,29,31,33,35,37,39
Inchgarvie Park	No.1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48
Society Road	No.2,4,6,8,10,12,14,16,18,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,61,63,65,67,69,71,73,75,77,79,81,83,85,87,89
Stewart Terrace	No.1,2,3,4
Walker Drive	No.1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,88,89,90,91,92,93,94,95,96,97,99,101,103,105,107,109,111,113,115,117,119,121,123,125,127,129,131,133

APPENDIX 2 – Key Issues Raised and Council Response

1	<p>Issue: Siblings and Placement Guarantee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A longer ‘sibling guarantee’ should be in place than is currently proposed. The proposed one year ‘sibling guarantee’ could still result in families being forced to have a child at Queensferry Primary School and younger sibling(s) at Echline Primary School; • This could cause logistical problems for drop-off and pick-up; cause stress; effect family cohesion; siblings will have to have separate uniforms and different after-school activities / general school life / school community involvement; children with additional needs would have to move to Echline Primary School so that they would be at the same school as their sibling. Splitting siblings across multiple schools will encourage the use of cars rather than walking to schools.
	<p>Council Response</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This issue is addressed in Section 4 of the main report.
2	<p>Issue: Impact on Echline Primary School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Echline PS does not have the space for more pupils. It is extremely difficult to get a guaranteed place at Echline PS and some of the classes are large, the inclusion of more areas will only exacerbate this situation; • The size of the hall at Echline PS is a big issue as it must accommodate lunch and PE and is at capacity for assembly. It will have to be bigger; • The character of Echline PS is due to the size of school and the class sizes. It’s currently a great learning environment and the character and feel of the school would drastically change with an increase in pupils, classes and class sizes; • The proposed catchment area will change the demographics at Echline Primary School.
	<p>Council Response</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed catchment change is expected to increase the school roll at Echline Primary School. However, it is likely that additional classrooms would have to be provided at the school anyway to accommodate pupils from early phases of new housing developments within its catchment area.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The delivery of a new primary school within the 'Builyeon Road' housing site will mean that the school will not have to expand any further. The earliest date that the new school could be delivered is August 2024. • A double stream school (with 14 classes) is a common organisation across the Council's estate. A bigger school provides opportunities for more staff to support children across the four contexts of learning. • The Quality Improvement Officer for the school will continue to monitor and evaluate attainment and achievement and the overall impact of the catchment change, ensuring any necessary actions are included in the school Improvement Plan. • A review of the site and current building suggests that the school can be extended to accommodate a double-stream roll of 420 pupils. A detailed feasibility study will be carried out in conjunction with the school management team and parents to determine the most appropriate way of providing the additional space and whether any improvement to ancillary and support spaces is also required. The school has already implemented a system where lunches are taken in spaces other than the main hall and this is expected to continue.
3	<p>Issue: Proposed catchment area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The catchments should be kept as they are. It should be the new housing that has to adapt not pre-existing houses, where people have already bought knowing what school catchment area they are in. • The new housing at South Scotstoun should go to Dalmeny Primary School as it is closer and this would mean that the proposed catchment changes were not required. • No need for new catchment areas when the new houses will be covered by the new primary school at Builyeon Road. • The proposal will mean that one sibling will be at Queensferry High School and one will be at Echline Primary School. As they are in different parts of South Queensferry two after school childcare providers may be required, which are already hard to find and will cost more.

	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A statutory consultation will be required to establish a catchment area for the new primary school proposed for the 'Builyeon Road' housing site. Changes to the catchment areas of neighbouring schools, including Dalmeny Primary School will be considered as part of this future statutory consultation. • The proposed catchment change is considered the best way to address accommodation pressures at Queensferry Primary School before the new primary school proposed for the 'Builyeon Road' housing site is delivered. The proposal means that only one existing school in the area is likely to have to be extended. • Many families living in the Echline Primary School catchment area have one child at Echline Primary School and one child at the high school.
4	Issue: Access and Travel Routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no pedestrian crossing on Bo'ness Road and that needs to be rectified as the proposal will increase the number of children who will use this route. • A full traffic review should be carried out to ensure that there are sufficient road crossing guides along Bo'ness Road.
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area subject to change is geographically closer to Echline Primary School. The Council will work with the school to update its Travel Plan to reflect its revised catchment area. It will identify any necessary actions that will encourage pupils to walk to school.
5	Issue: Consultation Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and carers have been advised of the process by the school and Parent Council, but the Council should consider writing to parents directly to ensure that they are aware of the proposed change.
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council asked the affected schools to notify parents and carers directly. This is seen to be the most effective way of communicating with parents. In addition, the Council notified nurseries in the local area and the Community Council.

6	Issue: New Housing Developments and Environmental Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are already too many houses planned for the community to be comfortably sustained by the High School, doctors, shops/local amenities. • Stricter planning permission for new housing in local community would help reduce the strain on community facilities.
	Council Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This statutory consultation does not propose any new housing, there is a separate statutory planning process which determines where new housing can be built.

Record of Meeting

Proposal to Realign the Catchment Areas of Queensferry Primary School and Echline Primary School

Public Consultation Meeting held at 6.30 pm, Thursday 14 September 2019, Queensferry Primary School, Edinburgh

Present: Two members of the public

In Attendance:

Tom Wood (Independent Chair);

Councillor Ian Perry (Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee);

City of Edinburgh Council Officers: Robbie Crockatt (Learning Estate Planning Manager), Ian Tame (Learning Estate Planning Officer), Lynn Paterson (Senior Education Manager), Karen McGregor (Queensferry Primary School Head Teacher), Alison McLean (Queensferry Primary School Depute Head Teacher) and Natalie Le Couteur (Committee Services Officer to record the meeting).

1. Introduction

Tom Wood introduced himself and advised that he had been invited by the City of Edinburgh Council as an independent person to chair the public consultation meeting. Mr Wood thanked everyone for coming along and explained his role as well as introducing the key officers in attendance. It was explained that the consultation would continue until the 9 December 2019 and the public had the opportunity to feed in comments until then.

The Schools (Consultation Scotland) Act 2010 required the Council to conduct a public consultation. The public consultation would provide people with the opportunity to express their views and feed directly into the consultation process.

2. Presentation/Proposal

The event started with a presentation that provided some background information on the reasons behind the Proposal to Realign the Catchment Areas of Queensferry Primary School and Echline Primary School

Why are we here?

South Queensferry was growing with a large proportion of the growth emanating from the development of new housing, and projections which had been made suggested that there would be a requirement to provide an additional 400 primary school places. Echline Primary School had been experiencing rising rolls and from 2022 Queensferry Primary School was expected to have more pupils than capacity. There had been informal consultation in the months preceding, however there was now a statutory consultation underway, which would entail a six week process and anybody could comment on the consultation online. Following the statutory consultation, the Council would decide whether the proposal would proceed.

The Council's Local Development Plan was a document that set out how the city would grow, and sites from a map of Queensferry were shown to those in attendance which displayed where future housing development was expected in Queensferry.

The Council's future proposal was to deliver a new standalone school within the Builyeon Road housing site, and at that time, the catchment boundary would be revisited. However, there was recognition that the pressures on capacity within Echline and Queensferry Primary school led to a need to undertake a statutory consultation to address the emerging capacity issues now.

Proposal

The proposal was to realign the existing catchment boundary so that the areas around Cluffet, Cluffet Brae, Farquhar Terrace, Forth Place, Inchgarvie Park, Society Road, Walker Drive, Port Edgar and the western end of Stewart Terrace became part of the catchment area of Echline Primary School rather than Queensferry Primary School.

The proposal would expand the capacity of Echline Primary school to a double stream primary school with two primary classes from primary one through to primary seven. The plan was to set up a Working Group and the catchment change would apply for primary one registrations for children starting in August 2021. For the first year a 'sibling guarantee' would be offered at Queensferry Primary School for younger siblings living within the affected area. The 'sibling guarantee' was not proposed to last beyond the first year, however this would be reviewed in the Outcome of Consultation Report. There would be no mandatory transfers of pupils already attending a school to a different school within the proposed catchment area.

Next Steps

The six-week statutory consultation would come to an end on the 9 December 2019. Any comments that the Council received would have to be considered and responded to in an Outcome of Statutory Consultation Report which would be put to the full Council most likely in April 2020. Once the public consultation phase had finished, details of the representations received would be issued to Education Scotland for their consideration. Education Scotland would issue a report on their findings which would be included in the final Council report on the consultation.

Councillor Perry thanked those who had attended and asked for any questions or comments.

3. Questions/Comments

Question / Comment 1 – I understand why the catchment change is proposed. However, when the proposed catchment area is in place my elder child would already be in primary 3 or 4 at Queensferry Primary School and my other child would be required to attend Echline Primary School as per the new catchment arrangements. I would have to drive and try and get both children to school. I would want both my children to attend Queensferry Primary School, and I cannot afford to buy a house in the proposed new catchment for Queensferry Primary School.

Answer 1 – We want to be able to offer ‘sibling guarantee’. Nobody wants to be in a situation where they have two children attending different primary schools. In all likelihood we will be able to offer a place for siblings beyond the first year but we need to ensure that the numbers will not put too much pressure on Queensferry Primary School.

Question / Comment 2 – I have a child due to start primary one in 2023, however we would miss the ‘sibling guarantee’ by one year. My other child is in primary one. I’m a working parent but responsible for school and nursery pick up and drop offs, an arrangement with two children in different schools and getting to and from work would be impossible to manage. My child attended Queensferry nursery and they had visits to the school and there were nursery staff present in the school at the start of primary one which helped with the transition into school, which can be quite daunting. This really helped to settle my child into school. I would like my younger child to attend Queensferry Nursery and Primary School. The stress of wondering what will be happening with the arrangements for school is always in the back of your mind and a constant source of worry. Do you have a clear picture of how many siblings may be impacted by the catchment change?

Answer 2 – (Council Officer) – We need to have a clearer picture in terms of numbers. We will look at the current and projected school rolls to see if there can be a longer ‘sibling guarantee’. There is an element of guesswork, however we use birth data to model future projections for school rolls. What we do know is that within new build housing estates, there tends to be a predominance of young families with children requiring places in schools.

Question / Comment 3 – Would the proposed catchment boundary change impact on the South Scotstoun housing development, which is currently in the Queensferry Primary School catchment? Will it fall within the catchment for a new school at Builyeon Road?

Answer 3 – (Council Officer) – The master plan for the Builyeon Road housing site has not yet been finalised. A statutory consultation to establish the catchment area for the new primary school would be taken forward when further detail about the location of the school and potential routes was available. There may be opportunity for the Council to influence where on the site the new school should be located to ensure safer routes to school.

Question / Comment 4 – Would a ‘sibling guarantee’ apply for the new school at Builyeon Road?

Answer 4 – (Council Officer) – This would be considered during the statutory consultation to establish a catchment area for the new school.

Question / Comment 5 – If my children are attending different schools, this would mean I was less involved in the life of the school as my involvement with the school would be split.

Answer 5 – (Council Officer) We usually do manage to resolve the sibling issues and recognise that that is a big part of getting catchment area changes right.

Question / Comment 6 – What is the situation with the Dalmeny primary school catchment, which was raised in the earlier stages of the consultation?

Answer 6 – (Council Officer) – We do not want to amend catchments unless we need to, however there is scope to review the Dalmeny catchment area at a later stage when we are considering the catchment area for the new primary school.

Question / Comment 7 – I totally understand the need to change the catchment boundaries, my concern is a personal issue that I don't want my children attending different schools.

Answer 7 – (Council Officer) – We understand that personal factors matter and if you know anyone else that has similar concerns but has not been able to attend this meeting or have not fed back to the Council already, please encourage them to feed into the consultation that is underway. There was also an event next Thursday 21 November at Echline Primary School and anyone is welcome to attend.

4. Conclusion

Mr Wood brought questions to a close and thanked everyone for all their contributions which were extremely valuable. Mr Wood reminded everyone that they had until the 9 December 2019 to make any further contributions on the website or in writing.

Cllr Ian Perry thanked everyone for coming and for their contributions.

Proposal to Realign the Catchment Areas of Queensferry Primary School and Echline Primary School

Public Consultation Meeting held at 6.30 pm, Thursday 21 November 2019, Echline Primary School, Edinburgh

Present: No members of the public

In Attendance:

Tom Wood (Independent Chair);

City of Edinburgh Council Officers: Robbie Crockatt (Learning Estate Planning Manager), Ian Tame (Learning Estate Planning Officer), Lynn Paterson (Senior Education Manager), Anne Purcell (Echline Primary School Head Teacher) and Natalie Le Couteur (Committee Services Officer to record the meeting).

1. Introduction

The Schools (Consultation Scotland) Act 2010 required the Council to conduct a public consultation. The public consultation would provide people with the opportunity to express their views and feed directly into the consultation process.

As there were no members of the public in attendance, those present waited until 7:00pm after which time, it was agreed to conclude the meeting.

APPENDIX 4 – Summary of Pupil Consultation

A Quality Improvement Officer from Communities and Families visited Echline Primary School and Queensferry Primary School to talk to a group of children from different year groups about the proposal and gather their opinions. A summary of the discussion at each school is provided below.

Pupil Consultation Echline Primary School

12 pupils – 2 from each class P4-7

What are the most important features about belonging to QPS?

- All the people in the school
- People are kind
- Teachers are nice (II)
- Size – not too big and not too small
- Playground is big
- Pupils can suggest clubs and businesses and run them themselves
- If you are sad there is always someone there
- PE hall – lines and nets
- Friends look after you if you are not feeling well
- Teachers plan nice things
- Recognition board – helps us to try harder, get notes/calls home even when you do well with homework and out of school activities (III)

From what you have heard about the proposed changes, what worries, if any do you have?

- QPS is very big – both schools will become about the same size
- School drop off for siblings
- Playground space – will be cramped – new building and more people (II)
- Grass area already gets muddy, with more people it will be worse - need to plan how to deal with this (II)
- Bigger school might make some children anxious with lots of people
- Issue for ASD children – more people, noisier – not great for them
- Assembly hall won't be big enough for the whole school (III)
- Assembly hall also lunch hall so not big enough

What opportunities might this change offer?

- More people might mean more friends
- Could feel more spacious with more classrooms
- Friends from clubs in Queensferry would now come to same school which would be nice
- More chance to be in class with friends as composite classes means age determines the split, not the case if 2 classes
- More opportunities to make friends
- Some people might want to come here anyway but if there isn't space they can't

What could the adults do to help you with your concerns?

- Can we get another gym hall?

- More space needed for assembly
- Improve the playground space to stop it feeling too busy and overwhelming
- Provide different playground areas to support different types of play
- Children with additional needs or who get anxious need to know that the playground will be ok

Pupil Consultation Queensferry Primary School

8 x P4/5 pupils and 8 x P6/7

What are the most important features about belonging to QPS?

- Learning is fun
- It's the biggest and main school in Queensferry
- Teachers and pupils are very nice (Ill
- Lots of different opportunities; clubs, trips, activities to take part in
- The library
- School dinners – food is good
- Specialist teachers e.g. science
- Teachers have time for you
- We are a growing school
- Learn lots
- Great friends
- Playground is fun

From what you have heard about the proposed changes, what worries, if any do you have?

- A new sibling, I might have might not be able to go to QPS
- Worried for other families, it won't affect me, what about different school times for pick up/drop off – this could be difficult for parents
- Mum having a baby and I have a 3year old sibling – this will be difficult getting them to different schools and picking them up
- Some people might be looking forward to their siblings' school and getting the experience they got but won't be able to do that
- Could split families
- Hassle dropping off/picking up
- Cost of travel to two schools – petrol/impact on environment/bus fares
- Take longer for parents, earlier start
- Uniform cost – no hand me downs having to buy new stuff
- Separating siblings not good – might need support or help from sibling

What opportunities might this change offer?

- School not as busy
- Route home might become quieter
- Could be closer for some families
- Reduces number of children coming to QPS
- Friends who live closer by going to same school

What could the adults do to help you with your concerns?

- Make it feel like a good thing – visits to the other school before starting there

- Change start/pick up times to make drop off/pick up easier
- Improve options for cycling to school – bike lanes. Reduce cars on these roads at drop off/pick up times, ensure the road is safer
- Take care of individual worries



Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by The City of Edinburgh Council to realign the catchment areas of Queensferry Primary School and Echline Primary School.

December 2019

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of The City of Edinburgh Council's proposal to realign the catchment areas of Queensferry Primary School and Echline Primary School. The proposal has become necessary due to the continued housing developments in the area. 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 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 statutory 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.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the schools; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people 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.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- 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;
- consideration of further representations made directly to Education Scotland on relevant educational aspects of the proposal; and
- visits to the sites of Queensferry and Echline Primary Schools including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

2.1 The City of Edinburgh Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#).

2.2 The consultation ran from 28 October to 9 December 2019. Two public meetings were held on 13 and 21 November 2019 and were attended by two parents only. Twenty-two people responded to the online consultation and responses were split evenly between those who supported the proposal and those who did not. Two parents submitted email responses directly to Education Scotland. Prior to the formal consultation the council conducted an informal consultation which included visiting the schools affected. Most stakeholders felt that the council had taken appropriate steps to keep them informed. However, a few were keen that the council continues to keep residents informed through social media and the local press.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The council states that the principal educational benefit of the proposal addresses the future sufficiency issues at Queensferry Primary School so that it can provide appropriate education provision for catchment children. The changes to the catchment areas should ensure that Queensferry Primary School in particular is not over-capacity in the next couple of years. The proposal will also mean that Echline Primary School roll will increase, making it a double-stream school which is common across The City of Edinburgh estate. Given that the attainment data for both schools is very similar and compares well with the city average, it is unlikely that there will be any adverse impact on children's learning. HM Inspectors are of the view that the council's proposals should ensure that children living in South Queensferry are not adversely affected by the change of catchment. However, the council should take reasonable steps to ensure that the sibling guarantee at Queensferry Primary School is extended beyond November 2020. This will be important for parents to have confidence that their children will not have to attend two different primary schools.

3.2 Overall, the views of stakeholders regarding the proposal was mixed. Parents, staff and children at Echline Primary School were broadly in favour of the catchment change. They feel this will lead to a better social mix and extended friendship groups within the school. The council is aware that this will mean some disruption if additional classrooms are required but are taking steps to minimise this. Whilst many Queensferry Primary School parents agreed with the proposal in principal, a number of those who responded to the online questionnaire expressed concern about the sibling guarantee. Several of those who met with HM Inspectors were also of this view. A few parents also cited possible issues with access to after-school provision. There were concerns about dropping children off at two different schools and the negative impact on the environment of more cars on the roads.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors consider that overall there is a strong case for the council to change the catchment area of Echline and Queensferry Primary Schools. This should address the short to medium term issues for the school estate. In the longer term the council is proposing to build an additional non-denominational primary school in South Queensferry which should address capacity issues going forward. The council's case for the proposal is well-considered. However, it should now take steps to ensure that as a result of the proposal, children from the same family do not attend different schools.

**HM Inspectors
December
2019**