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| MEETING: | Statutory consultation public meeting on the “Proposed Changes To The Arrangements For Admissions And The Transfer Of Pupils From Primary To Secondary To All East Dunbartonshire Primary And Secondary Schools” |
| VENUE: | Bearsden Academy, St Andrews Way, Bearsden, G61 3AX |
| DATE/TIME: | 13 th November 2019 6:30pm – 9.30pm |
| OFFICERS ATTENDING | Karen Donnelly – Chief Solicitor & Monitoring Officer (Chair) Ann Davie - Depute Chief Executive, Education, People and Business Jacqueline MacDonald - Chief Education Officer Gavin Haire – School Planning & Improvement Manager Greg Bremner, Education Officer (Early Years & Primary) Samantha Burke – Education Project Officer |
| MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC | 260+ |

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Karen Donnelly, who welcomed those present, discussed housekeeping rules and introduced the panel members. She provided details of the agenda and the format of the meeting in terms of questions and answers.

Jacqueline MacDonald provided a short presentation on the proposal. The presentation is also on the Council Website www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/council/consultations/school-admission-and/transfer-arrangements-primary-secondary-school

The Chair invited questions from the floor. These have been summarised below.

Children who attend a catholic school and who don't have any siblings will be at the bottom of the scale for placement in Bearsden Academy?

If the school is oversubscribed, all catchment applications would be treated as placing requests and allocated according to the priorities

My child is at St Nicholas' Primary and he will be at the bottom of the list because he doesn't have any siblings, this is taking my rights away to education in the local community.

We are not proposing to take away parents' choice of secondary school. We do not ask parents to complete a placing request if a child moves from denominational to non-denominational sector. We recognise the concerns you have and you will always have the right to a catchment space.

During the closure of St Joseph's, we were singled out and we are being singled out again, why are you targeting catholic schools? We feel like we are being treated differently and this is discrimination.

The roll projections show that we will be able to accommodate all of the pupils within St Nicholas' in the secondary schools in catchment. Our roll projections have taken the pupils from St Nicholas' into account when looking at placements. We have checked the addresses from each associated school and included St Nicholas' and checked them against Bearsden Academy, Boclair Academy and Douglas Academy. This information has been provided to the Parent Council of St Nicholas and is on the FAQs section of the Consultation page on the Council website.

The consultation is clearly discriminatory. This consultation would not hold up in court.

If you make the St Nicholas' an associated school, then I think we would all be happy. This consultation means we are at the bottom of the list.

The purpose of this meeting and the consultation is to gather views. You have the right to a catchment place in non-denominational and denominational schools within your catchment area.

As part of the statutory consultation, an equalities impact assessment is completed and this is a Council obligation. This is simply a proposal at the moment and we are looking for your comments. Every element of feedback will be assessed. As officers, we ensure that equalities sits at the heart of that.

My children went to St Joseph's and that school was taken away, why should my child attend a secondary school in another community. This is discrimination and I am finding it hard to trust what you are saying. If pupils attended Clober Primary, they would be able to attend Douglas no problem. You are behind Gaelic, Rangers and Celtic and not us, its anti-Catholic. I don't understand why EDC didn't foresee the issue with pupils who attend St Nicholas'. This is having an impact on St Nicholas' at the moment with parents taking their children out of the school. You will end up with an empty St Nicholas' and we don't know demographics of all of the new house building in the area. This is non Catholics that will be fighting for the same spaces. I don't know why EDC could not have seen this for this area. We have been let down before and you will end up with an empty school. Was this thought through?

Officers have spoken about this proposal early on and it was recognised that we have placing request criteria, which could be applied if a school is over subscribed. It would not have been right to change the placing request criteria at this time. Officers understand how emotive this is and aware of the issues related to St Andrew's and St Joseph's. These proposals can be altered and all issues raised will be carefully considered.

There are five local primary schools, the criteria being used is seen as bigotry and biased for the local non domination schools. You need to reconsider this. Why did you decide to single out St Nicholas'.

All of our secondary schools have associated primaries. We have always been very aware that many parents would transfer to the non-denominational schools particularly in Bearsden and Milngavie. St Nicholas is an associated primary school within the Turnbull cluster. We have always been very sensitive to this issue and for that reason it is not an associated primary school of Bearsden Academy or Douglas Academy or Boclair Academy.

This is very biased and towards non-denominational schools.

No the same applies to denominational schools. If you look at St Ninian's High School, pupils attend from Craighead Primary School. Parents do not always remain within the denominational or non-denominational sector. We will review this from an equalities point of view and review the impact.

What other proposals were looked at before this one? -].

We looked at other councils but they use the placing request criteria if a school is oversubscribed for catchment children.

The roll projections are just projections, how many of you will still be here to stand up and back up what you are saying a few years down the line?

As officers as the Council, we present proposal but we don't make decisions. We are not the decision makers. When the final proposal is presented to Council, the decision will be published. We would not be able to guarantee anything tonight. The Council as the Corporate body makes that decision.

Children who are currently in Primary 7 and are starting their transition, at what point will we know what the outcome of this is and when will pupils know which school they are attending.

We will delay the application / transfer process this will be in January / February next year. We understand that this is more of an issue if you are in P7 just now, Bearsden is always has a higher catchment uptake but the projections show there are enough places for next session for all catchment pupils into S1. We will always do all we can to accommodate catchment children into their catchment school. There are adjustments we can make like we can employ an additional teacher, go over the roll cap for the year but this would only be done for catchment pupils and not for placing requests. This is something that can be done for one year as an exception, it can be done consistently.

Is the catchment for St Nicholas PS Bearden Academy?

Yes St Nicholas' is catchment for Bearsden Academy. We have not experienced over subscription for Bearsden Academy and all pupils have been accepted if they are catchment. This has not always been the case for placing requests.

Is Baldernock PS a feeder school for Douglas Academy?

Yes, it is an associated school.

My children are placing requests to Douglas Academy, will it be harder for me to get a placing requests?

We have a legal obligation to accept placing requests where we can. Catchment spaces are accepted first with the music school reserved places and then we look at placing requests.

Because of the Council looking for money, there is increased local housing developments and this is why you are looking at school admissions. You should build a new secondary school in the area. You need the infrastructure to accommodate the rise in population.

Housing developments are not due to the Council looking to make money, we have a legal obligation as a local authority to comply with legislation.

Who do I speak with to change this? What Councillors sit on the Education Committee? What actions can we take now?

Any outstanding enquiries will be responded too as soon as possible. We have put a section on the website with FAQs and this includes roll projections for this area. We are legally obligated to take in all information received and make an informed assessment. Officers will do the analysis of all the comments and issues raised and this will be assessed. Officers will take then write a report for consideration to the Education Committee. There are a number of options and these proposals can be adjusted following the consultation period.

Officers make recommendations to Councillors for their decision. The names of the members of the Education Committee are on the website but we will ensure there is a link on the consultation page on the website.

This is a statutory process and we need to take account of the consultation Education Scotland make an independent assessment of the proposal and write a report and then we would write a final summary report , which will be presented to the Education Committee. This will be presented to the Education Committee on the 30th January 2020. This report is required to be published for 3 weeks before going to Committee for approval.

Can we see the roll numbers for this school for the next 7 years? Can we get this for the whole of EDC?

Yes officers will get this onto the FAQ section of the website as soon as possible.

We understand the issues raised and this consultation is a starting point as it looks at the whole of EDC and we will gather the views and concerns from each area.

Is St Nicholas' the only catholic school in EDC affected by this? As a St Nicholas' parent we feel like we are being treated differently. We want to be considered at the same level as everyone else.

There are different issues in different areas.

Can our children respond?

There is a form for pupils to complete and this will be organised by the head teachers of each school, we want everyone's views on this.

We feel like everything is against us, if the school is over subscribed, the pupils will be bused to Turnbull, what about the impact of this, Environmental, social impacts, afterschool activities.

As a Council, this is a very important consideration for us and this will be assessed on a community based approach. There would be places in other schools Bearsden and Milngavie schools but Turnbull High School would be an option. These are all factors will be considered in final proposals.

We understand that there has not been an issue for over subscription now, but this may not be the case in years to come. Killermont was only built 20 years ago and it's not big enough. Is there plans to make Boclair Academy bigger?

Boclair is projected to be the same size and currently we accept more than 50 placing requests into the school each year. Douglas Academy also takes a large amount of Placing Requests.

If a year group is oversubscribed, the proposal is to apply the placing request criteria for catchment pupils. We have never had to do this before and we would try and avoid this as much as we could.

There hasn't been any update on this since 1998, so why the big rush for this?

It is a piece of work is developed over several months and there is a lot of work that is required to be done before a statutory consultation. We were very well aware of the issues that would be raised. This is EDC wide, we can't assume issues and this is why it is important to follow a process. Those are things that we will consider in any final proposals for consideration by the Education Committee.

How is distance from school measured?

This is measured on the safe walking route.

Why are the football partnerships prioritised?

Contractual arrangements are in place with Rangers and Celtic, the pupils for the Football Academies will be provided with a space with catchment applications but they would need to meet the criteria of the Academies.

Distance isn't really mentioned in the report, can we get more information on this? In December 2017, there was a change to legislation for private landlord agreements, are you aware of this? This will effect pupils getting into their catchment school if they have been in an area for a long time. And what about if a child moves house after they are registered in a school?

We are aware of the rental agreements. Once a child is enrolled and they move, they can apply for the right to remain. This proposal makes it more difficult for parents to rent a property in the catchment area to get a place in the school.

I am a parent from Colquhoun Park and I feel this is discrimination against geographical areas.

I am a parent of a child who attends Baldernock Primary and due to distance, my primary 7 might not be able to attend Douglas Academy.

I am worried about Castlehill Primary because if the primaries are oversubscribed because of this, my child who attends the Castlehill nursery may not be able to get into the primary.

The roll projections take account of known housing developments and we understand the issues being raised in relation to the use of distance.

You will receive backlash from the Catholic community and this proposal is already changing communities. It feels like there is a hidden agenda.

There is no hidden agenda. Officers consider the different issues and views raised through this process and present to the Council.



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| MEETING: | Statutory consultation public meeting on the “Proposed Changes To The Arrangements For Admissions And The Transfer Of Pupils From Primary To Secondary To All East Dunbartonshire Primary And Secondary Schools” |
| VENUE: | Bishopbriggs Academy |
| DATE/TIME: | 15 th November 2019 6:30pm – 9.30pm |
| OFFICERS ATTENDING | Karen Donnelly – Chief Solicitor & Monitoring Officer (Chair) Ann Davie - Depute Chief Executive, Education, People and Business Jacqueline MacDonald - Chief Education Officer Gavin Haire – School Planning & Improvement Manager Greg Bremner, Education Officer (Early Years & Primary) |
| MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC | 363+ |

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Karen Donnelly, who welcomed those present, discussed housekeeping rules and introduced the panel members. She provided details of the agenda and the format of the meeting in terms of questions and answers.

Jacqueline MacDonald provided a short presentation on the proposal. The presentation is also on the Council Website

www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/council/consultations/school-admission-and/transfer-arrangements-primary-secondary-school.

Mrs MacDonald also provided information that had been issued to stakeholders in relation to an extension to the consultation and the issues that had been identified so far.

The consultation had been extended until 10 January. Three key issues had been identified to date and a commitment had been made to review these:

- The need to review the application of distance criteria and to include the consideration of the length of time in attendance at the primary school as a separate criteria;
- The need to take into account local primary schools, where the associated secondary school is not within 5 miles;
- The number of places allocated within the Education Specialist Provision.

The Chair invited questions from the floor. These have been summarised below.

You should use the outcome of this to expand schools as we have not made the facilities for them. The situation of Bishopbriggs Academy disadvantages some communities if the distance criteria is used.

We are reviewing the distance criteria, and if we were to include the length of time in Primary School this would give be fairer to all communities. The Council has a Local Development Plan and are governed by legislation in relation to housing development.

To have 25 places per year for the Celtic Academy in St.Ninian's is unfair.

The actual intake numbers vary greatly. This year it was 5 and last year 8. We do have a contract with Celtic, which has been in place for ten years. Currently the Celtic pupils are accepted as placing requests but we have to accept other placing requests before them in the priority and that adds additional pressure to the school roll. Celtic are very flexible and work in partnership with the school and the Council in terms of numbers.

Why does this criteria change need to be rushed through. Can you combine the building of schools with consideration of the options?

All roll projections take account of trends and so are not exact predictions; it can change if for example groups of parents change their choice of school and issues that we could not predict. This year in Bishopbriggs Academy, there were 11 children, who had lived in the catchment but attended schools out with the area. With best roll projections we cannot predict this. We are reviewing the school estate and this will begin a process with Assets. Some of our schools have low occupancy levels and some have more pressures than others.

Potentially, we could do something about new school building or extensions, we look at capital planning and roll projections. Officers are requested to bring considerations to elected members. We look at this each year in September and we will consider the capital investment across a ten year programme. This is then a decision for elected members.

I am concerned about Auchinairn; the school was closed down, pupils from St. Helen's are trying to get into Bishopbriggs Academy. How do you protect the Auchinairn community going with distance?

We are aware of the issues in relation to the use of the distance criteria and have agreed to consider an additional criteria of length of time in the primary school.

What is the long term plan?

We are reviewing the School Estate Management Plan. From statisticians – the projection of rolls in primary schools is to decline. We need clear priorities to accommodate catchment children. We have a long history of cluster working within East Dunbartonshire. Teachers work together to develop the curriculum and approaches to learning and teaching and assessment. This has clear educational benefits for children transferring from primary to secondary schools. This is why we are prioritising associated primary schools within this proposal. Glasgow and East Renfrewshire have a similar policy using placing request criteria.

This proposal seems rushed.

The school rolls have been monitored for some time as a small number of schools have been under roll pressures. We have particular issue with Gaelic Medium Provision and progression in Gaelic for children, who attend the Gaelic Medium Primary Unit in Meadowburn. There are children from across EDC who could not get a place in Bishopbriggs Academy last year. The Council is at risk of not meeting its statutory duty.

There are P7 children currently doing transition work and you cannot guarantee and reassure children and families.

Roll projections have been updated as well as an analysis of addresses. This shows the number of children in the associated primary schools can be accommodated next session.

There are pressures in St Ninians and some children from associated primary schools may not get a place.

We are aware of the roll pressures on St Ninian's and have addressed this through the other consultation involving Lennoxton and Craighead Primary. The reports will be published on 28 November and will be submitted to a meeting of the Council on 19 December.

Across EDC – what schools are most at risk?

We can only give you the roll projections – roll projections are on the FAQs section and we cannot always account for changes to parent behaviour. We do have reserved places for catchment. If there is an issue, we speak to the Head Teacher to see how we can reclassify.

The proposal looks at the issue now but not in 10 years time because of all the housing being built. This is a short term plan – what is the long term?

Your point is valid – sits in two areas – Education roll projections and then the Capital programme. If the roll projections are showing a challenge going forward – we cannot look 10 years due to variables. What we can do is anticipate the challenges and sit this alongside the capital programme. Killermont was identified as a challenge, so we put in an interim solution and now a permanent solution. The Local Development Plan is one of the most important strategy documents for the Council. There is currently a consultation ongoing and on the latest Local Development Plan.

If we extend a school, it may not solve the problem as we would also be under pressure to accept placing requests – the bigger the school the more will come. This has been found to be the case in East Renfrewshire.

Bishopbriggs is an outstanding school – but the way the consultation has been done seems rushed – why next year. We are questioning the process and trust for the process. Can you go into more detail about the distance.

This is one of the biggest consultations the Council has undertaken. We have provided an update on the current issues which we will address so that parents can be reassured that we will take the responses from the consultation into account. There are different issues in different areas. The issue in Bishopbriggs Academy is the number of children from out with the associated schools who are choosing to transfer here. This year there were 25 – 14 from St Helen's and St Matthews. We can anticipate some of this but there were 11 children we did not anticipate and that caused us to go over the roll cap of 210. In Bishopbriggs, it is clear that the use of the distance criteria disadvantages some communities.

What scope is there to use potential Council properties?

It is difficult to manage a school over two sites. There would be logistical difficulties for the teaching staff particularly in a secondary school.

Turnbull is undersubscribed but there is a capacity issue in Bishopbriggs Academy. Why is this?

We do not ask families, who move from non-denominational to denominational to make a placing request. So parents have the choice of either school for secondary for their child.

If housing keeps being built – Can we assume that planning permission will not be granted.

Each Council has a Local Development Plan. There are obligations placed on the Council for industrial, business and economic growth. As part of the process, there is a consultation of the LDP. There are issues in terms of planning approval. If it is in compliance and meets for zoning of that land, it would be subject to appeal by the Scottish Reporters office. Planning contributions are not just for Education.

I am aware of people in catchment who are renting to get into school. Are the requirements going to be more comprehensive?

Yes we will ask for proof of residence when a child moves from primary to secondary. This will include a one year tenancy agreement if it is a rental property.

How do housing developments impact on the roll projections?

There are multipliers that are used , where we have roll pressures we take the highest numbers. We need to take account of the number of schools; the stages of schools and non-denominational and denominational schools.



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| MEETING: | Statutory consultation public meeting on the “Proposed Changes To The Arrangements For Admissions And The Transfer Of Pupils From Primary To Secondary To All East Dunbartonshire Primary And Secondary Schools” |
| VENUE: | St Ninian’s High |
| DATE/TIME: | 3 rd December 2019 6:30pm – 8.30pm |
| OFFICERS ATTENDING | Karen Donnelly – Chief Solicitor & Monitoring Officer (Chair) Thomas Glen - Depute Chief Executive, Place & Neighbourhood Services Jacqueline MacDonald - Chief Education Officer Gavin Haire – School Planning & Improvement Manager Greg Bremner, Education Officer (Early Years & Primary) Heather Holland, Executive Officer – Planning Development |
| MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC | 67 |

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Karen Donnelly, who welcomed those present, discussed housekeeping rules and introduced the panel members. She provided details of the agenda and the format of the meeting in terms of questions and answers.

Jacqueline MacDonald provided a short presentation on the proposal. The presentation is also on the Council Website www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/council/consultations/school-admission-and/transfer-arrangements-primary-secondary-school

The Chair invited questions from the floor. These have been summarised below.

Questions:

The admissions for denominational schools: the priority should be given to parents, who have baptised Catholic children. It’s not the case as siblings getting priority first over denominational children. If denominational child doesn’t have sibling in school, non-denominational children may get in before denominational children who don’t have a sibling in the school. The criteria should be denominational first before non-denominational with siblings.

It is not disadvantaging pupils from a denominational back ground. All parents find it difficult if siblings are at different schools. Priority to those children, whose parents declare an affinity to the religious beliefs of the school and have baptised into the Catholic Church is given within each criteria. All schools are open to children of all faiths or none, this includes denominational schools. The criteria prioritises associated primary schools over the rest of the schools in catchment and so those children have attended a faith school.

Why are Craighead Primary and Lennoxton Primary associated primary schools for St Ninian’s High School?

Currently Lennoxton Primary and Craighead Primary schools are associated schools of St Ninian’s due to the context that they don’t at this time have an associated secondary school within East Dunbartonshire. All pupils have the right to go to a non denominational and a denominational school

within East Dunbartonshire. There was another consultation to give these schools a non-denominational secondary school within East Dunbartonshire Council. The consultation report goes to Council on the 19th December 2019. They are currently associated schools of St Ninian's, but will change to Craighead being an associated primary school to Kirkintilloch High and Lennoxton being associated primary school to Lenzie Academy.

Will parents from Craighead require to make placing requests to go to either of the 3 secondary schools?

No all children have the right to go to denominational or non-denominational schools within their catchment area. No placing requests are required to attend if you live in the catchment area and we don't ask parents to make a placing request if they move from the non-denominational sector to the denominational sector. A number of parents have taken up right to choose for their child to attend St Ninian's High which is a catchment school. If the Craighead / Lennoxton consultation is approved, then the parents would have the right to send to any three secondary schools (Craighead – Kirkintilloch High, Kilsyth Academy or St Ninian's. Lennoxton – Lenzie Academy, Kilsyth Academy or St Ninian's.) Associated schools are important and bring benefits to the learners. There is more continuity in the delivery of the curriculum and the learning and teaching. If a school is oversubscribed then the criteria would take place (if approved). On 19th December 2019, if approved then Craighead & Lennoxton would no longer be associated primary school of St Ninian's High.

I have a child in P7 in Holy Family, what would be the priority if over subscribed?

If over a school is over subscribed. We would work with the school HT in the first instance to see if there is any scope to accommodate more catchment children. We can exceed the roll cap every so many years, but not every year. Then if there was no other option the priority as detailed would be applied. Children from associated primary schools would have priority. Within each category priority is given to children, whose parents declare an affinity with the religious beliefs of the school and are baptised into the Catholic Church. Only if we did not have enough catchment places. we would work with the family and the school to have redirection as the last resort.

The consultation shows 25 places for each specialist provision. How did we come to that number? What is the Council's obligation and what is Celtic's obligation?

The contract has not changed with Celtic has been in place for 10 years. There have only been 6 pupils this year from the Celtic Academy. There has been various discussions with Celtic and they would not want catchment children not getting catchment places due to the Celtic Academy taking the spaces. We know how many catchment children there are and allocate the spaces on the criteria, then the Celtic Academy prior to any placing requests. Celtic are clear that what we have is a partnership. Celtic would adjust numbers where needed if it meant catchment children not getting spaces.

The partnership was set up over 10 years ago. The then Director of Education worked with Celtic and developed the proposal. It was developed around a good education for the pupils who are in the Celtic Academy. There was no trade off about what Celtic gives to the school. The numbers for the Celtic Academy, if we hit a year where Celtic get no spaces in this school, then they have advised that that's fine. This would only work if there is a good partnership in place. If you read the Education Scotland inspection report from just over a year ago you will see that Education Scotland recognised this as a strength of the school and is mentioned throughout the report. There are practical things that happen with the partnership. We get access to Celtic FC during the careers fair, children get the opportunity for work experience too. Celtic are able to coach other children, not just Celtic Academy pupils. Celtic FC recently delivered social media training for all pupils and parents in the school, not just for the Celtic children. Lots of things are important to the partnership about working together. There are a number of benefits in the school, there are a number of role models in the school to make a success in their life. They make a success of their school life and work hard. Celtic FC's obligation is to help us to make sure the children come and behave, work hard and continue to deliver the success of the school.

What are the reasons the policy needs to change and the redevelopment of secondary school estate and roll projections, and now we are in this situation, why would any parent have confidence in the roll projections?

Roll projections are trends. Changes that can happen in parents choices. One of the choices about 3 or 4 years ago, 30 parents from Craighead Primary took up the option to send their children to St Ninian's High. That caused an issue that year with roll numbers. We adjusted the school to accommodate this. We need to be clearer on proof of catchment. We get notification that people are fraudulently claiming residence in catchment areas. It is difficult to take away places in schools, but if proven obtained fraudulently we can. The current policy doesn't take account of custody arrangements of children.

With regards to the roll projections and planning issues, we don't have control of second hand housing market. We have an ageing population where newer younger families move in. It is difficult to predict this market. With new developments there are a number of requirements that are set out in Scottish Gov policy. ie Set amount of land is set aside for development. New Local Development plan is created using the census data. The Local Development Plan is updated every 5 years. We can refuse planning applications for new developments in the area, but these may also get called in by Scottish Government. We recognise that these developments impact on all infrastructure. There is some funding from developer contributions, but these contributions are small.

The new housing developments are factored into the roll projections working with the Education Team. Housing land audits provide updated information too. Development Contributions are provided and used. We have a policy in Local Development Plan setting out what circumstances we take and guidance how we implement. Criteria on how we take contributions is available on the Council Website in the FAQ section. Contributions can only be spent within the catchment of the development.

I don't agree with the criteria on distance and process of catchment and the priority given to attending an associated school. If a child didn't get their catchment place in St Ninians would you then go in as a placing request to Lenzie Academy?

Only if the school is over subscribed would this be an issue. The proposal prioritises children who attend an associated primary school for a denominational secondary school and a commitment to faith. If oversubscribed we would work with the parent to determine the other catchment school. We would make sure all catchment children are processed prior to placing requests. We keep reserve places and some reserve places can be used for accommodating this.

Children's mental health potentially could be affected if they were to be sent to another school. Concerns with uprooting from friends and family and being sent to another secondary school.

Children's well being is always our main priority and will continue to be. How many children have siblings are schools, the numbers are low. There is no risk of associated school children not getting in to their catchment secondary school. Distance criteria disadvantages some communities, but associated schools first and foremost and particularly those that have been there from P1. There are 129 from associated schools to transfer to S1 in St Ninian's for the new school year.

If child is enrolled in the primary school on a placing request then siblings don't get priority, they would follow the placing request criteria after all catchment children are allocated space.

Catholic children in catchment area, we need that to be the priority. We would encourage every parent to make sure we make our views known. Thanks for EDC in reviewing this policy. We can talk about the house building etc. but policy needs updated with the associated schools. Still have non catholic that would have priority over catholic to denominational school. Order of criteria should be reviewed. There is a question in all of that. All should comment into the consultation. If we were to take on board can it be performed in the criteria for proposals?

Variations can be taken for all proposals. We need to review the changes and see if further consultation required. We take the views of the Catholic Church into account. Other issues addressed at other meetings, we will take into account all of these.

The contract for Celtic, you say it's been 10 years since signed, when will it be negotiated?

The partnership has worked well for Celtic and also for East Dunbartonshire Council. Negotiations will be taking place after this consultation exercise. Parent Councils can respond to this consultation. It is very clear catchment children are to have priority. It's a balance with regards to catchment places and those allocated to the Celtic partnerships

What about the Transition arrangements for children currently in Primary 7

There is a difference between Cluster working and number of transition events will continue to take place. There are a number of pupils on placing requests. It's about preparation to move to secondary school. We are clear that if children are enrolled on placing requests, we can't guarantee place on placing request. Children moving to secondary will have the relevant transition required.

Karen Donnelly closed the meeting and thanked all for coming along this evening.

Reiterated that the consultation has been extended to 10th January 2020.

The FAQs on the Website will be updated frequently with additional questions that we are asked.



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| MEETING: | Statutory consultation public meeting on the “Proposed Changes To The Arrangements For Admissions And The Transfer Of Pupils From Primary To Secondary To All East Dunbartonshire Primary And Secondary Schools” |
| VENUE: | Bearsden Academy |
| DATE/TIME: | 5 th December 2019 6:30pm – 8.15pm |
| OFFICERS ATTENDING | Karen Donnelly – Chief Solicitor & Monitoring Officer (Chair) Thomas Glen - Depute Chief Executive, Place & Neighbourhood Services Jacqueline MacDonald - Chief Education Officer Gavin Haire – School Planning & Improvement Manager Greg Bremner, Education Officer (Early Years & Primary) Heather Holland, Executive Officer – Planning Development |
| MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC | 58 |

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The Chair invited questions from the floor. These have been summarised below.

Questions:

My daughter attends St Nicholas Primary. We are wanting equality with Bearsden Primary children to attend Bearsden Academy.

If Bearsden Academy was oversubscribed then, under the revised proposal, children at St Nicholas Primary would be in the same criteria as the associated secondary school is more than 5 miles from the primary school. We cannot make St Nicholas Primary an associated school due to 1918 Act, which relates to Catholic Education.

What are the predictions for Bearsden Academy, when will this be oversubscribed?

The current roll projections show that the school will not be oversubscribed. The roll projections are updated each year. This is looking at catchment figures and takes into account St Nicholas pupils who live in the catchment. If a secondary school is oversubscribed, we would work with the Head Teacher to look at whether the roll cap can be exceeded for one year. St. Nicholas Primary is still an associated primary school for Turnbull High School.

The 5 mile distance rule is that from house or school.

The 5 mile is from the primary school to secondary school; not individual addresses. Nothing has been approved yet, it is an option. We arranged this further public meeting to get your views on this.

Up to 25th November, a large numbers of replies to the consultation have been received. We have made some proposed changes to the original proposals and this is one of them.

How is the sibling criteria used if oversubscribed.

It is difficult for families if siblings are going to different schools. The sibling issue has come up a couple of times and very many people have views – it would be difficult for parents to have children at two schools. There are small numbers of children who live in the catchment and have a sibling– there is not a risk for associated primary schools.

Thank you for listening to the parents. At St Nicholas Primary we have been looking for these 3 points that you are now considering. Want to check on these points you have mentioned. Will those 3 new points will be considered at the end of the consultation.

From the consultation already these 3 points have come up during the discussions and queries. We are saying these are the 3 clear areas that have come to the forefront during this. If we make substantial changes to the proposal, then we would need to consult again. These 3 points are included in the proposal. The whole purpose of any consultation exercise is to recognise what is being said. We have been listening to what all are saying.

Just to clarify – what is the next level of criteria if oversubscribed for Bearsden?

The next criteria after associated school and a primary school where the associated secondary school is not within 5 miles would be a child who attends any other primary school. What we found when we did analysis of addresses was that there were children, who were not at associated primary schools.

Within the associated primary school criteria and a primary school where the associated secondary school is not within 5 miles, it would be the length of time within the primary school and then distance . Other communities have different views and we wanted to provide clarity for parents.

What is the Douglas Academy roll projections.

They are showing below the 180 cap. This information is also on the FAQ section of the Council website.

My child is in Primary 1 just now and at St Nicholas but live in the catchment and next to Boclair Academy. Should they I move them to associated school and out of St Nicholas.

The criteria being proposed now would give you the same right to transfer to Boclair Academy if you attend St Nicholas as an associated primary school. All parents have choice of denomination and non denomination schools for their child.

There is planning over 2000 houses planned over the next few years in the area, just next to the garden centre.

Developments are included in the 5 year Local Development Plan. We are consulting on the next Local Development Plan. This is where the public can propose and identify many different sites. The Council are not supporting the particular site re this.

Are planning proposals factored in to the 5 year plan for Education.

The projections include known housing developments.

What point do the Council put the obligation onto developers to provide infrastructure. House builders appear to be building just below the threshold for providing developer contributions.

Current policy takes this into account with regards 90% capacity in schools. There are some developer contributions but these have to be used within the schools affected.

The Length of time in the school could be a problem as some parents may make a placing request for their child and then move into the catchment

If we require to use the criteria of the length of time in the primary school, it will be a small number in this category who were a placing request and then move into the catchment. We will require proof of residence as detailed in the proposal.

Are the pupils enrolled in the Football Academies from out with East Dunbartonshire Council?

At the moment the pupils from the Rangers Academy are enrolled as placing requests, as a priority 2 after siblings. The roll projections for Boclair Academy show there are about 50 spaces for placing requests. Both Celtic and Rangers Football Clubs are flexible with the number of pupils that we take and will work with the Council to ensure that it is not at the expense of a catchment pupil.

Projections only go so far, where would children go if school is over subscribed?

Bishopbriggs Academy had some children apply late and the school was full so we redirected to other secondary schools. Many opted for Turnbull High School. We would if required, provide transport as long as the criteria for transport was met. Killermont Primary was tight for numbers and is being extended. We would discuss it with parents to ensure best place for children to attend. There has been some pupils redirected when they come in midway through the school year due to no space in that year group being available.

Could this have been pre-empted before now for Bishopbriggs?

Change in second hand market is the unknown. People are moving to EDC due to schooling. Turnbull High and Bishopbriggs Academy in Bishopbriggs are able to take all catchment children from Bishopbriggs. There are no capacity issues in Turnbull High but there are pressures within Bishopbriggs Academy.

As a parent I am concerned about the roll numbers in St Nicholas.

We are grateful to the Parent Council in St Nicholas, who have worked with us to provide information for parents. The analysis of actual addresses for Primary 7 pupils in the catchment show they are well below the 210 roll cap for Bearsden Academy. The parents have right to choose the secondary school for their children and the Council is very aware of its responsibilities in relation to Catholic Education and so parents from St Nicholas will have the right to send their child to Turnbull High School if they choose.

We do not have equality of provision in this area. All we want is to provide Catholic provision in this area and we would send them there.

The Bearsden and Milngavie situation is historic and before the Council was established

There has never been a Catholic Secondary School in Bearsden and Milngavie. We are trying to recognise St. Nicholas as a denominational and Catholic school with a clear association with Turnbull High School. In the past we were very clear that St. Andrew's could not be in the non-denominational cluster. We recognise we want children to remain at St Nicholas. The proposed change recognises the particular circumstances in relation to St Nicholas.

There is some anxiety of new houses at the farm, public consultation of the planning we were advised that Killermont was ok. . I agree that there are key relationships in Assets and Education. More reassurance or clarity on school estate is required. It is a legal obligation to provide catchment places. The formula for the new builds and projections and finances this is old, should this be under review?

In Killermont Primary School, there is also an extension being built at present. The extension to the nursery to accommodate the expansion of early years. We are continually working with Assets and looking at roll projections to review the School Estate. These roll projections have been updated as you can see on the Council website.

The roll caps can these be reduced to manage the school roll?

Rolls are capped to manage over the whole 6 years. Sometimes we need to exceed the cap, we speak with HT if this is required. Bishopbriggs Academy went over the roll cap this year. If we know beforehand (through roll projections) and depending on other year groups, there is a chance that we can exceed. It is all about the forward planning and numbers in other year groups too.

Practical question with regards to response to the consultation prior to the extension. Can we respond again? And will you show the difference?

We can analyse the response before 25th November and after 25th November to show difference in views. We would welcome further responses.

My children go to St Nicholas, but live in Boclair Academy catchment, friends of theirs will go to Bearsden Academy. Where will the kids be placed in criteria if they want to go to Bearsden Academy over Boclair Academy?

You would be a placing request if you don't send to Boclair Academy or Turnbull High. We are not talking about the placing request criteria. This consultation is only about admissions for catchment.

Can we review the St Nicholas Primary priority within the placing request criteria?

We are not looking at placing request criteria at this time.

I feel reassured for the children of St Nicholas Primary. Can you show when pupils enrol, that they know what their schools are, ie which catchment for their secondary school is? It's not clear to parents, about associated schools. Can you show the detail?

We will ensure that the website information about process for the primary to secondary transfer arrangements are clearer and provide more clarity.

Karen Donnelly closed the meeting and thanked all for coming along this evening.

Reiterated that the consultation has been extended to 10th January 2020.

The FAQs on the Website will be updated frequently with additional questions that we are asked.

PARENT COUNCIL FORUM - 18 NOVEMBER 2019

QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

‘PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSIONS AND THE TRANSFER OF PUPILS FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY IN RESPECT OF ALL EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS EFFECTIVE FROM SESSION 2020/21

| | Question <i>(from PC Chair)</i> | Answer <i>(provided by Jacqui MacDonald)</i> |
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| 1 | Would requests to attend the specialist educational provisions (Rangers/Gaelic etc) have priority over catchment children, even if they are outwith EDC? | <p>These applications would be allocated with catchment children. If a school was oversubscribed then the specialist provision applications would be allocated first then the catchment places, however, currently Boclair Academy accepts roughly 30/40 placing requests each year, hence there is no issue at this school at this time.</p> <p>In relation to Gaelic applications into Bishopbriggs Academy, currently 65% of these applications are already catchment children.</p> |
| 2 | Why is provision for football so high in EDC? | It is about supporting and enhancing children’s’ natural talents. The Council has contracts with both Celtic and Rangers which state that 20 places should be available at any point within the secondary school. If either of the secondary schools were at risk of being oversubscribed for catchment children then we would be looking for S1 football places to meet the new proposed criteria. |
| 3 | Why are catchment children being considered after football places, it is not right? | Catchment places are not at risk, yes football applications are considered alongside catchment places, however, if there was a problem we would talk to Celtci and Rangers. The football contracts were agreed 10 years ago and a lot has changed in that time. |
| 4 | What would happen if St Ninian’s High School could not accommodate all catchment children next school session? | Roll projections take account of trends. The Education Service looks at each associated Primary School and the trends from these primaries regarding transfer to Secondary schools. Currently 75% of pupils from Craighead Primary transfer to St Ninian’s High School and the Education Service are aware of this. |

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| 5 | How would it work if a child transferred from a catchment denominational school to a catchment non-denominational school? | Currently the Council does not consider a move from a catchment denominational school to a catchment non-denominational school as a placing request. If you live in the catchment, you have the right to access both a denominational and non-denominational school. This would not change, however, the proposal states that associated primaries would get priority. |
| 6 | I feel the Education Service would alleviate a lot of parental concern if they just provided the following information alongside the consultation document: a list of schools with high occupancy levels; roll projection figures and how these are worked out; methodology behind new build houses; school rolls in all primaries for all stages and placing request figures for all schools. Parents need to see and understand all of the above to accurately comment on the consultation. | It is not the case that we do not want to provide this information but each school has a different story to tell and we need to ensure that all information is accurate. Following the public meeting last week in Bearsden, we have since put roll projects and analysis data on the EDC website. In the next 2 days, secondary figures will also be available. |
| 7 | I fully understand that the Council requires to have a policy in place for oversubscribed schools, however, we have to look at other factors alongside this consultation i.e. the Council's policy on house building. If we continue to build in East Dunbartonshire, we are going to be in real trouble. | The Council does take account of house building in its Local Development Plan, however, I note your point. This consultation is particularly hard because it is not a 'one size fits all' solution. I would like to re-iterate that this consultation is not a done deal and we are looking for parents/carers views. If the Placing Request criteria is not the right criteria to use for oversubscribed schools then we need to look at what is best. |
| 8 | I am from the rural village of Baldernock with our associated secondary school being Douglas Academy in Milngavie. We feel that the Placing Request criteria does not take into consideration rural villages due to distance being a criteria. | Currently, there are no issues at Douglas Academy, however, we do recognise that we need to look at distance being a criteria. |
| 9 | There was a similar issue in the Jordanhill area of Glasgow recently, where they took into consideration when your housing development was built. This would protect Baldernock. For example, the Cala development beside the Allander sports centre in Bearsden is supposed to be Bearsden Academy catchment but with this secondary school being full, we the tax payers, are paying for these children to be taxed to other schools. Not to mention the new housing development right beside Bearsden Academy, which is not long built and if distance is going to be one of the criteria, then those | We take your point on board and understand that we need to look at distance being a criteria. The Education Service has within its powers to vary a consultation following feedback, however, if a change was considered major then we would need to start the consultation process again. |

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| | children would get priority over Mosshead, a well-established area of Bearsden, which is not right. | |
| 10 | There is evidence to suggest that the number of parents placing their child(ren) into private school is less due to increasing fees, as such, this will also place additional pressure on our school rolls. | I note your comment and yes there are a number of issues / demographic factors that are contributing to increased school roll numbers. |
| 11 | Is there any scope for the new build Boclair Academy to have an increased roll? | The new build Boclair Academy is being built at the same size. Currently, Boclair Academy takes in around 50 Placing Requests each year. |
| 12 | Could we review / learn from the consultation process to date in relation to engaging with Parent Council Chairs prior to a consultation going live. This is to ensure Parent Council Chairs feel informed and able to deal with any enquiries that come their way. | Yes of course, I note your point. This consultation was difficult due to it involving all EDC schools. We did brief Head Teachers on the Tuesday before the consultation went live and we provided them with a copy of the presentation. We then scheduled everything else in but I take your point. |
| 13 | From what you have said, we may be looking at an oversubscribed Bishopbriggs Academy within the next 10 years, which will affect myself as my wee one is in P1 of an associated school. My concern is that if we transport pupils to another local secondary school until a place in their catchment secondary school becomes available, then we are looking at attainment / curriculum gaps due to each school teaching the curriculum in their own way. | We are aware of the issue surrounding Bishopbriggs Academy and we acknowledge that we need to look at it. |
| 14 | In relation to Bishopbriggs Academy and because the distance criteria exists, this creates a huge divide in the community and the demographic. Is the Council able to take out the 'distance criteria' as a variation or would this be classed as a major variation? | I will need to take legal advice on this matter. I am having regular discussions with legal so I will discuss this with them. |
| 15 | I represent Balmuildy Primary and the Council / Education Service need to be aware of the effect this consultation is having on pupils and parents. A lot of pupils are very upset by the proposal and parent are very concerned. | If I provide parents with roll numbers (the 183 out of the 210 cap) would that help alleviate some concern? It was agreed that this would hence JM to provide roll numbers. |
| 16 | In relation to the figures you talk about above in Answer. 15, do these include catchment children and if this proposal is not implemented then will there be concern come August 2020? | The figures do include all catchment children and a % from St Helens and St Matthews Primary Schools. If a policy for Admissions is not in place come April and we get roughly 223 pupils looking to transfer to Bishopbriggs Academy, where the |

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| | | capacity is 210, then everyone would be in pot together and we could not guarantee places for cluster children. |
| 17 | I believe part of the proposal is that the Education Service would ask for proof of residency in relation to people renting properties within EDC and this would be for a period of 1 year. Is this for secondary only, if so, can we replicate for primary places? | The proposal asks that this is taken into consideration for primary and secondary places. |
| 18 | I think we need more checks regarding guardianship / adoption. | Shared custody checks is also included in the proposal. |
| 19 | I understand that the Council requires to have a fair policy in place regarding admissions for oversubscribed schools, however, I feel there are a couple of things that are not fair: 1 – why should kids who play football outside EDC get priority over catchment kids; and 2 – I cannot see how someone who rents a property in EDC for 1 year then moves out of the area should takes priority over others. | In relation to the Celtic and Rangers Academies, there are contracts in place, and these are for children with that specific specialism. The proposal states that a Priority 1 is living in the catchment area with a sibling in the school. Currently, every other Council uses their Placing Request criteria (criteria's can vary) when a school is oversubscribed. We recognise that the distance criteria within this proposal is an issue and we take this on board. |
| 20 | What is included within the Additional Support Needs (ASN) criteria? | Additional Support Needs will be assessed and confirmed by an Educational Psychologist and all aspects of the ASN would be taken into consideration. It would need to be that the ASN could only be met in that specific school and not another educational establishment. |
| 21 | Can you please clarify the priority for specialist educational provision i.e. the music school etc | These places are counted alongside catchment places, they are not considered as Placing Requests. |
| 22 | Can you please clarify the process for Gaelic provision? | Of the 15 places allocated for Gaelic provision, 65% of these are Bishopbriggs Academy catchment pupils, hence these places are already taken into consideration within the figures. |
| 23 | People want change, catchment should mean catchment, it is about the bigger picture, children being able to walk to school, being able to serve in their own community, as such, what other options have the Council been exploring apart from policy | This would be a bigger decision for the Council due to the existence of the School Management Plan. Also, our PPP schools are not Council owned, hence we would need permission to alter any of these. We are aware of the schools that have / will have roll |

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| | change for example, employing more teachers, adding portacabins to school sites etc? | pressures in relation to catchment children and will look at these. |
| 24 | Are you able to confirm if the timeline for primary secondary transfer forms will be delayed due to this consultation? If so, will you still be announcing school places in April? | <p>Yes, we wish to see the results from this consultation, which will be in December, before receiving admission forms for secondary. As such, the deadline for submissions will be extended to January 2020 (previously December). We will however, still be announcing school places in April 2020. We will issue a letter to all parents detailing this.</p> <p>An additional reason for the above is that there is another education consultation currently taking place which will be considered at Special Council on 19 December. This consultation is looking at getting a non-denominational secondary school, within EDC, for pupils from Craighead Primary & Lennoxton Primary. Currently a percentage of these pupils attend Kilsyth Academy in North Lanarkshire.</p> |
| 25 | In relation to Thomas Muir Primary school, we have just went through a merger which now takes in Auchinairn and my fear is that if there is an influx of pupils requesting Bishopbriggs Academy, who live within the catchment and are closer to the Academy, then families from Auchinairn will get pushed out. | We acknowledge that the distance criteria will need to be looked at. The theory behind this criteria is that there would normally be another local school close by that pupils could attend. |
| 26 | Can you please explain how the distance criteria is applied? | The distance criteria is applied by calculating safe walking routes to schools. |
| 27 | What about pupils' proximity to another school? | If you start to look at this you start to look at re-drawing school catchment areas and that would require a statutory consultation. |

