

Argyll and Bute Council: Equality and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

Section 1: About the proposal

Title of Proposal
Rezoning of the catchment area of St Columba's Primary School, Oban.

Intended outcome of proposal
<p>The proposal is to rezone the catchment area of St Columba's Primary School, Oban.</p> <p>Currently, we are in the consultation phase, at this stage it is vitally important that we seek the views of all stakeholders affected by this proposal. Once this is complete, there will be a consultation report prepared on the issue by Local Authority Officers, with input from Education Scotland. This report will be presented to the Community Services Committee (CSC) for their decision.</p> <p>Ultimately, the intended outcome is a rezoning of the catchment area. If after consultation the stakeholders involved in the process, Education Scotland, and the CSC feel that the rezoning is not a reasonable option, then the rezoning would not take place.</p>

Description of proposal
<p>Consideration of this proposal means that a decision is being taken about the size of a catchment area for St Columba's Primary School, in Oban.</p> <p>As per the legislative guidance set out in the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2015, the Parent Council of St Columba's Primary School have made a formal request that the catchment area be changed. Argyll and Bute Council is seeking views on the following proposal, namely: To rezone the catchment area for St Columba's Primary School so that it is extended to resemble the current mainland catchment area for Oban High School.</p> <p>On 14th March 2019, Argyll and Bute Council's Community Services Committee agreed that a consultation with all stakeholders be undertaken on the proposal.</p>

Business Outcome(s) / Corporate Outcome(s) to which the proposal contributes
BO108: All our children and young people are supported to realise their potential. Corporate outcome: Education, skills and training maximise opportunities for all.

Lead officer details:	
Name of lead officer	Alison MacDonald
Job title	Education Manager
Department	Customer Services: Education
Appropriate officer details:	
Name of appropriate officer	Louise Connor
Job title	Head of Education
Department	Customer Services: Education
Sign off of EqSEIA	<i>M. Connor</i>
Date of sign off	18th April 2019

Who will deliver the proposal?

Should the catchment area be extended, this will be a process which follows usual Council processes. The Head Teacher of St Columba's Primary will be the senior officer of the Council who provides the leadership of the educational experience for the children attending the school. The Education Central Team of the Council will be responsible for the support and challenge of the school as per standard protocols. Transport colleagues will be responsible for any travel arrangements for children who are entitled to this.

Section 2: Evidence used in the course of carrying out EqSEIA**Consultation / engagement**

Under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, if a local authority proposes to alter the catchment area of a school, it must undertake a statutory consultation with the 'relevant consultees' affected by this proposal. In this instance;

- **St Columba's,**
- **Achaleven,**
- **Barcaldine,**
- **Dalmally,**
- **Dunbeg,**
- **Easdale,**
- **Kilchrenan,**
- **Kilninver,**
- **Lochnell,**
- **Luing,**
- **Park,**
- **Rockfield,**
- **Strath of Appin,**
- **Taynuilt.**

Primary Schools would be the 'affected schools'.

The formal consultation on the proposal within this document will be undertaken under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 ("the Act"). The consultation period will start on **18th March 2019** (with due written notice of the proposal issued to the relevant consultees listed in Appendix 1) and end on **17th May 2019**. Written representations must be received by this date in order to be taken into account.

A copy of the proposal document will be provided to the following 'relevant consultees' in terms of the Act:

- The Parent Councils of the affected schools;
- The parents of the pupils at the affected schools;
- A copy of the proposal will be provided to all Early Years Establishments in the local area, giving access to parents who have children expected to attend the affected schools within two years of the publication of this proposal paper;
- The pupils at the affected schools (in so far as the Education Authority considers them to be of suitable age and maturity);
- All Argyll and Bute Council employees at the affected schools;
- Trade union representatives of employees at the affected schools;
- Community Councils within the affected locality;
- Local churches;
- All relevant users of the affected schools, and
- Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partners.

A copy of the proposal document will also be made available to:

- All Elected Members of Argyll and Bute Council;
- Argyll and Bute Youth Forum;
- Education Scotland (formerly Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education, HMIE);
- The Constituency MSP of the affected schools;
- List MSP for the area of the affected schools;
- The MP of the affected schools;
- Police Scotland;

- NHS Highland;
- Argyll and Bute School Transport;
- Senior Local Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services, and
- Care Inspectorate

The steps listed below have also been taken to ensure that the proposal is widely available:

- Notice of the proposal and of publication of this proposal document will be placed within local newspapers;
- The proposal document will also be published on the Argyll and Bute Council website;
- This document can be made available in alternative forms or translated by contacting Argyll House, Dunoon, tel: 01369 708576 or argyllhousereception@argyll-bute.gov.uk;

The proposal paper will also be available at the following locations;

- A. Council Offices
- B. All Libraries in Oban and Lorn
- C. All Oban and Lorn area/locality offices
- D. The schools affected by the proposal

There will be a public meeting held on the 17th April 2019 at 7.00 pm in St Columba's Primary School.

Data

In September 2017, 17.8% of pupils in publicly funded schools attended a Roman Catholic school.

In addition, People who recorded as 'Church of Scotland' had more access to cars or vans than those who recorded as 'Roman Catholic' and 'No religion'. (Note: more recent data is not available) **Source:** [Analysis of Equality Results from the 2011 Census: Part 2](#) (Published: March 2015).

The rezoning of the catchment area, and subsequent entitlement to free school transport may have an economic benefit for families living in a rural area who cannot afford to pay for their children to travel to St Columba's Primary School.

52% of journeys to school were made by walking or cycling in 2017. 59% of those aged 4-11 and 43% of those aged 12-18 usually walked or cycled to school. For those aged 4-11 the next most popular mode was as a passenger in a car or van (30%). For those aged 12-18, the next most popular was school bus (23%). 8% of children aged 4-11 usually used school transport. 21% of children living in the most deprived SIMD areas (centile 1 and 2) used school transport. 33% of children living in remote rural areas used school transport. [Transport and Travel in Scotland 2017](#) (Last updated: September 2018).

Other information

Evidence for this proposal was found in the Equality Evidence Finder, and in the Guidance for the Fairer Scotland Act.

Additional evidence was found in the School (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, in terms of legislative compliance.

Education Management Circulars, 1.33 on capacity, 3.01 on Admission and 3.09 on Transfers were also consulted. The circular 3.23 on Child Protection and Safeguarding was also considered.

The national policy of GIRFEC – Getting it Right for Every Child, was also considered in the formation of this proposal as was the Argyll and Bute Education vision and strategy, Our Children, Their Future.

Gaps in evidence

There are no gaps in evidence.

Section 3: Impact of proposal

Impact on service users:

	Negative	No impact	Positive	Don't know
Protected characteristics:				
Age		x		
Disability		x		
Ethnicity		x		
Sex		x		
Gender reassignment		x		
Marriage and Civil Partnership		x		
Pregnancy and Maternity		x		
Religion			x	
Sexual Orientation		x		
Fairer Scotland Duty:				
Mainland rural population				x
Island populations		x		
Low income				x
Low wealth				x
Material deprivation				x
Area deprivation				x
Socio-economic background				x
Communities of place?				x
Communities of interest?				x

Impact on service deliverers (including employees, volunteers etc):

	Negative	No impact	Positive	Don't know
Protected characteristics:				
Age				x
Disability		x		
Ethnicity		x		
Sex		x		
Gender reassignment		x		
Marriage and Civil Partnership		x		
Pregnancy and Maternity		x		

	Negative	No impact	Positive	Don't know
Religion		X		
Sexual Orientation		X		
Fairer Scotland Duty:				
Mainland rural population				X
Island populations		X		
Low income				X
Low wealth				X
Material deprivation				X
Area deprivation				X
Socio-economic background				X
Communities of place?				X
Communities of interest?				X

If any 'don't know's have been identified, at what point will impacts on these groups become identifiable?

The proposal has elements which are unpredictable. If the proposal is accepted there could potentially be more children attending St Columba's Primary School. These children may choose to attend St Columba's Primary School rather than their local school, which may have an impact on the staffing levels in their local school. This may lead to staff becoming surplus and being redeployed in other schools. This could have a negative impact on staff, pupils and parents of the affected school communities.

As the school roll for St Columba's Primary School is currently predicted to fall by 3.67% this session, an increase in school roll may not impact current staffing. If pupil numbers increase year on year, this could have a positive impact on the St Columba's school community, leading to more staffing being required.

These impacts will be identifiable once the enrolment for schools takes place. If accepted, the catchment change will take place in October 2019. The Education Management Team will use their existing quality assurance procedures to monitor this potential impact.

How has 'due regard' been given to any negative impacts that have been identified?

In looking at the educational benefits statement of this proposal these have been considered. All information is contained in the proposal paper.

Section 4: Interdependencies

Is this proposal likely to have any knock-on effects for any other activities carried out by or on behalf of the council?

Potentially on transport.

Details of knock-on effects identified

Increased number of children requesting free school transport may add pressure to the transport system and budget.

Section 5: Monitoring and review

How will you monitor and evaluate the equality impacts of your proposal?

The Education Management Team, supported by Education Officers will monitor the impact this catchment area change would have, if implemented.