

Public Consultation Meeting
Review of Inverurie Network Primary School Zones
29 August 2019
7- 8pm Inverurie Academy

Aberdeenshire Council Officers/Elected Members present:

Cllr Gillian Owen (Chair), Craig Clement (Head of Service, E&CS), Rachael Goldring (Learning Estates Team Leader, E&CS), Gemma Dacre (Learning Estates, E&CS), Anna Zadka-Labus (Learning Estates, E&CS), Gail Dick (Learning Estates, E&CS – Minute Taker), Cllr Judy Whyte, Cllr Neil Baillie, Cllr Marion Ewenson

1	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Councillor Owen introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the meeting, she introduced the Aberdeenshire Council Officers and elected members present and laid out the format of the meeting.</p>
2	<p>Consultation Overview</p> <p>Craig Clement welcomed colleagues and explained that informal meetings had occurred earlier in the year and that this meeting was the beginning of the formal stage. Craig explained that the purpose of the rezoning is to review the Inverurie primary school network.</p> <p>In 2017 Uryside School replaced Inverurie Market Place School and a rezoning wasn't carried out at the time. Uryside School is now well established, and the Learning Estates Team have a clearer picture of the schools projected roll for future years. The current catchment areas are not working for Inverurie and there is a need to ensure that the catchment area reflects the location of the schools and the pupils that attend. There is a need to match demand and ensure that there is sufficient capacity within Kellands, Strathburn and Uryside Schools.</p> <p>There are three proposals for parents to consider one being the status quo. The consultation will give parents the opportunity to share their opinions and any concerns that they may have. It is important to note that existing primary pupils within Kellands, Strathburn and Uryside schools will remain at their current primary school for the duration of their primary education. Siblings of existing primary pupils could also attend their current zoned primary schools so that families are not split between different primary schools.</p> <p>If the proposal is approved, the catchment areas for Kellands, Strathburn and Uryside schools in Inverurie will be amended with effect from August 2020. New pupils joining these schools will be educated at their newly zoned school with effect from August 2020.</p> <p>Craig confirmed that this consultation is being held in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, and that the period of consultation runs until 6 September 2019, allowing time for comment. Acknowledgement was made of the legal process which must be followed to inform a decision on implementation.</p> <p>Gemma explained that Proposal 1 formalised what is already occurring from out-of-zone placing requests, the area between North Street and Harlaw Road will be rezoned from Uryside School to Strathburn School. The area between Middlemuir Road and Blackhall Road will be rezoned from Kellands School to Strathburn School.</p>

	<p>Proposal 2, includes the above changes in Proposal 1 and divides the houses within the Westgate Development with part of that area being rezoned to Strathburn. This whole area is currently zoned for Kellands School.</p> <p>There are also four highlighted areas on the map, these are for parents to give their opinion on which school they think the area would be most appropriately zoned to.</p> <p>Gemma also informed the meeting of the various ways they could comment on the proposals.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Questions from the Floor</p> <p>Councillor Owen welcomed questions from the floor and asked that participants state their name to aid the minute taking process.</p> <p>Cllr Ewenson asked about the number of houses being built within the green highlighted area. Gemma Dacre said that currently there are no plans for house building in this area.</p> <p>(Parent) stated that she currently has a daughter attending the nursery at Kellands School and wishes that she remains at Kellands for her primary education as she felt that Strathburn school was too far from her home.</p> <p>Rachael Goldring replied that none of the nurseries have catchment areas and any parent could submit a placing request for their child to attend a school out with their catchment area.</p> <p>Gemma Dacre said that anyone who didn't feel comfortable asking questions at the meeting could complete a comment sheet or email the Learning Estates Team at LearningEstates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk, or come and speak to us at the end of the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Ewenson asked if the proposal information had been sent to private nurseries. Gemma Dacre replied that the proposal information had been sent to all private nurseries and playgroups within Inverurie.</p> <p>Cllr Neil Ballie mentioned he attended the informal sessions and spoke to parents there. He asked how many people had completed the public survey so far. Gemma Dacre said that over 180 people had completed the survey and a lot of the interest has been gained through publicising the consultation on social media.</p> <p>(Kellands Parent Council Rep) asked which informal meetings were well attended as she felt the meeting at Kellands School wasn't well attended. Rachael Goldring replied that the meeting at Strathburn School was well attended as it was held in conjunction with parents evening. The meeting at Uryside School wasn't as well attended as the others.</p> <p>Cllr Ewenson said that if Proposal 2 was agreed, Strathburn School will require an extension. Rachael Goldring said that it would be possible to extend either Strathburn or Kellands School in future years, but no firm decision had been made.</p> <p>Cllr Whyte said this proposal is based on the current local development plan and that original predictions intimated that Uryside would already be full and this is not the case. Rachael Goldring said that any developer obligations would be required for any future builds and the built-out rates have slowed down significantly.</p> <p>(Kellands Parent Council Rep) said that on page 11 of the proposal it mentions that only Strathburn can be extended, and perhaps should this have been mentioned as potentially this could have swayed parents' opinions.</p>

	<p>Rachael Goldring said that Strathburn School design plans included the possibility of an extension in future years. Kellands School was not designed in the same manner.</p> <p>Craig Clement said that most buildings can be extended provided there is adequate land, however if a buildings design plans included the possibly of an extension, it is far more efficient and cost effective.</p> <p>(Kellands Parent Council Rep) said that Strathburn is a newer building and probably has more scope and perhaps the possibility of extending Kellands should have been mentioned.</p> <p>Cllr Ewenson mentioned the Crichie Development of 700 houses and was concerned that the children would be zoned for Port Elphinstone School.</p> <p>Rachael Goldring said that it would all depend on build out rates. If the Crichie Development had a build out rate of 20 houses for the foreseeable future there would be no need to replace Port Elphinstone School, this is something we would monitor.</p>
	<p>Next Steps</p>
	<p>Councillor Owen highlighted that the consultation documents are available on the Aberdeenshire Council website, and that these proposals will be open for comment until 5pm on 6 September 2019. The public can comment on these proposals either in writing or by email at LearningEstates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. The online survey remains available for parents to participate in the rezoning exercise and provide their feedback. The address for the online questionnaire is displayed on posters around this room. We are also involving pupils in our discussions and each of the Head Teachers in the network have been asked to work with pupils to gain their views on the proposals. At the end of this consultation process, after 6 September 2019 all documents from the consultation will be provided to Education Scotland. A report will then be taken back to the Garioch area committee shortly before a decision is made at Education & Children's Services Committee. The consultation report will be published on the Aberdeenshire Council website.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Close</p>
	<p>Councillor Owen thanked all present for attending the meeting and suggested that officers will be here to answer any further questions and the maps would stay up for a while longer if those present would like to review these and provide their feedback.</p>