

## Appendix D

### **Rezoning of Balmedie School Catchment at Blackdog Statutory Consultation Pupil Engagement**

Balmedie School and Scotstown School discussed were each sent an overview of the consultation to discuss to gain their views and comments. Pupils were also able to access the online survey with a comment section specifically for children's views.

#### **Balmedie School Pupil Questions and Responses**

A sample group of children who reside within Blackdog and are on school transport were canvassed for views.

1. Do you think changing the catchment area of Balmedie School to include the children within Blackdog is a good idea?

Mixed Yes and No responses

- Yes – we will get to meet and make new friends. We will get to know others better around where we live.
- No – too many children may come, we like the smaller bus arrangements and there will need to be a bigger bus and may be more issues because of this.

2. Is there anything about this change that worries you?

Too many children coming into the school, getting on a bigger bus

3. Is there anything about this change that interests or excites you?

- Being more mixed on buses
- Getting a bigger bus
- Getting to know new people and making new friends.
- We like our little bus.

4. Is there anything that you think the Council needs to think about if they do this?

- From a school feedback point of view – nothing more
- From a general point of view – we would like a local shop!

## Scotstown School Pupil Questions and Responses

There are 7 pupils at Scotstown School who reside within Blackdog. Pupils were reassured that they would not have to move schools, as this was something which concerned them. They were asked the following questions.

1. Do you think changing the catchment area of Balmedie School to include the children within Blackdog is a good idea?

The majority of pupils said no although 1 thought this would 'maybe' be a good idea.

2. Is there anything about this change that worries you?

- level of traffic going towards Balmedie
- buses being very busy and overcrowded
- parents would not have a choice about which school to go to
- Blackdog people may feel 'left out' from the Balmedie community
- Balmedie would be very busy and might need more classrooms
- people not being able to go to Scotstown would be sad as it's a good school

3. Is there anything about this change that interests or excites you?

- Having the same school holidays as our neighbours so we can go out and play together
- Feeling all 'linked' within the Blackdog community

4. Is there anything that you think the Council needs to think about if they do this?

- Getting the opinions of parents and people who live in Blackdog and Balmedie
- Maybe this should be a gradual move
- Making sure the Scotstown bus driver still had a job as he is really nice!