

**Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by South Lanarkshire Council to realign the catchment areas of both Cathkin and Trinity High Schools and St. Cadoc's and Cairns Primary Schools to incorporate the housing development site at Greenlees Road (east of the A749).**

**1. Introduction**

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments contained in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of South Lanarkshire Council's proposal to re-zone the proposed Greenlees Road development site to the catchment areas of St. Cadoc's and Cairns Primary Schools and Cathkin and Trinity High Schools. 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 a copy of 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 legislative 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 affected 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:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 24 February 2016 in connection with the council's proposals;

- 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, including a written submission from the representative of the Diocese of Motherwell;
- consideration of the views of stakeholders at St. Leonard's and Halfmerke Primary Schools and Calderglen and St. Andrew's and St. Bride's High Schools; and
- visits to the sites of St. Cadoc's and Cairns Primary Schools and Cathkin and Trinity High Schools, including discussion with relevant consultees.

## **2. Consultation Process**

2.1 South Lanarkshire Council undertook the consultation on its proposals with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*.

2.2 The statutory consultation on the council's proposal ran from 25 January to 11 March 2016. Notices about the proposal were placed in the local press and on the council's website. Around 450 stakeholders were notified directly about the consultation. Children attending St. Cadoc's and Cairns Primary Schools were given good opportunities to give their views. As part of its consultation arrangements, the council held a public meeting on 24 February 2016, which 12 parents and other stakeholders attended.

2.3 The council received four written responses to its proposal. Three of these responses, including that from the Cairns Primary School Parent Council, opposed the proposal.

## **3. Educational Aspects of Proposal**

3.1 This proposal offers clear educational benefits for the children and young people who will reside at the new housing development site of around 240 residential units at Greenlees Road. As a result of the proposal, children and young people living in the new housing development will have a significantly shorter journey to school. The proposed development is likely to be perceived as part of the Cathkin/Cambuslang area, rather than East Kilbride. As a result, the proposal has the potential to strengthen the links between the new development and the local communities of Cathkin and Cambuslang. It will be easier for children and young people to attend after-school clubs and activities and could increase opportunities for socialising with classmates out of school.

3.2 Almost all the stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors supported the proposal and agreed that it made good sense to re-zone the Greenhills Road development to schools in the Cathkin/Cambuslang areas. Almost all children and

young people who met with HM Inspectors viewed the proposal very positively and regarded it as a good opportunity to welcome new pupils into their school communities.

3.3 The few stakeholders who oppose the proposal have some concerns that the projected increase in the number of children attending Cairns Primary School may lead to the school becoming overcrowded. In taking its proposal forward, the council should seek to reassure parents that the school will continue to operate within its capacity. It should also clarify, in due course, any arrangements which it may wish to make to accommodate the modest increase in roll which is expected to arise from this proposal.

3.4 The Diocese of Motherwell supports the proposal. It recognises that a reduction in travelling distance to school will help to enable pupils to attend after-schools activities and has the potential to strengthen community and parish links with the new housing development.

#### **4. Summary**

South Lanarkshire Council's proposal to re-zone the proposed Greenlees Road development site to the catchment areas of St. Cadoc's and Cairns Primary Schools and Cathkin and Trinity High Schools has clear educational benefits. As a result of this proposal, children and young people living within the housing development will have a significantly shorter daily journey to school and enjoy better opportunities to engage in out-of-school activities. The proposal has the capacity to help those living in the new housing development to strengthen links with the local communities of Cathkin/Cambuslang. In taking this proposal forward, the council should reassure parents at Cairns Primary School that the school will continue to operate within its capacity. It should also clarify, in due course, any arrangements which it may wish to make to accommodate the projected modest increase in roll arising from this proposal.

**HM Inspectors  
Education Scotland  
April 2016**