

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Glasgow City Council to establish a new non-denominational primary school and catchment area within the Dalmarnock area of north-east Glasgow and to amend the catchment areas for Dalmarnock, Quarry Brae and Wellshot Primary Schools.

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 Glasgow City Council's proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school and catchment area within the Dalmarnock area of north-east Glasgow and to amend the catchment areas for Dalmarnock, Quarry Brae and Wellshot Primary 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 attending schools in the Dalmarnock area; 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 7 October 2015 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; and
- visits to the sites of Dalmarnock, Quarry Brae and Wellshot Primary Schools, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation Process

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

2.2 The formal consultation on the council's proposal ran from 5 October 2015 to 20 November 2015. Notices about the proposal were placed in the local press and on the council's website. A public meeting was held on 7 October 2015 with an attendance of around twenty. During the consultation period, the council held meetings of parents, pupils and staff in each of the three affected primary schools. Stakeholders in all three schools are strongly in favour of the proposal.

3. Educational Aspects of Proposal

3.1 The proposal offers considerable educational benefits to children in the Dalmarnock area. Significant increases in the actual and projected school rolls in the area will result in the primary school capacity becoming insufficient to meet likely demands. The establishment of a new primary school will provide flexible and sufficient capacity to meet these demands. The proposal also has the potential to ensure that children will be able to learn in a purpose-built environment designed to support the key entitlements of Curriculum for Excellence. Children who continue to attend their existing schools will not experience the potential difficulties of significant roll increases, such as less space for playing or greater congestion in social spaces.

3.2 All children, parents and members of school staff who met with HM Inspectors were overwhelmingly in favour of the proposal.

3.3 The council has made appropriate arrangements for children, and their siblings, who will reside in the catchment area of the new school to continue to attend their existing school.

4. Summary

Glasgow City Council's proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school in the Dalmarnock area offers clear and considerable benefits to the children who live there. The proposal will avoid issues of overcrowding in the affected schools and provide a new purpose-built learning environment designed to support Curriculum for Excellence and meet the needs of learners. Pupils, parents and

school staff are strongly in favour of the proposal. In taking forward this proposal, the council should continue to ensure that all stakeholders are kept suitably informed about, and involved in, preparations for the establishment of a new school.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
December 2015**