

**Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Inverclyde Council to vary the catchment area for a small number of addresses to ensure they are accurately captured on a modern GIS data map. The following ten changes are proposed:**

**Change 1: to change Lansbury Street (14–30 even) from the Newark Primary School catchment area to the King’s Oak Primary School catchment area.** This will change the secondary school catchment area from Port Glasgow High School to Inverclyde Academy.

**Change 2: to change Albert Road (43-57 odd) and (46-52 even) from the Moorfoot Primary School catchment area to the Gourock Primary School catchment area.** This change does not affect the secondary school catchment area which remains Clydeview Academy.

**Change 3: to change the addresses Ardgowan North Lodge, Braeton, High Lunderston, Low Lunderston and Lunderston House on Cloch Road from the Moorfoot Primary School catchment area to the Inverkip Primary School catchment area.** This will change the secondary school catchment area from Clydeview Academy to Inverclyde Academy.

**Change 4: to change Old Inverkip Road (133-147 odd) from the Whinhill Primary School catchment area to the Lady Alice Primary School catchment area.** This change does not affect the secondary catchment school which remains Inverclyde Academy.

**Change 5: to change Drumshantie Road (1-9 odd) from the Gourock Primary School catchment area to the Moorfoot Primary School Catchment Area.** This change does not affect the secondary school catchment area which remains Clydeview Academy.

**Change 6: to change the addresses Burnside Farm and Cottage, Burnside Smithy, Finlaystone South Lodge, Old Smithy Cottage and Finlaystone Estate on Old Greenock Road from the Newark Primary School catchment area to the Kilmacolm Primary School catchment area.** This change does not affect the secondary catchment school which remains Port Glasgow High School.

**Change 7: to change Lyle Road (80-98 even) from the St Mary’s Primary School catchment area to the St Joseph’s Primary School catchment area.** This will change the secondary school catchment area from Notre Dame High School to St Columba’s High School.

**Change 8: to change Neil Street (2-4 even) from the St Andrew’s Primary School catchment area to the St Joseph’s Primary School catchment area.** This change does not affect the secondary catchment school which remains St Columba’s High School.

**Change 9: to change Caddlehill Street and Greenbank Lane from the St Mary's Primary School catchment area to the St Patrick's Primary School catchment area.** This change does not affect the secondary catchment school which remains Notre Dame High School.

**Change 10:** The former Ravenscraig Hospital site is not mentioned on the current street list held by Education Services. The historical map shows that the area had previously been allocated to the St Patrick's Primary School catchment area. The proposal is to change the denominational school catchment area to St Andrew's Primary School. This means that the secondary school catchment area would change from Notre Dame High School to St Columba's High School.

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (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 Inverclyde Council's proposal (specific actions set out above) to vary the catchment area for a small number of addresses to ensure they are accurately captured on a modern GIS data map. 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 Newark Primary School, King's Oak Primary School, Moorfoot Primary School, Gourrock Primary School, Inverkip Primary School, Whinhill Primary School, Lady Alice Primary School, Kilmacolm Primary School, St Mary's Primary School, St Joseph's Primary School, St Patrick's Primary School, St Andrew's Primary School, Port Glasgow High School, Inverclyde Academy, Clydeview Academy, Notre Dame High School and St Columba's High School; 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:

- 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 site of Port Glasgow High School, Inverclyde Academy, St Columba's High School and Clydeview Academy including discussion with relevant consultees.

## **2. Consultation Process**

2.1 Inverclyde Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) 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 ran from 4 January 2018 until 20 February 2018. The proposal paper was posted on the council's website. The proposal paper was made available in paper format at all affected schools, council service's offices and in local libraries. An advert was placed in the local press outlining the proposed changes and inviting the views of interested parties. Public meetings were held on 7 February and 8 February 2018. The council received 101 responses to an online survey. Whilst responses varied depending on the proposed action, overall most respondents were supportive of all ten proposed actions. The majority of respondents recognised the proposed actions as tidying up an anomaly with very small numbers of houses affected. The main concerns expressed related to proposed action ten in particular the allocating the secondary catchment to St Columba's High School. In their written submission, St Columba's High School Parent Council expressed concerns as to the impact any future housing developments such as the former Ravenscraig Hospital site will have on a school presently very close to capacity.

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

3.1 The council has set out a reasonable case to amend school catchment areas as stated. Catchment information will be up to date and more accurately align communities to their local schools. The proposed actions will complement the Inverclyde policy on Admissions and Placing Requests to Mainstream Schools. Parents will have clear information on which to base their choice of school. The proposed changes will complement any future regeneration and economic growth by aligning better schools to potential housing developments. The number of properties affected by proposed actions one-nine are small. As a result, impact will be minimal.

3.2 A series of 'Drop In' meetings with HM Inspectors were held at Port Glasgow High School, Inverclyde Academy and Clydeview Academy. No stakeholders attended.

3.3 Young people from St Columba's Broad General Education and Senior Phase Learner Councils and Rights Respecting Schools group who met with HM Inspectors were supportive of proposed actions one-nine. They saw the need for the authority to have a factually accurate, up to date record of catchment areas. They recognised the number of properties affected were small. However, they expressed concern about the potential impact if proposed action ten goes ahead. Of specific concern was the school's ability to accommodate additional numbers at a time when it is already almost at capacity. Concerns around additional buses, increased congestion, class sizes and maintaining high standards of teaching were also expressed. Young people had no issue with the change of primary schools as proposed in action ten.

3.4 The Catholic Church representative who met with HM Inspectors was supportive of proposed actions one-nine. This 'tidying up' of catchment anomalies was seen as logical and affected very few properties. The Church representative had no issue with the proposed change of primary schools within action ten. However, she had concerns about allocating St Columba's High School, a school already at risk of being overcapacity, as the catchment secondary school. The authority had recently written to St Columba's High School parents alerting them to possible capacity issues.

#### **4. Summary**

The council's proposals are of education benefit in the long term. The number of properties affected by proposed actions one-nine are small. As a result, impact will be minimal. Catchment information will be up to date and more accurately align communities to their local schools. Parents will have clearer information on which to base their choice of school. The proposed changes will complement any future regeneration and economic growth by better aligning mainstream schools to potential housing developments. In its final consultation report, the council will need to indicate about how it plans to work with the St Columba's High School community to address the capacity and congestion concerns raised over changes to catchment areas resulting from this proposal.

**HM Inspectors  
Education Scotland  
February 2018**