

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Renfrewshire Council to review the catchment arrangements affecting Inchinnan Primary School and Rashielea Primary School.

December 2019

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](#) ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of Renfrewshire Council's proposal to review catchment arrangements affecting Inchinnan Primary School and Rashielea Primary School. 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 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.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the schools; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper;
- 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 11 September 2019 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 site of Inchinnan Primary School and Rashielea Primary School including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

2.1 Renfrewshire Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#).

2.2 The statutory consultation period ran from 2 September 2019 until the 4 November 2019. A public meeting, advertised in the local press, was held on the 11 September 2019 in Rashielea Primary School. The consultation document was available to stakeholders including those who attended the public meeting, both parent councils, elected members and MSPs and MPs for the Renfrewshire area. Copies of the consultation document were available at local libraries and on the council website.

2.3 The public meeting was attended by 23 members of the public. In addition, 35 responses were received through the online survey or questionnaires and two general enquiries were received. Of the 35 responses to the online survey or questionnaire 27 were from parents or

carers. Of the 35 responses 27 were for the proposal and eight against. The main areas of concern raised through the comments and from stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors were about the impact on Inchinnan Primary School. A few stakeholders were concerned about the possibility of increased numbers should the proposal not go ahead, whilst a few were concerned about sustaining the school's roll if the proposal does go ahead. A few stakeholders raised concerns about routes to school and the potential traffic implications for both sites.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The council outlines how the proposal to change the catchment areas will not make substantial changes to existing education benefits at either school. The proposal outlines that either school could accommodate the likely number of children from the housing development that will be built. With both sites having sufficient indoor and outdoor learning space. However, given the projected roll for Rashielea Primary School in the future and that it has under-used classroom space children will be more easily accommodated in that school. The council believes the change to the catchment area will also allow for children who will live in the housing development, once it is built, to attend the same school as those living on an existing, neighbouring housing estate. Overall, the educational benefits of the proposal though not substantial are positive. HM Inspectors agree with a few stakeholders who would have welcomed the development of a safe walking or cycling route from the new housing area to both primary schools. This could have a positive benefit on children's health and wellbeing.

3.2 The majority of parents who responded, including those who met HM Inspectors, agree with the proposal to change catchment boundaries. In both schools, parents were concerned that should their school gain additional pupils that car drop-off arrangements would require to be strengthened to ensure safety. Parents at Inchinnan had mixed views. They have concerns about how well their school could accommodate the potential increase in numbers should the proposal not go ahead. However, alongside other stakeholders from the school, they could see potential benefits to school planning that would result from a smaller number of pupils coming through placing requests. Currently, just over half of the school roll is made up of placing requests. Pupils in both schools were positive about welcoming any new pupils into their school.

3.3 Stakeholders are positive about existing links between schools including Rashielea and Inchinnan Primary Schools, in the Park Mains Secondary school cluster. Overall, stakeholders are confident that local schools will continue to work together to provide appropriate learning opportunities whether or not the proposal is approved. Parents welcome that the proposal outlines the right for existing pupils continue to attend their current school and for younger siblings to attend that school so long as their older sibling is in attendance at time of enrolment.

4. Summary

Overall, Renfrewshire Council's proposal to review the catchment area of Rashielea Primary School and Inchinnan Primary School offers potential educational benefit by allocating an area where a new housing development will be built to the school site better able to accommodate any increased roll that results.

**HM Inspectors
December 2019**