

# **Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010**

**Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Aberdeen City Council to alter the catchment areas for Greenbrae School and Scotstown School.**

April 2024

## 1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by His 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 a proposal by Aberdeen City Council to alter the catchment areas for Greenbrae School and Scotstown 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' view. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it alongside any relevant considerations the council received and then prepare its consultation report. The council's 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 consultation report at least three weeks before it takes its final decision. With all proposals the council needs to follow all statutory obligations set out in the 2010 Act.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children of the schools; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children 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 13 March 2024 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 Greenbrae School and Scotstown School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

## 2. Consultation process

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

2.2 The public consultation ran from 19 February to 15 April 2024. The proposal was published on the council website, available in a range of council buildings, and a copy sent to relevant consultees. The council held a public meeting on 13 March 2024. No members of the public attended. The council received 10 responses to an online consultation questionnaire and two responses by email. Most stakeholders agree with the proposal. A few people commented that it should help to address potential capacity issues in the future. A few stakeholders raised queries in relation to nursery provision in their local area and secondary school catchment boundaries.

### 3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The council set out a short educational benefits statement highlighting the impact of the proposal, if approved. HM Inspectors agree that the proposed changes will assist the council to more accurately forecast the size of the school roll in Greenbrae School and Scotstown School. This will support the council to manage better teacher staffing levels, pupil numbers and class sizes. The proposed changes will also provide clearer information for parents and children about future primary school enrolment locally.

3.2 All staff and children that HM Inspectors met with support the proposal. They agree that it is sensible to alter the catchment areas for Greenbrae School and Scotstown School so that they align to the council boundary. No parents took up the opportunity to speak with HM Inspectors.

### 4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree with the limited educational benefits set out by the council arising from this proposal. If approved, this will assist the council to more accurately forecast school rolls and more effectively manage pupil numbers and staffing levels. It will also enable the council to provide clearer information for parents and children about future primary school enrolment in the area. Although outside the scope of this proposal, in finalising its consultation report it may be helpful for the council to provide more information about future plans in relation to secondary school catchment areas.

**HM Inspectors**  
**April 2024**