

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

**Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by North Lanarkshire Council to rezone the Dunlop Estate into North Lanarkshire Council.**

June 2023

## 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 North Lanarkshire Council's proposal to rezone the Dunlop Estate into North Lanarkshire Council. 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; 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 6 March 2023 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;
- visits to the site of Our Lady's High School, St Barbara's Primary School, Chryston High School and Chryston Primary School including discussion with relevant consultees; and
- discussion with relevant consultees, including the Roman Catholic Church representative on the North Lanarkshire Council Education, Children and Families Committee.

## 2. Consultation process

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

2.2 The council ran a public consultation from 1 March to 27 April 2023. Copies of the proposal were available online and the council invited comments on their proposal by email. A public meeting was held on 6 March 2023. Eleven stakeholders attended the public meeting and the council received nine written responses. All stakeholders expressed support for the proposal. They are positive about this potential change as it will enable all children and young people from the area to attend schools alongside their peers from the wider community. Parents stated they feel it

makes sense for their children to be able to attend North Lanarkshire schools given that is the authority they reside in and pay council tax to. Several also commented that the proposal could support active travel for some children and enable others to access school transport.

### 3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The proposal covers a change in catchment areas for areas within the Dunlop Estate. These are Dunlop Close, Dunlop Court, Dunlop Crescent, Dunlop Gate, Dunlop Gardens, Dunlop Grove and Dunlop Wynd. In 2019, the geographical area covered by this proposal was transferred from Glasgow City Council to North Lanarkshire Council. Since then, community members have made representation to the council to realign school catchment areas accordingly. If agreed, this proposal will enable children and young people in the area to access schools in North Lanarkshire without the use of placing requests. Parents and young people who spoke to HM Inspectors expressed how stressful the experience of placing requests could be. They are hopeful that this proposal is agreed to avoid the need for such requests in future. A few stakeholders spoke about the confusion and disappointment that some families experienced when they realised that despite living in North Lanarkshire, they were in the catchment areas for schools in Glasgow. HM Inspectors agree with the council's statement that this proposal should provide greater clarity for families within the area.

3.2 All the stakeholders who spoke to HM Inspectors were in favour of this proposal. None of the senior leaders in the schools visited consider that the proposal will have any negative impact on their schools. They acknowledge concerns about the capacity in some of the local schools but do not consider that this proposal, if agreed, will have any significant effect on this. Children and young people at Chryston High School, Chryston Primary School, Our Lady's High School and St Barbara's Primary School all spoke positively about the schools they attend. They want peers from their area to have the right to go to the same schools as those for the wider Dunlop area. They think it helps to build friendships and a sense of community when children and young people from an area attend the same schools. Those that access school transport spoke of the worry they experience at the start of the school year. This is due to waiting to see if there is space for them on the bus once all those who are entitled to a space have one. A few parents also spoke about challenges regarding getting their child to school when they are not entitled to the same transport as children living in neighbouring streets. A few said this affected the school their child was able to attend. Parents, children and young people are positive about the potential that this proposal has to address these issues. They would like this proposal to go ahead as quickly as possible. They are concerned that it will not be in place by the start of the next school year in August 2023. HM Inspectors agree with the educational benefits the council has stated. If agreed, this proposal could provide more opportunities for children and young people to learn and socialise alongside peers from the wider Dunlop community.

3.3 The Roman Catholic Church representative stated that they consider there will be no adverse effect on denominational schools from this proposal. They have spoken to community members and the denominational schools covered by the proposal who are all happy with it. As a result, they are supportive of this proposal.

### 4. Summary

North Lanarkshire Council have set out a clear rationale for rezoning Dunlop Close, Dunlop Court, Dunlop Crescent, Dunlop Gate, Dunlop Gardens, Dunlop Grove and Dunlop Wynd to schools within the council area. HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has potential educational benefits. If agreed, it has the potential to support children and young people to feel a greater connection to their wider community and build friendships with others in their area. All stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors are in favour of the proposal. The council's proposal could reduce the need for

placing requests and reduce the worry about places on school transport for the small number of families affected. It could also reduce confusion for families about catchment areas. A few families from the area remain anxious about placements and transport for the coming academic year and in future years if the proposal is not agreed. It may be helpful for the council to communicate further with them.

**HM Inspectors**  
**June 2023**