

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 10 DECEMBER 2007

REPORT ON: DUNDEE SCHOOLS PPP PROJECT - OUTCOME OF THE FORMAL CONSULTATION PROCESS ON A PROPOSAL FOR A REVISED CATCHMENT AREA FOR DOWNFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 626 - 2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report details the representations made during the formal publication and consultation exercise on the above proposal and makes recommendations for its resolution.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

(i) does not proceed to implement this proposal and that the "status quo" obtains;

and

(ii) instructs the Director of Education to undertake a review of the catchment areas for Craigowl and Downfield Primary Schools at an appropriate time after the new schools are occupied

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 None

4.0 MAIN TEXT

Background

4.1.1 At its meeting of 11 June 2007 the Education Committee approved the report entitled "Dundee Schools PPP Project - Catchment Areas for Schools" and agreed (inter alia) to remit the Director of Education to carry out the statutory consultation procedures in terms of the Education (Publication and Consultation etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 in respect of a proposal for a revised catchment area for Downfield Primary School at the start of session 2007/08 and to report back to Committee in due course (report no 284-2007 refers).

4.1.2 This proposal was advertised in the "Evening Telegraph" on 31 August 2007 and all statutory consultees received a copy of the consultation document on that date.

4.1.3 During the period 24 September - 27 September, evening public consultation meetings were held at Macalpine and Downfield Primary Schools. Meetings were also held for all staff at each school at the end of the school day. In addition, the Downfield Primary School Parent Council was consulted.

4.1.4 A summary of the issues raised at the formal consultation meetings detailed at 4.1.3 above is attached as Appendix 1, and copies of the full notes of these meetings are available in the Members' Lounge along with copies of representations made by letter and email during the consultation period.

- 4.1.5 There was a strong view expressed by Macalpine parents/carers who attended the public meetings that they should receive further communication from the Council inviting them to give an indication of the name of the school to which they would prefer to send their child/children when the new PPP schools are ready for occupation.
- 4.1.6 A letter and questionnaire were sent to all parents/carers of pupils at Macalpine Primary School on 18 October 2007. A copy of each of these documents is provided as Appendix II.
- 4.1.7 The completed questionnaires offered the following information:-

No. of questionnaires issued	310
No. of completed questionnaires returned	183
No. of Macalpine pupils indicating intention to attend Craigowl	158
No. of Macalpine pupils indicating intention to attend Downfield	14
No. of Macalpine pupils indicating intention to attend St Andrew's	11

5.0 RESOLUTION OF THE PROPOSAL FOR A REVISED CATCHMENT AREA FOR DOWNFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 5.1.1 The proposal to amend the catchment area for Downfield Primary School was generally not supported by the parents/carers. In view of this fact it is recommended that the proposal should not proceed. It is recommended, however, that a review of the catchment areas for Craigowl and Downfield Primary Schools is undertaken once the new schools are occupied and the respective rolls have had an opportunity to settle.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and the Head of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None

**DUNDEE SCHOOLS PPP PROJECT
DOWNFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
CATCHMENT AREA AMENDMENT
PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING - HELD IN DOWNFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Questions concerned with proposed Catchment area change (both raised by Macalpine Parents)	9
Questions concerned with timescale	7
Questions concerned with roll in Downfield	4
Questions concerned with accommodation in Downfield	7
Questions concerned with placing requests	3
Questions about parental choice	2
Questions about consultation process	1
Questions concerned with Road Safety	3

**DUNDEE SCHOOLS PPP PROJECT
DOWNFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA AMENDMENT
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING - HELD AT DOWNFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Questions concerned with Catchment Areas	9
Questions concerned with timescale	2
Questions concerned with roll in Downfield	8
Questions concerned with accommodation in Downfield	5
Questions concerned with placing requests	3
Questions about parental choice	1
Questions about consultation process	6
Questions concerned with Road Safety	0

**DUNDEE SCHOOLS PPP PROJECT
MACALPINE PRIMARY SCHOOL
CATCHMENT AREA AMENDMENT
PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING - HELD AT MALCALPINE PRIMARY SCHOOL
MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Questions concerned with Catchment area Macalpine	11
Questions concerned with Catchment area Downfield	4
Questions concerned with roll in Craigowl	11
Questions concerned accommodation in Craigowl	8
Questions concerned with placing requests	7
Questions concerned with building a new Macalpine	4
Questions concerned with parental choices	5
Questions about the consultation process	5
Questions concerned with Road Safety/travel	8
Questions concerned with transition work with pupils	2

To all parents/carers of pupils at Macalpine Primary School

If calling please ask for
Gillian Ross Pond – 01382 435161
Email: gillian.rosspond@dundeecity.gov.uk

Our Ref: GRP/FG
Your Ref:
Date: 18 October 2007

Dear Parent/Carer,

Dundee City Council Schools PPP Project - Catchment Area Amendment for Downfield Primary School with effect from the start of session 2008/09.

You will recall that I wrote to you on 31 August advising you that the Education Committee had made and agreed to publish and consult on a proposal relating to the above. The public meetings that were notified in that letter and on the enclosed Consultative Document have now taken place.

There was a strong view expressed by Macalpine parents/carers who attended that I should write to them again asking if they would be willing to share with the Council the name of the school to which they would prefer to send their child/children when the new PPP schools are ready for occupation.

Any information received in this regard will be put before the Education Committee as part of the outcome of the public meetings to assist the Committee in reaching a view on the proposed amendment to the catchment area for Downfield Primary School. In the event that your preference would be for a school out-with your present catchment area, then you are reminded that you would require in due course to make a placing request in the usual manner in accordance with the City Council's policy on these matters.

Consequently you are invited to indicate your preference on the attached pro-forma and return the completed form to Mr Cameron Malloch, Head Teacher at Macalpine Primary School, who will collate them and pass them to this office. I should be grateful if you would return the form to Mr Malloch no later than Friday 9 November 2007.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely

GILLIAN ROSS POND
PPP Project Director

Questionnaire for parent/carers of pupils currently attending Macalpine Primary School

Name of Parent/Carer (please print)

	Name of pupil(s) (please print)	Present Stage in School e.g. P1, P2 or P3 etc	Preferred School		
			Craigowl	Downfield	Other (please specify)
Example	SARAH JONES	P5	✓		
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

Please return this completed form by school bag post to:

Mr Cameron Malloch
 Head Teacher
 Macalpine Primary School

To be returned no later than Friday 9 November 2007.