

Appendix A



EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

**PROPOSAL TO REZONE PETERHEAD PRIMARY
NETWORK**

CONSULTATION REPORT

DECEMBER 2014

**This Consultation Report has been issued by Education &
Children's Services of Aberdeenshire Council in accordance with
the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010**

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1. THE PROPOSAL

- 1.1 A Proposal Document was considered and approved by Aberdeenshire Council's Education, Learning & Leisure Committee at its meeting on 28 August 2014. The Proposal Document was issued the following week to those individuals and bodies listed under Distribution within the document. The Proposal Document was also published on the Council website: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk. The Proposal Document made clear to consultees that the consultation period would run from Monday 1st September 2014 - Friday 17th October 2014 – a period of 30 school days in total.

The proposal on which consultation took place was that:

The existing primary school catchment areas within the Peterhead network should be amended with effect from 17 August 2015; and that from this date all new pupils attending primary schools within the Peterhead network should attend their newly zoned school; and that all existing primary pupils should continue their education at their current school.

No existing pupils will be moved to a different school. The new zones would only come into effect either for new children moving into the area, or for the new cohort of P1 pupils in August 2015.

- 1.1.1 The proposal document provided a new option for each of the 10 schools in the Peterhead Network. The proposal document and the options appraisal are attached as Appendix 5.

1.2 Educational Benefits Statement

The Proposal Document contained within it an educational benefits statement. That statement drew upon the fact that some of the schools within the network are operating close to or above maximum capacity resulting in less space being available for pupils and restrictions in delivering the curriculum. The proposals would alleviate this pressure. Conversely some of the schools are significantly under capacity and the proposals would create more opportunities for them to interact with peers.

2. THE PUBLIC MEETING

- 2.1 A public meeting was held in Peterhead Academy on Thursday 2nd October 2014. The meeting was well attended, with around 40 parents, staff, councillors and members of the community present. A full note of the meeting is attached (Appendix 2). There were several comments and questions raised and with the exception for one particular area there was a feeling of overall support for the proposals. Comments and questions received concerned:

- Burnhaven/Meethill change, road safety and the splitting of a community.
- The timing of the proposal in terms of P1 admission process and nursery zoning.

2.2 Discussions with Pupils

As part of the consultation process, the head teachers across the Peterhead Network posed a short set of questions to pupils about the proposal to rezone the Peterhead Network catchment area. A summary note of responses from the pupils is appended (Appendix 3).

3. **WRITTEN RESPONSES**

In all, 16 written responses were received by post and by email. An overview of this correspondence is provided below.

- (1) Email from Boddam parent 4/10/14: email with support for the rezoning but with concerns about the footpath being alongside a busy road from their property to Boddam School.
- (2) Email from parent 15/10/14: thanking officers for the public meeting and expressing her agreement at the proposed changes to the Peterhead Network. Feels it will be safer for her children to travel to school.
- (3) Emails from Burnhaven parents 22/09/14 & 15/10/14: Parents feel that the rezoning consultation should be pushed back to 2016/17 as they made decisions on their child's schooling based on the current situation. They are currently zoned for Burnhaven but this would change with the rezoning to Meethill. They were offered a pre-school place at Meethill but turned this down as they thought their child would be zoned for Burnhaven and wanted her to integrate with the children from that area before starting P1.
- (4) Email from parent 16/10/14: in agreement with the proposed changes.
- (5) Letter from parent 14/10/14: In full support of the rezoning, believes it will be safer for her child and better for social development.
- (6) Letter from parent 02/10/14: in support of the proposed changes, the new plans make more sense.
- (7) Letter from parent 02/10/14: in support of the proposed changes. Feels that the proposed changes will not split up parts of the town so much as they currently do.
- (8) Letter from parent 28/08/14: in support of the proposed rezoning. The areas are more clearly defined.
- (9) Letter from parent 01/10/14: in support of the proposed rezoning.
- (10) Letter from parent 02/10/14: in support of the proposed rezoning. The current zones mean her children have to pass another school on the way to the one they are zoned for.
- (11) Letter from Burnhaven Parent Council 07/10/14: Believe the proposed plans impact on their school more than any other in the Peterhead Network. Worried

that if the pupil numbers reduce in the school, it would reduce from a 4 to a 3 class school. Worried about the impact this would have on the teaching team and the pupils. Also concerns over the children crossing the south road to get to school. There are concerns over the flow and amount of traffic on the road.

- (12) Emails from two parents asking if their daughter would be granted a place at Burnhaven Primary School under the sibling rule.
- (13) Email from parent 26/09/14: wanting to know where her children will be zoned for under the new proposals.
- (14) Email from Parent Council Chair of Buchanhaven School 29/08/14: Noted the error in the table of capacity data for all the schools. The figure for Buchanhaven was taken from before the extension to the school and asked that this be rectified in the proposal document.
- (15) The email response from Craig Clement (Head of Resources and Performance for Aberdeenshire Council) 03/09/14 to PCC of Buchanhaven School with the amended table and apologies for the error.
- (16) Email from PCC of Buchanhaven School 03/09/14: thanking Craig Clement for the previous email and asking if the local press have been informed of the change to the capacity data table.

In summary, the written responses highlight:

- Support for the rezoning of the Peterhead Primary School network.
- Concerns for pupils and road safety from Meethill and Burnhaven Schools.
- Concerns over the timing of the implementation of the new zones regarding nursery places.
- Concerns over peer segregation

3.1 SURVEY MONKEY RESPONSES – shown as a percentage for each school.

Question: Do you agree with the proposed changes to the zone for your school?

School	Y %	N %	Not sure/No preference %
Boddam	51.8	6.4	41.8
Buchanhaven	58.1	10.8	31.2
Burnhaven	52.3	21.8	25.9
Clerkhill	65.7	13.2	21.1
Dales Park	61.4	10.4	28.2
Longhaven School	55	7	38
Meethill School	57.9	23.4	18.8
Peterhead Central	64.6	7.8	27.6
Port Erroll	58.2	3.7	38.1
St Fergus	60.6	4.3	35.1

4. ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED ZONING OPTIONS

4.1 Twelve options regarding the rezoning of the Peterhead Network were consulted upon, one for each primary school. One to maintain the status quo and a further option to only change catchment areas north of and including Boddam. An overview of the responses to each option is provided below.

Option 1 – Maintain the Status Quo

The overwhelming view was that changes were needed, however a substantial number of responses both in writing and at the public meeting requested that the status quo be maintained between Burnhaven and Meethill Schools.

Option 2 – Boddam School

This option for Boddam School would see the boundaries extended to the north and north west to encompass a substantial part of the existing Burnhaven School catchment area. The response to these changes was positive.

Option 3 –Buchanhaven School

This option proposed the Buchanhaven School zone was reduced to the north and also to the south west and extended to the east. Most significantly part of the Inverugie Meadows development at Waterside has been moved away from the Buchanhaven School zone.

The response to these changes was positive.

Option 4 – Burnhaven School

This option would see the Burnhaven School zone significantly reduced to the immediate neighbourhood in which the school is located. This would relieve some of the pressure on capacity. As the number of pupils living within the Burnhaven estate would still put the school significantly over capacity. It is proposed that the streets to the north of the estate are rezoned to Meethill School.

The rezoning to Meethill of a small number of streets was strongly opposed.

Option 5 – Clerkhill School

This option would see the consolidation of the Clerkhill School zone around the school, removing the current split zone with Dales Park School through the centre. The rural elements of the current zone would be removed.

The response to these changes was positive.

Option 6 – Dales Park School

This option removes the band of catchment area that previously split the Clerkhill zone and instead incorporates the rural areas that were previously part of Burnhaven, Meethill, Clerkhill and some of the Buchanhaven zones.

The response to these changes was generally positive.

Option 7 – Longhaven School

This option would see the boundary line to the south of the catchment area slightly altered in line with postcode boundaries.

This response to this change was positive.

Option 8 – Meethill School

This change removes the rural element of the Meethill zone and with extension to the north east and south east would remove some pressure from Peterhead Central and Burnhaven Schools.

As with option 4 there was strong opposition to changing the boundary between Meethill and Burnhaven Schools, the response to the other changes was generally positive.

Option 9 – Peterhead Central

This option would see the catchment area for Peterhead Central School reduced to the north and in the south west corner of the zone.

The response to this change was positive.

Option 10 – Port Erroll

This proposed change would see the boundary line to the north of the catchment area slightly altered in line with postcode boundaries.

The response was generally positive to this proposal.

Option 11 – St Fergus

The proposed option for St Fergus School would see the boundary lines extending to the south to encompass Inverugie and Hallmoss. This reflects the current pattern of placing requests.

The response to these changes was positive.

Option 12 – Proposed changes to the network north of and including Boddam School

This proposal mirrors Options 2-11 excluding 7 & 10. There was no feedback suggesting that this option would be preferable to introducing changes across the whole Peterhead Network.

5. EDUCATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO WRITTEN AND ORAL REPRESENTATIONS

5.1 Educational Benefits

For Aberdeenshire Council, Education & Children's Services, educational benefit to pupils affected by the proposal is the key issue. Pupils are already receiving high quality education at schools within the Peterhead network, and parents are happy that their children are receiving quality education in their chosen setting.

Changes to the catchment areas will ensure a more even allocation of school places across the network. This will relieve the physical pressure on those schools working at, or near to full capacity, thereby providing better physical environments for learning. For those schools operating significantly below capacity, the proposal will ensure an increase in the school roll. This will provide children with opportunities to socialise and learn with more children of different ages and stages.

The proposal has the potential to help promote more peer learning and encourage children to participate in more team activities.

Buchanhaven and Burnhaven Primary Schools will benefit most from the proposed changes to the catchment areas by reducing demands on dining and physical education facilities. This has the potential to help the school to deliver physical education more effectively and to develop children's skills in health and wellbeing further.

5.2 Road Safety

The change to the boundary between Meethill and Burnhaven

There were significant concerns raised at the public meeting and in written responses to the consultation about this proposed change regarding road safety and the constant flow of heavy goods vehicles on the main road into Peterhead. There were concerns that whilst measures would be put in place at the start and end of the school day there would be considerable risks for any pupil needing to cross the road for social purposes out with school hours or having attended extra-curricular activities. Parents from Burnhaven and Meethill schools who attended the public meeting, spoke to HM Inspectors and were concerned that children living in some areas would be disadvantaged by this proposal. They were worried about children's safety crossing the A950 & A982 roads.

Aberdeenshire Council recognises that these are real concerns and recommend that the existing boundary between Meethill and Burnhaven Schools is maintained. This will however result in Burnhaven School remaining over its core capacity.

5.3 Timing of the proposal

Some responses to the consultation concerned that the timing of the consultation had impacted upon the decisions that they would make in terms

of which school their children would attend. It was requested that the implementation date for the changes should be postponed.

Officers are of the opinion that the original implementation timescale should be adhered to. The proposed changes will take a number of years to be fully effective as existing pupils will be able to continue their primary education in their current school. Officers are publishing this consultation report in January 2015 in order to ensure that parents of P1 children and pre-school children can make an informed decision when submitting their admission forms.

5.3 Sustainability of all ten schools

Almost all stakeholders who responded to the consultation and spoke to HM Inspectors in Boddam, Buchanhaven, Clerkhill, Dales Park, Longhaven, Peterhead Central, Port Errol and St Fergus Schools were in favour of the proposal. Parents, staff and children felt that the proposed changes to the catchment areas would ensure sustainability of the ten schools across the Peterhead network and would even out the current anomalies in school rolls across the area.

6 EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT

6.1 The Education Scotland report is reproduced in full (Appendix 4).

6.2 Education Scotland acknowledges changes to the catchment areas will ensure a more even allocation of school places across the area. This will relieve pressure on those schools working at, or near to full capacity, thereby providing better physical environments for learning. Currently some schools require temporary premises to accommodate all children within its catchment area.

6.3 Parents from Meethill and Burnhaven schools are concerned that those children living in some areas would be disadvantaged by the proposal. They felt that because of where the zone began and ended a few children living in the same street would be zoned for different schools. They were also worried about the safety of children crossing the A950 and A982 roads. Education Scotland acknowledges that the council is aware of the road safety concerns and are looking at how to manage a safe route to school to minimise risks.

6.4 In response to the concerns raised about road safety and peer segregation, Education & Children's Services Officers propose that the current boundary between Meethill School and Burnhaven School is maintained.

7. RURAL SCHOOLS – COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 12 OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

7.1 Section 12(3) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 requires the education authority to have special regard to the following factors when proposing changes to rural schools:

- any viable alternative to the rezoning proposal
- the likely effect on the local community in consequence of the proposal
- the likely effect caused by different travelling arrangements that may be required.

Some of the schools within the Peterhead Network are rural schools. Therefore Aberdeenshire Council has given regard to the above factors.

7.2 Viable Alternatives to Rezoning

Two alternatives were identified in the Proposal Document. One is to retain the status quo, this would not address the concerns about the disparity of schools being over and under capacity.

The other option was to make no changes to the catchment areas of Port Erroll and Longhaven School. The changes suggested for these schools have minimal impact on pupils, although do realign the zones in accordance with postcode boundaries, therefore making it easier for new families moving into the area to identify their zoned school.

7.3 Effect on the Local Community

There are no changes to the level of facilities that will be available to communities particularly in the rural schools.

The proposals for the town based schools within the network will hopefully strengthen the community links around the schools.

7.4 Travelling Arrangements

Pupils living rurally within the Peterhead network who are currently entitled to transport will continue to be entitled to transport and will be able to attend their current school until they finish primary.

For new pupils, transport arrangements will be consolidated with the changes to the west of the network with transport taking children to one school rather than four.

The journey times for pupils is not expected to increase.

7.5 Financial Implications

The proposal will help the council secure best value as there will be little change to current costs, ensuring the sustainability of the school estate across the Peterhead network, thereby preserving communities and ensuring future provision for children moving into the area.

7.5.1 There are no anticipated financial implications for school transportation as an outcome of this proposal.

8. INACCURACIES

8.1 In the course of the consultation exercise, one inaccuracy has come to light. In pages 12 & 21 of the proposal document in the table detailing the current roll and capacity of all Peterhead Network schools, the 2013 capacity figures prior to the completion of the extension at Buchanhaven had been used.

The incorrect capacity figure quoted in these two tables, had the effect of making the capacity pressures at Buchanhaven School appear to be more severe than they currently are since the classroom extension was completed.

The correct capacity was quoted in other tables throughout the consultation proposal document.

The incorrect figures were amended in an updated version of the consultation document and stakeholders were notified of the oversight.

9. COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 9(1) OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 AND CONCLUSIONS

9.1 Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 states that:

After the Education Authority has received HMle's report, the Authority is to review the relevant proposal having regard (in particular) to

- (i) written representations received by the Authority (from any person) during the consultation period,*
- (ii) oral representations made to it (by any person) at the public meeting,*
- (iii) HMle's report.*

Officers of the Education Authority have listened carefully to the points made at the public meeting and have considered equally carefully the written representations. The Education Authority's position is set out in this document.

9.2 Conclusions and Recommendation

The Council now has 3 broad options for each of the proposed changes;

- (a) adopt each specific proposal in its entirety; or
- (b) adopt elements of each specific proposal but maintain the status quo for other elements; or
- (c) amend each specific proposal in some way and undertake a further consultation exercise on each new proposal; or
- (d) abandon the proposal and maintain the status quo

There has been significant opposition to the proposal changing the boundary between Meethill and Burnhaven School. Issues around road safety and peer segregation have been raised. There have been no other substantial concerns raised regarding the other proposals. There have been no reasons identified through the consultation process to abandon the whole set of proposals at this stage.

There are no other obvious ways of amending the proposal other than postponing its implementation. Postponing the implementation would have no

real benefits. As pupils will be able to remain at their current school until they transition to secondary the implementation and realisation of these changes will be gradual.

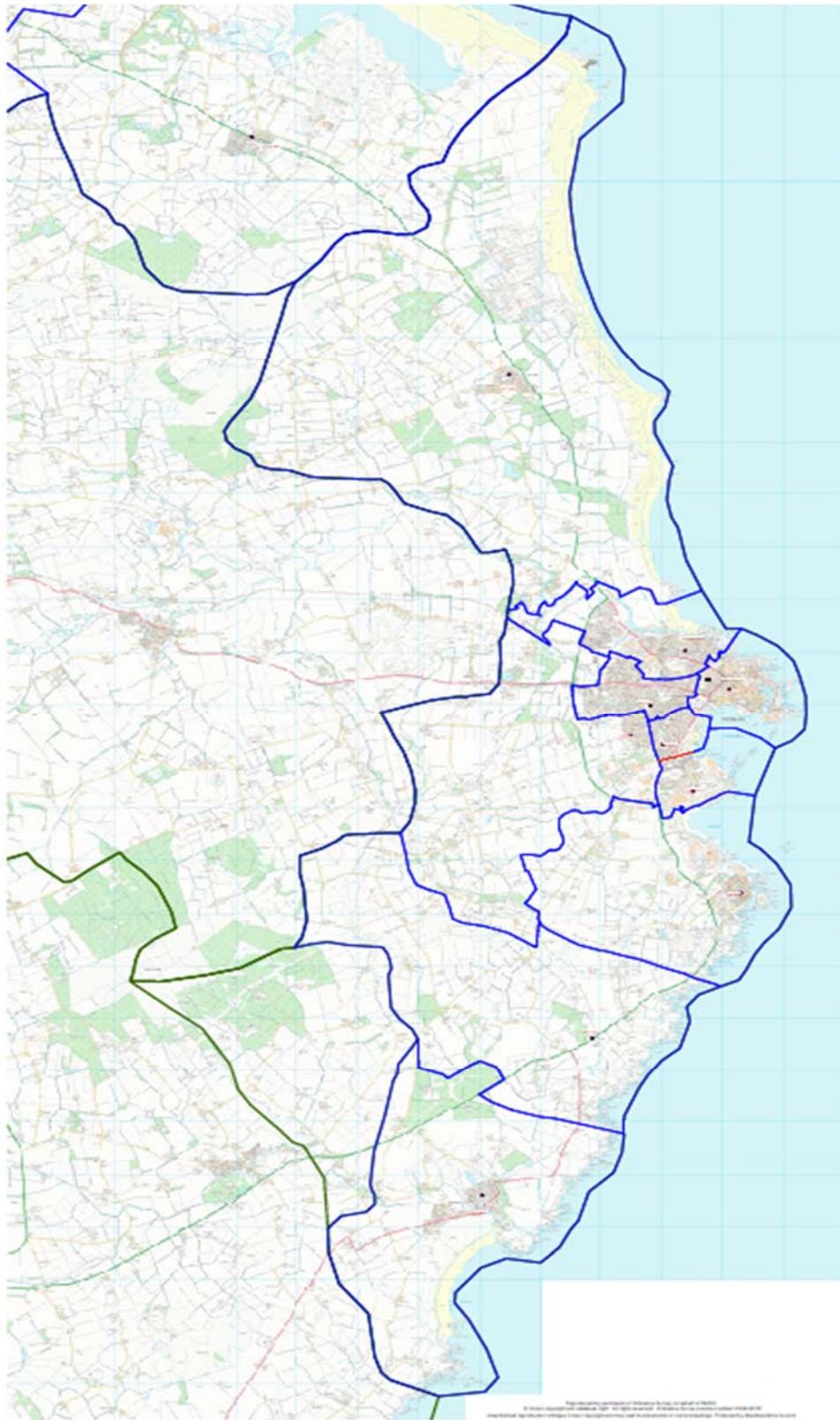
If the council adopts the proposal it would be on the basis that the educational benefits set out in the proposal document would materialise.

9.2.1 The recommendation of officers is that the Council should adopt proposals 2-11 but maintain the current boundary between Meethill and Burnhaven Schools in proposals 4 and 8. The other changes proposed as part of options 4 and 8 should be adopted.

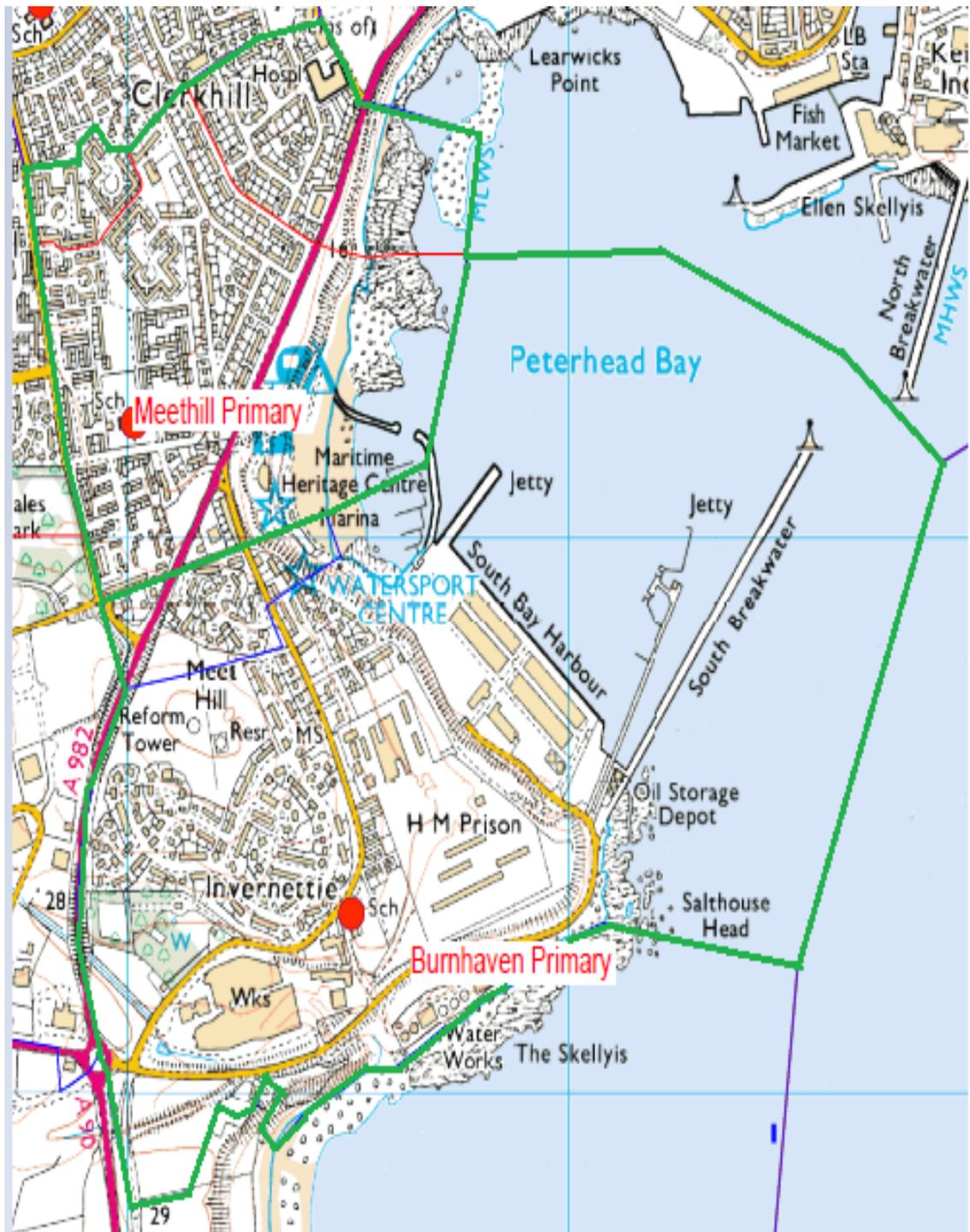
The maps in Appendix 1 show an overview of what the Peterhead network would look like if the proposals are adopted, and also show the recommended catchment areas for Burnhaven and Meethill Schools.

APPENDIX 1 – Maps of the proposed changes

Peterhead Network Map



Meethill & Burnhaven Catchment area



APPENDIX 2 – Note of Public Meeting



Public Consultation Meeting Review of Peterhead Primary School Zones 2 October 2014 7-9pm, Peterhead Academy

Aberdeenshire Council Officers/Elected Members present:

Cllr Isobel Davidson (Chair), Cllr Ron McKail (Vice Chair), Tom Malone (Peterhead Councillor); Alan Buchan (Peterhead Councillor); Craig Clement (Head of Service); Maxine Booth (QIO); Rachael Goldring (Team Leader Learning Estates); Gemma Duncan (Research Officer Learning Estates); Liz Rhodes (Research Officer Learning Estates); Kelly Tennant (Admin Learning Estates)

1	Welcome and Introductions
	Councillor Davidson welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced the Aberdeenshire Council officers present and laid out the format of the meeting.
2	Consultation Overview
	<p>Craig Clement explained the necessity to review zones where demands on these have now changed. The catchment areas under review have not changed for some time. Population shifts and new housing have meant that some schools in Peterhead are full, while others are under capacity. Across Peterhead there are sufficient spaces in our schools, though this is not always aligned with the current zones, and rezoning is needed to plan for the future of capacities in our schools. Craig identified the maps around the room showing plans of current and proposed capacities, and recognised that although the outcomes may not be an ideal for all, that implementation was hoped to improve the situation for our schools in Peterhead and that all distances within zone are approved walking distances.</p> <p>Craig confirmed that this consultation is being held in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. Period of consultation runs until 17 October 2014, allowing time for comment. Acknowledgement was made of the legal process which must be followed to inform a decision on implementation, which it would be hoped would take effect in August 2015. Craig highlighted that there is no expectation that children in their current schools will be expected to move, and siblings can also continue to attend the same school. The process will take a number of years to take full effect as children move through school.</p>
3	Questions from the Floor
	<p>Councillor Davidson welcomed questions from the floor and asked that participants state their name to aid the minute taking process. Councillor Davidson stated that although no significant changes were proposed for rural schools in particular Port Erroll Primary and Longhaven Primary, those there catchments are still open for discussion at this meeting.</p> <p>Parent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If my child is within a particular catchment area, (child in nursery) for Dales, could my child attend Longhaven Primary? Maxine Booth replied that a parent can put in a placing request, though this is not to say that this will be accepted, it depends on certain criteria. If you could pass us your post code at the end we can discuss this.

Parent

- My daughter is 2 and a half, our current catchment area is Dales Park, but the rest of the street are zoned to Clerkhill. We have to walk past a school to get to a school.

Learning Estates representative answered that the proposed new zone would mean that all of the street in question would be Clerkhill, and that one of the reasons for starting a rezoning consultation was that the current catchment areas don't always make sense. The hope is that the proposals will alleviate any inconsistencies such as the one identified.

Parent

- I have a son that goes to Meethill School, our new zone is Clerkhill, would my younger child be able to use the new zone and go to Clerkhill?

Learning Estates representative replied that yes, under the new proposal your younger child can go to the rezoned school.

Parent

- I live in a new housing area – I am zoned to Dales Park – for distance I pass a school to get to a school. For carer grandparents that don't drive, can I apply to go to a closer school?

Maxine Booth replied that there are seven different criteria which constitute an out of zone request. One of these criteria is if a parent/carer has childcare in the requested school zone, which may make you eligible for the requested school. The out of zone request would account for all factors in the criteria, and would also depend on the cohort at that time.

Parent

- We live in a street where a catchment boundary line went down the middle of the street, and the catchment areas were uncertain. We knew that the rezoning was happening, and held off choosing which nursery our child would go to. As a result we missed the deadline to go to Burnhaven. Our child is now zoned to Meethill, and we have had to take our child out of nursery. We are disappointed that the rezoning will happen so quickly. People applying for pre-school places before the end of the consultation, feel that the timing of the rezoning is an issue. We feel that implementation should be delayed for a year. Rezoning is good for Meethill, as they are closer to there than to Burnhaven, however timing has been an issue for pre-school decisions which are based on the existing zones.

Rachael Goldring answered that the process for committee will take us beyond the pre-school application deadline dates. We will be notifying schools of which areas they should be accepting children from. Maxine Booth added that in cases such as those identified above, out of zone requests come to the QIO for the area. In this case herself, to take in a view of the whole area in terms of staffing. For the situation identified the QIO would be sympathetic to those impacted by the timescale of the rezoning process.

Parent

- Why is Burnhaven catchment line halfway in to the sea? The catchment line that runs past Pusey Place (and the street next to this, which is beside the nursery) means that friendships in these two streets will be divided between Meethill and Burnhaven.

Rachael Goldring responded that the lines going in to the bay are due to the mapping tool. We are sympathetic to parent's concerns in that area and we are taking on board all of the feedback.

Parent

- Will there be a lollipop lady to cross the road to (Meethill)?

Maxine Booth replied that yes, there will be a lollipop person employed for children crossing this road, and that this had been raised to her at school meetings in the Peterhead network. Max Booth also said that she was aware of the situation for out of school clubs, where the lollipop person would not be present, and that this would be factored in to the decisions made around the rezoning exercise.

Parent

- Same situation of divided zones as in previous question, this time between Burnhaven and Dales Park. There is currently a bus taking pupils to Burnhaven, will there be a bus going to opposite way to Dales Park?

Rachael Goldring responded that it is likely the same bus would pick up children for both Dales Park and Burnhaven, as this would be the same contract for school transport. It is likely that this would then drop the children at the two schools. Councillor Davidson suggested that the Learning Estates team would have a look at the maps and see how this would work in practice. Maxine Booth said that the transportation issues were a good point, and thanked the parent for raising this issue. Max said that this would be an opportunity to make sure that the lines are in the correct place, to avoid any transportation issues.

Parent

- I have a child at pre-school in nursery, does this mean they will automatically get a place at the main school where they are in the nursery?

Maxine Booth replied that being in nursery at a school does not mean that the child has a place in the main school, as our nurseries are not zoned.

Parent

- If there is an appeal to the above, if my child is in the nursery for a school and want to continue in to P1 at that school, does this count for anything?

Maxine Booth replied that this would not be factored in to an out of zone request as being in nursery at the requested school is not one of the criteria. As our nurseries are not zoned, we are not able to offer places in the school based on this.

Parent

- The proposed changes alter the dynamic at Burnhaven, I had heard that the school would be reduced to a two class school. It seems a shame to break up the staff, where they have worked hard to achieve a good working and learning environment. I would like to know if we can have some negotiation, as the proposed changes are huge for Burnhaven.

Max Booth responded that this is why we are having the public consultation meeting, to hear feedback and provide further information where necessary. The reason for looking at Burnhaven is not only due to the multiple out of zone placements which are submitted for children to go to Clerkhill, but also as part of the whole learning estate review. There is a need to look at where there are available places in schools, and where there are pupils. We need to make sure we have got spaces in the right schools. As part of the capital plan we can't build extensions on schools where there are spaces at another school down the road. As a long-term vision for Aberdeenshire education, temporary accommodation like those at Burnhaven is not what we want for education our children. Permanent buildings at Burnhaven mean that without temporary accommodation this would be a three class school. It takes time to implement the changes that are proposed in the rezoning consultation. Due to sibling links it will take some time for new zone to take effect, and for the number of pupils at Burnhaven to reduce to three classes in size.

Parent

- It is a ludicrous idea for parents and children to be crossing that road to Dales Park or Meethill

Max Booth reiterated that this has been raised previously in this meeting, and that we are aware of concern around crossing the road, and this will be taken account of in any rezoning decisions that are made.

Parent

- What happens if consultation proposals are not implemented and the rezoning does not go ahead?

Rachael Goldring answered that we will take on board peoples comments – and some proposed areas may be implemented

Continued - Parent

- Would we have to appeal to get our child in to Clerkhill Primary?
- Max Booth responded that yes an out of zone request would be required in this case, but you might not be successful. Rachael Goldring suggested that if a case against rezoning an individual proposal is strong enough, it may be that individual rezoning proposals do not to go ahead. It is possible that the rest of the proposals could still go ahead, that is why we would like your feedback, to establish where there might be issues with any of the proposed zones in particular.

Continued – Parent

- So we could possibly pick and choose our school

Parent

- Would the parents charter (concerning out of zone requests) be reviewed along with the rezoning exercise?

Max Booth replied that the parent’s charter is a government policy, and this would not change. Parents can still apply to go to another school, but the principal is still absolutely the same.

Parent

- When will it all (the rezoning consultation) be finalised/agreed?

Rachael Goldring suggested that this will happen early next year, when the zones are finalised at EL&L committee. Rachael also reminded parents that they should have received details about the proposal in the pack distributed to all stakeholders, for those that have not received this document they were advised to leave a name and address to allow the team to forward a copy of the consultation documents.

Parent

- Will we still fill out our forms requesting a school?

Maxine Booth replied that yes it would still be necessary to fill out a form where a change of school out with the zoned catchment area is requested.

Parent

- Would the timescales affect p1s going to school next year? What choices can we put down?

	<p>Rachael Goldring responded that yes it would affect P1s with no siblings, if you are applying in January. Due to the amount of time taken to receive the decision letter, these choices would be implemented by schools when the decision for rezoning is made.</p> <p>Parent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I made the decision not to put my child to nursery, due to uncertainty with zoning - though children are adaptable at that age. <p>Councillor Davidson suggested that a lot of schools don't have nurseries so many parents do have that choice, it is always good for socialisation when children change school at an early age</p> <p>Parent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What happens if you are in the zone, and your child is in the zone, and lots of children move in to the area, how would that affect school places? <p>Maxine Booth replied that there are a number of places reserved for children living in the zone of the school, should they need to join after the start of the academic year. You can reserve in zone places, however there are no reserved places for out of zone requests.</p>
4	Next Steps
	<p>Councillor Davidson highlighted that the consultation documents are available on the Aberdeenshire public website, and these proposals will be open to comment until Friday 17 October. She suggested that if you don't have a copy of the documents and would like to request this that stakeholders should speak to the team at the end of the meeting. Once the consultation period has closed on 17 October, the proposals will then go to area committee, and then to ELL committee in due course. If it goes ahead, the proposals will likely be implemented in August 2015. During the consultation process, we can still make changes to the plans if these are straight forward. You could agree some of the lines from the surrounding zones, but a Burnhaven/Meethill change for example would be more difficult. Councillor Davidson asked all stakeholders if they all felt they had been listened to. Maxine Booth suggested that if you have children starting next year, to speak to her and she will apply common sense logic to out of zone requests. Councillor Davidson advised that the council education team then speak to children to hear their views, and this response along with all other proposal and consultation documents then go to Education Scotland to gain an independent view. Councillor Davidson thanked all present for coming and commented on the high number of stakeholders present, and told those present that the maps would stay up for a while longer if consultees would like to review these.</p>
5	Close
	<p>Councillor Davidson closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their participation.</p>

APPENDIX 3 – Note of Meetings with Pupils

Peterhead Rezoning – Pupil Questions

The school that children in Peterhead (and the rest of Scotland) go to is decided by which street and sometimes which house they live in. Each school in Peterhead has a catchment area. A catchment area or zone is a line on a map which shows the streets and houses that are grouped together for that school.

In Peterhead the catchment areas for schools have not been looked at for a very long time, and since then there have been a lot of new houses built around the town. This means that there are some schools with a lot of new houses in their catchment area, and therefore a lot of new pupils. There are also some areas of the town where there used to be a lot of school pupils coming from the houses in the zone, but those children have grown up and not as many new families with school aged children have moved house into those areas.

Aberdeenshire Council wants to change the school catchment areas so that all of the schools in and around Peterhead have the right number of pupils for the number of classrooms and teachers. This will mean that some of the schools with lots of pupils have more space and some of the schools with lots of spare classrooms can have more pupils.

The council have drawn some new lines on the maps, and are asking parents, teachers and pupils what they think about the changes that they are suggesting.

Your teacher will be able to show you a map with the changes for your school.

1. Do you think that your school needs to have a different catchment area – are there too few or too many pupils at the moment?
2. Do you think that the change suggested for your school is a good idea?
3. Do you think that changing the catchment areas for some of the schools that are empty or full is a good idea?
4. Is there anything that worries you about this?
5. Is there anything that interests or excites you about this?
6. Is there anything that you think the council needs to think about if they do this?

Pupil responses to questions about rezoning						
School	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6
Boddam	85% of pupils think there is room for more pupils	73% of pupils think the changes are good, 21% think they are not good & 6% were unsure.	68% think it's a good idea. 12% think this is not a good idea & 20% were unsure.	Pupils expressed worry about: too many pupils attending Boddam eventually, the behaviour of the pupils arriving, money and resources being shared between more people would mean less per pupil.	The potential to make new friends, meet different people and opportunities to share learning.	How rezoning will affect school resources, how funding in our school would be affected and how the council would share this information with the school during the process.
Burnhaven	Pupils said they did not think a new catchment was necessary.	All pupils asked said that the changes were not a good idea	It depends on how empty or full the schools are; good for some, not for others.	How far some people will have to walk to school; the busy road; brothers/sisters/friends may be separated if they are at different schools. Biking to Meethill School would be dangerous, pupils couldn't walk to school on their own.	Less pupils = less work for teachers, more space to play, would save money on resources. A worry would be having less people to play with.	No response given here
Clerkhill	1 pupil said yes. 84 said no it should stay the same. 19 said there are too many pupils, 0 said there were too few pupils & 59 said there are just the right amount.	Yes= 2pupils, No= 83 pupils	Yes =73, No=4, few don't know	Main worries: some people might have to go to a school they don't like or that their brothers and sisters might have to go to a different school to them.	No from all pupils	If pupils live closer to one school but are in a different zone its not very fair. If pupils have 2 parents who work all day and grandparents do the child care and pick up/drop off perhaps their address should be taken into consideration too.
Longhaven	There are the right amount of pupils at the moment	Undecided as the change is minimal	Yes	Having too many pupils within schools	Not really	Changing settled classes. The pupils like one big classroom
Meethill	Probably too few pupils but it is a good size of school at the moment	Yes because will meet new people and make friends	Yes	No	Not really, just meeting new friends	Don't know
St Fergus	Just the right amount at the moment	Yes	Yes	No	No	If families attended one school traditionally, changing their zone will break this and might be hard to accept. Need a good mix of boys and girls

Appendix 4 – Education Scotland Report

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Aberdeenshire Council for the redistribution of the primary school catchment areas in the Peterhead network.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments of the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of Aberdeenshire Council's proposal for the redistribution of the primary school catchment areas in the Peterhead network. This involves Boddam, Buchanhaven, Burnhaven, Clerkhill, Dales Park, Longhaven, Meethill, Peterhead Central, Port Errol and St Fergus Primary Schools. 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 Boddam, Buchanhaven, Burnhaven, Clerkhill, Dales Park, Longhaven, Meethill, Peterhead Central, Port Errol and St Fergus Primary 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 2 October 2014 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 sites of Boddam, Buchanhaven, Burnhaven, Clerkhill, Dales Park, Longhaven, Meethill, Peterhead Central, Port Errol and St Fergus Primary Schools, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation Process

2.1 Aberdeenshire Council undertook the consultation on its proposal with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*.

2.2 The consultation period took place between 1 September 2014 and 17 October 2014. A public meeting was held on 2 October 2014 and 42 stakeholders attended. The council also held meetings for staff, children and parents in each of the primary schools affected by the proposal. An online survey questionnaire was issued to stakeholders during the consultation period. The council received 311 responses to the survey. The majority of respondents across all schools were in favour of the proposal. The largest number of written responses from those not in favour of the proposal was received from stakeholders associated with Burnhaven and Meethill Primary Schools.

3. Educational Aspects of Proposal

3.1 The council proposes that the existing primary school catchment areas within the Peterhead network should be amended with effect from 17 August 2015. From this date, all new children attending Boddam, Buchanhaven, Burnhaven, Clerkhill, Dales Park, Longhaven, Meethill, Peterhead Central, Port Errol and St Fergus Primary Schools will attend their newly zoned school. Children already attending primary school will continue education at the school they currently attend. Changes to the catchment areas will ensure a more even allocation of school places across the area. This will relieve pressure on those schools working at, or near to full capacity, thereby providing better physical environments for learning. Currently, some schools require additional temporary premises to accommodate all children within its catchment area. For those schools operating significantly below capacity, the proposal will ensure an increase in the school roll. This will provide children with opportunities to socialise and learn with more children of different ages and stages. The proposal has the potential to help promote more peer learning and encourage children to participate in more team activities.

3.2 Buchanhaven and Burnhaven Primary Schools will benefit most from the proposed changes to the catchment areas by reducing demands on dining and physical education facilities. This has the potential to help the school to deliver physical education more effectively and develop children's skills in health and wellbeing better.

3.3 The council's proposal will help it secure best value as there will be little change to current costs, ensuring the sustainability of the school estate across the Peterhead network, thereby preserving communities and ensuring future provision for children moving into the area.

3.4 Almost all stakeholders who responded to the consultation and spoke to HM Inspectors in Boddam, Buchanhaven, Clerkhill, Dales Park, Longhaven, Peterhead Central, Port Errol and St Fergus Primary Schools were in favour of the proposal. Parents, staff and children felt that the

proposed changes to the catchment areas would ensure the sustainability of the ten schools across the Peterhead network and would even out the current anomalies in school rolls across the area.

3.5 Parents, from Burnhaven and Meethill Primary Schools who attended the public meeting, spoke to HM Inspectors and responded to the online survey questionnaire sent out by the council were concerned that those children living in some areas would be disadvantaged by the proposal. They felt that because of where the zone began and ended, a few children living in the same street would be zoned for different schools. They were also worried about children's safety crossing the A950 and A982 roads. The council is aware of the road safety concerns and are looking at how to manage a safe route to school to minimise risks.

3.6 During the consultation period, the council was notified of an alleged inaccuracy in the school roll for Buchanhaven Primary School contained within the proposal paper. The council addressed this inaccuracy and amended and re-issued the proposal with the correct data.

4. Summary

Aberdeenshire Council's proposal to change the catchment areas for the Peterhead network of primary schools is of overall educational benefit to children. The proposal will allow the council to distribute more evenly the allocation of places across schools in the area. This will enable it to achieve best value by maintaining all ten schools at more viable capacities. Small schools will gain by having more children and therefore more opportunity for quality peer learning and participation in team games. Schools which are reaching over capacity will have more space. This has the potential to enable them to improve provision in some areas of the curriculum such as physical education. The council will need to ensure it addresses parents' concerns about safe routes to school for children who will attend Burnhaven and Meethill Primary Schools.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
November 2014**