



EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

**MARCH 2015**

**PROPOSAL DOCUMENT: REVIEW OF BANCHORY  
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND HILL OF BANCHORY  
SCHOOL ZONES**

## Proposal for the redistribution of primary school catchment areas in the Banchory Network

### SUMMARY PROPOSAL

It is proposed that:

The existing primary school catchment areas within Banchory are amended with effect from 31 August 2015;

The proposals will only affect new pupils in the network. Current pupils and their siblings could continue to attend their existing school.

This document had been issued by Aberdeenshire Council in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

The schools affected by this proposal are:

**Banchory Primary School**  
**Hill of Banchory School**

### DISTRIBUTION

A copy of this document is available on the Aberdeenshire Council web-site: [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk), or by e-mail request to [rezoning@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:rezoning@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

This document will be provided to:

- Parent Councils of the schools listed above
- Parents of the pupils at the schools listed above
- Pupils at the schools listed above
- Parents of pre-school age children who would be zoned to attend schools in Banchory
- Teaching and ancillary staff at the schools listed above
- Trade union representatives of the above staff
- Banchory Community Council
- Relevant users of Banchory Primary School and Hill of Banchory School
- Relevant community groups within Banchory
- Education Scotland

A copy of this document is also available from:

- Council Headquarters, Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5GB
- Banchory Library
- Banchory Community Centre, School hill
- The schools affected by the proposal
- Viewmount Council Offices, Stonehaven

## **Introduction**

- 1.1 Aberdeenshire Council strives to allocate its resources in a way that ensures the quality of all of its services. It attaches particular importance to providing the best possible educational experience for all of the pupils in its schools.
- 1.2 The Council's aims for Education and Children's Services are:
  - the building of capacity
  - the realisation of potential
  - the achievement of excellence
- 1.3 In order to fulfil the above vision it is necessary to adapt to changing circumstances. It is essential that the Council regularly reviews the pattern of educational provision across all establishments, with a particular focus on school rolls, accommodation and quality of education.
- 1.4 This proposal document is focussed on the two primary schools in the town of Banchory itself. Located within the Marr area of Aberdeenshire, the two primary schools in the town of Banchory are classed as "Not Rural" by the Scottish Government.
- 1.5 This rezoning proposal does not impact upon secondary provision at Banchory Academy, albeit the number of pupils from the Lochside of Leys development will continue to add pressure on the secondary school roll.

## **2. Reason for Proposal**

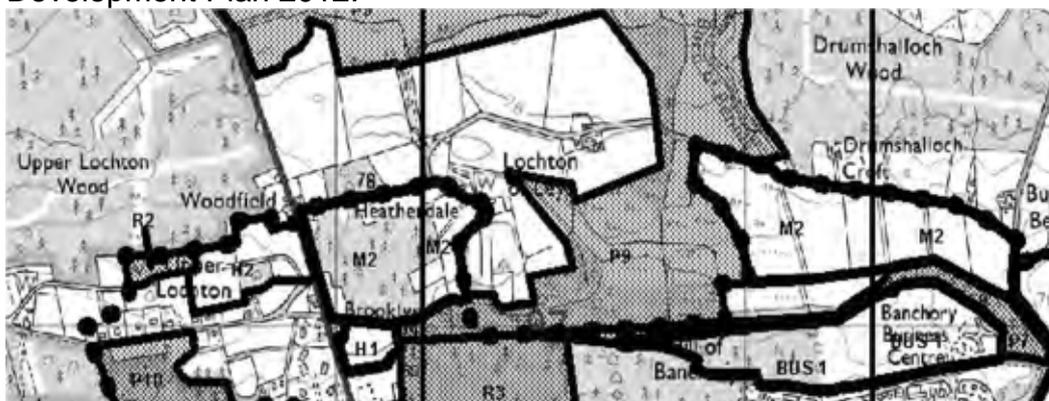
- 2.1 Primary education in Banchory is currently provided at Banchory Primary School which sits in the centre of the town on Ardbeadie Road; and at Hill of Banchory School which sits in the north east of the town on Hill of Banchory South road. Banchory Primary School has a capacity of 550 pupils and is currently sitting with a roll of 426 pupils, which is projected to fall in future years. Hill of Banchory School has a capacity of 387 pupils and has a current roll of 342 pupils which is predicted to rise significantly in future years due to housing developments in Banchory.
- 2.2 Hill of Banchory School has a current capacity range of 361–387. Due to a rising school roll the capacity was increased from 333 to 387 in 2014. The IT suite and Music Room were reconfigured to provide extra classrooms to accommodate the rising roll.
- 2.3 The housing development at Lochside of Leys and future developments to the north of the Hill of Banchory will continue to add pressure on the school roll and the core capacity and facilities at the Hill of Banchory School. This proposal aims to address these capacity issues by rezoning part of the Lochside of Leys development away from Hill of Banchory School.
- 2.4 There is currently capacity at Banchory Primary School to cope with the extra pupils that will be generated from part of the housing development at Lochside of Leys.

- 2.5 The purpose of the rezoning exercise is to change the catchment area of the two primary schools in Banchory so that current and future pupils can be educated in suitable school buildings with sufficient space.
- 2.6 In December 2014, the Education, Learning and Leisure Committee agreed that the catchment areas in Banchory should be reviewed.
- 2.7 The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 requires that when a change is made to a school boundary or catchment area then a formal consultation must be undertaken with all relevant stakeholders.

### **3. Details of the Proposal**

- 3.1 The council proposes that the existing primary school catchment areas within Banchory should be amended with effect from August 2015; and that from this date all new pupils should attend their newly zoned school; and that all existing primary pupils could continue their education at their current school. These changes will predominantly affect pupils moving into the new houses at Lochside of Leys once they are built.
- 3.2 It is important that these proposals do not have a negative impact upon any children currently attending Banchory Primary School and Hill of Banchory School and that they have continuity in their education. There are no plans to move existing pupils to a different school if these proposals are adopted. They proposals will impact only on either new children moving into the area, or for the new cohort of P1 pupils in August 2015. Siblings of existing pupils would also be entitled to attend the same school.
- 3.3 The Lochside of Leys development site at M2 is split into two sections, M2 East and M2 West, divided by an area of open land. M2 East contains phases 1a and 1b. M2 West contains phase 2a and 2b. This location of these sites is shown at 3.6.1.
- 3.4 Phase 1a of M2 East and Phase 2 of M2 West of the Lochside of Leys Development is expected to generate 200 houses. Under the proposed changes to the catchment areas, these houses would be zoned for Banchory Primary School.
- 3.5 Phase 1b, M2 East of the Lochside of Leys Development would continue to be zoned for Hill of Banchory School.

- 3.6 The image below shows the M2 site as designated in the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2012.



- 3.6.1 The image below shows the phasing schedule of the Lochside of Leys Development at the site M2.



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- 3.5 The Lochside of Leys development is 1.8 miles from Banchory Primary School.
- 3.6 Pupils living out with two miles of their zoned primary school would continue to be entitled to school transport. However, the change to the zone would be within the two mile area for both schools.
- 3.7 This proposal document contains maps showing the proposed change for Banchory Primary School and Hill of Banchory. There is only one preferred option as the main reason for the proposed change to the catchment areas is to accommodate the extra pupils expected to be generated from the Lochside of Leys housing development.

<sup>1</sup> Figure 1: North Banchory Company Ltd, Lochside of Leys Masterplan Sites M2 & H2 – November 2014, Pg. 22

- 3.8 The proposed changes for each school are outlined in the maps below. There are details of the impact that the proposed changes would have on the school rolls. There are no specific costs for this exercise in terms of staffing or transportation.
- 3.9 Printed copies of the maps will be on display in each of the schools affected by the consultation and are available on request at Viewmount Council Offices in Stonehaven.

## 4 Proposal Options

### 4.1 Current Zone

Keep the current catchment areas for the Banchory primary schools with no changes (The Status Quo).



**4.1.1** This option would see the current primary school boundaries remaining as they are and no changes made to the boundary lines. This would mean that the extra pupils generated by the Lochside of Leys Development in future years would continue be zoned for Hill of Banchory School. The core capacity and school roll would be under significant pressure if all the pupils from this development attended Hill of Banchory School.

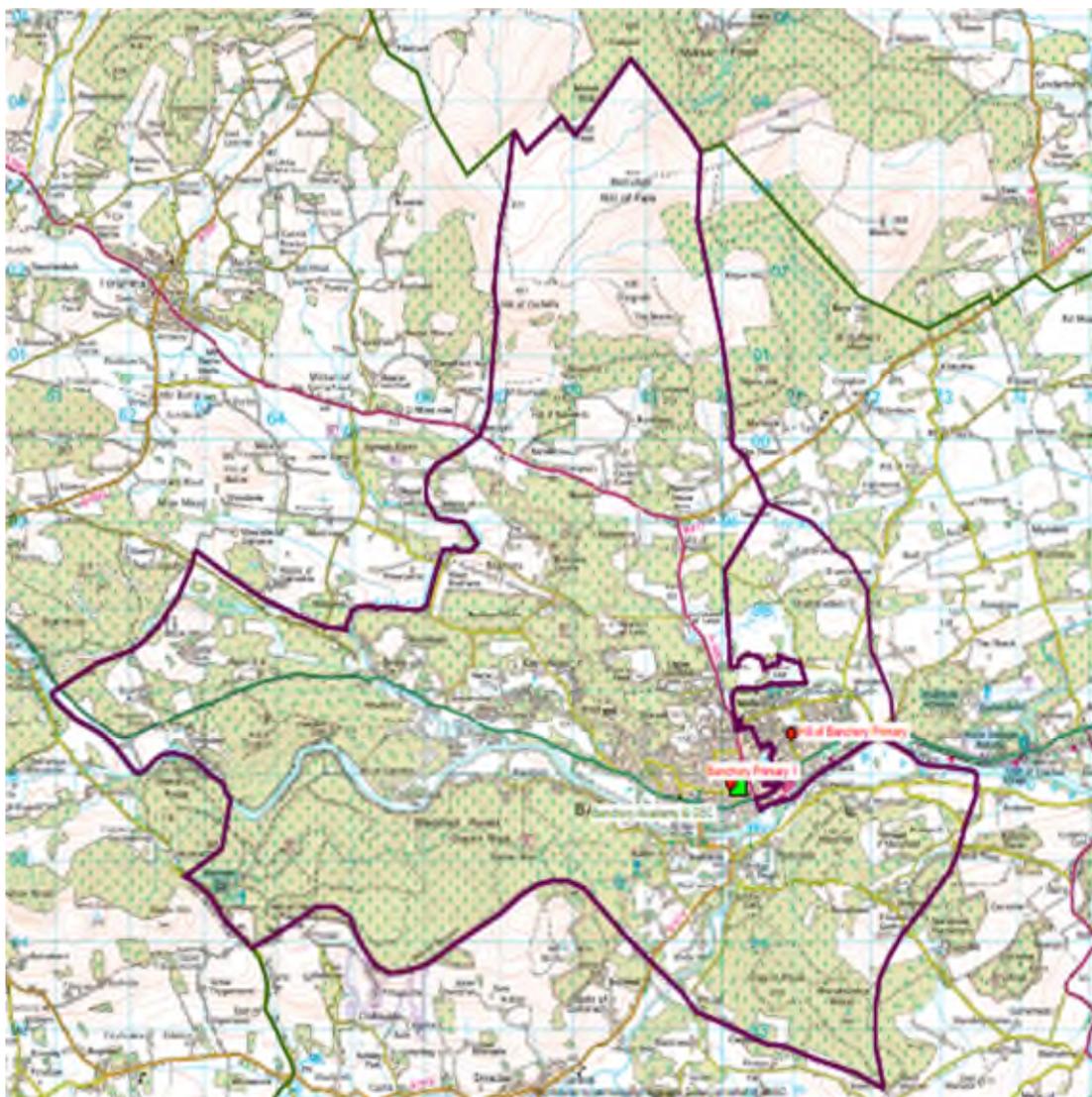
#### **4.1.2 Capacity Data**

This table shows what the roll of each school would be if the build out rates from all of the Lochside of Leys housing development are as expected and the catchment areas remain unchanged. The current capacities and predicted rolls for the two Banchory primary schools, based on the September 2014 census data, are shown in Table 1 below. These figures are working data and differ from the published 2013 School Roll Forecasts which can be found on the Aberdeenshire Council website at

[http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/parentscarers/information/school\\_roll.asp](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/parentscarers/information/school_roll.asp)

<b>Table 1 Updated 2014 School Roll Forecast Banchory Schools</b>								
			<b>Predicted Rolls</b>					
<b>School</b>	<b>Capacity Range</b>		<b>Roll Sept 14</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Banchory PS	524	550	430	416	386	378	372	371
Hill of Banchory	361	387	353	345	350	368	380	382

#### 4.2 - Changes to the boundary line between Banchory Primary School and Hill of Banchory School



- 4.2.1 Our preferred option would be to extend the catchment area of Banchory Primary School to include most of the Lochton of Leys area. These proposals would address the impact of current and future housing developments and encourage equitable use of resources between the two primary schools in Banchory.

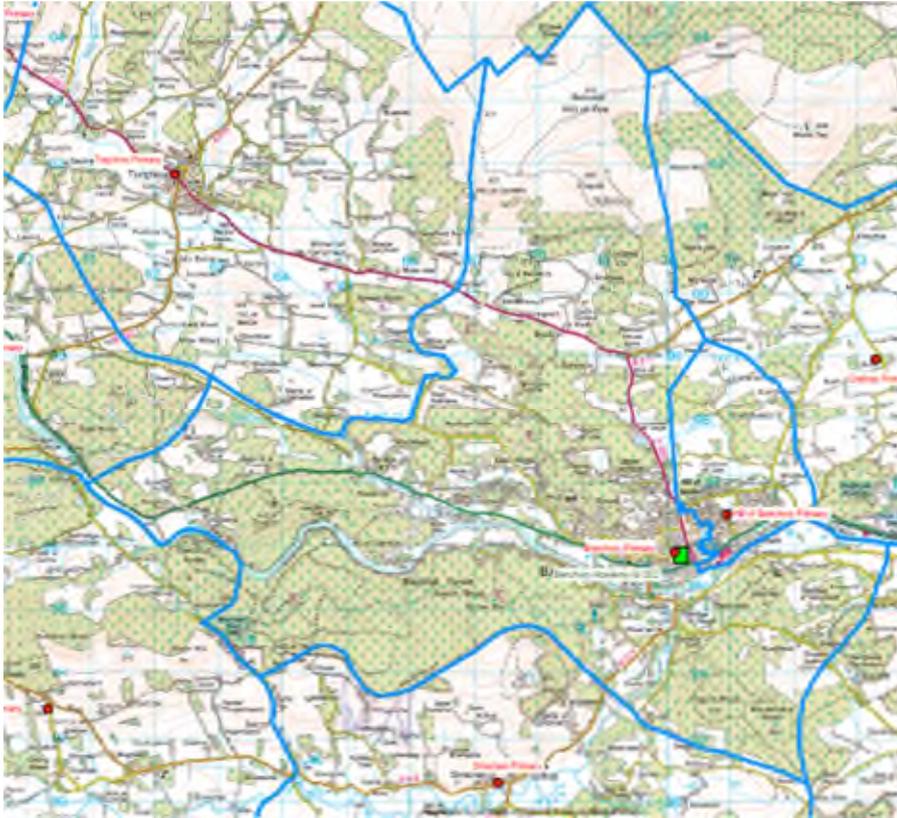
## 4.2.2 Capacity Data

Table 2 outlines the impact the revised catchment areas would have on the school rolls for Banchory Primary School and Hill of Banchory School using actual September 2014 pupil data and updated 2015 housing land audit figures. These figures are working data and differ from the published 2013 School Roll Forecasts which can be found on the Aberdeenshire Council website at:

[http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/parents/carers/information/school\\_roll.asp](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/parents/carers/information/school_roll.asp)

<b>Table 2 Updated 2014 School Roll Forecast Banchory Schools with Rezoning</b>								
<b>School</b>	<b>Capacity Range</b>		<b>Roll Sept 14</b>	<b>New Model Roll 2015</b>	<b>New Model Roll 2016</b>	<b>New Model Roll 2017</b>	<b>New Model Roll 2018</b>	<b>New Model Roll 2019</b>
Banchory Primary	524	550	430	418	397	398	395	394
Hill of Banchory	361	387	353	343	339	348	358	359

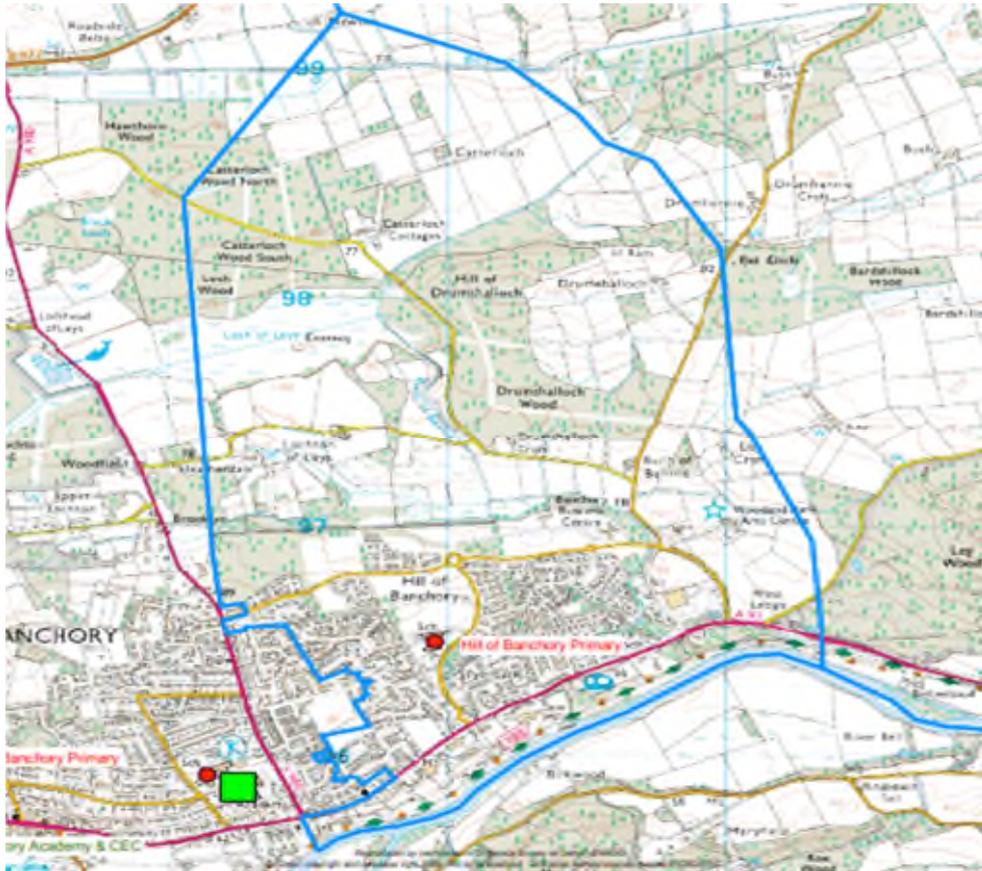
## 5 Banchory Primary School Current Catchment Area



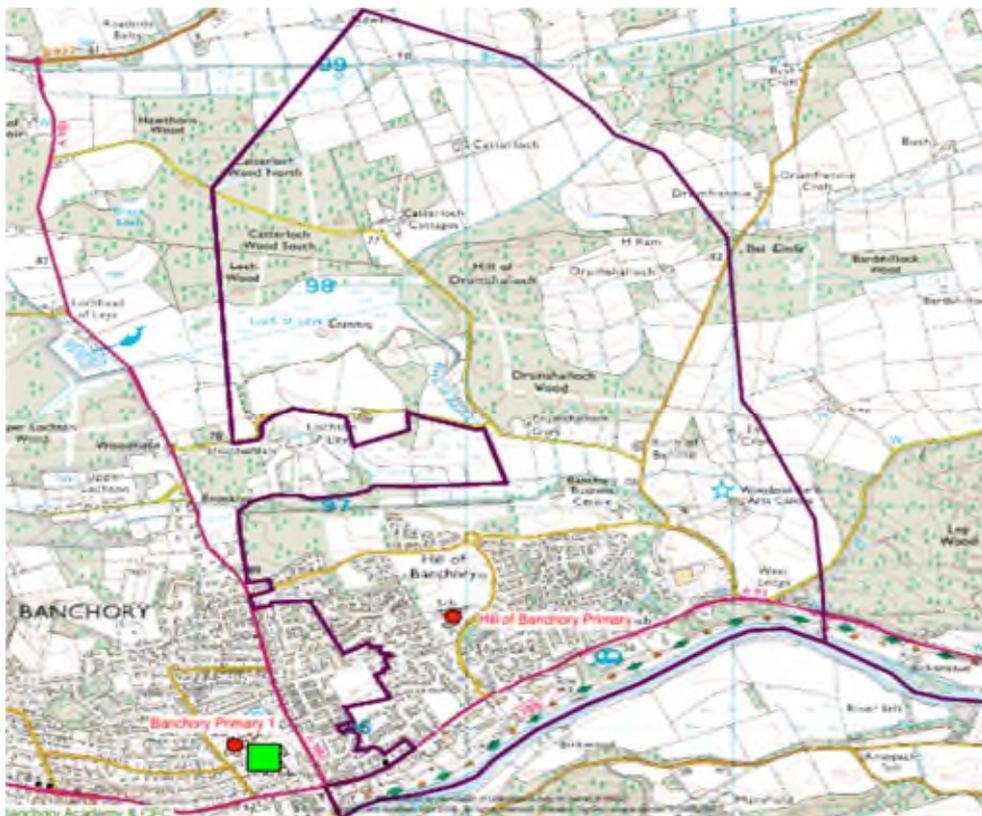
## 5.1 Banchory Primary School Proposed Catchment Area



**5.3 Hill of Banchory School Current Catchment Area**



**5.4 Hill of Banchory School Proposed Catchment Area**



**5.5 The diagram below shows the Hill of Banchory proposed change in alignment with the Lochside of Leys development**



**Educational Benefit Statement**

- 6.1 It is hoped that the proposed changes will address any future capacity issues at Hill of Banchory School and will also provide additional learning space for pupils. The re-distribution of pupil numbers across the Primary schools in Banchory will allow for the equitable distribution of resources.

**7 Alternatives to the proposal**

- 7.1 The following alternative possibilities have been considered as noted below.
- Continuing the status quo – this does not address the concerns regarding the capacity of Hill of Banchory School as the housing at Lochside of Leys is developed. There has already been a reconfiguration of the Art room and ICT suite to provide for additional classrooms. This proposal would allow the capacity of Hill of Banchory to come back into line and provide pupils with GP space.

**8 Effect on the local community**

- 8.1 Any siblings of existing pupils at Banchory Primary School and Hill of Banchory School would still be able to attend with their brothers or sisters.

**9 Financial Implications**

**9.1 School Transport**

As the change in school zones would only apply to new children entering education provision in Banchory, there will not be any change to transport provision for current pupils. Therefore, there will be no financial implications relating to transport from this proposed change.

- 9.2 The Lochside of Leys development is 1.8 miles from Banchory Primary School and therefore under the 2 mile requirement for free school transport. There may be an additional 5-10 minutes walking time for pupils from this housing development as a result of this proposal. Pupils will be able to walk or cycle to school.

### **9.3 Staffing Implications**

- 9.4 Initially there should be minimal implications for staff. There may be an increase in staffing costs due to the forecast increase in pupils to Banchory Primary School if the catchment areas are changed. However there may also be a requirement for less teaching staff at Hill of Banchory. This will be managed in line with existing policies and procedures.

## **10 Consultation Arrangements**

- 10.1 On 4 December 2014, Aberdeenshire Council's Education, Learning and Leisure Committee agreed to the launch of the statutory consultation for the rezoning of the two primary schools in Banchory.
- 10.2 The period of consultation will extend from 4 March 2015 until 30 April 2015. This covers the required consultation period of 30 school days.
- 10.3 A copy of this document will be issued free of charge to all of the consultees listed on the first page of this document and it will also be published on Aberdeenshire Council's website: [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk).
- 10.4 A public meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 March, 7-9pm at Banchory Primary School. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting is free to do so. The meeting will be convened by the Council. There will be an opportunity for questions and feedback. A minute of the meeting will be taken so that the comments can later be summarised and considered.
- 10.5 Meetings will be organised for the staff working in each of the Banchory Primary Schools during March and April 2015 to discuss the proposals, and a number of opportunities will be arranged for all primary pupils at the schools to engage in the consultation during these months.
- 10.6 An online survey will be available as part of this consultation from Wednesday 4 March 2015. This can be completed at the following address: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BanchoryRezoningConsultation>
- 10.7 Aberdeenshire Council will also take into account written comments which should be sent to Mrs Maxine Booth, Quality Improvement Officer, to be received no later than 5pm on Thursday 30 April 2015. They should be posted to Aberdeenshire Council, Learning Estates Team, Education & Children's Services, Gordon House, Blackhall Road, Inverurie, AB51 3WA or emailed to [rezoning@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:rezoning@aberdeenshire.gov.uk).

- 10.8 A copy of this document will also be sent to Education Scotland (ES). ES will also receive a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Council during the consultation period, or, if ES agree, a summary of them. ES will also receive a copy of any oral representations made at the public meeting, and a copy of any other relevant documentation. ES will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal. In preparing their report, ES may visit the schools and make any reasonable enquiries as they consider appropriate.

### **Consideration of Consultation Responses**

- 10.9 Aberdeenshire Council will review the proposals in light of the ES report, survey results, written representations received and oral representations made by any person at the public meeting. A final report will then be prepared on the consultation. This report will be published in electronic and printed formats. It will be available on Aberdeenshire Council's website and from Council Headquarters, as well as the schools, libraries and offices listed on page 2 of this document, free of charge.
- 10.10 The council's final report will include the total number of written representations received during the consultation period, a summary of the written representations and a summary of the oral representations made at the public meeting. The report will also include the Local Authority's response to the ES report, a response to issues raised through any written or oral representations it has received, a copy of the ES report and any other relevant information including details of any alleged inaccuracies and how these have been handled. The report will also contain a statement explaining how the Council has complied with the requirement to review the proposal in light of the ES report and representations (both written and oral) that were received.
- 10.11 The last section of the report will include an officer recommendation as to whether the proposals should be adopted and implemented. The final consultation report will be published at least 3 weeks prior to the Council making a decision.

### **Decision Making**

- 10.12 No decision will be taken by the Council on the proposals contained in this paper until after the end of the consultation period. The Council will then receive a report on the consultation and will make a recommendation in the final consultation report outlined above.
- 10.13 The final consultation report will be considered firstly by the Marr Area Committee who will be asked to make a recommendation as to whether the proposed changes are implemented.
- 10.14 Following discussion and recommendation at the Marr Area Committee, the Education, Learning and Leisure Committee will consider the report and be asked to approve the officer recommendation in the report.

## **11 Equal Opportunities**

- 11.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is a statutory requirement on the Council to assess the policies and practices necessary to meet the requirements of anti-discrimination and equalities legislation. It also affords an opportunity for the Council to consider the impact on the education service. In addition an EIA can provide more information to develop and deliver services that meet the needs, in this case, of children and parents.
- 11.2 The aim of an EIA is to examine policies and practice in a structured way to make sure that adverse effects on groups with protected characteristics are avoided. It is also a tool to enable the Council to assess what positive steps it can take to promote equality of opportunity and measure the results of the actions that have been taken.
- 11.3 With regards to the rezoning of the Banchory Primary School network, it is not believed that this will have a negative impact on any of the groups with protected characteristics.
- 11.4 Under the Equality Act 2010 education providers must not treat disabled pupils less favourably and should take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage. Existing arrangements in place for pupils within the Banchory network with additional support needs will continue.
- 11.5 As part of the consultation process the Council will consult with a wide range of stakeholders, including staff, parents/carers and young people, and will address comments about equality during this consultation.

## **12 Conclusion**

- 12.1 There are significant educational benefits in favour of this proposal which will meet the educational needs of the community of Banchory and surrounding area and enhance resources for the wider community.
- 12.2 The Council believes that the measures proposed in this document will enhance the provision of primary education in this area.