



EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

**JUNE 2017
PROPOSAL DOCUMENT
BLAIRS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
REZONING**

Proposal to formalise the arrangement for pupils from the Blairs Royal Deeside Housing Development, south of the River Dee Aberdeen, to attend Lairhillock School for primary education and Mackie Academy for secondary education

SUMMARY PROPOSAL

It is proposed that:

The pupils living in the Blairs development will attend Lairhillock for primary education and Mackie Academy for secondary education

New pupils from the Blairs development should be educated at their newly zoned secondary school with effect from August 2018;

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

The schools affected by this proposal are:

Lairhillock School
Mackie Academy

DISTRIBUTION

A copy of this document is available on the Aberdeenshire Council web-site:

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/education-consultations/>

Or by e-mailing learningstates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

This document will be provided to:

- Parent Council(s) of the schools listed above
- Parents of the pupils at the schools listed above
- Pupils at the schools listed above
- Staff at the schools listed above
- Trade union representatives of the above staff
- Stonehaven Community Council
- Relevant users of Lairhillock School and Mackie Academy
- Education Scotland

A copy of this document is also available from:

- Council HQ, Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5GB
- Stonehaven Library
- Lairhillock School
- Mackie Academy
- Gordon House, Blackhall Road, Inverurie

1 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 focused upon the Blairs Royal Deeside housing development to the south of the River Dee, Aberdeen.
- 1.5 This proposal is solely focused on Lairhillock School and Mackie Academy. This proposal will not impact the rest of the primary schools in the Stonehaven Network. These schools are Arduthie School, Bervie School, Catterline School, Dunnottar School, Glenbervie School, Gourdon School, Johnshaven School, Kinneff School, Mill O'Forest School or Carronhill School.

2 Reason for Proposal

- 2.1 Aberdeen City Council commenced their consultation to rezone the Cults Academy school zone to exclude the ground to the south of the River Dee currently within the Cults Academy zone on the 19 February 2015.
- 2.2 The Education, Learning and Leisure Committee of Aberdeenshire Council on 26 March 2015, considered a report on the Aberdeen City Council consultation and the impact it would have on Aberdeenshire residents. The response from Aberdeenshire Council requested that no changes be made to the catchment area, but that if changes were deemed essential, that provision should be made to ensure that siblings of existing pupils attending the school could continue to do so.
- 2.3 On 2 June 2015, Aberdeen City Council considered a report on the consultation and decided that whilst existing houses within the area consulted upon would continue to be zoned to Cults Academy, any new housing developments would not be entitled to attend the school and will require to be rezoned to an Aberdeenshire Council secondary school.
- 2.4 This proposal was prompted by the decision made by Aberdeen City Council to remove the Blairs Housing Development from the Cults Academy catchment.
- 2.5 A copy of the consultation report detailing the decision of Aberdeen City Council can be found by following this link:
http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/council_government/consultations/current_consultations/sc/CultsAcademyRezoning2015/CST_Cults_Academy_Rezoning.asp

- 2.6 Aberdeenshire Council is seeking to formalise the arrangements for the pupils living in the Blairs housing development; and that these pupils should continue to be zoned to Lairhillock School for primary education and then to the secondary school for the cluster which is Mackie Academy.

3 Details of the proposal

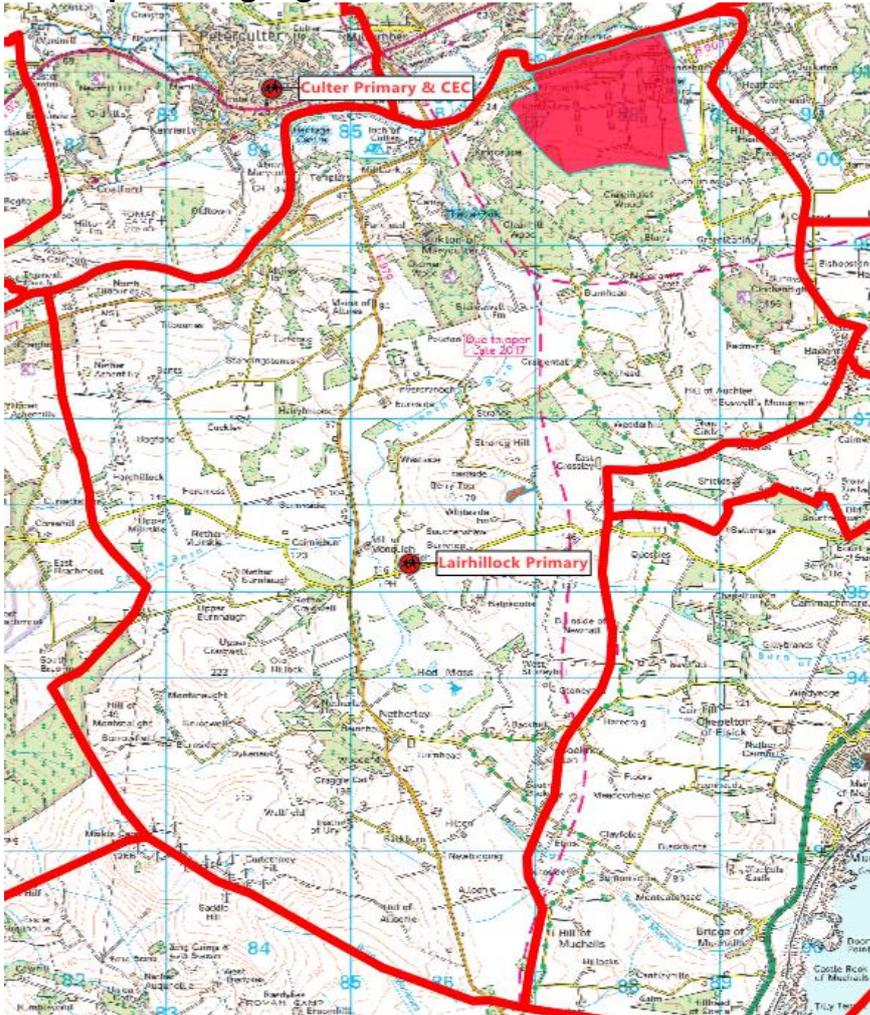
- 3.1 The council proposes that the pupils from the Blairs Housing Development on South Deeside Road, Aberdeen, continue to be zoned for Lairhillock School for primary education and progress on to Mackie Academy, which is the secondary school for the network.
- 3.2 The council proposes that this change should take effect from August 2018; and that from this date all new pupils from the Blairs Housing Development should attend their newly zoned secondary school.
- 3.3 This proposal document contains maps detailing the location of the Blairs Housing Development in relation to Lairhillock School, Mackie Academy.
- 3.4 Printed copies of the maps will be on display in each of the schools affected by the consultation and available on request at Gordon House in Inverurie. Pdf copies of the maps will be available on the Aberdeenshire Council website: <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/education-consultations/>
- 3.5 Pupils living out with 2 miles of their zoned primary school and 3 miles of their secondary school, would have an entitlement to free school transport.
- 3.6 Pupils from the Blairs Housing Development would be entitled to free school transport to and from Lairhillock School and Mackie Academy as per Council policy. Lairhillock School currently has 78 pupils who are transported to school and Mackie Academy has 454 pupils who are currently transported to school.

Proposed Option

Pupils from the Blairs Housing Development should continue to be zoned to Lairhillock School for primary education and then to the secondary school for the cluster, which is Mackie Academy

This option seeks to confirm that the catchment area for the Blairs housing development located south of the River Dee, will continue to be zoned to Lairhillock School for primary provision and Mackie Academy will now become the zoned school for secondary provision. This option seeks to finalise the arrangements for those living in the Blairs housing development after the outcome of the rezoning consultation conducted by Aberdeen City Council in 2015 in which Aberdeen City Council removed the housing development of Blairs from the Cults Academy catchment area. The Blairs Housing Development is approximately 11 miles to Mackie Academy.

Map 1 – Lairhillock Catchment Area with the location of Blairs Housing Development highlighted



Map 2 – Location of Blairs Housing Development and Mackie Academy Location



Table 1 – School Roll Forecast for Mackie Academy

This table contains a live working forecast and is not published data.

School	Capacity	Forecast for current session (live figures)	Projected Rolls					
			2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Mackie Academy	1290	1086	1160	1231	1242	1252	1249	1244

4 Educational Benefit Statement

- 4.1 This proposal to finalise the zoned primary and secondary schools for the pupils residing in the Blairs Housing Development would ensure pupils and parents have clarity regarding their zoned schools.
- 4.2 The proposed changes will allow the pupils to be educated in school buildings with ample space for learning.
- 4.3 Aberdeenshire Council is committed to delivering entitlements to learners in the 21st Century according to the Curriculum for Excellence.
- 4.4 This proposal would ensure that pupils would be educated in a primary and secondary school in the same network. This would allow children to move through the school system together and would help with the transition from primary to secondary school.

5 Alternatives to the proposal

- 5.1 A number of proposals were considered and have been discounted in the preparation of this proposal. These are documented below.
- 5.2 The option of rezoning the Blairs Housing Development to Banchory-Devenick School for primary provision was considered by officers. Banchory-Devenick is a small school classed as accessible rural in the Portlethen Network. The capacity of Banchory-Devenick School is 70 pupils. If the pupils from Blairs were rezoned to Banchory-Devenick School from Lairhillock School, it would result in the pupil roll increasing and exceeding capacity as documented in the table below. If the pupils were rezoned to Banchory-Devenick, they would be in the secondary catchment for Portlethen Academy which again will also be under pressure for capacity due to ongoing house building in the area.

Table 2 – Banchory-Devenick School Roll Forecast

This table contains a live working forecast and is not published data

School	Capacity	Forecast for current session (live figures)	Projected Rolls					
			2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Banchory-Devenick	70	32	39	49	56	63	62	64
Banchory-Devenick (with Blairs)	70	32	42	58	72	85	92	102

Figures in red denote the roll exceeding capacity.

- 5.3 The option of rezoning the Blairs Housing Development to Portlethen Academy for secondary provision was also considered. The Blairs housing development is approximately 6 miles from Portlethen Academy. Portlethen Academy would not have capacity for the additional pupils from this housing development as it is the designated school for the Chapelton of Elsick housing development and the capacity could be under pressure in future years.

Table 3 – Portlethen Academy School Roll Forecast

This table contains a live working forecast and is not published data

School	Capacity	Forecast for current session (live figures)	Projected Rolls					
			2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Portlethen Academy	970	770	826	853	898	930	997	1066
Portlethen Academy (with Blairs)	970	770	828	859	911	949	1024	1101

Figures in red denote the roll exceeding capacity.

6 Effect on the local community

- 6.1 This proposal should help to build community links and strong transition for pupils to the academy, as the pupils will be educated at Lairhillock School and then continue to Mackie Academy; thus remaining within one school network.

7 School Transport

- 7.1 This proposal will result in additional transportation costs as the pupils living in the Blairs Housing Development will be zoned for Mackie Academy and therefore entitled to free school transport as per Council policy.

8 Financial Implications

- 8.1 The rising roll across the network may result in an increase in staffing numbers in due course. Any changes would be gradual and would be managed through existing HR recruitment policies.
- 8.2 There will be increased transportation costs for the Council generated from pupils from the Blairs Development.

9 Implications for staff

- 9.1 Initially there should be minimal implications for staff. As the overall roll of the Stonehaven Network rises there will be a requirement for additional teaching staff.

10 Equal Opportunities

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 An EIA has been completed for this proposal and has not identified any negative impact on any of the groups with protected characteristics.
- 10.3 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.
- 10.4 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 Stonehaven network with additional support needs will continue.

11 Consultation Arrangements

- 11.1 At its meeting on 14 June 2017, Aberdeenshire Council's Education & Children's Services Committee were asked to agree that a proposal document should be issued as a basis for consultation. No decision will be taken by the Council on the proposal contained in the paper until after the end of the consultation period. The Council will then receive a report on the consultation and will reach a view on the proposal.
- 11.2 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 the Council's website:

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/education-consultations/>

- 11.3 The period for consultation will extend from Wednesday 28 June 2017 until Friday 29 September 2017 which covers a minimum period of 30 school days.
- 11.4 A public meeting will be held at Arduthie School, Stonehaven on Thursday 7 September 2017 at 7pm. The meeting will be convened by the Council and the Council will present the reasons for bringing forward the proposal. There will be an opportunity for questions and comment. The meeting will be minuted so that comments can later be summarised and considered.
- 11.5 Meetings will be organised for the staff during the consultation period to discuss the proposals and a number of opportunities will be arranged for all pupils within the schools mentioned in this document, to engage in the consultation during the first few weeks of the new school session.
- 11.6 An online survey will be available as part of the consultation. This can be completed at the following address:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BlairsRezoning>
- 11.7 The Council will also take into account written comments which should be sent to Mrs Maxine Booth, Quality Improvement Manager, to be received no later than 5pm on Friday 29 September 2017. They should be posted to Aberdeenshire Council, Education & Children's Services, Gordon House, Blackhall Road, Inverurie, AB51 3WA or emailed to learningstates@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
- 11.8 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. ES will further receive a copy of any oral representations made at the public meeting and a copy of any other documentation. ES will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal. In preparing the report, ES may visit the schools and make such reasonable enquiries as they consider appropriate.

12 Consideration of Consultation Responses

- 12.1 The Council will review the proposals having regard to the ES Report, survey results, written representations that it has received and oral representations made to it by any person at the public meeting. It will then prepare a report on the consultation. This report will be published in electronic and printed formats. It will be available on the Council website and from Council Headquarters, as well as at the schools, libraries and offices listed on page 2 of this document, free of charge. Anyone who has made written representations during the consultation period will also be informed about the report.
- 12.2 The report will include a record of the total number of written representations made during the consultation period, a summary of the written responses and a summary of the comments made at the public meeting. The report will also include the Authority's response to the ES Report; a response to issues raised through any comments it has received; together with 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 it received.

12.3 The last section of the report will include an officer recommendation as to which proposals should be adopted and implemented. The Consultation Report will be published at least 3 weeks prior to the Council making a decision.

12.4 As it is proposed to implement the changes from August 2018, a copy of the consultation report will be in the public domain from January 2018. A final decision is likely to be made by the Council in February 2018.

13 Decision Making

13.1 The consultation report will be considered firstly by the Kincardine & Mearns Area Committee who will be asked to make a recommendation as to whether the proposed changes are implemented. This is expected to be in January 2018.

13.2 Following discussion and recommendation at the Kincardine & Mearns Area Committee, the Education & Children's Services Committee will consider the report and be asked to approve the officer recommendation in the report. This is expected to be in February 2018.

14 Conclusion

14.1 There are strong educational arguments in favour of this proposal.

14.2 The Council believe that the measures proposed in this document will enhance the education provision for the pupils living in the area and for the pupils living at the Blairs Housing Development.