CONSULTATION REPORT
Hanover Street School and Sunnybank School Rezoning

This Consultation Report has been compiled in response to the recent public consultation on the proposal to remove an area of dual-school zoning for Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School, in Aberdeen. The document summarises the responses received on the proposals set out below and Aberdeen City Council’s response to the verbal and written comments submitted by interested parties, in compliance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Proposal:

To remove an area of dual-school zoning for Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School, and to include this area within the zone for Sunnybank School only, with effect from 1st August 2016
1. METHODOLOGY

This consultation was conducted in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. All requirements of the legislation have been met.

2. INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS

2.1 Public Event

A public consultation event was held on 3rd February 2016 to discuss the proposals:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Recorded Attendees</th>
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| 3rd February 2016 | 7- 8 pm | Sunnybank School | • 1 parent and member of the Sunnybank School Parent Council  
|                  |       |              | • 2 Aberdeen City Council officers                      |

2.2 Comments Received

No written comments were received in response to this consultation.

2.3 Issues Raised at the Public Consultation Event

The meeting was attended by one member of the public, who was a parent of a pupil at Sunnybank School, and also a representative of Sunnybank School’s Parent Council.

The parent had some questions about how the additional space, which is expected to be required at Sunnybank School if the proposals are accepted, would be created.

The parent stated a preference to see the EAL Service and the Community Centre remain within the building, as there was a feeling that these contributed to the multicultural nature of the Sunnybank School community.

The parent also felt that there are benefits from Aberdeen School for the Deaf being present within the building, as it allowed the children attending this specialist provision to integrate with children at Sunnybank School, which is an enriching experience for the children at both schools.

The parent commented that the low response to the consultation and the fact that no other parents attended the meeting, may have been because some parents did not understand what was being proposed, and that the information sent out to parents about the consultation could have been made more clear.
**Education Scotland Report**

An essential element of the statutory consultation process is the involvement of Education Scotland whose report is provided as Annex A of this Consultation Report.

In its report, Education Scotland noted that the proposal put forward is of clear educational benefit to children attending both schools, and that if implemented, it would help to sustain viable pupil rolls in both schools, and help to ensure best value in the management of the Council's school estate. It was also noted that a high proportion of children living in the currently dual zoned area already attend Sunnybank School.

In commenting on the discussions that HM Inspectors had with staff, pupils and parents of the two schools, the report states that stakeholders were positive and saw the benefits of the proposal, and that the provision within the proposal for younger siblings of existing Hanover Street School pupils to also attend that school was welcomed.

The report also highlighted requests from some stakeholders for the Council to ensure there is sufficient space at Sunnybank School to accommodate the likely increase in pupil numbers, and to consider relocating some of the services currently using rooms at the school, whilst other stakeholders expressed a preference to retain these services within the school.

Finally the report suggests that the Council should ensure that appropriate transition arrangements are in place for children who will attend a new school in August 2016.

3. **THE COUNCIL’S RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD AND CONTAINED WITHIN THE EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT**

The following paragraphs provide responses to the significant points raised during the consultation period:

### 3.1 Space requirements at Sunnybank School and impact on other services using the school

- The pupil roll forecasts for Sunnybank School indicate that, if the proposal is accepted and children from the current dual zone area attend Sunnybank School only in future, there will be sufficient capacity within the rooms currently used by the school until 2018. From 2018 onwards, it is likely that at least one of the rooms currently used by other services would be required to be used as a classroom. In the years following 2018 further rooms may be required to be put back into use as classrooms.

- Prior to 2018, officers will work with the services concerned and with the school to identify the most appropriate solution for releasing additional rooms within the building, and for relocating services where this is required. This work will be planned carefully in order to minimise any disruption to pupils at the school or to the staff and users of the services concerned.

### 3.2 Transition arrangements for pupils attending a new school in August
• Given that pupils living in the current dual zone area who already attend Hanover Street School would have the option to continue doing so, the proposed changes if implemented are likely only to affect children who have not yet reached school age, and who would therefore have been preparing to start a new school for the first time anyway. It is not anticipated that any pupils who already have a place at Hanover Street School would be transitioning to Sunnybank School as a result of these proposals.

• However the Council does have transition arrangements in place for any pupils moving to a new school, and the schools would work closely with the children and families concerned, should the need arise.

3.3 Clarity of communication to parents

• Officers have taken on board the comment received at the public consultation meeting, with regards to the low turnout to the meeting and the possibility that this might have been due to the way in which the proposals were explained in the communication sent to parents prior to the meeting.

• The way in which proposals are explained to parents as part of any future public consultations will be reviewed, and letters sent to parents will be written clearly and carefully, to ensure that they are accessible by as many parents and stakeholders as possible.

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

Following the conclusion of the consultation period, Section 9(1) of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, requires the Council to review the relevant proposal, having had regard to any written representations that have been received by it during the consultation period, oral representations made to it at the public meeting held on 3rd February, and Education Scotland’s report.

In terms of Section 10(2) (e) of the said Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, the Consultation Report requires to contain a statement explaining how the Council complied with its duty under the above Section 9(1) of the Act.

With relation to Section 9(1) of the 2010 Act and having considered all of the information received during the consultation process, officers are satisfied that no comments have been received which would have caused them to review the merits of the proposals to: remove an area of dual-school zoning for Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School, and to include this area within the zone for Sunnybank School only, with effect from 1st August 2016.
5. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Education and Children’s Services Committee agrees to implement the proposals to:

Remove an area of dual-school zoning for Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School, and to include this area within the zone for Sunnybank School only, with effect from 1st August 2016.

Gayle Gorman
Director of Education and Children’s Services
May 2016
ANNEX A

REPORT FROM EDUCATION SCOTLAND

Report by Education Scotland addressing the educational aspects of the proposal by Aberdeen City Council to remove the dual zoning between Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School, and to include the area of land affected within the zone for Sunnybank School only with effect from August 2016.

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 contained in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of Aberdeen City Council’s proposal to remove the dual zoning between Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School, and to include the area of land affected within the zone for Sunnybank School only with effect from August 2016. 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 both Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School; 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, including younger siblings;

- 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:

- 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 Hanover Street School and Sunnybank School.

2. **Consultation Process**

2.1 Aberdeen City 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 process ran from 13 January to 29 February 2016. A copy of the statutory consultation document was made available at several venues, including both schools, and letters with information on the proposal were made available to parents of children at the schools involved. Aberdeen City Council’s website also provided information on the proposal, including the consultation document. During the consultation period, the council held a public meeting on 3 February 2016. One parent attended from Sunnybank School. The council received no written responses to the proposal.

3. **Educational Aspects of Proposal**

3.1 This proposal is of clear educational benefit to children attending both schools. If implemented, the proposal will help sustain viable pupil rolls in both schools and will help the council to ensure best value in managing its school estate. The proposal addresses the predicted increase in roll at Hanover Street School, which is likely to exceed the building’s capacity over the next seven years. As a result of the proposal, both primary schools have the potential to provide children with a broad range of learning experiences, in line with Curriculum for Excellence, in an environment free from overcrowding. Arrangements made by the council to allow existing pupils and their younger siblings to continue to attend Hanover Street School are reasonable. A high proportion of children in the currently dual zoned area attend Sunnybank School. The council should ensure that appropriate transition arrangements are in place for children and those children moving to a new school in August 2016.

3.2 Overall, in both primary schools, staff, children and parents who met with HM Inspectors were positive and saw the benefits of the proposal. Stakeholders were pleased that the younger siblings of existing Hanover Street pupils would be able to attend the same school as their older brother or sister. In Sunnybank School, a few stakeholders wanted the council to ensure that sufficient space was available for pupils as a result of the increased school roll and to consider the possible relocation of other services currently housed within the building should the need for more accommodation become apparent in the future. A few stakeholders felt there are advantages for keeping these services in the school. Children in Sunnybank School felt that the proposal would allow them to have more friends and better access to school clubs due to potentially increased numbers. A few stakeholders from Sunnybank considered that the proposal to re-zone would make children’s travel to school safer as a result of them not having to cross a dual carriageway.
4. Summary

The proposal to remove the dual zoning between Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School, and to include the area of land affected within the zone for Sunnybank School only is of clear educational benefit. If the proposal is implemented, it will enable children who live in the catchment zone to attend their local primary school and has the potential to address the projected increased school roll at Hanover Street School thus avoiding overcrowding. It will also enable the council to ensure best value in managing its school estate. If implemented, and on account of the tight timescale, the council urgently needs to ensure that appropriate transition arrangements are in place for children who will attend a new school in August 2016.

3. HM Inspectors
   Education Scotland
   March 2016