



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

Education and Children's Services Department

Sandwick Road, Stornoway HS1 2BW
Rathad Shanndabhaig, Steornabhagh HS1 2BW

Education Provision PROPOSAL DOCUMENT – November 2014

Proposal to Revise the Catchment Boundary for Leverhulme Memorial School and Sir E Scott School Isle of Harris

Roinn an Fhoghlaim is Seirbheisean Chloinne

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Review of Education Provision - November 2014

**PROPOSAL DOCUMENT TO REVISE THE CATCHMENT BOUNDARY FOR
 LEVERHULME MEMORIAL SCHOOL AND SIR E SCOTT SCHOOL, ISLE OF HARRIS**

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Review of Education Provision: November 2014

CATCHMENT BOUNDARY FOR LEVERHULME MEMORIAL SCHOOL AND SIR E SCOTT SCHOOL, ISLE OF HARRIS

Report by the Director of Education and Children's Services

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that the catchment areas for Leverhulme Memorial School and Sir E Scott School be defined as indicated in the ordnance survey maps which forms Appendix 1 to the Proposal Document with effect from August 2015.

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Comhairle, at its Meeting on 12 September 2013, authorised the Director of Education and Children's Services to proceed to undertake the necessary statutory consultation with parents, staff, pupils and other interested parties affected by the proposal that the catchment areas for Leverhulme Memorial School and Sir E Scott School be defined as indicated in the ordnance survey maps which forms Appendix 1 to the Proposal Document with effect from August 2015 as required by the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010.
- 1.2 While there is no legal requirement for a school to have a defined catchment area, local authorities use the definition as an administrative tool so that children living within a catchment area are normally provided with a place at the school serving that area.
- 1.3 Currently a number of anomalies exist whereby children and young people's catchment areas result in them travelling to schools a significant distance from their home when there is a closer school available. In these circumstances, in order for parents to enrol their children in the school closest to their home, they have to submit a placing request and thereby incur additional transport costs.
- 1.4 This document relates to a proposal that the catchment areas for Leverhulme Memorial School and Sir E Scott School be defined as indicated in the ordnance survey maps which forms Appendix 1 to the Proposal Document with effect from August 2015.
- 1.5 At its meeting on 24 April 2014 the Comhairle agreed that the catchment areas for Leverhulme Memorial School and Sir E Scott School be changed with effect from August 2014. This moved the previous boundary on the west coast on Harris from the Northton village road end on the A859 to just before the village of Seilebost on the A859 which would effectively move the villages of Scarista, Borve and Horgabost into the Leverburgh School catchment area.
- 1.6 Following this consultation, the Comhairle agreed to consult further on the proposal to include the villages of Lickisto, Manish and Geocrab in the Sir E Scott catchment area and not to charge for school transport from these villages to Sir E Scott School pending the outcome of the consultation.

CONSULTATIVE PROCESS - SUMMARY OF PROCESS FOR THIS PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

Consideration by the Education and Children's Services Committee

- 2.1 This Proposal Document has been issued as a result of a decision approved by the Comhairle. This is to seek views on the proposal in this paper.

Proposal Document issued to consultees and published on Comhairle Web-site

- 2.2 A copy of this document will be issued free of charge to the consultees listed at Appendix 2. It will also be published on the Comhairle website: www.cne-siar.gov.uk

Publication of advertisement in local newspapers

- 2.3 An advertisement will be placed in the Stornoway Gazette and the West Highland Free Press. In addition, there will be announcements related to the Consultation process on the local radio station, Isles FM, and Radio nan Gaidheal.

Length of Consultation period

- 2.4 An advertisement will be placed in local newspapers on Thursday, 20 November 2014. The consultation will thereafter run until close of business on Friday, 23 January 2015, which includes a period of 34 school days.

Public meetings

- 2.5 Public meetings will be held on Tuesday, 16 December 2014, the details of which are given in Section 3 of this document.

Involvement of Education Scotland

- 2.6 When the Proposal Document is published, a copy will also be sent to Education Scotland by the Comhairle. Education Scotland will also receive a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Comhairle from any person during the consultation period or, if Education Scotland agree, a summary of them. Education Scotland will further receive a summary of any oral representation made to the Comhairle at the public meeting that will be held and, as available (and so far as otherwise practicable), a copy of any other relevant documentation. Education Scotland will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal not later than 20 February 2015 after the Comhairle has sent them all representations and documents as mentioned above. In preparing their report, Education Scotland may visit the affected schools and make such reasonable enquiries of such people there, as they consider appropriate, and may make such reasonable enquiries of such other people as they consider appropriate.

Preparation of Consultation Report

- 2.7 The Comhairle will review the proposal having regard to the Education Scotland Report, written representations that it has received and oral representations made to it by any person at the public meeting. It will then prepare a Consultation Report. This report will be published in electronic and printed formats and will be advertised in local newspapers. It will be available on the Comhairle web-site and from Comhairle Headquarters, as well as at the affected schools, free of charge. Anyone who has made written representations during the consultation period will also be informed about the report. The report will include a record of the total number of written representations made during the consultation period, a summary of the written representations, a summary of the oral representations made at the public meeting, the Authority's response to the Education Scotland Report as well as any written or oral representations it has received, together with a copy of the Education Scotland 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 it complied with the requirement to review the proposal in light of the Education Scotland Report and representations (both written and oral) that it received. The Consultation Report will be published at least 3 weeks prior to the Comhairle making a decision.

Decision

- 2.8 This Consultation Report, together with any other relevant documentation will be considered by the Education and Children's Services Committee on 14 April 2015 which will make a recommendation. This recommendation will then be subject to the approval of the Comhairle on 22 April 2015.

Note on Corrections

- 2.10 If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this Proposal Document either by the Comhairle or any person, the Comhairle will determine if relevant information has been omitted or, if there has been an inaccuracy. The Comhairle will then take appropriate action which may include the issue of a correction or the reissuing of the Proposal paper or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period if appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and Education Scotland will be advised.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- 3.1 Public Meetings will be held to discuss the proposal. Anyone wishing to attend one of these public meetings is invited to do so. The meetings will be convened by the Comhairle and will be addressed by representatives of the Education and Children's Services Department and other senior officers of the Comhairle.
- 3.2 The meetings will be an opportunity to:
- hear more about the proposal;
 - ask questions about the proposal;
 - have the views of all stakeholders recorded so that they can be taken into account as part of the proposal process.
- 3.3 Arrangements for the meetings are as follows:

| Venue | Date | Time |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Sir E Scott School | Tuesday, 16 December 2014 | 5.30pm – 7.00pm |
| Leverhulme Memorial School | Tuesday, 16 December 2014 | 7.30pm – 9.00pm |

- 3.4 Note will be taken at the meetings of questions and views. These will be published on the Comhairle web-site, and copies will be made available on request. The meetings will also be recorded.
- 3.5 The Comhairle will also take into consideration any written or electronic submissions on the proposal, which may be submitted to schoolconsultations@cne-siar.gov.uk or to the **Chief Executive at the Comhairle Offices, Sandwick Road, Stornoway HS1 2BW, to arrive not later than 5.00pm on Friday, 23 January 2015.**

GENERAL BACKGROUND TO THE NEED FOR A REVIEW

- 4.1 Currently a number of anomalies exist whereby children and young people's catchment areas result in them travelling to schools a significant distance from their home when there is a closer school available. In these circumstances, in order for parents to enrol their children in the school closest to their home, they have to submit a placing request and thereby incur additional transport costs.
- 4.2 Following the initial consultation in 2013 it was agreed that a revised proposal, incorporating suggestions from members of the community regarding the eastern boundaries of the catchment area be considered.

KEY FACTORS

School Rationalisation and Catchment Areas

- 5.1 Appendix 3 provides the current school roll for both schools. Leverhulme Memorial School has a current roll of 23 pupils and a capacity for 71 pupils. Sir E Scott School has a current roll of 175 pupils and a capacity for 236 pupils. It is not anticipated that there will be a growth in population that will require additional education provision within this community area.
- 5.2 The closure of Shelibost School has resulted in a school catchment area for Leverhulme Memorial and Sir E Scott Schools extending to include the whole of Harris. This has resulted in a situation where some children attend a school that is not the school nearest to their home.
- 5.3 Currently, for some parents who wish to send their child to their nearest school, they are required to make a placing request and to either transport their children to school or meet the costs of public transport. Primary pupils living more than 2 miles from their designated primary school have access to free transport.

- 5.4 In order to address this anomaly it is proposed to that the school catchment area be redefined in order to reflect parental placement choices and to reduce travelling distances.

CONSULTATION PROPOSAL

- 6.1 It is proposed that the catchment areas for Leverhulme Memorial School and Sir E Scott School be defined as indicated in the ordnance survey map in Appendix 1 to the Proposal Document with effect from August 2015. This would entail moving the boundary to include the villages of Lickisto, Manish and Geocrab in the Sir E Scott catchment area.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

Affected Schools

7.1 Background

The school estate review ensured that Leverhulme Memorial School and Sir E Scott School could accommodate current and future pupil numbers and provide an improved school estate.

Curriculum

- 7.2 Leverhulme Memorial and Sir E Scott Schools, as a consequence of the school estate review, have enhanced environments with more appropriate class groupings which promote learning and teaching. Both schools provide a wide range of learning experiences and outcomes compliant with the requirements of Curriculum for Excellence and have very good physical resources in outdoor and practical areas.

Learning Environment /Resources

- 7.3 Leverhulme Memorial and Sir E Scott Schools benefit from access to a wide range of facilities including specialist classrooms and flexible teaching areas which have been adapted or were built to meet the changing nature of education in the 21st century, including the requirements for the delivery of a Curriculum for Excellence.

- **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**

Leverhulme Memorial School has three main classrooms and the nursery playroom with interactive smartboards. A range of computers, including a set of netbooks, allows the children to use online resources via wireless internet access which is available throughout the school.

Sir E Scott School has Learning Walls /Interactive Smartboards in each room, including GP Room and Learning Support Room. Wireless internet access is available throughout the school and there is a very good ratio of netbooks per pupil.

- **Additional Support Needs (ASN)**

Leverhulme Memorial School and Sir E Scott School have the facilities to cater for the needs of all children, including those with additional support needs.

- **Gaelic Medium Education**

Leverhulme Memorial School and Sir E Scott School provide Gaelic Medium education at both primary and pre-school levels.

Accessibility of Premises

- 7.4 Leverhulme Memorial School and Sir E Scott School are Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA) compliant.

Extra Curricular Activities

- 7.5 Leverhulme Memorial School pupils have access to an after school club during the Spring term where staff and parents provide activities such as sport, cooking and crafts. On occasions throughout the session support staff run lunch time activities, for example, unihoc or football in the school gym.

Sir E Scott School offers a sports lunchtime club to primary pupils every Friday, led by 2 S5 boys. P7 Young leaders organise break time activities with support from Active Schools. There are after school clubs such as swimming and Highland dancing available after school and run by other organisations. Over the winter months the school plans to offer after-school clubs organised by parent volunteers.

Likely Effect on the Local Community

- 7.6 It is believed that the proposal will not be detrimental to the local community and will have no impact on social or economic activities in the Leverhulme Memorial or Sir E Scott Schools' catchment areas.

Implications for Pupils Enrolment

- 7.7 If the proposal is implemented for August 2015 the pupils currently enrolled in either school may choose to remain in their current schools or transfer immediately to their new catchment school.

Pupils currently enrolled in either school will not incur additional transport costs as a result of these proposals for the 2014/15 academic session. However, a placement request would require to be made for any new pupils not wishing to attend their catchment school in the 2015/16 academic session and thereafter.

Travel

- 7.8 The proposal will reduce the travel time for those children affected by the boundary change.

Staff Transfer

- 7.9 It is not anticipated that the number of pupils affected by the boundary change will significantly affect the rolls of either school and therefore there will be no staff transfer implications.

Summary of Educational Benefits

- 7.10 Attending either school offers the same educational benefits. Both schools offer:
- curricular and extra-curricular activities for pupils;
 - flexibility in grouping pupils for learning and teaching;
 - flexibility in the deployment of staff to meet learning needs;
 - opportunities for staff to share effective practice and a wide range of learning and teaching approaches;
 - good opportunities to provide school improvement.

CONCLUSION

- 8.1 In order to reflect parental choices and reduce travelling time for some pupils it is proposed that the catchment areas for Leverhulme Memorial School and Sir E Scott School be defined as indicated in the ordnance survey map which forms Appendix 1 to the Proposal Document with effect from August 2015. This would entail moving the boundary to include the villages of Lickisto, Manish and Geocrab in the Sir E Scott catchment area reflecting the historic enrolment pattern for the school.

RECOMMENDED CATCHMENT AREA

| Leverhulme Memorial | Sir E Scott | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Ardvey | Aline | Geocrab | Meavaig North |
| Borrisdale | Amhuinnsuidhe | Govig | Meavaig South |
| Borsam | Ardhasaig | Grosebay | Plockpool |
| Borve | Ardvey Stockinish | Horsaclete | Rhenigidale |
| Finsbay | Ardvourlie | Hushinish | Scadabay |
| Flodabay | Bedersaig | Isle of Scalpay | Scaladale |
| Horgabost | Bowglas | Kendibig | Seilebost |
| Leverburgh | Bunavoneadar | Kyles Scalpay | Stockinish |
| Lingerbay | Carrageich | Leacklee | Tarbert |
| Northton | Cliasmol | Lickisto | Urgha |
| Quidinish | Cluer | Luskentyre | |
| Rodel | Collam | Maarraig | |
| Scarista | Diracleit | Manish | |
| Strond | Drinishader | | |

APPENDIX 1

Proposed catchment areas for Leverhulme Memorial School/Sir E Scott School



APPENDIX 2

The consultation will be open to all relevant stakeholders. The groups that will be specifically consulted are:

- Parents of pupils in affected schools;
- Pupils of any affected school;
- Staff (teaching and other) of any affected school;
- Parent Councils;
- Parents of children who may attend affected schools within two years of any proposal being published;
- Trade Unions,
- Community Councils;
- Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership;
- Bord na Gaidhlig.

Staff and pupils will be consulted separately from the public meetings indicated in this Proposal Document.

APPENDIX 3

SUMMARY OF SCHOOL ROLLS: 2014/15

| Schools | Primary | | | | | | | Secondary | | | | | | Totals | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| | P1 | P2 | P3 | P4 | P5 | P6 | P7 | S1 | S2 | S3 | S4 | S5 | S6 | PRI | SEC | Total |
| Leverhulme Memorial School | 5 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 0 | 23 |
| Sir E Scott School | 7 | 13 | 7 | 14 | 6 | 11 | 11 | 17 | 12 | 24 | 25 | 15 | 13 | 69 | 106 | 175 |
| Total | 12 | 17 | 7 | 18 | 9 | 14 | 15 | 17 | 12 | 24 | 25 | 15 | 13 | 92 | 106 | 198 |