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Review of Education Provision

**Proposal to Revise the
Catchment Boundary for
Breasclete School and Shawbost School
Isle of Lewis**

**CONSULTATION REPORT
FEBRUARY 2014**

Roinn an Fhoghlaim is Seirbheisean Chloinne

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**CONSULTATION REPORT:
CATCHMENT BOUNDARY FOR BREASCLETE SCHOOL AND SHAWBOST SCHOOL,
ISLE OF LEWIS**

Index

Section:

1	Background
2	The Consultation Process
3	Consultation Meetings
4	Omissions and Inaccuracies
5	Representations
6	Summary of Representations and Comhairle Responses
7	Education Scotland (HMI) Report
8	Summary of Consultation with Pupils
9	Summary of Consultation with Staff
10	Financial Information
11	Conclusion
12	Recommendation

Appendices:

- A. *Proposal Document for the Catchment Boundary for Breasclete School and Shawbost School*
- B. *Note of Public Meeting*
- C. *Initial Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment*
- D. *Education Scotland (HMI) Report*

Review of Education Provision

CATCHMENT BOUNDARY FOR BREASCLETE SCHOOL AND SHAWBOST SCHOOL, ISLE OF LEWIS

Consultation Report

Report by Director of Education and Children's Services

PROPOSAL:

It is proposed that the catchment areas for Breasclate School and Shawbost School be defined as indicated in the ordnance survey map which forms Appendix 1 to the Proposal Document with effect from August 2014.

BACKGROUND

- 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 Breasclate School and Shawbost School be defined as indicated in the ordnance survey map which forms Appendix 1 to the Proposal Document with effect from August 2014 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 Subsequent to the School Estate Review, resulting in the closure of 8 primary schools it was considered appropriate to review catchment areas to ensure that children and young people have access to the school closest to their home address. 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 Breasclate School and Shawbost School be defined as indicated in the ordnance survey maps which forms Appendix 1 to the Proposal Document with effect from August 2014.

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 2.1 The current requirements for consulting are set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
 - A proposal document was issued as a result of a decision of the Comhairle as detailed in Appendix A. A copy of this document was issued free of charge to the consultees as listed in the Proposal Document and was also published on the Comhairle website.
 - An advert was placed in local newspapers on 24 October 2013 and the consultation ran thereafter for a period of 32 school days until 11 December 2013.
 - Public meetings were held on 27 November 2013.

- Pupils and staff were also consulted separately.
- Education Scotland involvement included being sent a copy of the proposal document, their visiting the affected schools and meeting with parents, pupils and staff. They also received a copy of all written representations. Education Scotland then prepared a report on the educational aspects of the proposal (Appendix D).
- This Consultation Report is the Comhairle’s response to issues raised during the consultation period including a response to identified inaccuracies in the consultation information.
- This Consultation Report will be published at least three weeks before a final decision is taken by the Comhairle on the proposal.

Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment

2.2 An Initial Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment (Appendix C), in line with statutory requirements, was undertaken in relation to the proposal for the school. There were no discriminatory or detrimental consequences identified to the proposal being implemented. Therefore, a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

CONSULTATION MEETINGS

- 3.1 Consultations meetings were held as follows:
- Public meetings at Breasclete School and Shawbost School on 27 November 2013.
 - Meetings with staff at Breasclete School and Shawbost School.

OMISSIONS AND INACCURACIES

4.1 No omissions or inaccuracies were identified in this process.

REPRESENTATIONS

5.1 The written representations received during the consultation period are detailed below.

Representations from:	Number
• Parent	1
TOTAL:	1

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS AND COMHAIRLE RESPONSES

6.1 This section details the relevant points raised at public meetings and in the written submissions. A full transcript of the public meeting is included as Appendix B. A copy of all written representations will be published as part of the Report to Comhairle Members.

6.2 The responses to the issues raised are detailed below.

TRAVELLING TIMES/DISTANCES
<p>ISSUE: Concern was expressed that pupils from Kirivig and Doune Carloway would be travelling further, for longer on potentially unsafe roads (for part of the journey).</p> <p>RESPONSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bus journey times from Kirivig and Doune Carloway to Shawbost school are approximately 25 minutes(within council policy).This is in contrast to the journey from Kirivig and Doune Carloway to Breasclete school which is approx. 15 minutes This does not represent a significant increase in travel times for pupils and is within CNES policy. • There have been no recent accidents involving school transport on this route

COMMUNITY LINKS
<p>ISSUE: There are strong community links between Breasclate and Carloway. This proposal could be detrimental to such links.</p> <p>RESPONSE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are also similar links between Carloway and Shawbost communities. It is not believed that the implementation of this proposal will be detrimental to such community links.

EDUCATION SCOTLAND (HMI) REPORT

- 7.1 In line with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, a report was provided by HM Inspectorate on the educational aspects of the proposal to revise the catchment boundary for Breasclate School and Shawbost School. This report is attached as Appendix D. The Report also identifies issues for consideration by the Comhairle as follows.

EDUCATION SCOTLAND (HMI) REPORT
<p>ISSUE: The council needs to consider the position of the shared boundaries at Tolstachaolais to ensure it addresses fully the concerns raised by the community during the consultation.</p> <p>RESPONSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tolstachaolais is in the proposed catchment area for Breasclate School. Currently it is in the Shawbost catchment area. At the public meeting, those present, were happy for Tolstachaolais to transfer to the Breasclate catchment area.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION WITH PUPILS

- 8.1 Interviews were held with pupils attending Shawbost School and Breasclate School on 27 November 2013.
- 8.2 The children made the following comments in relation to the proposal to revise the catchment boundary for Shawbost School and Breasclate School.

Breasclate School

- Children had been made aware of boundary consultation process by class teachers.
- The children did not identify any difficulties/problems associated with the proposed changes.
- Children identified the villages where they lived, how they travelled to school, where their friends lived, clubs they attended etc. on the maps provided.

Shawbost School

- The proposal was explained and the relocation of the catchment boundary indicated using maps printed on A3.
- The pupils thought the proposal to be a good idea.
- One pupil suggested that the line be placed just above Doune as they thought they knew of a pupil from that area who attended Breasclate Primary School.

- 8.3 These issues were discussed with the pupils and, where possible, age-appropriate answers provided.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION WITH STAFF

- 9.1 Teaching and non-teaching staff were invited to attend consultations regarding the Comhairle's proposals. The meetings were held on 27 November 2013. Staff were asked for their views and they made the following comments.

Breasclete

- Staff felt that the proposed changes to the Breasclete catchment were advantageous.
- Staff believed that the majority of children from Tolsta Chaolais attend Breasclete School as placing requests.
- In terms of resources and finances, staff commented on the capacity of the school and the availability of equipment. They hoped the school would benefit from additional resources and potential refurbishment as a result of school closures. Certain IT resources had been purchased following a donation to the school.

Shawbost

- All staff had received the proposal document and stated that there would be no children currently in the nursery at the school that would be affected.
- Staff agreed that the proposal was a positive move.
- Staff believed that Doune should remain in the catchment area of Shawbost School.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- 10.1 There are no financial consequences associated with the proposal.

CONCLUSION

- 11.1 The consultation process was robust and provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to identify key issues of concern. These issues have been fully considered and the Comhairle's response detailed in sections 6, 7, 8 and 9 above.
- 11.2 The Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000 requires local authorities " *to secure that the education is directed to the development of the personality, talents and mental and physical abilities of the child or young person to their fullest potential*". (Section 2(i))
- 11.3 Education Scotland HMI officers visited Shawbost School and Breasclete School to speak to parents, pupils and staff. They also had the opportunity to review in detail the proposal document and all written responses.
- 11.4 In summary, the Education Scotland (HMI) Report recognises that the council's proposal is of overall educational benefit as it clarifies the shared boundaries resulting from the recent review of the schools' estate. All schools are able to provide a similar range of activities including the Gaelic medium classes. The proposed changes are not expected to change the numbers attending each school. Education Scotland recognise that the proposal is of overall educational benefit and that both schools are able to provide a similar range of activities, including Gaelic Medium Education.
- 11.5 The Director of Education and Children's Services, on reviewing all of the submissions, the Education Scotland report and the Equality Impact Assessment recommends that the best and most sustainable educational provision is for the catchment areas for Breasclete School and Shawbost School to be defined as indicated in the ordnance survey map which forms Appendix 1 to the Proposal Document with effect from August 2014. .

RECOMMENDATION

- 12.1 It is recommended that the catchment areas for Breasclete School and Shawbost School be defined as indicated in the ordnance survey map which forms Appendix 1 to the Proposal Document with effect from August 2014.

PROPOSED CATCHMENT AREA

SCHOOL	CATCHMENT AREA
Breasclete	Breasclete, Callanish, Garynahine, Grimersta, Linshader, Tolsta Chaolais.
Shawbost	Arnol, Bragar, Carloway, Dalbeg, Dalmore, Doune Carloway, Shawbost.