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Education Provision PROPOSAL DOCUMENT – OCTOBER 2013

Proposal to Revise the Catchment Boundary for Lionel School and Sgoil an Taobh Siar Isle of Lewis

Roinn an Fhoghlaim is Seirbheisean Chloinne

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Review of Education Provision – October 2013

**PROPOSAL DOCUMENT TO REVISE THE CATCHMENT BOUNDARY FOR
LIONEL SCHOOL AND SGOIL AN TAOBH SIAR, ISLE OF LEWIS**

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Review of Education Provision: October 2013

CATCHMENT BOUNDARY FOR LIONEL SCHOOL AND SGOIL AN TAOBH SIAR, ISLE OF LEWIS

Report by the Director of Education and Children's Services

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that the catchment areas for Lionel School and Sgoil an Taobh Siar be defined as indicated in the ordnance survey maps which forms Appendix 1 to the Proposal Document with effect from August 2014.

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 Lionel School and Sgoil an Taobh Siar be defined as indicated in the ordnance survey maps 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 and S1/2 secondary provision at Shawbost School and Daliburgh School it is necessary to review school 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 Lionel School and Sgoil an Taobh Siar be defined as indicated in the ordnance survey maps which forms Appendix 1 to the Proposal Document with effect from August 2014.

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, 24 October 2013. The consultation will thereafter run until close of business on Wednesday, 11 December 2013, which includes a period of 32 school days.

Public meetings

- 2.5 Public meetings will be held on Thursday, 14 November 2013, 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 17 January 2014 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 website 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 15 April 2014 which will make a recommendation. This recommendation will then be subject to the approval of the Comhairle on 24 April 2014.

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
Sgoil an Taobh Siar	Thursday, 14 November 2013	5.30pm – 7.00pm
Lionel School	Thursday, 14 November 2013	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 Wednesday, 11 December 2013.**

GENERAL BACKGROUND TO THE NEED FOR A REVIEW

- 4.1 Subsequent to the School Estate Review, resulting in the closure of 8 primary schools and S1/2 secondary provision at Shawbost School and Daliburgh School, it is necessary to review school catchment areas to ensure that children and young people have access to the school closest to their home address.
- 4.2 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.

KEY FACTORS

School Rationalisation and Catchment Areas

- 5.1 Appendix 3 provides the current school roll for both schools. Lionel Primary School has a current roll of 93 pupils and a capacity for 125 pupils. Sgoil an Taobh Siar has a current roll of 59 pupils and a capacity for 100 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 Barvas and Airidhantuim Schools has resulted in a school catchment area for Lionel and Taobh Siar Schools extending to approximately 16.5 miles from the village of Brue to Port of Ness. 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 Lionel School and Sgoil an Taobh Siar be defined as indicated in the ordnance survey maps which forms Appendix 1 to the Proposal Document with effect from August 2014. This would entail moving the previous catchment boundary from the north end of North Galson village to the river on the A857 between the villages of North and South Galson which would effectively move the village of North Galson into the Lionel School catchment area.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

Affected Schools

7.1 Background

The school estate review ensured that Lionel School and Sgoil an Taobh Siar could accommodate current and future pupil numbers and provide an improved school estate.

Curriculum

- 7.2 Lionel School and Sgoil an Taobh Siar, 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 Lionel School and Sgoil an Taobh Siar 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)**

Lionel School and Sgoil an Taobh Siar have access to an extensive range of ICT resources including wireless internet access throughout the schools, classrooms equipped with interactive smartboards and class in a box netbook provision etc.

- **Additional Support Needs (ASN)**

Lionel School and Sgoil an Taobh Siar have the facilities to cater for the needs of all children, including those with additional support needs.

- **Gaelic Medium Education**

Lionel and Sgoil an Taobh Siar provide Gaelic Medium education at both primary and pre-school levels.

Accessibility of Premises

- 7.4 Lionel School and Sgoil an Taobh Siar are Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA) compliant.

Extra Curricular Activities

- 7.5 Lionel School and Sgoil an Taobh Siar run or plan to run a range of lunch time and after school clubs.

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 Lionel or Taobh Siar Schools' catchment areas.

Implications for Pupils Enrolment

- 7.7 If the proposal is implemented for August 2014 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 2013/14 academic session. However, a placement request would require to be made for any new pupils not wishing to attend their catchment school in the 2014/15 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 Lionel School and Sgoil an Taobh Siar be defined as indicated in the Ordnance Survey maps which forms Appendix 1 to the Proposal Document with effect from August 2014. This would entail moving the previous catchment boundary from the north end of North Galson village to the river on the A857 between the villages of North and South Galson which would effectively move the village of North Galson into the Lionel School catchment area.

PROPOSED CATCHMENT AREA

SCHOOL	CATCHMENT AREA
Lionel	Adabrock, Butt of Lewis, Cross, Cross Skigersta, Dell, Eorodale, Eorpie, Fivepenny, Habost, Knockaird, Lionel, North Galson, Port of Ness, Skigersta, Swainbost.
Sgoil an Taobh Siar	Ballantrushal, Barvas, Borve, Brue, Melbost Borve, Shader, South Galson.

Proposed Catchment areas for Lionel School/Sgoil an Taobh Siar



CONSULTEES

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

CNES - School Rolls as of 17/09/2013 (not Census Figures)

School	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	Primary	Secondary	Total
Back	9	22	14	18	17	20	14							114		114
Balivanich	19	13	22	17	11	18	17							117		117
Bernera	2	2	0	0	2	2	4							12		12
Breascleite	7	4	7	3	5	4	6							36		36
Carinish	2	0	2	3	0	4	1							12		12
Castlebay	9	15	14	12	7	8	9	9	16	12	15	10	8	74	70	144
Daliburgh	6	14	11	13	15	14	13							86		86
Eoligarry	5	3	5	2	3	0	5							23		23
Eriskay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0							0		0
Iochdar	6	6	12	14	6	7	7							58		58
Laxdale	33	24	31	33	33	31	36							221		221
Leverhulme	4	0	4	3	3	4	4							22		22
Lionel	11	6	14	11	7	17	8	7	12					74	19	93
Lochmaddy	1	6	2	5	1	2	5							22		22
Paible	5	4	3	7	8	4	8							39		39
Pairc	5	1	7	3	2	4	2							24		24
Sgoil an Rubha	23	20	20	27	23	22	27							162		162
Sgoil an Taobh Siar	11	7	7	11	4	4	15							59		59
Sgoil Lionacleit								47	45	38	67	51	31	0	279	279
Sgoil nan Loch	10	17	10	12	14	10	11							84		84
Shawbost	7	12	7	6	8	11	14							65		65
Sir E Scott	14	7	13	6	9	10	12	12	24	24	16	18	8	71	102	173
Stornoway Pri	61	66	71	41	43	59	48							389		389
The Nicolson Institute								160	185	212	200	168	154	0	1079	1079
Tolsta	3	8	5	5	8	6	3							38		38
Tong	14	10	14	7	7	14	10							76		76
Uig	3	5	1	3	2	2	4							20		20
														1898	1549	3447