



Dumfries and Galloway Council Skills, Education and Learning Directorate

Public Consultation Document

Statutory consultation on the proposal:

- To review the admission arrangements for Wallace Hall Academy (Thornhill DG3 5DS), Dunscore Primary School (Dunscore, Dumfries DG2 0SY) and Holywood Primary School (School Road, Holywood, Dumfries DG2 0RF).

Statutory Consultation Period:

24 February 2020 to 3 April 2020

All submissions expressing views on the proposals detailed in this document should be made in writing by 5.00pm on Friday 3 April 2020.

The issues raised from correspondence will be responded to within a report presented to the Education and Learning Committee, which is likely to be held during June 2020.

Dumfries and Galloway Council

Public Consultation

A period of Statutory Consultation commences on Monday 24 February 2020 and ends on Friday 3 April 2020 **(both dates inclusive)**.

A copy of this document with details of the proposal will be available for public consultation from Monday 24 February 2020 at:

- Skills, Education and Learning Directorate, Dumfries and Galloway Council, 122 – 124 Irish Street, Dumfries DG1 2PB
- Wallace Hall Academy (Thornhill DG3 5DS)
- Dunscore Primary School (Dunscore, Dumfries DG2 0SY)
- Holywood Primary School (School Road, Holywood, Dumfries DG2 0RF)
- Auldgirth Village Hall, Auldgirth DG2 0XG
- Dumfries and Galloway Council website: www.dumgal.gov.uk/consultations

Any written observations should be sent to:

Statutory Consultations (Floor 4)
Skills, Education and Learning Directorate
Dumfries and Galloway Council
122 – 124 Irish Street
Dumfries
DG1 2PB

Or by email to:

statutoryconsultation@dumgal.gov.uk

By 5pm on Friday 3 April 2020

The Proposal

Context of the Proposal

Members of the Auldgirth and District Community Council made representation to the Education and Learning Directorate in March 2019 with the request to review the catchment boundary for the Wallace Hall Academy. The Community Council met with the Acting Director in June 2019 where they discussed their view of the historical anomaly for the Burnhead community who, they felt, should be within the catchment area for Wallace Hall Academy.

It was the request of the Auldgirth and District Community Council that the boundary for the catchment area for Wallace Hall Academy is altered to allow those from the Burnhead community to attend Wallace Hall Academy as their catchment school. The Community Council has had representation from families who have chosen to send their children to Wallace Hall Academy, recognising that this is out of catchment provision and that they are responsible for school transport. The map of the current catchment of Wallace Hall Academy is included at Appendix 1.

The Burnhead community currently falls under the catchment for Holywood Primary School, which in turn is associated with North West Community Campus. The Council is not seeking to change this association in its entirety but wishes to address the concerns of the specific Burnhead community. The Council would need to amend the adjacent primary school catchment boundaries in order to include the Burnhead community within the catchment of one of the primary schools that are associated with Wallace Hall Academy. The current primary catchment boundaries are shown within Appendix 2.

This proposal seeks to realign the catchment of Dunscore Primary School to include the area of Burnhead, as shown on the map within Appendix 8. The proposed changes, if approved, will be implemented for the start of the academic year 2020/21.

Proposed changes to schools: guide to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended

Introduction

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 ('the 2010 Act') sets out the consultation process that local authorities must follow when proposing a permanent change to any of their schools – such as a closure, relocation or change of catchment area.

Local Authority Role and Responsibilities

Over time, school buildings deteriorate and populations change, so to continue to ensure the best possible education, local authorities may review and propose changes to their schools.

When proposing a major change to a school(s) the local authority must:

- Publish a proposal paper, including a statement of the educational benefits of what's proposed
- Set a consultation period of at least 6 weeks of term time
- Let parents and the Parent Council know about the consultation and invite responses
- Hold a public meeting
- Invite Education Scotland to prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal
- Publish a consultation report which responds to issues raised through the consultation period

If there is a proposal to close a rural school, the local authority must also comply with additional requirements, including considering reasonable alternatives to the proposal and only proceeding if closing the school is the most appropriate response to the reasons it has identified for making the proposal. For rural schools, these steps must be carried out by the local authority before publishing the proposal paper.

Parent/Carer's Role

A consultation on a change to your child's school will often include more than one option, so your views and responses can really shape future decisions – you might even have a suggestion that the local authority hasn't thought of. You can play your part by:

- Submitting a written response to the local authority's proposal paper
- Attending the public meeting and asking questions
- Informing the local authority if you think that its proposal paper has significant inaccuracies or omissions
- Reading the consultation report and Education Scotland's report
- Speaking to your local councillors before they vote on a final decision

Your school's Parent Council can play a key role in engaging with the local authority early on, and then throughout the process. It can also help during the consultation period by canvassing parents' views and setting up discussions and meetings.

Education Scotland's Role

Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) working within Education Scotland are involved in every proposal that a local authority consults on under the 2010 Act. HM Inspectors must review the local authority's proposal paper along with other relevant documents. The review will have a particular focus on the educational aspects of the proposal. HM Inspectors must prepare a professional and independent report on the educational aspects of the proposal being consulted on.

In preparing their report, HM Inspectors will consider the local authority's proposal paper. They will also take account of written responses that the local authority has received, a summary of oral representations made at the public meeting held about the proposal and any other relevant documents. HM Inspectors may visit schools affected by the proposal when they are preparing their report. In this case, it is possible that they will meet parents, children and staff so that they can hear their views about the proposal.

What happens once HM Inspectors have written their report?

When HM Inspectors have written their report, they will send it to the local authority. Once they have done this, they have no more involvement with the proposal, unless it is a school closure proposal. The local authority must review its proposal in the light of HM Inspectors' report, as well as all the written and oral representations it has received. The local authority then needs to publish its consultation report which will contain the full text of HM Inspectors' report as well as a statement from the local authority stating how it has taken account of the report as well as any written and oral representations.

Where Can I Get More Information?

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 can be accessed at:
www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2010/pdf/asp_20100002_en.pdf

The Statutory Guidance for local authorities on the Act:
<http://www.gov.scot/publications/schools-consultation-scotland-act-2010-statutory-guidance/>

The 'Changes to School Estate' page on the Scottish Government website:
www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/Buildings/changestoschoolestate

Information on individual consultations and opportunities for public involvement should be sought from the relevant local authority.

Schools Consultation Timeline

Phase 1

For rural school closure proposals only, the local authority must meet the preliminary requirements.

Phase 2

The local authority publishes a proposal paper for consultation for a minimum of 6 weeks, including at least 30 school days.

Phase 3

Education Scotland prepares a report on the educational aspects of the proposal.

Phase 4

The local authority prepares and publishes a consultation report.

A more detailed timeline can be found at:
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00474417.pdf>

Proposed Implementation Date

Timescales

The anticipated key timescales for the implementation of this proposal are set out in the following table:

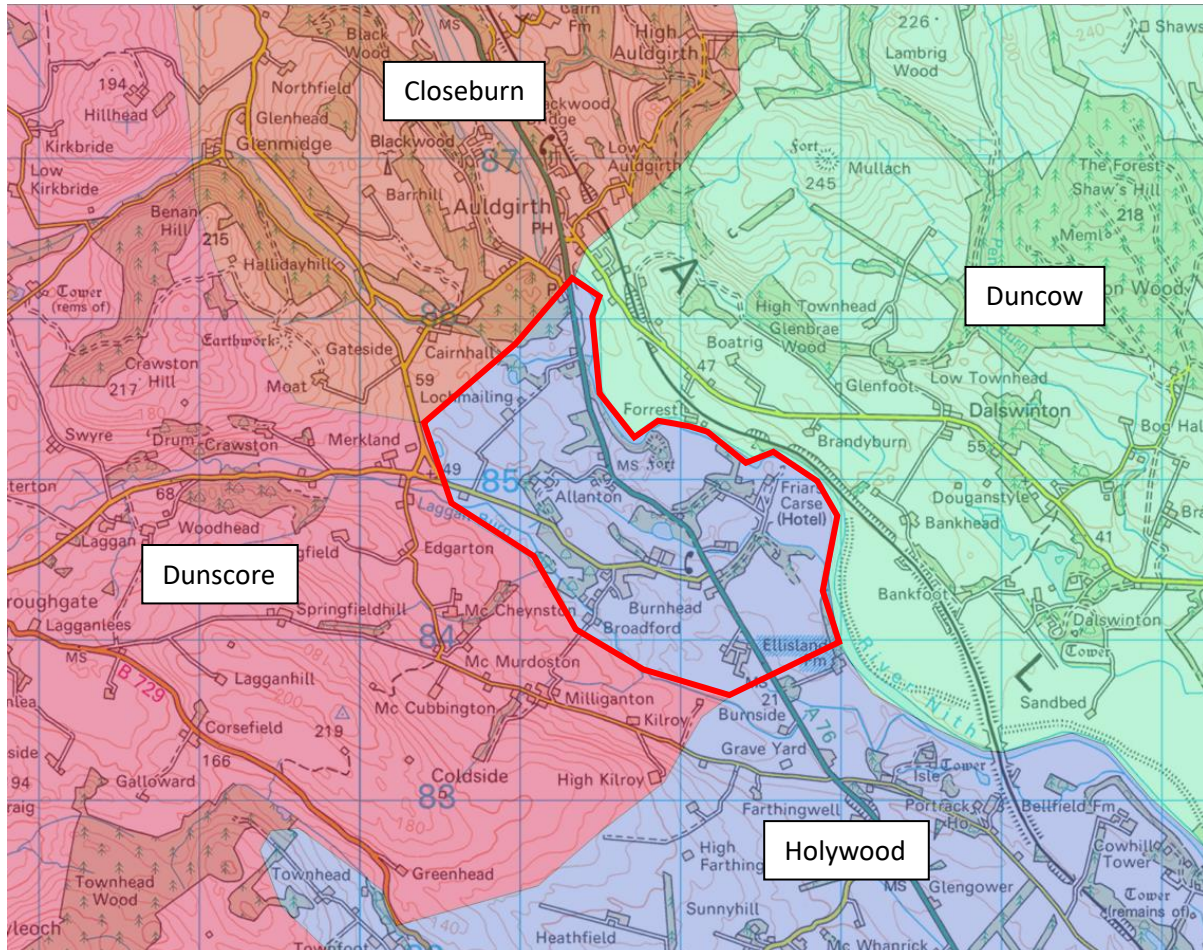
Consultation Period	24 February 2020 to 3 April 2020
HMiE considers proposal	20 April 2020 to 11 May 2020
Consultation report published	25 May 2020
Period for further consideration	25 May 2020 to 15 June 2020
Council Decision	16 June 2020
Implementation date	20 August 2020

A more detailed timeline for this proposal can be viewed within Appendix 3.

Service Information

Existing Provision

The existing catchment primary school provision for primary aged children from Burnhead and the surrounding area (denoted with a red outline on plan below) is Hollywood Primary School.



Hollywood Primary School is associated with North West Community Campus in Dumfries. The Council does not seek to end this association.

The primary schools that are associated with Wallace Hall Academy with catchment areas that border the Burnhead area are Closeburn Primary School, Duncow Primary School and Dunscore Primary School.

In order to ensure the secondary catchment for pupils within the Burnhead area is Wallace Hall Academy, the Council will need to amend the adjacent primary school catchment boundaries to include the Burnhead community within the catchment of one of the primary schools that are associated with Wallace Hall Academy.

Proposed Provision

The current distribution of pupils that reside within the Burnhead area is as follows:

Pupil identifier	Stage	Primary School attended/ attending	Secondary school attending
1	Primary	Duncow Primary	Not applicable
2	Primary	Hollywood Primary	Not applicable
3	Primary	Wallace Hall Primary	Not applicable
4	Secondary	Hollywood Primary	Wallace Hall Academy
5	Secondary	Hollywood Primary	Wallace Hall Academy
6	Secondary	Wallace Hall Primary	Wallace Hall Academy
7	Secondary	Hollywood Primary	Wallace Hall Academy
8	Secondary	Hollywood Primary	Wallace Hall Academy
9	Secondary	Duncow Primary	Wallace Hall Academy
10	Secondary	Wallace Hall Primary	Wallace Hall Academy
11	Secondary	Wallace Hall Primary	Wallace Hall Academy
12	Secondary	Wallace Hall Primary	Wallace Hall Academy

This information shows that 100% of secondary aged pupils are currently choosing to attend Wallace Hall Academy, despite this not being their catchment school under the current arrangements.

The distribution of current primary aged children and the historical primary school choices of the current secondary contingent is less clearly defined.

Primary School	Percentage of current Burnhead school age children attending/ attended
Hollywood Primary	42%
Wallace Hall Primary	42%
Duncow Primary	16%

As there is no strong statistical indication that there is a desire to align the Burnhead area with any particular neighbouring catchment school, the Council would seek to carry out an adjustment to the catchment based on the factors below:

- Proximity of schools/transport routes (see Appendix 4)
- Condition of neighbouring schools (see Appendix 5)
- Rolls/capacities within neighbouring schools (see Appendix 6)
- Suitability of the neighbouring schools (see Appendix 7)

Based on the factors above, we wish to consult stakeholders on the proposal to realign the catchment areas to include the Burnhead area within the catchment for Dunscore Primary School, as shown in appendix 8.

If the proposal is implemented, any primary school children and their siblings would remain within their current chosen school for the duration of their primary schooling,

if desired. The secondary catchment school would, however, be amended to Wallace Hall Academy.

Educational Benefits of the Proposal

Impact on Pupils

All children and young people have an entitlement to a curriculum which is coherent with smooth and well-paced progression through the experiences and outcomes, particularly across transitions, from early learning and childcare to primary, from primary to secondary school, and beyond school. The proposal made in this consultative document aligns with this entitlement.

This proposal would enhance 3 to 18 working and ensure the delivery of the entitlement to a coherent curriculum with progression and continuity of learning for children.

Within Dumfries and Galloway, secondary cluster working involves staff from early years, primary and secondary working collaboratively to develop the curriculum, assessment and learning and teaching approaches. This ensures improved progression and continuity of learning for pupils.

In order to ensure progression and continuity of learning, there needs to be effective tracking of children's progress from upper primary into secondary. This is more effectively achieved when primary and secondary teachers work as part of a 3 to 18 cluster.

Cluster primary schools also work together collaboratively on learning projects with children from all the schools within the cluster participating in events and opportunities together.

In addition, secondary schools work with associated primary schools to develop the transition arrangements, which take place in the last term of Primary 7. There are also enhanced transition arrangements for children with additional support needs.

Presently Holywood Primary works within the North West Community Campus Cluster and is not part of the transition arrangements for Wallace Hall Academy. If the catchment for the Burnhead area was included within that of a primary school associated with Wallace Hall Academy, they would be able to experience the benefits of improved transition and secondary cluster working to enhance the curricular and wellbeing provision for children.

Other Considerations

Impact on Staff

The impact on staff would be minimal as it is likely that this would affect future pupils and therefore any fluctuations in staffing would be dealt with through the usual annual staffing exercise process.

Impact on the Community

The request to carry out this catchment review has originated from the community via the Community Council, therefore is understood to reflect their aspirations.

Impact on Transport

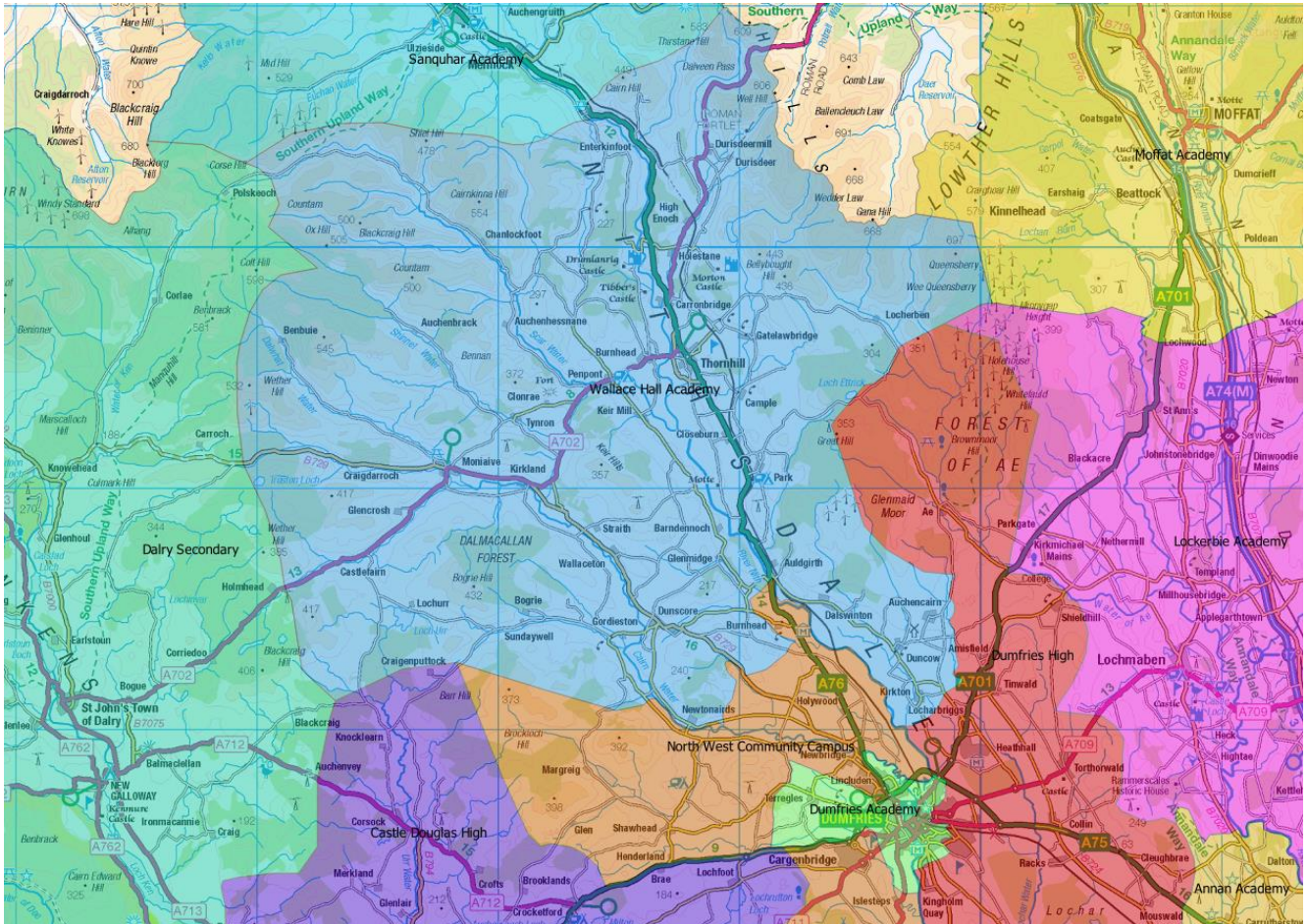
Pupils would be transported on existing service bus routes.

Financial impact

There would be very minimal financial impact as a result of this proposal.

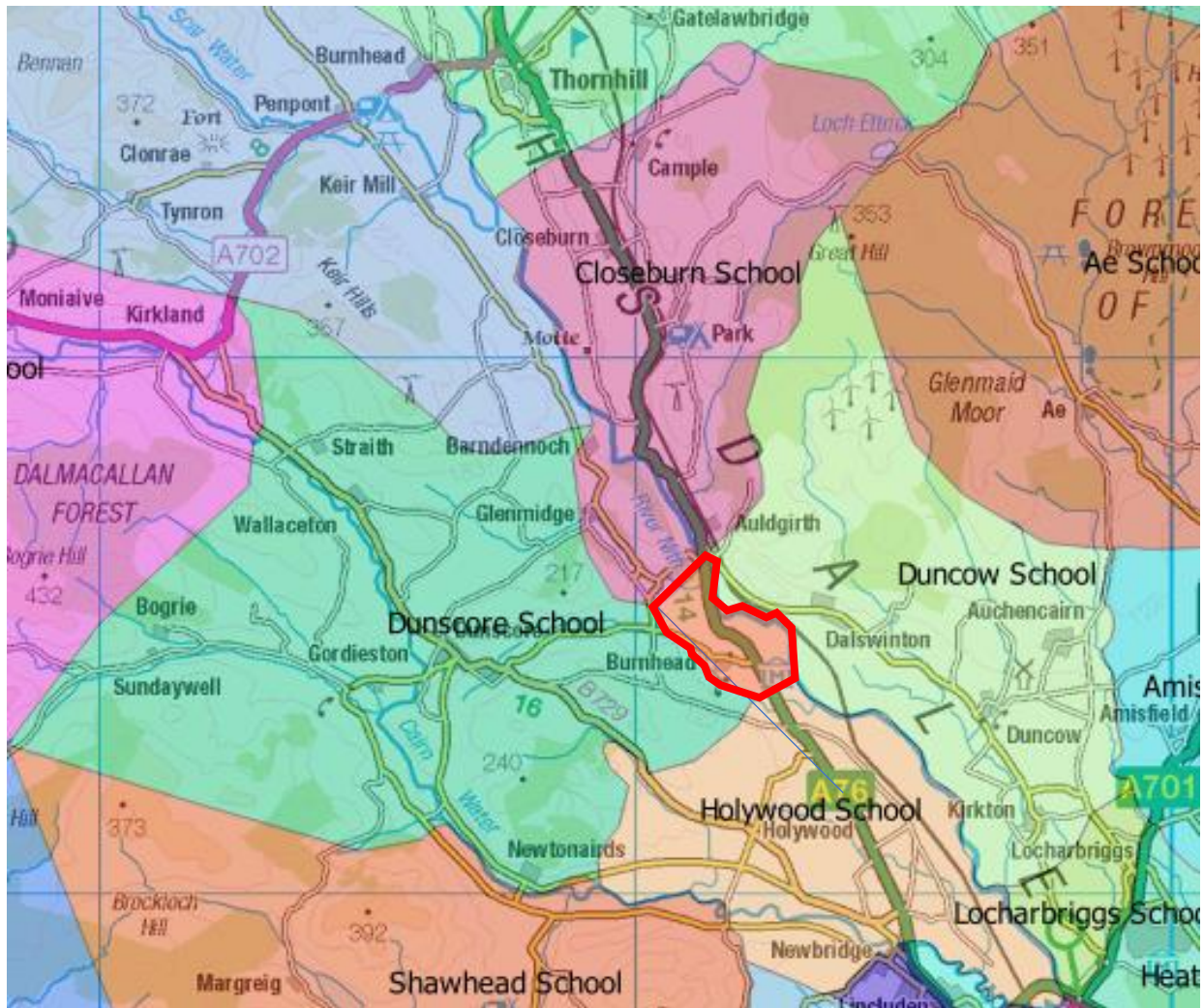
Appendix 1 - Current catchment of Wallace Hall Academy

The map below shows the current catchment for Wallace Hall Academy.

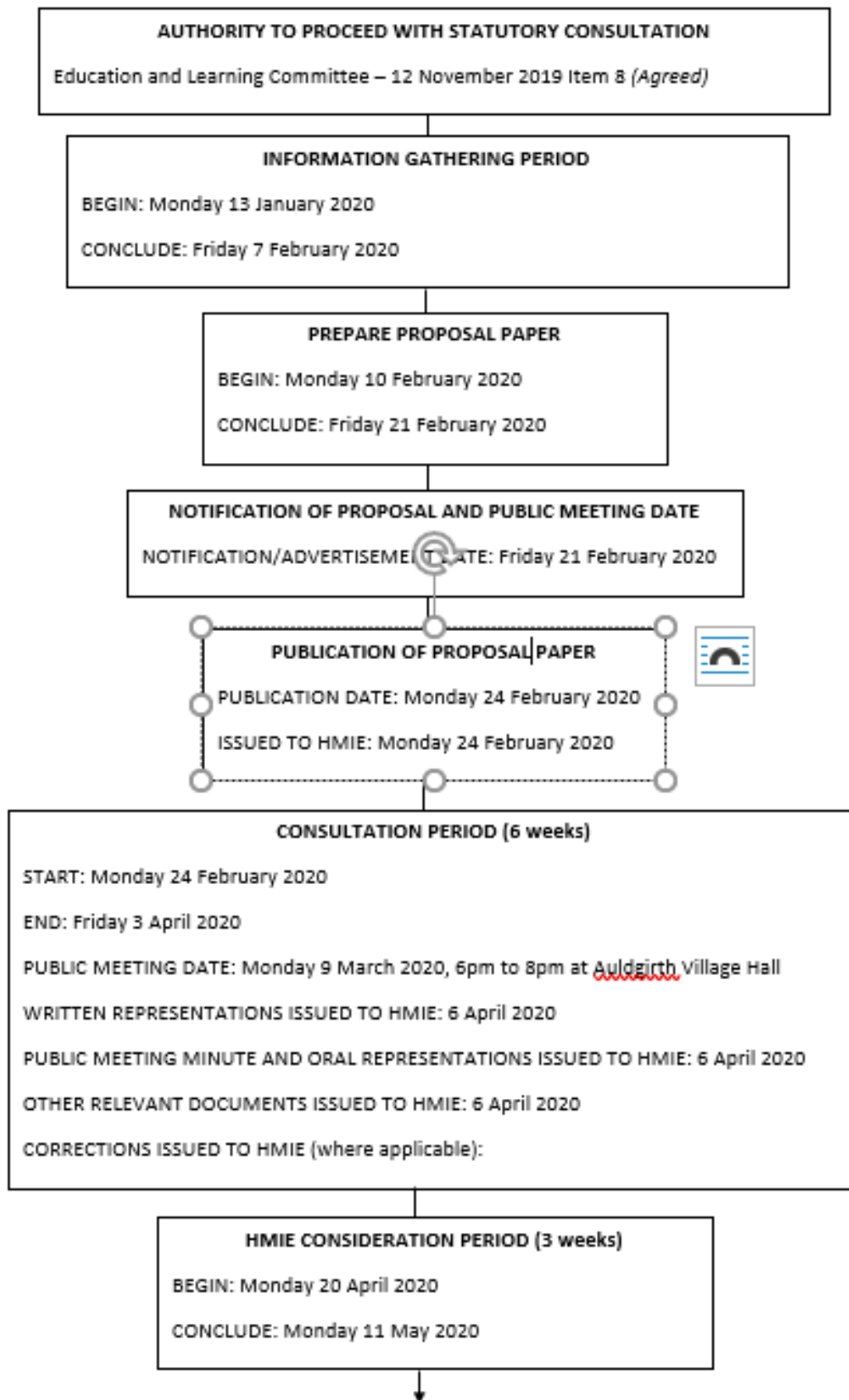


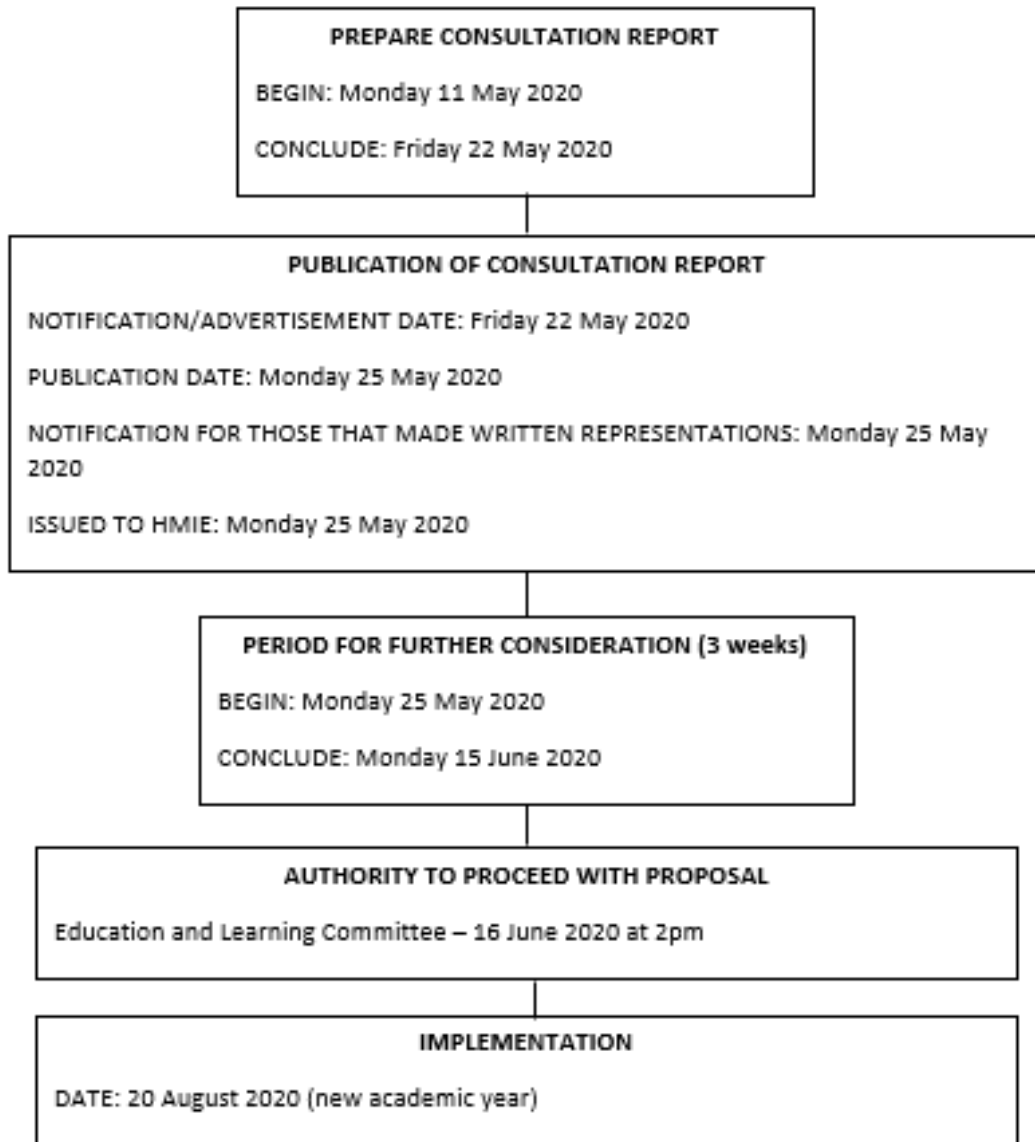
Appendix 2 - Current primary catchment boundaries

The map below shows the current catchments for the primary schools that surround the Burnhead area.



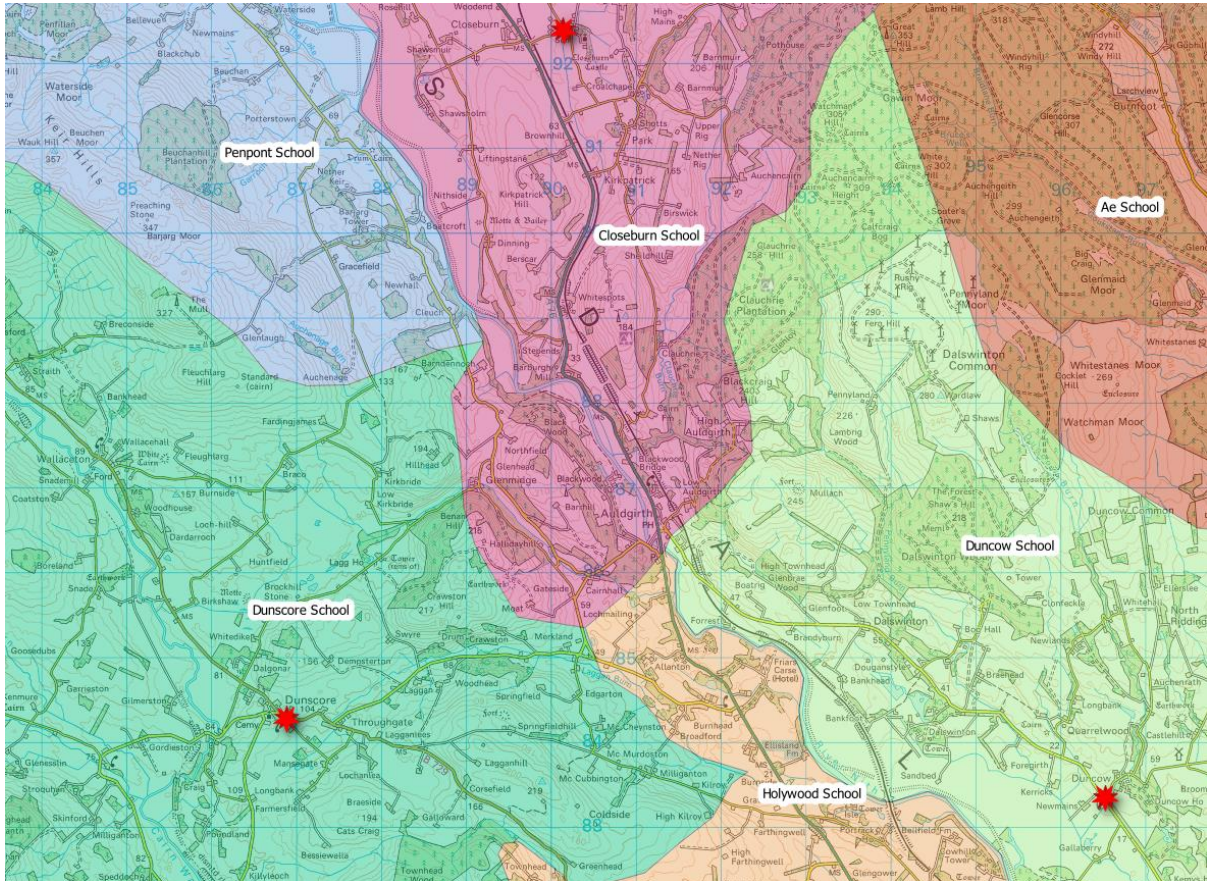
Appendix 3 – Proposal timeline





Appendix 4 – Proximity of schools/transport routes

The map and table below show the approximate distances to the neighbouring Wallace Hall catchment primary schools from Burnhead. These were devised using an average of the distances from postcodes for properties where a current primary pupil resides within Burnhead, and the postcodes for each of the schools.



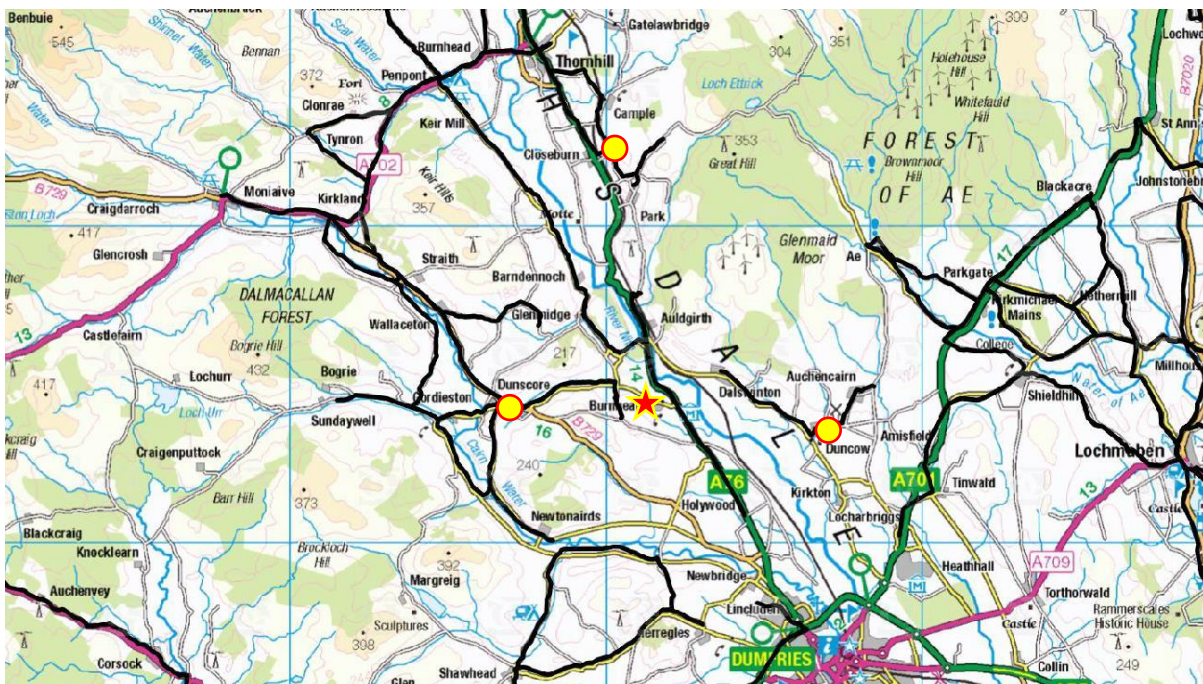
School	Approximate distance
Closeburn Primary School	6.2 miles
Duncow Primary School	5.7 miles
Dunscore Primary School	3.5 miles

This shows that the closest school is Dunscore Primary School. The approximate distance to Hollywood Primary School as calculated using the same method is 4 miles.

The map below shows the current service bus routes that serve the Burnhead area. There is a service bus that goes right through the area, but it does not link to any of the primary schools close by that are within the catchment for Wallace Hall Academy.



The map below shows the school transport routes that surround the Burnhead area. This indicates that the closest existing route to an adjacent primary school goes to Dunscore Primary School.



Appendix 5 – Condition of schools

Name	Roof	Floors & Stairs	Ceiling	External Walls Windows & Doors	Internal Walls & Doors	Sanitary	Mechanical	Electrical	Redecoration	Fixed Furniture & Fittings	External Areas
Closeburn PS Block 1 (Main building)	B	B	B	B	A	A	B	B	B	B	B
Closeburn PS Block 2 (Nursery/dining block)	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	B	B	B	B
Duncow PS Block 1 (school)	A	B	B	B	B	B	C	B	B	B	C
Duncow PS Block 2 (GP/dining hall)	B	B	B	B	B	N/A	B	B	B	B	N/A
Dunscore Primary School	A	B	A	A	B	B	C	B	B	C	A

The schools are given condition ratings for each building within the school site and by the various physical elements that make up each building. Evaluation of this information is carried out to determine the priorities for investment.

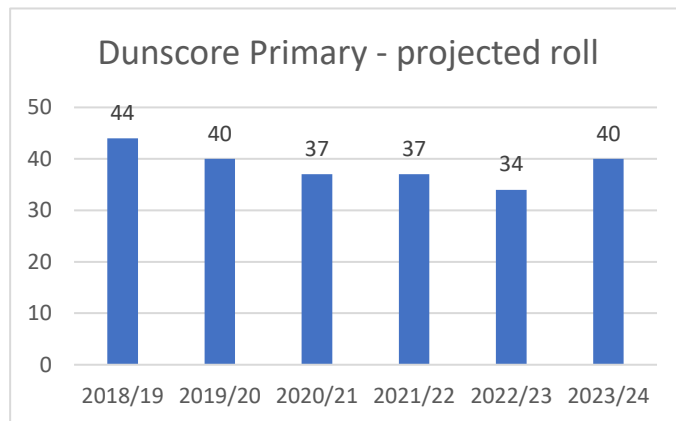
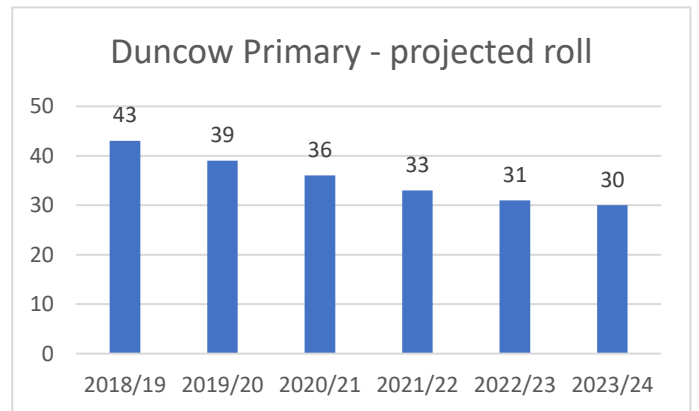
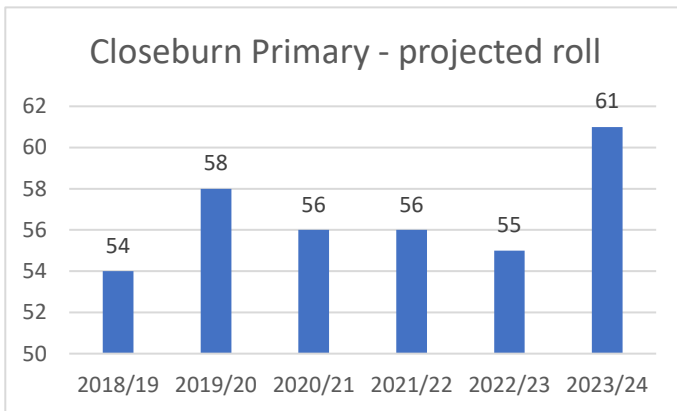
This table indicates that Closeburn Primary School is in the best condition, however contractors are currently on site at Dunscore Primary School upgrading the mechanical and electrical systems. Once these works are completed in the coming months these elements are likely to be 'A' rated and Dunscore will therefore be the school in the best condition.

Appendix 6 – School rolls/capacities of schools

School Capacities/rolls

School	Current Roll (2019 census)	Agreed Capacity	Maximum Projected Roll
Closeburn Primary	55	208	61
Duncow Primary	43	74	43
Dunscore Primary	44	100	44

Roll Projections



The above information demonstrates that all three schools have the current and future capacity to accommodate pupils within the Burnhead area.

The roll and capacity information for Wallace Hall Academy is shown below.

School	Current Roll (2019 census)	Agreed Capacity	Maximum Projected Roll
Wallace Hall Academy	513	864	522 (2020/21)

This information indicates that Wallace Hall Academy has sufficient capacity to accommodate the small numbers of additional future pupils if this proposal were to be implemented. As the current secondary aged pupils from Burnhead are already all choosing to attend Wallace Hall Academy, there would be no change to the current roll as a result of this proposal.

Appendix 7 – Suitability of schools

School	Suitability rating
Closeburn Primary	C
Duncow Primary	C
Dunscore Primary	B

Suitability is a measure of whether a school is fit for the purpose of delivering the education curriculum.

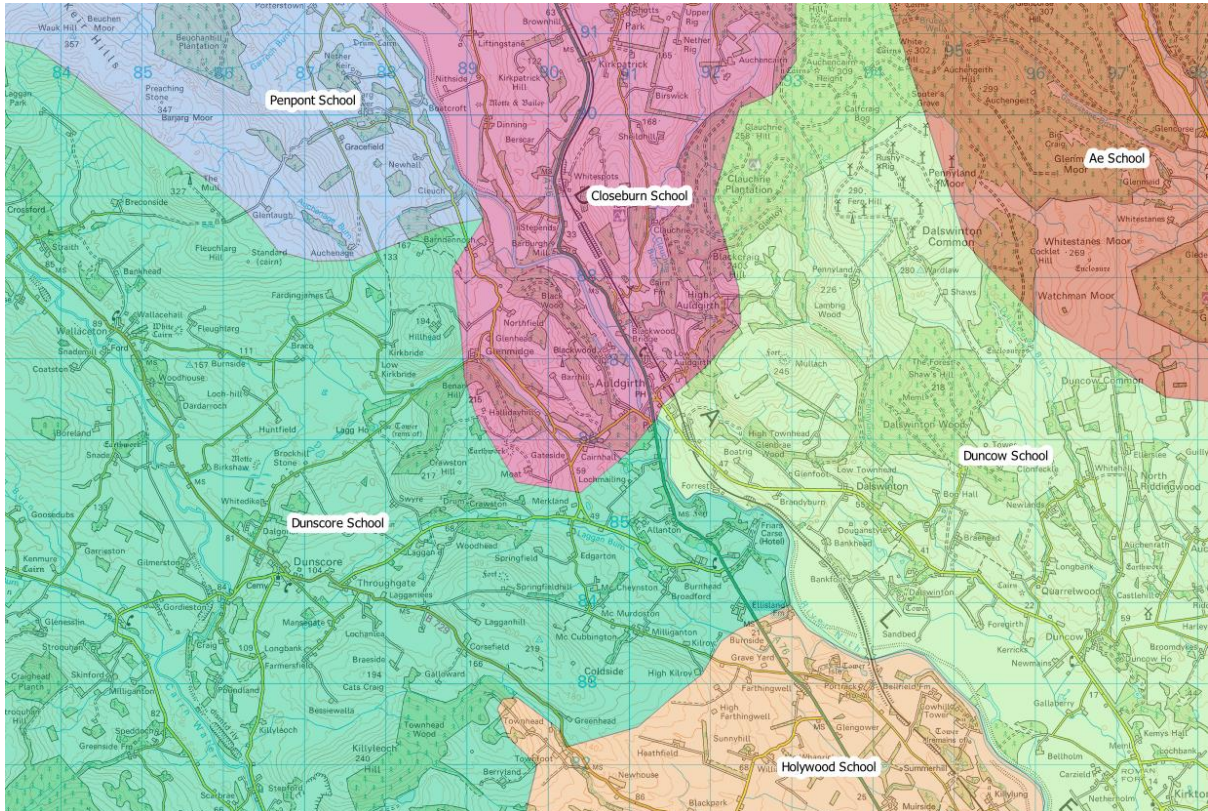
That is whether its design and layout enhance its function and use, whether there is space and scope to accommodate all the pre-school, day school and after-school demands and services, whether it is 'inclusive' and accessible to those with disabilities, how capable it is of adjustment or adaptation, how able to 'flex' in response to future, sometimes unforeseen changes in the scale and nature of demand and usage, to changes in climate and to changes in ICT and other technology and the ways in which education may be delivered.

The most recent evaluation against this measure indicates that Dunscore Primary School is the most fit for purpose for delivering the curriculum.

Appendix 8 – Proposed new primary and secondary catchment boundaries

If the proposal were to be implemented, the catchments would be realigned as shown below.

New Primary Catchment Boundaries



New Secondary Catchment Boundaries

