

Our Ref: AR/EH
Your Ref:
Contact: Andrew Rose
Tel: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]
E-Mail: [REDACTED]
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Chief Executive's Office

Archie Aitken
Head of Business for Legal and
Democratic Solutions
Civic Centre
Windmillhill Street
Motherwell ML1 1AB
DX 571700, Motherwell 2
LP-2, Motherwell 2

Ms Isabel Drummond-Murray
Secretary
Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
Thistle House
91 Haymarket Terrace
EDINBURGH
EH12 5HD

Dear Ms. Drummond-Murray,

Administrative Area Review of Local Government Area Boundary Between Glasgow City Council and North Lanarkshire Council Areas at Cardowan, Stepps

I refer to your letter dated 15 November 2016 in which you advised that the Commission would be undertaking a review of the local government area boundary at Cardowan, Stepps between Glasgow City Council and North Lanarkshire Council areas and seeking submissions from this Council by 31 January. The following comprises the submission from North Lanarkshire Council.

With regard to housing matters, there is no relevant development proposed in the vicinity of the boundary on the North Lanarkshire side and the Council's Local Development Plan policies are aimed at protecting the greenbelt which exists there. It is understood that there will be a separate development on the Glasgow City Council side, however this is a matter for that Council to provide detail on.

In relation to access to the development from the south there is a proposal currently underway, funded by the Glasgow City Region City Deal, for a road connection. This is, however, at a very early stage.

In reference to the Seven Lochs Wetland Park, the area proposed to be transferred into North Lanarkshire area is all outwith the boundary of the Park. The boundary runs along the edge of the new development.

There are no Core Paths associated with the Park running through the area but there are undesignated paths that contribute to the overall network. Part of the area being reviewed is designated by Glasgow City Council as a Site Important for Nature Conservation (SINC). This includes the southern portion of the loch area. Glasgow biodiversity officers have reported breeding teal and pine marten prints in the area, so North Lanarkshire Council would potentially desire to designate this as its own SINC system should a transfer take place.

In relation to education and in particular the capacity of local schools this Council has serious reservations about a proposal to move the boundary which would involve approximately 120 houses being taken into the North Lanarkshire Council area.

The local primary schools – St. Joseph's and Stepps Primary Schools – currently have capacity issues. The Council's Education Service considers that a capacity of 80%-90% is "optimal utilisation" for a primary school and currently St. Joseph's is running at 89% and Stepps Primary School at 98% occupancy rates. A number of placing requests have been refused for both these schools and it

Paul Jukes, Chief Executive, Civic Centre, Windmillhill Street, Motherwell ML1 1AB

highly likely that both schools will be refusing placing requests for the coming years due to existing capacity pressures. There are other housing developments in the area which are likely to impact on both schools and solutions are currently being considered. In relation to the development currently zoned to Glasgow City Council, the expected pupil yield is approximately 36 pupils, based on the pupil product ratio of 0.3. Therefore, neither school has sufficient capacity to accommodate these pupils at present or in the next few years.

This Council would also like to highlight that there is another development, within the North Lanarkshire Council boundary, which also sits naturally within the Cardowan area but is currently zoned to St. Barbara's Primary School and Chryston Primary School. A local Councillor has been approached by residents asking for that area to be rezoned to St. Joseph's Primary School and Stepps Primary School. It has been advised that whilst the area sits within the Cardowan area, there is no capacity within the local Cardowan schools to accommodate the additional pupils. Therefore, as there are pupils in other areas within North Lanarkshire who cannot be accommodated at this time, it is not considered appropriate to rezone pupils who currently reside within Glasgow City area into the North Lanarkshire area ahead of existing pupils.

In order to accommodate the pupils from the transfer of this development, additional space would need to be created within both of the primary schools. There is no capital funding currently identified for either of these schools and if the development was being built now, North Lanarkshire Council would be requesting a developer contribution. However, as the development has already been completed, no such contribution would be received from a rezoning. Therefore, any additional infrastructure costs would have to be met by North Lanarkshire Council.

Accordingly, the Education Service of North Lanarkshire Council does not see the proposed transfer of the area into North Lanarkshire as feasible at this time or in the near future and is not supportive of the proposal.

It is noted that the electors currently residing within the development proposed for transfer are already administered by North Lanarkshire Council in terms of elections, with the exception of UK Parliamentary Elections.

This Council seeks assurances that those living in the area concerned are fully informed of the proposals under review and that consultation is undertaken with all residents during the course of the Review.

In conclusion, whilst North Lanarkshire Council does not object to the proposals in principle, it does have serious concerns regarding the capacity of the local schools to accommodate additional pupils, either currently or in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Head of Business for Legal and Democratic Solutions