

FIFE COUNCIL EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIRECTORATE

PROPOSAL TO REZONE THE SECONDARY CATCHMENT AREAS OF: BELL BAXTER HIGH SCHOOL AND MADRAS COLLEGE

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The following schools are affected by this Proposal Document:

- Bell Baxter High School
- Madras College

This document has been issued by Fife Council as a proposal paper in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

DISTRIBUTION

A copy of this document is available on the Fife Council website:

<http://www.fife.gov.uk/madrasbellbaxtercatchmentreview>

A link to this document, published on the website, will be provided to:

- The Parent Council of any affected school
- The parents of the pupils at any affected school
- The parents of any children expected by the education authority to attend any affected school within 2 years of the date of publication of the proposal paper. In addition to local advertising, a copy of this document will be made available for parents of the children in Primaries 5, 6 and 7 for academic session 2022/2023 of the following schools:

Auchtermuchty Primary School
Balmullo Primary School
Castlehill Primary School
Ceres Primary School
Craigrothie Primary School
Dairsie Primary School
Dunbog Primary School
Falkland Primary School
Freuchie Primary School
Kettle Primary School
Kilmaron School
Ladybank Primary School
Letham Primary School
Newburgh Primary School
Pitlessie Primary School
Springfield Primary School
Strathmiglo Primary School

Balmerino Primary School
Canongate Primary School
Guardbridge Primary School
Kingsbarns Primary School
Largoward Primary School
Lawhead Primary School
Leuchars Primary School
Newport Primary School
Strathkinness Primary School
Tayport Primary School
Wormit Primary School

- The pupils at any affected school (in so far as the education authority considers them to be of a suitable age and maturity)
- The staff (teaching and other) at any affected school

- Trade union representatives of the above staff (teaching and other) at any affected school
- The Community Councils for the affected areas, being:

Abdie and Dunbog	Giffordtown and District
Auchtermuchty and Strathmiglo	Guardbridge
Balmerino, Kilmany and Logie Area	Kemback, Pitscottie and Blebo
Balmullo	Kettle
Boarhills and Dunino	Kingsbarns
Cameron	Ladybank and District
Carnbee and Arncroach	Leuchars
Ceres and District	Monimail
Creich & Flisk	Newburgh
Cults	Newport, Wormit and Forgan
Royal Burgh of Cupar and District	Royal Burgh of St Andrews
Dairsie	Springfield
Falkland and Newtown of Falkland	Strathkinness
Freuchie	Tayport Ferryport on Craig

- Community Planning Partnerships
- Any other Community Planning Partnership that the education authority considers relevant
- Any other relevant Education Authority
- MSPs for the area (North East Fife and Regional MSPs)
- The Constituency MP for North East Fife
- Elected Members for the area (Wards 16, 17, 18, 20)

A copy of this document is also available for inspection at and available from:

- Main Reception, Fife Council, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes, KY7 5LT
- Customer Service Centre, County Buildings, St Catherine Street, Cupar, KY15 4TA
- The following schools:
Bell Baxter High School, Carslogie Road, Cupar, KY15 4HY
Madras College, Bell Brae, St Andrews, KY16 9BY
Balmerino Primary School, Main Street, Galdry, Newport on Tay, DD6 8RP
- Online at <http://www.fife.gov.uk/madrasbellbaxtercatchmentreview>
- or email sustainablestate.enquiries@fife.gov.uk for a pdf copy to be emailed.

This document can be made available, on request, free of charge, in alternative formats or in translated form for readers whose first language is not English. Please apply in writing to Education & Children's Services Directorate, 4th Floor, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes or by email to: Avril.Graham@fife.gov.uk (telephone 03451 555555 ext. 444204). Page 24 of this document provides additional contact numbers, in different languages.

SUMMARY OF PROCESS FOR THIS PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

1. Consideration by the Cabinet Committee

This Proposal document has been issued as a result of a decision by the Cabinet Committee meeting of Fife Council on Thursday 22 September 2022. Views are now sought in formal consultation on the proposal in this paper.

2. Notice of Consultation and Publication of Proposal Document

Statutory consultees will be given notice of the proposal. The proposal document will be published on the council website (www.fife.gov.uk). Copies will be available for inspection and available from:

- Main Reception, Fife Council, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes, KY7 5LT
- Customer Service Centre, County Buildings, St Catherine Street Cupar, KY15 4TA
- The following schools:
Bell Baxter High School, Carslogie Road, Cupar, KY15 4HY
Madras College, Bell Brae, St Andrews, KY16 9BY
Balmerino Primary School, Main Street, Galdry, Newport on Tay, DD6 8RP
- Online [at http://www.fife.gov.uk/madrasbellbaxtercatchmentreview](http://www.fife.gov.uk/madrasbellbaxtercatchmentreview).
- or email sustainableschoolestate.enquiries@fife.gov.uk for a pdf copy to be emailed.

3. Advertisement of the Proposal

The proposal will be advertised through Fife Council's social media accounts e.g. Facebook and Twitter. An advertisement will also be placed in local newspapers, week commencing Monday 3 October 2022. The secondary schools will also publicise the consultation process in newsletters, school bag mail and email.

4. Length of Consultation Period

The consultation will commence on Wednesday 5 October 2022 and will, thereafter run until close of business on Thursday 1 December 2022. This meets the statutory requirement of a minimum period of 6 weeks, that runs continuously and includes 30 school days.

5. Public meetings/information sessions

Although only one public meeting is required, the Education Service will hold a public meeting in each of the following schools:

- Madras College on Monday 31 October 2022 from 6.00-7.00 pm
- Bell Baxter High School on Thursday 10 November 2022 from 6.00-7.00 pm

where there will be opportunities to:

- hear more about the proposal
- ask questions about the proposal
- make a written representation in respect of the proposal
- have your views recorded so that they can be considered as part of the consultation process.

Informal drop-in sessions have been arranged at:

- Balmerino Primary School on Monday 31 October 2022 from 2.45-3.30 pm
- Madras College on Monday 31 October 2022 from 5.00-6.00 pm
- Balmerino Primary School on Thursday 10 November 2022 from 2.45-3.30 pm
- Bell Baxter High School on Thursday 10 November 2022 from 5.00-6.00pm

At the informal drop-in sessions, there will be opportunities for parents/ carers/pupils and other stakeholders to:

- hear more about the proposal
- ask questions about the proposal
- complete a Consultation Response Form.

6. Responding to the Proposal

Interested parties can also respond to this proposal document by making a written representation by letter, email or completion of a Consultation Response Form on the proposal before close of business Thursday 1 December 2022 to any of the following:

- sustainableschoolestate.enquiries@fife.gov.uk
- Madras/Bell Baxter Catchment Review, Education & Children's Services Directorate, Fife Council, 4th Floor (West), Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes, KY7 5LT
- Completing an online Consultation Response Form at ([Managing Our School Estate | Fife Council](#))

7. Involvement of Education Scotland HM Inspectors

A copy of the proposal paper will be sent to Education Scotland, by Fife Council. Education Scotland will also receive a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Council from any person during the consultation period or, if Education Scotland agrees, a summary of them. Education Scotland will further receive a summary of any oral representation made to the Council at the public meetings and, as available (and so far as otherwise practicable), a copy of any other relevant documentation. Education Scotland will then prepare and submit a report on the educational aspects of the proposal within a 3-week period (unless the Council and Education Scotland agree a longer period) after the Council has sent them all representations and documents mentioned above. However, for the avoidance of doubt, the 3-week period will not start until after the consultation period ends. Education Scotland may make such reasonable enquiries of such people at the school (e.g. Headteacher, staff, pupils) as they consider appropriate

and may make such reasonable enquiries of such other people as they consider appropriate.

8. Preparation of Consultation Report

The Council will review the proposal having regard (in particular) to the Education Scotland Report and written representations that it has received. In addition, oral representations made at the public meetings will form part of that review. It will then prepare a Consultation 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 and a summary of the oral representations made at the public meetings as well as 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 and available for further consideration for a period of 3 weeks before a decision can be made on the proposal. The report will be published, made available for inspection and where reasonably required, made available without charge in other forms. The publication of the report will be advertised and any person who made written representations during the consultation period will be advised of its publication.

9. Decision

The Consultation Report, together with any other relevant documentation, will be considered by the Cabinet Committee of Fife Council, which will come to a decision whether to implement the proposal, in whole or in part, or not. The decision of that Committee may be subject to internal governance procedures before it becomes final. The proposal on which Fife Council is deciding is not a proposal which is subject to call in by the Scottish Government and is not subject to review by the School Closures Review Panel.

10. Note on Corrections

If during the consultation period any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this proposal document, either by the Council or any other person, the Council will determine whether relevant information has in its opinion been omitted, or whether there is in fact an inaccuracy, and whether the omission or inaccuracy relates to a material consideration relevant to the education authority's decision as to implementation of the proposal. It will then take appropriate action in respect of the inaccuracy or omission which may include deciding to take no further action, issuing a notice in respect of the inaccuracy or omission, extending the consultation period or publishing a correct proposal document and giving revised notice of the consultation. Where applicable, the notifier of the inaccuracy or omission will be advised of the determination, the reasons for that determination and the action (if any) it is taking and of the reasons why it is or is not taking such action and the notifier will be invited to make representations to the Council if they disagree with the determination or decision whether to take action. Where the notifier makes representations, the education authority can make a fresh determination and

decision in respect of the inaccuracy or omission and must inform the notifier if it does so.

Fife Council

Education & Children's Services Directorate

THE CONSULTATION PROPOSAL

**PROPOSAL TO REZONE THE SECONDARY CATCHMENT
AREAS OF:**

BELL BAXTER HIGH SCHOOL

MADRAS COLLEGE

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This consultation paper sets out the rationale and implications in respect of the proposal to rezone the secondary catchment areas of Bell Baxter High School and Madras College.
- 1.2 This paper also sets out the consultation process, the timescales and the ways in which parents/carers and stakeholders can make representations on the proposal.
- 1.3 To ensure that the school estate meets the principles of best value, the Education & Children's Services Directorate must ensure that the number of pupil places is matched as efficiently as possible to the numbers of pupils living in each geographical school catchment area.
- 1.4 Overall, there is sufficient pupil capacity within both secondary schools to meet the demand of pupil places from the primary catchment area of Balmerino Primary School.
- 1.5 However, there is currently a boundary anomaly within the catchment area of Balmerino Primary School as a result of the closure of Rathillet Primary School in 2014.
- 1.6 At the time of the proposal to close Rathillet Primary School and rezone the catchment area to Balmerino Primary School, a proposal was not formed to rezone the secondary school catchment areas. As a result, the area which previously formed the catchment area of Rathillet Primary School remains part of the Bell Baxter High School catchment area, while the area which previously formed the catchment area of Balmerino Primary School remains part of the Madras College catchment area. This is demonstrated on Appendix 1.5.
- 1.7 Until such time as a formal proposal to rezone the catchment area of Madras College and Bell Baxter High School was completed, the pupils from the former Rathillet Primary School catchment, who were enrolled at Balmerino Primary School, were afforded the opportunity, at entry to secondary school, to choose either Bell Baxter High School or Madras College.
- 1.8 Therefore, a decision is required to formally change the secondary school catchment areas to ensure that the whole of the Balmerino Primary School catchment area is zoned to one secondary school.
- 1.9 This will minimise uncertainty for pupils living in the former Rathillet Primary School catchment area when making a decision on the secondary school to attend (although the Education Service has supported parents/carers and pupils and afforded them the opportunity to choose between the schools at entry to S1). In addition, this proposal will ensure positive educational benefits for pupils attending the secondary school associated with Balmerino Primary School, as detailed in this proposal paper.
- 1.10 Parents will continue to have the right to exercise parental choice and to make placing requests to alternative secondary schools, subject to the normal constraints of capacity being available. The allocation of placing requests is in

terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 and in line with the existing School Admissions Policy, which can be found online at www.fife.gov.uk by searching for School Admissions Policy or accessing the following link [Schools-Admission-Policy-April-2018.docx \(live.com\)](#).

1.11 This paper details the rezoning proposals for the existing secondary schools, on the existing campuses, of Bell Baxter High School and Madras College.

1.12 Fife Council manages the education provision by dividing the entire authority area into catchment areas, based on household addresses for both denominational and non-denominational provision for both primary and secondary schools. For each household address there is a non-denominational and denomination provision identified. There are no proposed changes to the denominational primary and secondary catchment areas associated with the area to be rezoned.

2 The Proposal

2.1 The proposal is to:

- Rezone the catchment area of Bell Baxter High School from 30 June 2023
- Rezone the catchment area of Madras College from 30 June 2023.

2.2 After the consultation, a final report will be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Committee. If approved, the changes to the catchment areas would be implemented on 30 June 2023. Primary 7 pupils transferring to S1 in August 2023 would continue to be supported by the Education Service and afforded the opportunity to choose either Bell Baxter High School or Madras College for their secondary school place for August 2023. If approved, the new secondary catchment areas will take effect from 30 June 2023 for all enrolments, including placing requests, from this date.

3 Guiding Principles

3.1 There are two key principles which underpin this proposal:

- the need to manage the capacity of our secondary school estate over a geographical area, and
- the ambition to create secondary school communities within a geographical area, ensuring there is a continuous border around the secondary school catchment area.

3.2 It is preferable that schools should be operating within an occupancy range of 80-100%. Schools which fall below this occupancy may be more restricted in their ability to offer the full breadth of the curriculum.

3.3 Fife Council's sustainable school estate strategy states that any proposal should support the progressive reduction in the Council's carbon footprint.

4 Managing the School Estate

- 4.1 Local authorities have a statutory responsibility to ensure there are sufficient school places for the pupil population; to improve the quality of school education provided; to raise standards of education and to ensure most efficient use of available resources.
- 4.2 In Fife, the Education Authority (Fife Council) discharges its duty to secure adequate and efficient education provision for the local authority area by operating a “catchment” system, to enable parents/carers to comply with their duty to provide efficient education for their child(ren). Each household address in Fife is associated with a denominational and a non-denominational primary and a secondary school known as catchment schools. School catchments can be reviewed online at [Check school catchment areas | Fife Council](#).
- 4.3 Illustrated within the appendices at the end of the proposal are the current individual secondary school catchment areas, with additional maps showing the primary school addresses which are included in the secondary catchment areas. For example, the addresses within the Balmullo Primary School catchment area all fall within the existing catchment area of Bell Baxter High School.
- 4.4 To allow Fife Council to forward plan for future population changes and to manage our existing school estate, all proposed housing developments contained in the Fife Council Housing Land Audit report are included in the school roll projections. The Housing Land Audit is produced annually and details the expected build rate per year per housing site. This allows the Education Service to monitor the projected school rolls on a yearly basis, ensuring sufficient capacity is available within schools for their catchment population and to take account of any demographic changes.
- 4.5 Where a school is expected to exceed its maximum capacity as a result of proposed housing sites contained within a school’s catchment area, the Education Service will seek planning obligations to fund and deliver any additional school infrastructure required to accommodate new pupils from these development sites. The Council regularly reviews proposed housing development and assesses the likely impact on school places.
- 4.6 Fife Council has a robust methodology to project school rolls which considers the following factors:
- the number of pre-school children in each primary school catchment area
 - parental choices (placing requests) made at P1 and S1 stages
 - current school rolls
 - the number of proposed new homes expected to be built each year
 - school age population projections from National Records of Scotland
- 4.7 School roll projections are updated annually, as the contributing factors and assumptions can change, for example; by the inclusion of additional proposed housing sites; delayed or accelerated housing building rates; changes to expected birth rates or trends in parental choices.

- 4.8 Projections for areas with small populations tend to be less reliable than those for areas with large populations, because the former are usually affected more by migration. Projections of the number of adults are usually more reliable than those for children because of difficulties in projecting levels of fertility and parental migration. For more details of the limitations of population projections visit: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-projections/uses-and-limitations-of-population-projections>.

5 The Requirement for Reviewing the Secondary Catchment Areas

- 5.1 Prior to the formal closure of Rathillet Primary School and the rezoning of the catchment to Balmerino Primary School, pupils from the rural village of Rathillet were allocated spaces within Balmerino Primary School. Household addresses within the former Rathillet Primary School catchment area were zoned to Bell Baxter High School, whereas household address within the existing Balmerino Primary School catchment area were zoned to Madras College. As a result of this, and due to the small number of pupils located in this village, parents/pupils were given the opportunity to choose, at the time of entry to secondary school, whether they wished to attend Bell Baxter High School or Madras College at the end of Primary 7. Free transport for pupils was provided at the start of S1 to attend either school, as all the pupil addresses met the distance criteria of over 2 miles.
- 5.2 Madras College was relocated from South Street and Kilrymont Road to a new single site school building in August 2021, adjacent to St Andrews University at Bell Brae. The school has the capacity to accommodate 1450 pupils. Balmerino Primary School is one of its associated primary schools.
- 5.3 Rathillet Primary School has now been closed to pupils for over 8 years and the secondary catchment area for all the addresses within the former Rathillet Primary School catchment area remains Bell Baxter High School, as a formal proposal to consult on the rezoning of the secondary catchment area has not been carried out to date.
- 5.4 Whilst considering the rezoning proposal for the addresses within the Balmerino Primary School catchment area, officers reviewed the other schools surrounding Madras College which fall within the Bell Baxter High School catchment area. Several options were reviewed for consideration.
- 5.5 There are 9 pupils from the former Rathillet Primary School catchment area who were enrolled in secondary schools at Census 2021. Six of them attend Madras College and 3 attend Bell Baxter High School.
- 5.6 Option – rezone the catchment area of Balmerino Primary School, as a whole, to Bell Baxter High School
- 5.6.1 Based on the analysis of pupil locations, from the pupil census in September 2021, pupils who attended Balmerino Primary School and now attend Bell Baxter High School is presented as follows:

- 7 pupils who attended Balmerino Primary School attend Bell Baxter High School
 - 4 of the 7 pupils were zoned to attend Madras but made placing requests to Bell Baxter High School
 - 3 of the 7 pupils attend Bell Baxter High School as a result of living in the former Rathillet Primary School.
- 5.6.2 This option would change the secondary school catchment area for the majority of Balmerino Primary School catchment pupils. Only 12% of the Balmerino catchment area attend Bell Baxter. 88% of pupils from the Balmerino catchment area choose to attend their catchment school, Madras College. Therefore, a rezoning of Balmerino Primary School to Bell Baxter, from Madras College, would be against the choice that 88% of the secondary pupils have made recently from this primary school catchment area. This would increase the projected school roll of Bell Baxter High School and decrease the expected school roll of Madras College.
- 5.6.3 For the above reasons, this option has been discounted.
- 5.7 Option – rezone the catchment areas of Balmerino Primary School, as a whole, and Balmullo Primary School, as a whole, to Madras College
- 5.7.1 The rezoning of Balmerino Primary School, in full, to Madras College, would appear to create a geographic peninsula within the catchment area of Bell Baxter High School. Because of that, the option of Balmullo Primary School also being rezoned to Madras College has been considered.
- 5.7.2 The distance from Balmullo Primary School to Madras College is approximately 6 miles and 12 minutes by car, depending on traffic and this is of similar distance to Bell Baxter High School (6.7 miles and approximately 12 minutes).
- 5.7.3 Although the catchment area of Balmullo Primary School, which is in the secondary catchment area of Bell Baxter High School, is almost surrounded by the Madras College catchment area, the direct travel route to Bell Baxter is along the A914 through Dairsie and Cupar and this does not transect into any of the Madras College catchment primary schools. This is shown in Appendix 1.6.
- 5.7.4 From the analysis of pupil choices, 49 pupils from Balmullo Primary School have chosen to attend their associated catchment school of Bell Baxter High School and 50 pupils have chosen to make a placing request to Madras College.
- 5.7.5 Further consideration demonstrates that rezoning the pupils of Balmullo Primary School to Madras College would result in additional revenue costs for Fife Council, in the provision of transport to Madras College, and would result in Madras College exceeding maximum capacity earlier than anticipated. For these reasons, this option has been discounted.
- 5.8 Option – rezone the catchment area of Balmerino Primary School, as a whole, to Madras College
- 5.8.1 Rezoning all the Balmerino Primary School catchment area would change the catchment area for the minority of the Balmerino Primary School pupils. This

would be against the choice that 12% of secondary pupils have recently made. The number of primary aged pupils this would impact upon is currently less than 15 and this would be expected to have a minimal impact on both the Bell Baxter High School and Madras College projected school rolls. If 12% of the pupils still wanted to attend Bell Baxter High School, they would likely be able to still be accommodated if making a placing request application.

5.8.2 Based on the analysis of pupil locations from the pupil census in September 2021, pupils who attend Balmerino Primary School and attend Madras College is presented as follows:

- 44 pupils who were zoned to Madras College attended their catchment school
- 6 pupils opted to attend Madras College (these pupils were from the former Rathillet Primary School catchment area).

5.8.3 For these reasons, this is the option contained within the proposal document.

6 The Case for Catchment Reviews

6.1 Bell Baxter High School – The Case for Catchment Review

6.1.1 Bell Baxter High School was built circa 1962, with a variety of accommodation to meet the needs of all learners. The science wing, sports hall and additional teaching block were built in 1994 and tennis courts and multi-use games area built in 2009. The school has received many phases of refurbishment between the period 1990-2006, improving the condition and suitability of the building. The school roll, during session 2021/22, was 1482 pupils, with a maximum capacity of 1696 pupils. The anticipated school roll for academic session 2022/23 is 1556 and for academic session 2023/24 is 1553 pupils.

6.1.2 A map of the existing Bell Baxter High School catchment area is shown in appendix 1.1. A map showing the primary schools with addresses within the existing Bell Baxter High School catchment area is at appendix 1.2.

6.1.3 The school roll has increased at Bell Baxter for the last 5 years and continues to operate within the maximum pupil capacity. The school utilises all available accommodation within the building to deliver the breadth of the curriculum.

6.1.4 A new strategic development area for 1648 housing units is planned within the Bell Baxter High School catchment area and new pupils from this development can be accommodated within the existing accommodation. It should be noted that the development is planned on a phased basis over the period 2022-2039 as per the Housing Land Audit 2021.

6.1.5 From the analysis of the current S1-S6 school rolls for pupils living in the former Rathillet Primary School catchment area, there are fewer than 5 pupils who are currently enrolled at Bell Baxter High School.

6.1.6 Rezoning all the Balmerino Primary School catchment area to Bell Baxter High School would be against the choice that 88% of secondary pupils have made recently. This would be expected to increase the projected school roll of Bell

Baxter High School and decrease the projected school roll of Madras College.

- 6.1.7 The proposed changes to the catchment area of Bell Baxter High School are as follows:

The postcode addresses within the primary catchment area of the former Rathillet Primary School to be rezoned from Bell Baxter High School to Madras College. The proposal will address the anomaly as a result of the closure of Rathillet Primary School. This can be shown on Appendix 1.7

- 6.1.8 A map of the proposed Bell Baxter High School catchment with the associated primary schools within the proposed Bell Baxter High School catchment area is shown in appendix 1.7.

6.2 **Madras College – The Case for Catchment Review**

- 6.2.1 A new Madras College was constructed and operational to staff and pupils from August 2021. The new build changed location from the split sites of Kilrymont Road and South Street to the North Haugh area of St Andrews, Bell Brae, adjacent to the University of St Andrews. The close proximity to St Andrews University offers enhanced learning opportunities and partnership working. The pupil capacity for the new school was reduced from the capacity of South Street and Kilrymont Road, of 1906 places, to 1450 places. The decision to reduce the capacity was agreed at the time of statutory consultation in academic session 2017/18 because of a falling school roll and projected school rolls. The school roll, during session 2021/22, was 1378 pupils, with a maximum capacity of 1450 pupils. The anticipated school roll for academic session 2022/23 is 1418 and for academic session 2023/24 is 1446 pupils
- 6.2.2 A map of the existing Madras College catchment area is at appendix 1.3. A map showing the primary schools with addresses within the existing Madras College catchment is at appendix 1.4.
- 6.2.3 At present, some of the addresses in the Balmerino Primary School catchment area are zoned to Bell Baxter High School, as no formal consultation to rezone to one single secondary school catchment area has been completed. This is illustrated in appendix 1.5. This illustrates that for pupils attending Balmerino Primary School for their primary education the peer group at P7 may transfer to different secondary schools. By rezoning the catchment areas of Bell Baxter High School and Madras College, this catchment anomaly will be resolved, as the postcode addresses within the primary school catchment area will be rezoned to a single secondary school.
- 6.2.4 Based on the pupil trends for those pupils enrolled at Madras College from the former Rathillet Primary School catchment area, there is only a slight difference in the number of pupils choosing Madras College rather than Bell Baxter High School. The number of pupils who attend Madras College from the former Rathillet Primary School catchment area is more than 5 but less than 10 pupils.
- 6.2.5 As outlined in para 6.13, there is only a slight difference in the distribution of numbers attending Madras College compared to Bell Baxter High School. With this in mind, the Education Service believes that the educational benefits outlined

in section 9 demonstrate that it would be more beneficial for all the pupils within the Balmerino Primary School catchment area to transfer to Madras College.

6.3 Placing Requests into Madras College

6.3.1 On reviewing the data of the surrounding catchment areas of Balmerino Primary School, it is noted that around 50 pupils living within the Balmullo Primary School catchment area have chosen to attend Madras College as a placing request. The placing requests from this catchment area will continue to be monitored, as well as potential pupils from new housing in the Madras College catchment area. As a result of a projected increase in new catchment pupils from housing within the Strategic Development Area (SDA), in future, there may be fewer places available to accommodate pupils from outwith the Madras College catchment area.

6.3.2 The proposed changes to the catchment area of Madras College are as follows:

The postcode addresses within the primary catchment area of the former Rathillet Primary School, which are now within the Balmerino Primary School catchment area, to be rezoned from Bell Baxter High School to Madras College. This can be shown on Appendix 1.8.

6.3.3 A map of the proposed Madras College catchment area and associated primary schools within the proposed Madras College catchment area is at appendix 1.8.

7 Siblings

7.1 There are fewer than 25 pupils living in the former Rathillet Primary School catchment area enrolled in a Fife primary or secondary school. Based on the number of families currently living in this area, there are no families currently attending Balmerino Primary School with older siblings at Bell Baxter High School, who would be impacted by the proposed change.

7.2 The Council's position in relation to siblings outlined above does not include those families who have made a parental placing request to Balmerino Primary School. These parents would need to submit a parental placing request for their younger child(ren) and depending on which secondary school catchment area their household address is within, may need to submit a placing request for entry to S1. The allocation of placing requests is in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 and in line with the existing School Admissions Policy which can be found online at www.fife.gov.uk by searching for School Admissions Policy or accessing the following link [Schools-Admission-Policy-April-2018.docx \(live.com\)](#).

8 Projected School Rolls Following Proposed Rezoning

8.1 Based on the current number of pupils living within the former Rathillet Primary School catchment area, and the existing trends of parental choice, the proposed roll projections of Madras College will not change significantly due to this rezoning proposal. Current roll projections for both Bell Baxter High School and Madras College are detailed in Appendix 1.9.

9 Educational Benefits Statement

- 9.1 It is a requirement of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 that the education authority prepare an Educational Benefits Statement on this proposal which includes:
- (a) the authority's assessment of the likely effects of a relevant proposal (if implemented) on:
 - (i) the pupils of any affected school,
 - (ii) any other users of the school's facilities,
 - (iii) any children who would (in the future but for implementation) be likely to become pupils of the school,
 - (iv) the pupils of any other schools in the authority's area,
 - (b) the authority's assessment of any other likely effects of the proposal (if implemented),
 - (c) an explanation of how the authority intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal (if implemented),
 - (d) a description of the benefits which the authority believes will result from implementation of the proposal (with reference to the persons whom it believes will derive them).
 - (e) the education authority's reasons for coming to the beliefs under paragraph (d).
- 9.2 The proposed rezoning of catchment areas would ensure that pupils within the Balmerino Primary School community will transfer to the same secondary school. This proposal will ensure that all the household addresses within a single primary school catchment area are associated with a single secondary school catchment area. There is a clear education benefit that will allow the transition from primary to secondary to be streamlined and easier to manage if pupils from this school community attend the same secondary school. It will reduce uncertainty for pupils while retaining parental choice through the placing request system and the established School Admission Policy.
- 9.3 The proposed catchment rezoning changes will remove the current anomalies for postcode addresses within the former Rathillet Primary School catchment area, creating a clear and distinct association with their local community.
- 9.4 **Bell Baxter High School**
- 9.4.1 If the proposal is approved, an educational benefit for Bell Baxter High School staff is that they would no longer have to undertake transition arrangements with a school outwith their allocated cluster, thus allowing them to focus on catchment pupils.
- 9.4.2 There would be a benefit for other pupils, from other communities, seeking a place within Bell Baxter High School as per placing request policy, should Balmerino Primary School pupils be rezoned to Madras College.
- 9.4.3 Pupils from the previous Rathillet Primary School catchment area equate to fewer than 5 pupils across S5 and S6 year groups at Bell Baxter High School. There has been an emerging trend that fewer pupils are now choosing to attend Bell Baxter High School from the former Rathillet Primary School catchment

area. There are currently 6 pupils from the former Rathillet Primary School catchment area attending Madras College and fewer than 5 pupils attending Bell Baxter High School. This would suggest that the transition to Madras College, and the friendships already formed at P7, is influencing the decision for parents.

9.5 **Madras College**

- 9.5.1 Rezoning the postcode addresses from all the Balmerino Primary School catchment area from Bell Baxter High School to Madras College will enable those pupils to continue their association and friendships with other young people residing in their locality who currently attend Madras College. This will further strengthen young people's links and sense of belonging to their local community, in addition to more fully exploiting existing opportunities for the integration of services for children and families.
- 9.5.2 As part of the self-improving system adopted within the Education Service in Fife, nurseries and schools across the primary and secondary sectors work in clusters to support transitions in learning and wellbeing within their associated secondary catchment school. This allows the co-ordination of continuity and progression in learning pathways for children and young people transitioning between establishments. All pupils transitioning from the same Primary School to the same Secondary School allows for a more co-ordinated approach to comprehensive and well-planned transition programmes taking account of pupils mental, social, emotional and physical needs. It also allows for easier transfer of information to support continuity of a young person's learning journey.
- 9.5.3 Cluster transition events will ensure that young people from Balmerino Primary School have the opportunity to attend transition events with their peers. This ensures an excellent transition both educationally and socially for those young people going to Madras College. These opportunities are available because of the close working relationships which already exist between the staff, headteachers and other agencies supporting the cluster schools.
- 9.5.4 Those parents who choose to send their children to attend a different secondary school, other than the catchment school of Madras College, are likely to be accommodated.

9.6 **Benefits for children who would be likely to become pupils at these schools within two years of the publication of this proposal paper**

- 9.6.1 All young people will experience a broad, relevant, enjoyable and progressive curriculum through S1 to S6, delivered in a stimulating learning environment.
- 9.6.2 All young people will be supported in inclusive learning environments that meet the needs of all learners. There will be access to a broad range of teaching and specialist staff, including guidance and support for learning staff, to meet pupils' additional support needs at all stages of intervention. Getting it Right for Every Child is the responsibility of all at all primary and secondary schools in Fife. Pupils will be supported in a range of ways and given help, when they need it, to ensure that they reach their full potential. Pupils and their families will have regular and frequent opportunities, within caring educational communities, to discuss their learning and progress with teachers, guidance staff, support staff

and members of the school leadership team.

9.6.3 An extended range of opportunities for pupils' achievements will be available through the provision of varied educational, cultural and sporting activities and clubs. Pupils will have opportunities to participate as individuals and teams in a variety of local and national competitions and events. Such opportunities have a significant impact on their personal and social development and achievements, resulting in the acquisition of skills for learning, life and work.

- Within each Secondary School there will be a broad range of strengths, expertise, talents and interests amongst the staff teams. This will have a direct positive impact on the professional learning and practice of teachers and support staff across the schools ensuring consistently ambitious standards and expectations across subjects, departments and schools.
- There will be sufficient social and recreational spaces within the grounds of each Secondary School to meet the needs of pupil numbers at each stage.
- Cluster transition events will be established to ensure that children have many opportunities throughout their school life to work collaboratively with children and staff from the associated primary schools and the secondary school. This ensures an excellent transition both educationally and socially for all children. These opportunities are available because of the close working relationships which already exist between the staff, headteachers and other agencies supporting the cluster schools.
- The catchment rezoning will enable children and families to forge associations and friendships with other young people residing in their locality who currently attend the catchment Secondary School. This will further strengthen young people's links and sense of belonging to their local community, in addition to more fully exploiting existing opportunities for the integration of services for children and families.
- Continued opportunities will exist for parents and carers to be involved in their child's education through a range of home and school engagement activities aimed at supporting their child's learning. As at present, parents will have opportunities to participate within the school's Parent Council.

9.7 **Benefits for other pupils in the authority area**

9.7.1 The Education Service realises the educational benefit where all pupils who are living in the same primary school catchment area are zoned to the same secondary school and is working to achieve this across Fife for all pupils. This proposal will ensure that communities are formed with a continuous border around the secondary school catchment area.

9.8 **How the Authority intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects**

9.8.1 The authority has confirmed that it is likely that there will be no impact on any siblings already enrolled at Bell Baxter, as the census information does not highlight any primary school siblings who would be impacted upon.

- 9.8.2 Existing primary pupils will have an opportunity, at the end of the relevant academic session, to transfer to their new secondary catchment school if they wish.
- 9.8.3 Any new S1 pupils, after the rezoning, will be expected to attend the rezoned secondary school associated with their postal address or make a parental placing request to another school.
- 9.8.4 The transfer of pupils to secondary schools is carefully planned by the Education and Children Service's Directorate staff, school staff and parents/carers will continue to ensure that children are supported through the transition.
- 9.8.5 School staff will continue to support pupils at the time of transition to forge new friendships, embrace new opportunities and integrate into their new environment at secondary school.
- 9.8.6 Particular priority will be given to ensuring continuity for children with additional support needs.

9.9 **Any other likely effects of the proposal**

- 9.9.1 Existing transport contracts will be affected and consultation with Fife Council's Transportation Service and Bus Operators will be arranged if the proposal is approved. Any school transport contract to Bell Baxter High School will continue to run until all pupils from this area have completed their education. Existing Fife Council policy is to provide free transport to pupils living more than 2 miles from their catchment school.

9.10 **Benefits the Authority believes will result from implementation of the proposal (and reasons for this belief)**

- 9.10.1 For parents of pupils living within the Balmerino Primary School catchment area they will be assured that their children will be able to be accommodated within their secondary catchment school with the rest of the peer group from Balmerino Primary School.
- 9.10.2 This proposal will ensure better alignment of communities and catchment areas to ensure 100% of pupils within a primary school and community will transfer to the same secondary school.
- 9.10.3 No secondary school will be over-occupied and there will be continued flexibility to deliver Curriculum for Excellence.

10 **Transport Arrangements**

- 10.1 A pupil is legally entitled to free transport to school if:
- they are under 8 and live more than 2 miles from their catchment school or
 - they are over 8 and live more than 3 miles from their catchment school
- 10.2 However, in terms of the current school transport policy, Fife Council provides free transport to all primary pupils living more than one mile and all secondary

pupils living more than two miles from their catchment area school. For those pupils who live within two miles of their secondary school, parents have the responsibility to ensure that pupils are supervised on journeys to and from school.

10.3 If the proposal to rezone the catchment areas of the 2 secondary schools is approved, the following would apply:

- Free transport will still be provided, if distance entitled, for existing pupils enrolled in the 2 schools until they leave secondary school, or as long as they continue to reside at the same address. If they move to a new address, transport provision will be in accordance with the terms of the transport policy in place at that time.
- Fife Council would not expect any currently enrolled pupil to enrol at the secondary catchment school their home has been rezoned to unless they wished to do so.
- New catchment pupils to either secondary school will also receive free transport in accordance with the terms of the transport policy in place at that time.
- As is the case currently for pupils living within Balmerino Primary School catchment area, free transport will be provided to Madras College, in accordance with the current policy, based on distance entitlement.
- Parents have the right to request that their child attend a school other than their designated catchment school (or to their designated catchment school if the child has not been offered a place there). Any such request is called a placing request and is governed by the Education (Scotland) Act 1980. In most circumstances placing requests will be granted where pupil places are available, but the pupil will not automatically be entitled to free or subsidised school transport. However, there is discretion within the existing transport policy and cases will be looked at on an individual basis. Further information on placing requests and the procedure involved can be found in the School Admissions Policy for Primary and Secondary Schools in Fife which can be found at [Apply for a school place | Fife Council](#)

11 Financial Implications

11.1 There will be a very small cost implication for Fife Council, associated with transport contracts. Individual transport contracts for pupils attending Bell Baxter High School will continue to run until the end of their education. This will be offset against the future saving of transport to Bell Baxter High School.

12 Community Impact

12.1 The proposal to rezone the catchment area of the Bell Baxter High School and Madras College would:

- remove the uncertainty for parents/carers and pupils living in the Balmerino Primary School catchment area as to whether to transfer to Bell Baxter High

School which has been the associated secondary school for the village of Rathillet;

- realign the Rathillet village with Madras College and resolve the existing catchment anomaly.

13 Summary of Proposal

13.1 The proposal is to:

- Rezone the catchment area of Bell Baxter High School from 30 June 2023
- Rezone the catchment area of Madras College from 30 June 2023.

14 Proposed Date for Implementation

14.1 It is intended that the proposal, if approved by the Cabinet Committee of Fife Council on 9 March 2023 (or a subsequent Cabinet Committee), would be implemented on 30 June 2023. Primary 7 pupils transferring to S1 in August 2023 would continue to be supported by the Education Service and afforded the opportunity to choose either Bell Baxter High School or Madras College for their secondary school place for August 2023. If approved, the new secondary catchment areas will take effect from 30 June 2023 for all enrolments, including placing requests, from this date.

15 Statutory Consultation Process – Proposed Timeline

22 September 2022	Consultation proposal considered by Fife Council’s Cabinet Committee
4 October	Parents and other statutory consultees issued with Consultation Notice informing them of relevant dates and information about the statutory consultation
5 October – 1 December	Consultation live (period of 31 school days)
10–21 October	School holidays
	<p>Public meetings held on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madras College High School on Monday 31 October 2022 from 6.00-7.00 pm • Bell Baxter High School High School on Thursday 10 November 2022 from 6.00-7.00 pm <p>Drop-in sessions at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balmerino Primary School on Monday 31 October 2022 from 2.45-3.30 pm • Madras College on Monday 31 October from 5.00-6.00 pm • Balmerino Primary School on Thursday 10 November from 2.45- 3.30 pm • Bell Baxter High School on Thursday 10 November from 5.00-6.00 pm
1 December	Consultation close
9 December	Report on consultation process is submitted to Education Scotland
12 December – 13 January 2023	Education Scotland 3-week review

16 January 2023	Education Service receive report from Education Scotland
13 February 2023	Consultation Report published 3 weeks before Cabinet Committee
9 March 2023	Report submitted to the Cabinet Committee

The information included in this document can be made available in large print, braille, audio CD/tape and British Sign Language interpretation on request by calling 03451 55 55 00

Calls cost between 3p to 7p per minute from a UK landline, mobile rates may vary.

BT Text phone number for Deaf people 18001 01383 441177

LANGUAGE LINES

এ নথিতে যেসব তথ্য আছে তা 03451555599 এ নাম্বারে ফোন করে অনুরোধ করলে বড় ছাপা, ব্রেইল, ওডিও সিডি/টেপ ও ব্রিটিশ সাইন ল্যাংগুয়েজ ইত্যাদি মাধ্যমে পাওয়া যাবে।

কলের জন্য ইউকে ল্যান্ডলাইন থেকে খরচ হবে প্রতি মিনিটে ৩পি থেকে ৭পি, মোবাইলের খরচ ভিন্ন হতে পারে।

عند الطلب، يمكن توفير المعلومات الواردة في هذا المستند في صورة مستندات مطبوعة بأحرف كبيرة ومستندات بطريقة برايل وعلى أشرطة/أقراص مضغوطة صوتية مع الترجمة بلغة الإشارة البريطانية من خلال الاتصال بالرقم 03451 55 55 77
تتراوح تكلفة المكالمات بين 3 إلى 7 بنسات في الدقيقة من أي خط أرضي في المملكة المتحدة، وقد تختلف أسعار المكالمات بالهاتف المحمول.

如果你需要以大字體印刷、盲人點字、光碟/錄音帶格式或英國手語傳譯說明這份文件的內容，請致電 03451 55 55 88 提出要求。

用英國電訊固定座機撥打上述電話號碼收費每分鐘 3 至 7 便士，以手機撥打收費各異。

Informacje zawarte w tym dokumencie mogą zostać udostępnione w wersji drukowanej dużą czcionką, w alfabecie Braille'a, w wersji dźwiękowej na płycie CD/taśmie lub w tłumaczeniu na brytyjski język migowy – prosimy o kontakt pod numerem 03451 55 55 44.

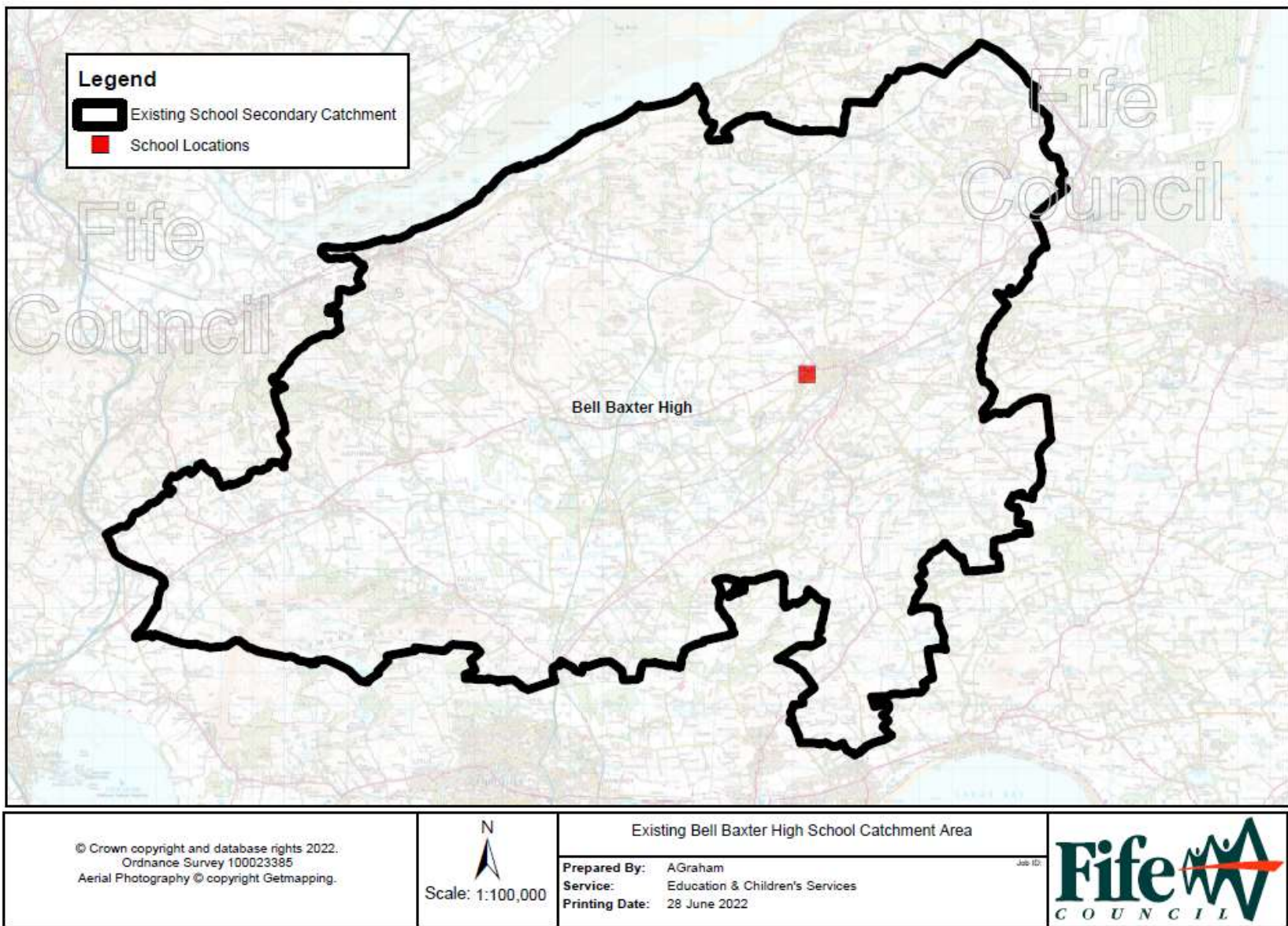
Koszt połączenia wynosi 3-7p za minutę z brytyjskich telefonów stacjonarnych, koszty połączeń z telefonów komórkowych mogą być różne.

ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਵਿਚਲੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਨੰਬਰ 03451 55 55 66 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਨ ਉੱਤੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ, ਬ੍ਰੇਅਲ, ਆਡੀਓ ਸੀ.ਡੀ./ਟੇਪ ਅਤੇ ਬ੍ਰਿਟਿਸ਼ ਸਾਈਨ ਲੈਂਗੂਏਜ ਦੇ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਵਿਚ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕਰਾਈ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

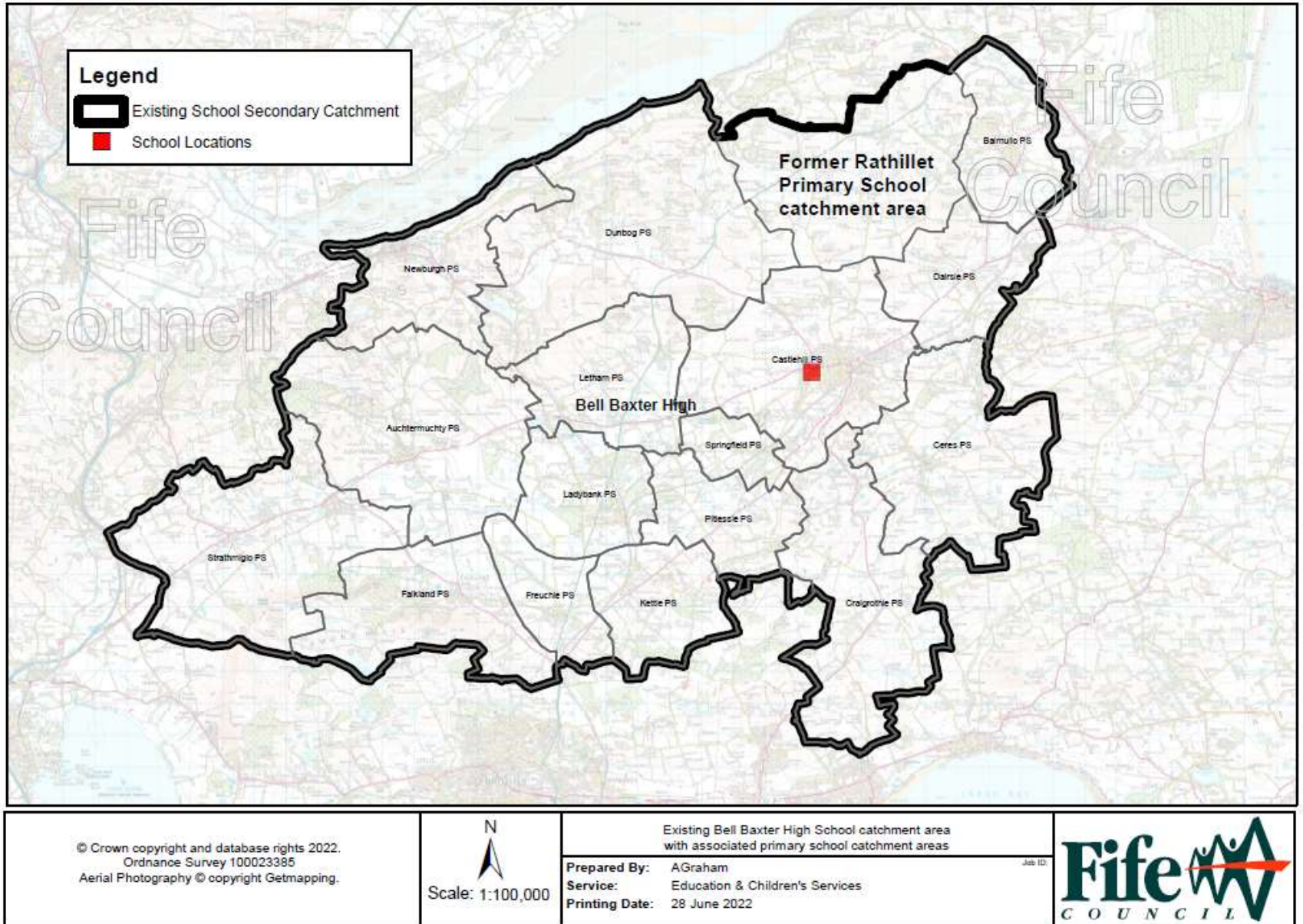
ਯੂ.ਕੇ. ਲੈਂਡਲਾਈਨ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਕਾਲ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਖਰਚਾ 3 ਤੋਂ 7 ਪੈਨੀਆਂ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਮਿੰਟ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ, ਮੋਬਾਈਲਾਂ ਦੇ ਰੇਟ ਵੱਖਰੇ ਵੱਖਰੇ ਹੋ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ।

03451 55 55 66 پر درخواست کرنے سے اس تحریر میں دی گئی معلومات بڑے پرنٹ 'بریل' آڈیو سی ڈی/ٹیپ پر اور ترجمانی والی برطانوی اشاراتی زبان (برٹش سائن لینگویج) میں مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔
کسی برطانوی لینڈ لائن سے فون کے نرخ 3 تا 7 پنس فی منٹ ہیں' موبائل کے نرخ مختلف ہوسکتے ہیں۔

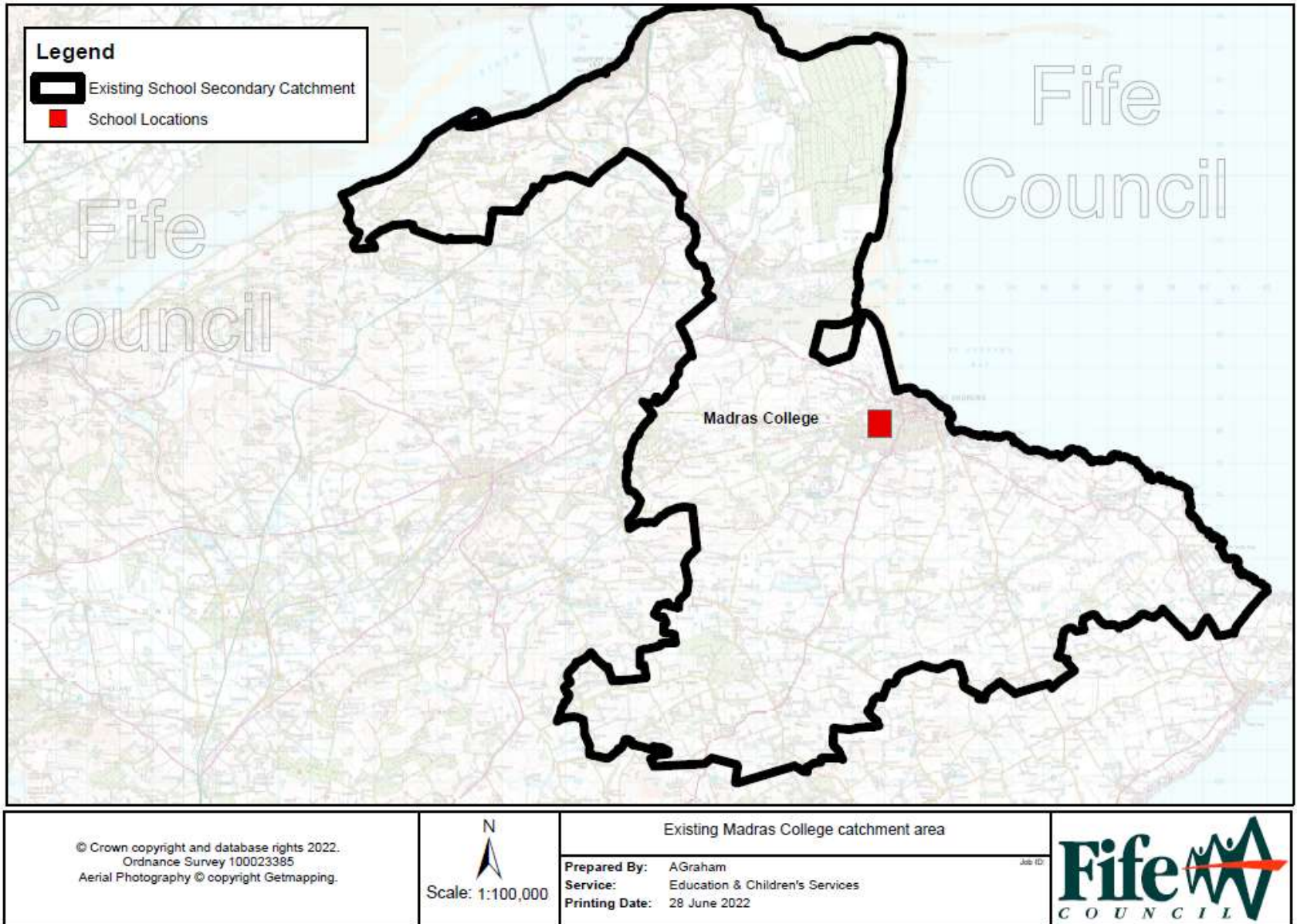
Appendix 1.1 Map of existing catchment area for Bell Baxter High School



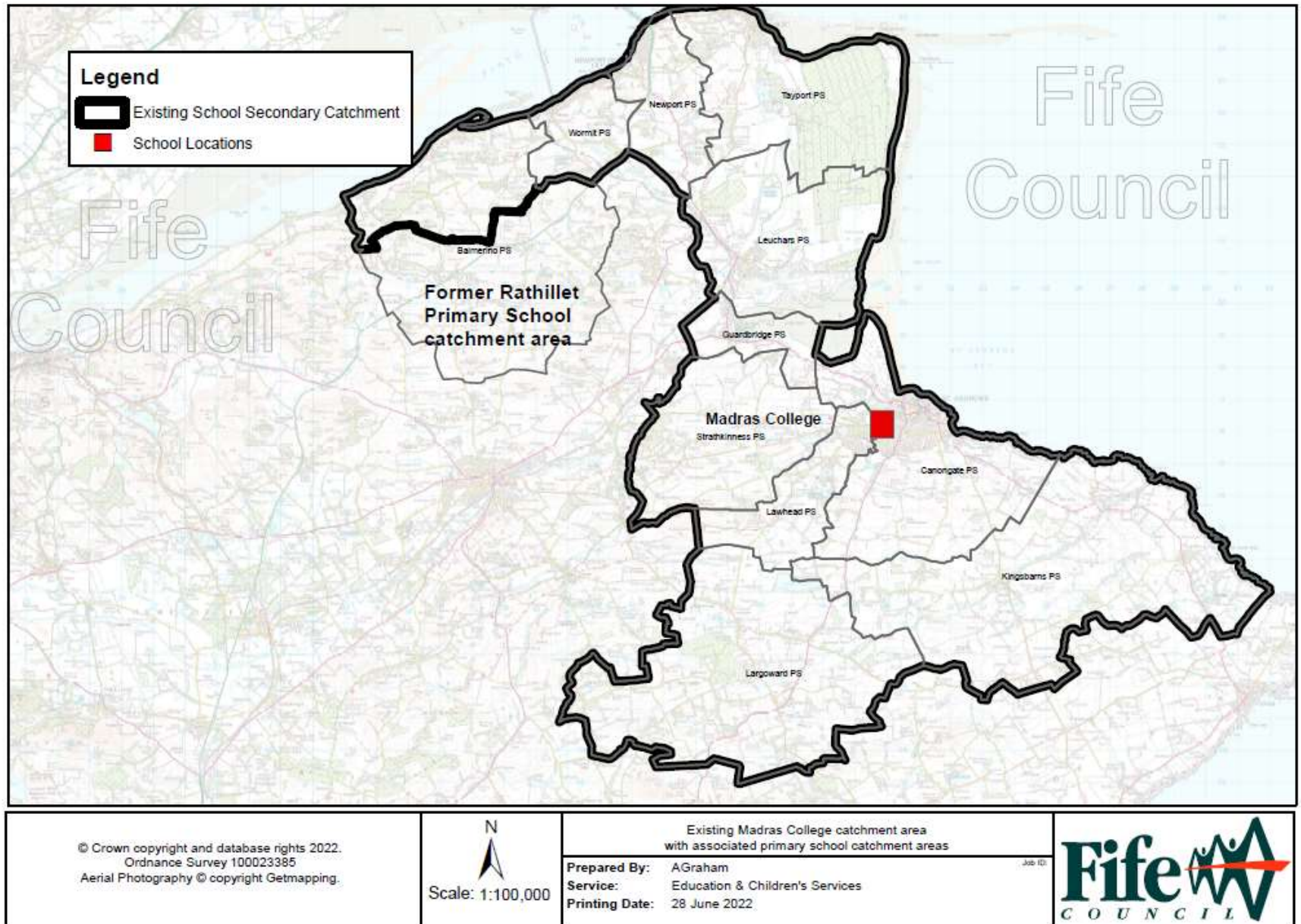
Appendix 1.2 Map of existing primary and secondary catchment areas for Bell Baxter High School



Appendix 1.3 Map of existing catchment area for Madras College

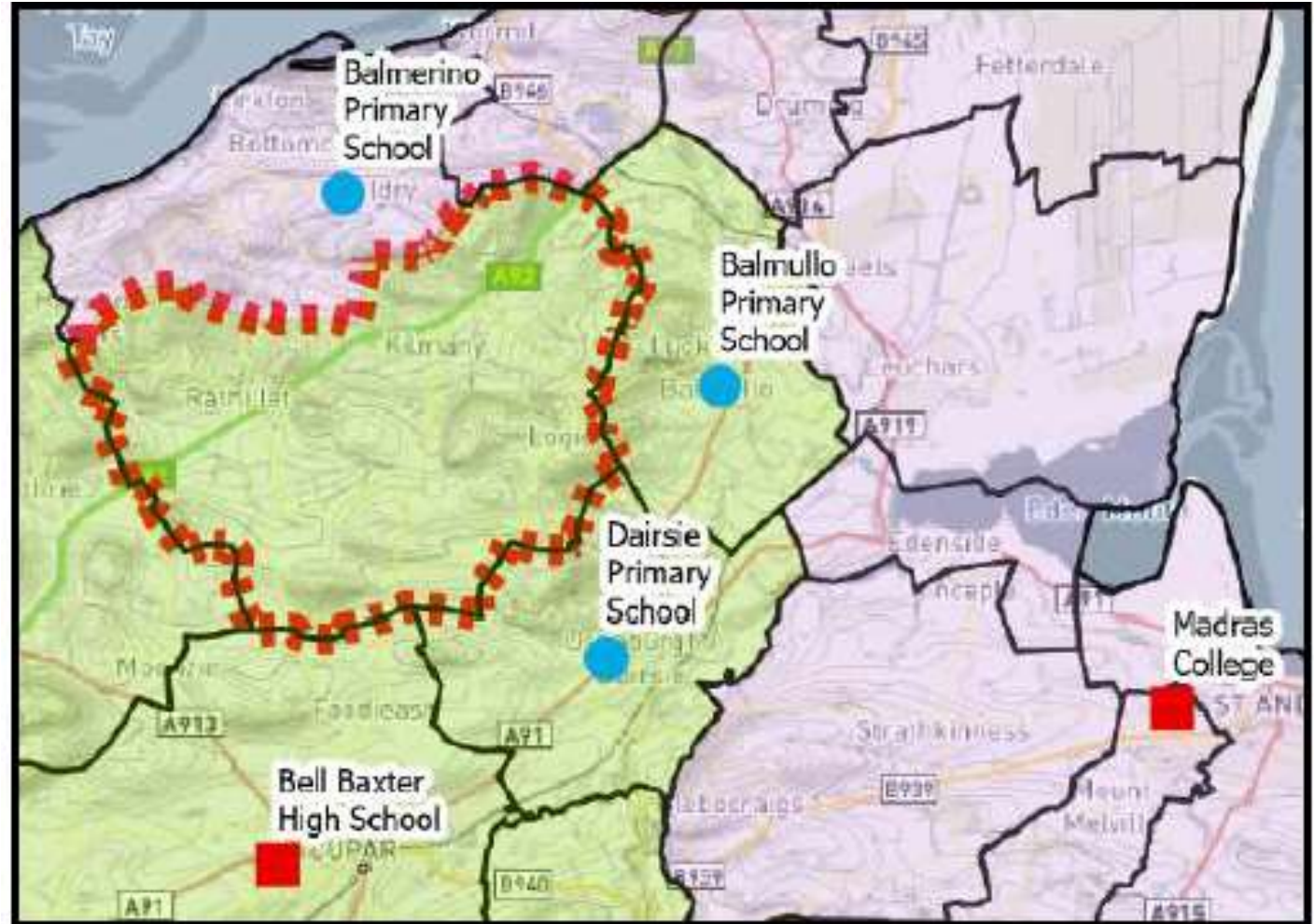


Appendix 1.4 Map of existing primary and secondary catchment areas for Madras College



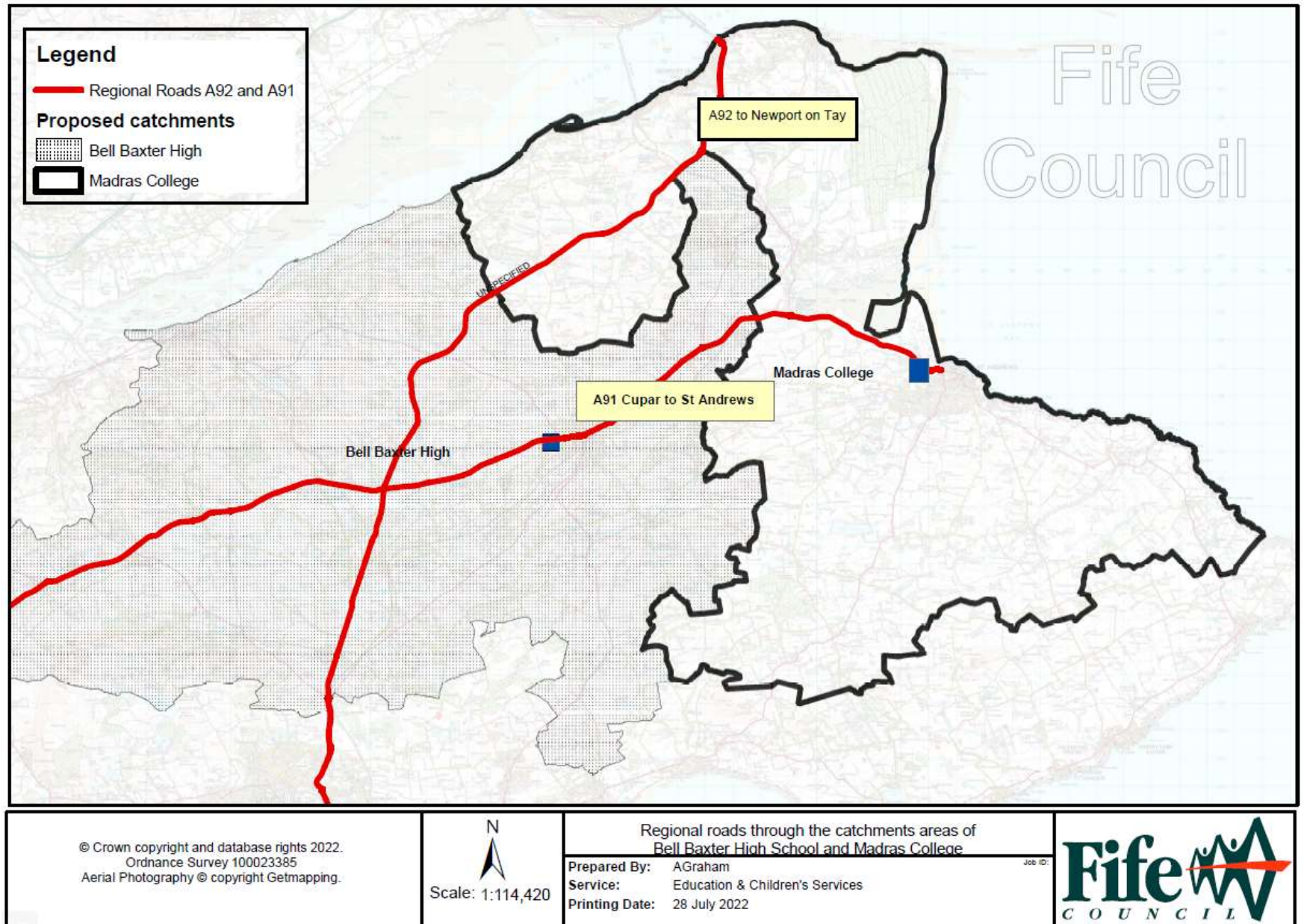
Appendix 1.5 Catchment Anomaly - addresses within the Bell Baxter High School catchment area (but within the Balmerino Primary School catchment area)

The extract to the right shows the Balmerino Primary School catchment, former Rathillet Primary School catchment area (red dashes), Bell Baxter catchment (green) and Madras College catchment area (pink) and school locations.

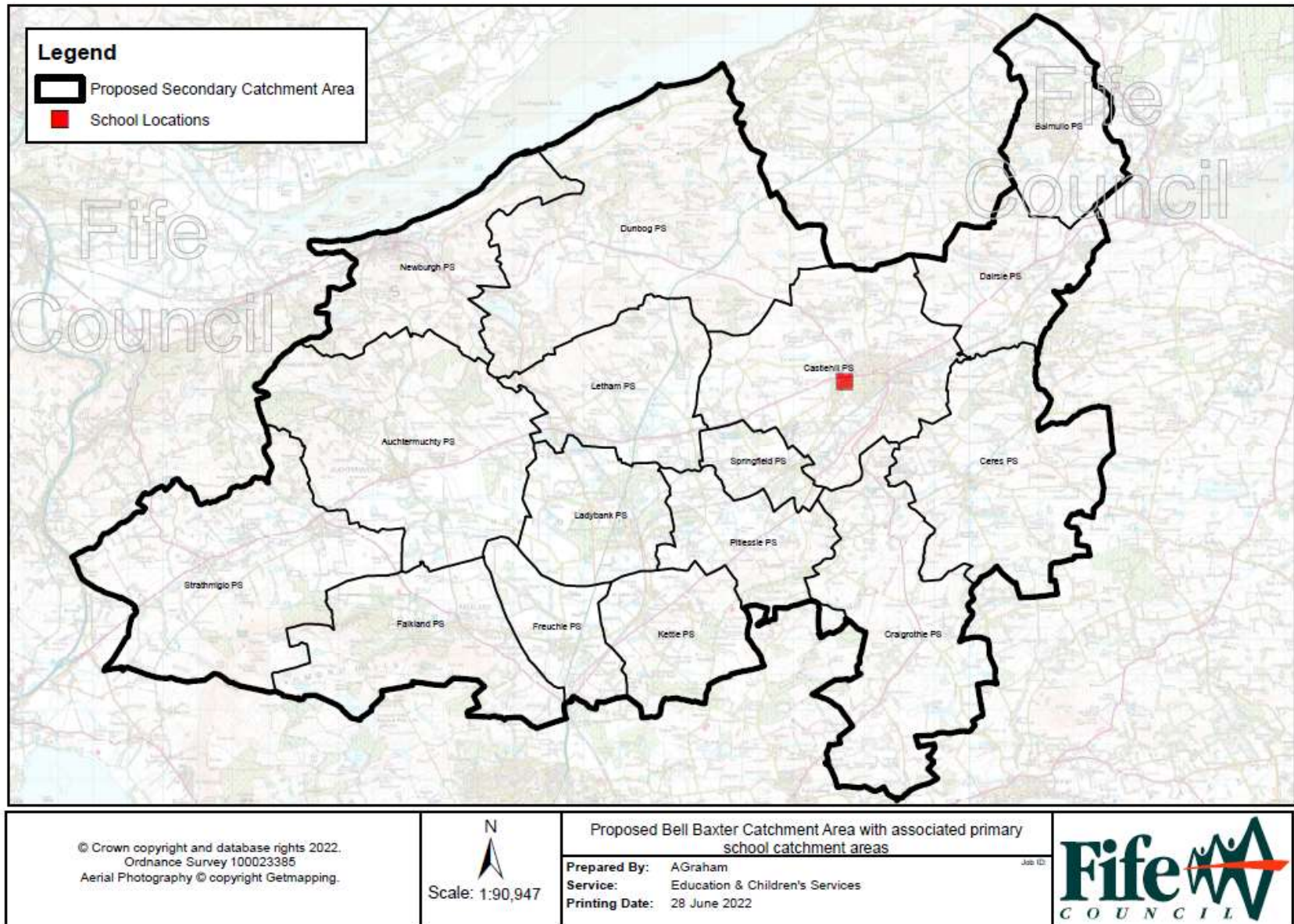


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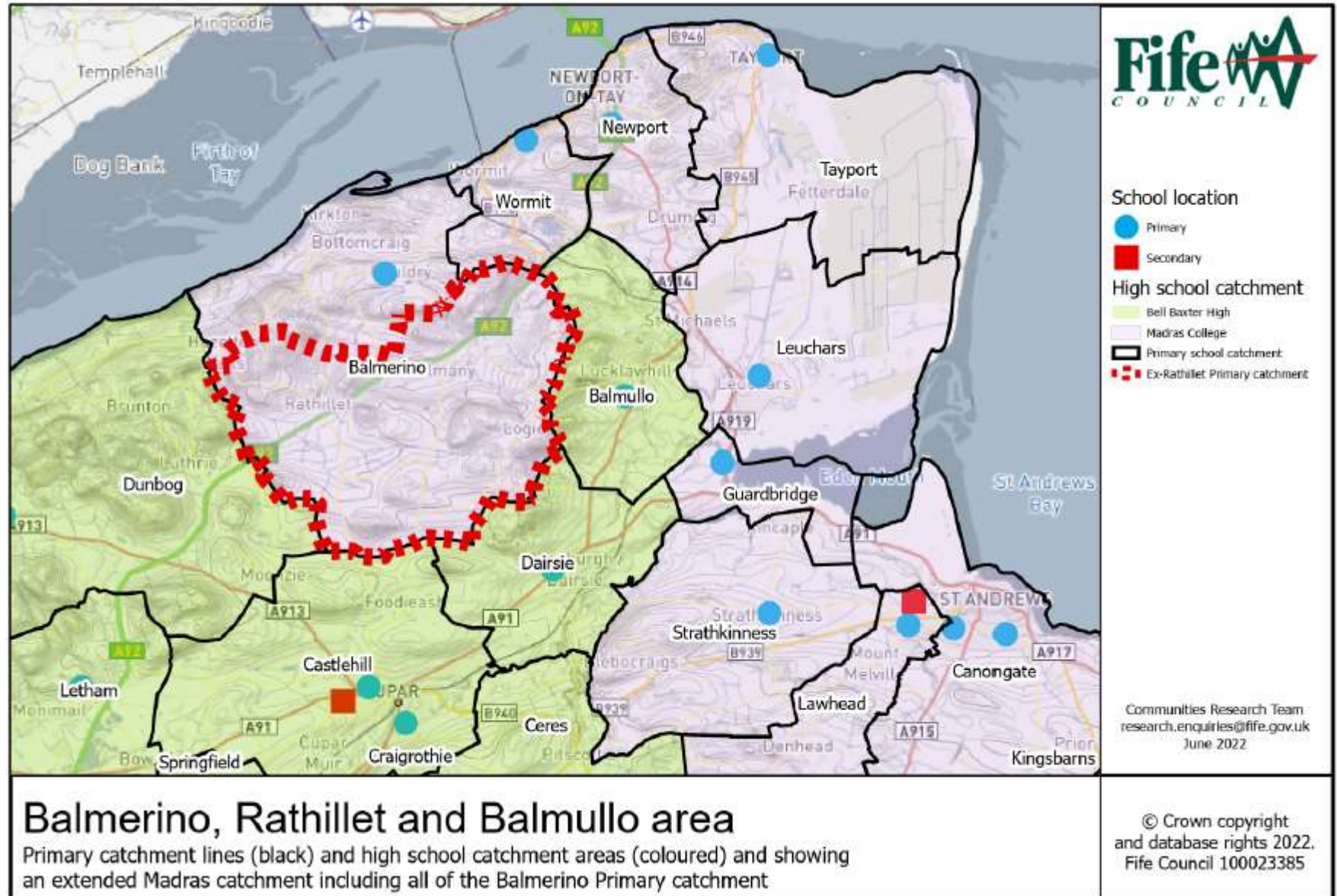
Appendix 1.6 Map showing the A92 and the route from Balmullo Primary School to Bell Baxter High School



Appendix 1.7 Map of proposed secondary catchment area, including associated primaries, for the Bell Baxter High School catchment area



Appendix 1.8 Map of proposed secondary catchment area, including associated primaries, for the Madras College catchment area



Appendix 1.9 Historic School Rolls / School Roll Projections / Core Facts

Historic School Rolls from 1990-2020 (every 2 years)

School Name	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
Bell Baxter High School	1608	1627	1624	1658	1584	1722	1722	1769	1823	1817	1782	1662	1615	1459	1390	1459
Madras College	1531	1613	1733	1768	1772	1839	1778	1729	1683	1621	1456	1339	1263	1288	1243	1338

Projected School Rolls (after rezoning proposals)

School Name	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Bell Baxter High School	1556	1553	1578	1570	1547	1542	1491	1452	1411	1381	1363	1337	1328	1325
Madras College	1418	1446	1498	1520	1536	1530	1532	1526	1508	1481	1436	1408	1371	1345

Core Facts

School Name	Condition	Suitability	Accessibility	Maximum Pupil Capacity	School Roll Census 2021	Occupancy
Bell Baxter High School	B	B	A	1696	1482	87%
Madras College	A	A	A	1450	1378	95%

Housing Development within the High School Catchment Areas

The current list of housing sites included in the school roll projection model from June 2022 is shown below. This list is based on Housing Land Audit (HLA) 2020 effective sites, strategic development area sites and planning applications received from non-HLA sites.

The totals below are based on total expected completions for each year from 2020/21 to 2039/40.

Bell Baxter High School catchment area is expected to have 2383 proposed homes which consists of 1648 new homes to be developed within the Cupar North Strategic Development Area (SDA) and 735 new homes through local plan/non-SDA sites.

Madras College catchment area is expected to have 2428 proposed homes which consists of 1090 new homes to be developed within the St Andrews West Strategic Development Area and 1338 local plan/non-SDA sites.

The SDA sites are as follows:

Bell Baxter High - Cupar North SDA (1480 units to start 2024 to 2039)

Bell Baxter High - Gilliefaulds West SDA (planning application ref. 17/00536/FULL) (168 units to start 2022-2030)

Madras College - St Andrews West SDA (760 units to start 2022 to 2040 and post 2040)

Madras College - Craigtoun SDA (370 units to start 2022-2032).

Core Facts

Core Facts are a series of data which are collected by local authorities to measure progress and success of a school estate strategy as well as benchmarking against other local authorities in Scotland. The core facts are used at both local and national level to:

- establish a baseline
- inform targets
- inform spending decisions
- support monitoring and evaluation of progress over time
- support assessments of value for money.

More information is available at: [School estates: core facts overview - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/School-estates-core-facts-overview)

School Condition Rating

Condition core facts are established by professional review, carried out by the Council's Asset & Facilities Management Service. Schools are assessed against a range of criteria set down by the Scottish Government and are examined on a 5-year rolling programme.

- A: Good – Performing well and operating efficiently
- B: Satisfactory – Performing adequately but showing minor deterioration
- C: Poor – Showing major defects and/or not operating adequately
- D: Bad – Life expired and/or serious risk of imminent failure.

School Suitability Rating

Suitability core facts are established through a similar process to the condition core facts process, undertaken by Headteacher and Business Managers.

This information assesses how well the school environment supports the delivery of the curriculum against criteria laid down by the Scottish Government.

- A: Good – Performing well and operating efficiently (the school buildings support the delivery of services to children and communities)
- B: Satisfactory – Performing well but with minor problems (the school buildings generally support the delivery of services to children and communities)
- C: Poor – Showing major problems and/or not operating optimally (the school buildings impede the delivery of activities that are needed for children and communities in the school)
- D: Bad – Does not support the delivery of services to children and communities (the school buildings seriously impede the delivery of activities that are needed for children and communities in the school).

Suitability surveys are reviewed by Headteachers/Business Managers every 5 years. The last survey was completed by Headteachers in 2010. Where school investment has been carried out in a particular school, the following year's Core Facts Update will be amended to reflect any subsequent change to the condition, suitability or accessibility rating.

School Accessibility Rating

Accessibility ratings are collated by the School Estate Team, along with the Education Access Officer, who undertake surveys of all the school buildings.

These ratings are then ratified by the Accessibility Strategy Group. The ratings are classified as follows:

- A: Fully accessible

- B: Building partially accessible but Curriculum accessible
- C: Partially accessible or not currently accessible but has the potential to be made accessible
- D: Inaccessible and unable to be reasonably adapted to be made accessible.

As part of the Accessibility Strategy, there will be a number of accessible schools in each geographical area.

Strategic Land Allocations

Strategic Land Allocations are housing developments sites within Fife identified through Fife Council's Structure Plan 2006-2026 (approved May 2009). The Structure Plan also includes infrastructure developments for business and employment, town centres, retailing, housing, affordable housing, transportation and waste management. A Strategic Land Allocation for residential units range from 300 units in a small town/village to 4200 units in a large town.

Local Development Plan

Fife Council adopted FIFEplan (Fife's Local Development Plan) on 21 September 2017. This plan details the local development changes to infrastructure within settlements and include new plans with planning consent. **The Council are currently inviting communities to create Local Place Plans, which will help shape the next Local Development Plan. More information is available at [Invitation to create Local Place Plans](#) page.**

Housing Land Audit

Enterprise, Planning & Protective Services undertakes an annual audit (known as the Housing Land Audit) of the Housing Land Supply in Fife, using 1st April as the base date. The Audit monitors housing completions and makes predictions about future house building in Fife.

Homes for Scotland (representing the national house builders) and local developers are consulted on the information to be included in the Housing Land Audit to discuss and agree the Audit as far as possible. The latest publication for 2021 is published at [Planning Information and Land Use Audits | Fife Council](#)

Public Private Partnership (PPP)

There are 2 existing contracts in Fife (PPP1 and PPP2) where schools have been procured and constructed through this process. The schools are maintained for a period of 25 years by a contractor and after 25 years the building is handed to the Council for future repair and maintenance. An annual unitary charge includes design and construction, services delivery including building and grounds maintenance, finance costs, legal, insurances, management and risk.

Life Cycle Costs

Costs for replacing assets at the end of their life span. These include building, fabric, services and furniture and equipment to ensure the asset is maintain is a substantial condition.

Efficiency Range 80-100%

No local authority can effectively run at 100% occupied. The 80%-100% efficiency range allows a degree of flexibility within schools to support Curriculum for Excellence.

Cost per Pupil Calculation

The cost per pupil calculation for schools is computed in July of each year. The calculation is intended to bring together all comparable costs for each school and benchmark these at individual school level through the production of a cost per pupil figure.

The calculation is currently based on the School Revenue Budget Statements that are issued to schools in April of each year. The calculation takes into account a number of factors particularly the school roll from the last census at September of the previous year. The calculation takes schools running costs including an allocation for janitorial staffing costs. It excludes the costs for school transport, depreciation and the financing costs of schools built under PFI contract arrangements (PPP schools).

Having identified the relevant running costs for each school and by dividing these costs by the school roll this produces a cost per pupil figure which is used for comparison purposes.

Proposal Paper

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 provides that where an education authority has formulated a relevant proposal in relation to any school, it must comply with the requirements of the Act before proceeding with the proposal. One of the requirements is that it must prepare and publish a proposal paper. Section 4 of the Act provides:

4 Proposal paper

- (1) The education authority must prepare a proposal paper which—
 - (a) sets out the details of the relevant proposal,
 - (b) proposes a date for implementation of the proposal,
 - (c) contains the educational benefits statement in respect of the proposal,
 - (d) refers to such evidence or other information in support of (or otherwise relevant in relation to) the proposal as the education authority considers appropriate.
- (2) The proposal paper must also give a summary of the process provided for in [sections 1 to 17D] (so far as applicable in relation to the proposal).

(2A) Where a proposal paper relates to a closure proposal, it must also contain information about the financial implications of the proposal.
- (3) A proposal paper may include more than one proposal.
- (4) The education authority must—
 - (a) publish the proposal paper in both electronic and printed form,
 - (b) make the paper, and (so far as practicable) a copy of any separate documentation that it refers to under subsection (1)(d), available for inspection at all reasonable times and without charge—
 - (i) at its head office and on its website,
 - (ii) at any affected school or at a public library or some other suitable place within the vicinity of the school,
 - (c) provide without charge the information contained in the proposal paper—
 - (i) to such persons as may reasonably require that information in another form, and
 - (ii) in such other form as may reasonably be requested by such persons.
- (5) The education authority must advertise the publication of the proposal paper by such means as it considers appropriate.

Educational Benefits Statement

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 provides that where an education authority has formulated a relevant proposal in relation to any school, it must comply with the

requirements of the Act before proceeding with the proposal. One of the requirements is that it must prepare an educational benefits statement. Section 3 of the Act provides:

3 Educational benefits statement

- (1) The education authority must prepare an educational benefits statement which includes:
 - (a) the authority's assessment of the likely effects of a relevant proposal (if implemented) on:
 - (i) the pupils of any affected school,
 - (ii) any other users of the school's facilities,
 - (iii) any children who would (in the future but for implementation) be likely to become pupils of the school,
 - (iv) the pupils of any other schools in the authority's area,
 - (b) the authority's assessment of any other likely effects of the proposal (if implemented),
 - (c) an explanation of how the authority intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal (if implemented),
 - (d) a description of the benefits which the authority believes will result from implementation of the proposal (with reference to the persons whom it believes will derive them).
- (2) The statement must also include the education authority's reasons for coming to the beliefs expressed under subsection (1)(d).
- (3) In subsection (1), the references to effects and benefits are to educational effects and benefits.

Rural School

In terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 a rural school is a school designated as rural by Scottish Ministers. Section 14 provides:

14 Designation of rural schools

- (1) In this Act, a "rural school" is a school which is designated as such by its inclusion in the list of rural schools maintained by the Scottish Ministers for the purposes of this subsection.
- (2) In determining the question of rurality when considering whether a school falls to be included in or excluded from the list of rural schools, the Scottish Ministers are to have regard (in particular) to:
 - (a) the population of the community (or settlement) in which the school is located,
 - (b) the geographical circumstances of that community (or settlement) including its relative remoteness or inaccessibility.
- (3) The list of rural schools is to be accompanied by an explanation of how the Scottish Ministers devised the list:
 - (a) by reference to subsection (2), and
 - (b) if they consider it appropriate, by reference to any recognised criteria available from a reliable source.

- (4) The Scottish Ministers are to:
 - (a) monitor the list of rural schools (and update it as regularly as they consider necessary),
 - (b) publish it (including as updated) in such way as they consider appropriate.
- (5) An education authority must provide the Scottish Ministers with such information as they may reasonably require of it in connection with the list of rural schools.

Special Provision for Rural Schools

11A Presumption against rural school closure

- (1) This section applies in relation to any closure proposal as respects a rural school.
- (2) The education authority may not decide to implement the proposal (wholly or partly) unless the authority—
 - (a) has complied with sections 12, 12A and 13, and
 - (b) having so complied, is satisfied that such implementation of the proposal is the most appropriate response to the reasons for formulating the proposal identified by the authority under section 12A(2)(a).
- (3) The authority must publish on its website notice of—
 - (a) its decision as to implementation of the proposal, and
 - (b) where it decides to implement the proposal (wholly or partly), the reasons why it is satisfied that such implementation is the most appropriate response to the reasons for formulating the proposal identified by the authority under section 12A(2)(a).

12 Factors for rural closure proposals

- (1) Subsection (2) applies in relation to any closure proposal as respects a rural school.
- (2) The education authority must have special regard to the factors mentioned in subsection
- (3) The factors are—
 - (a) [...]1 (Repealed by Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 asp 8 (Scottish Act) Pt 15 s.80(2)(a) (August 1, 2014: repeal has effect subject to transitional provision specified in SSI 2014/165art.5)
 - (b) the likely effect on the local community in consequence of the proposal (if implemented),
 - (c) the likely effect caused by any different travelling arrangements that may be required in consequence of the proposal (if implemented).
- (4) For the purpose of subsection (3)(b) [and sections 12A(2)(c)(ii) and 13(5)(b)(ii)] 2, the effect on the community is to be assessed by reference (in particular) to—
 - (a) the sustainability of the community,
 - (b) the availability of the school's premises and its other facilities for use by the community.
- (5) For the purpose of subsection (3)(c) and sections 12A(2)(c)(iii) and 13(5)(b)(iii) 3 —
 - (a) the effect caused by such travelling arrangements includes (in particular)—
 - (i) that on the school's pupils and staff and any other users of the school's facilities,

(ii) any environmental impact,

(b) the travelling arrangements are those to and from the school of (and for) the school's pupils and staff and any other users of the school's facilities.

12A Preliminary requirements in relation to rural school closure

- (1) This section applies where an education authority is formulating a closure proposal as respects a rural school.
- (2) The authority must—
 - (a) identify its reasons for formulating the proposal,
 - (b) consider whether there are any reasonable alternatives to the proposal as a response to those reasons,
 - (c) assess, for the proposal and each of the alternatives to the proposal identified under paragraph (b) (if any)—
 - (i) the likely educational benefits in consequence of the implementation of the proposal, or as the case may be, alternative,
 - (ii) the likely effect on the local community (assessed in accordance with section 12(4)) in consequence of such implementation,
 - (iii) the likely effect that would be caused by any different travelling arrangements that may be required (assessed in accordance with section 12(5)) in consequence of such implementation.
- (3) For the purposes of this section and section 13, reasonable alternatives to the proposal include (but are not limited to) steps which would not result in the school or a stage of education in the school (within the meaning of paragraph 12 of schedule 1) being discontinued.
- (4) The authority may not publish a proposal paper in relation to the proposal unless, having complied with subsection (2), it considers that implementation of the closure proposal would be the most appropriate response to the reasons for the proposal.
- (5) In this section and section 13, the references to the reasons for the proposal are references to the reasons identified by the education authority under subsection (2)(a).

13 Additional consultation requirements

- (1) This section applies in relation to any closure proposal as respects a rural school.
- (2) The proposal paper must additionally—
 - (a) explain the reasons for the proposal,
 - (b) describe what (if any) steps the authority took to address those reasons before formulating the proposal,
 - (c) if the authority did not take such steps, explain why it did not do so,
 - (d) set out any alternatives to the proposal identified by the authority under section 12A(2)(b),
 - (e) explain the authority's assessment under section 12A(2)(c),
 - (f) explain the reasons why the authority considers, in light of that assessment, that implementation of the closure proposal would be the most appropriate response to the reasons for the proposal.
- (3) The notice to be given to relevant consultees under section 6(1) must—
 - (a) give a summary of the alternatives to the proposal set out in the proposal paper,

- (b) state that written representations may be made on those alternatives (as well as on the proposal), and
 - (c) state that written representations on the proposal may suggest other alternatives to the proposal.
- (4) In sections 8(4)(c), 9(4) and 10(2)(a), the references to written representations on the proposal include references to written representations on the alternatives to the proposal set out in the proposal paper.
- (5) When carrying out its review of the proposal under section 9(1), the education authority is to carry out—
 - (a) for the proposal and each of the alternatives to it set out in the proposal paper (if any), a further assessment of the matters mentioned in section 12A(2)(c)(i) to (iii), and
 - (b) an assessment, in relation to any other reasonable alternative to the proposal suggested in written representations on the proposal, of—
 - (i) the likely educational benefits in consequence of the implementation of the alternative,
 - (ii) the likely effect on the local community (assessed in accordance with section 12(4)) in consequence of such implementation,
 - (iii) the likely effect that would be caused by any different travelling arrangements that may be required (assessed in accordance with section 12(5)) in consequence of such implementation.
- (6) The consultation report must additionally explain—
 - (a) the education authority's assessment under subsection (5)(a),
 - (b) how that assessment differs (if at all) from the authority's assessment under section 12A(2)(c),
 - (c) the authority's assessment under subsection (5)(b),
 - (d) whether and, if so, the reasons why the authority considers that implementation of the proposal (wholly or partly) would be the most appropriate response to the reasons for the proposal.

**FIFE COUNCIL – EDUCATION AND CHILDREN’S SERVICES DIRECTORATE
CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM**

Proposal to rezone the secondary catchment areas of Bell Baxter High School and Madras College from 30 June 2023.

Section 1 – Your Details

(to be provided by parent/carers or interested parties to enable the local authority to inform any person who makes written representations on the proposal of the publication of the consultation report as required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010).

Name	
Address	
Postcode	
Email address (if applicable)	

Section 2 - What is your main interest in responding to this consultation?

I am a parent/carer of a child:

Living in the Bell Baxter HS catchment area	
Living in the Madras College catchment area	

I am a parent/carer of a child attending:

Bell Baxter High School	
Madras College	
Balmerino Primary School	
A primary school in Bell Baxter HS cluster	
A primary school in Madras College cluster	
Any nursery in the North East Fife area	

I am a pupil attending:

Bell Baxter High School	
Madras College	
Balmerino Primary School	
A primary school in Bell Baxter HS cluster	
A primary school in Madras College cluster	
Any nursery in the North East Fife area	

I am a member of staff at:

Bell Baxter High School	
Madras College	
Balmerino Primary School	
A primary school in Bell Baxter HS cluster	
A primary school in Madras College cluster	
Any nursery in the North East Fife area	

Other interested party	
Please explain if you are responding on behalf of an organisation or for another reason	

Section 3 - Your Views

Question 3.1 Do you support the proposal to rezone the secondary catchment areas of Bell Baxter High School and Madras College from 30th June 2023? (please choose one ✓)

YES		NO		DON'T KNOW	
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If NO, what are your reasons? (please list these below)

Are there any further comments on the proposal you would like to make?

Section 4 - About You

The following questions are **voluntary**. They are to assist Fife Council in fulfilling its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 in relation to the proposal. Your responses to these questions are confidential.

1. What is your age? Please choose one (✓).

18 or under		25-34		45-54		65-74	
19-24		35-44		55-64		75 and over	

2. What is your gender? Please choose one (✓).

Male		Female		Non-Binary		Prefer not to say	
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3. What is your ethnic background? Please choose one (✓).

White Scottish		African	
Other White British		Asian, Asian Scottish, or other Asian British	
Other White background		Caribbean or Black	
Mixed or multiple ethnic background		Other ethnic background	

4. Do you consider yourself as having a disability? Please choose one (✓).

Yes No

Thank you for taking part in this consultation. For further information on how we use your data please visit: www.fife.gov.uk/privacy/education

Please complete online at www.fife.gov.uk/madrasbellbaxtercatchmentreview **or** return this form by post to: Bell Baxter High School/Madras College Catchment Review, Education & Children's Services Directorate, Fife Council, 4th Floor (West), Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes, KY7 5LT **by close of business on Thursday 1 December 2022.**