



Education & Children's Services
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Education and Children's Services

Statutory Consultation on a Proposal to Rezone the Secondary School Catchment Areas of Bell Baxter High School and Madras College

Public Meetings:

Monday 31 October 2022 6-7 pm at Madras College

**Thursday 10 November 2022 6-7 pm at Bell Baxter High
School**

Shelagh McLean

Head of Education & Children's Services



Agenda

Background, rationale and implications in respect of the proposal to rezone the secondary catchment areas of Bell Baxter High School and Madras College

Consultation Process and Timeline

Questions



Context

- Statutory duty to provide adequate and efficient provision of education
- Statutory duty of 'Best Value in Public Services'
- Adherence with Fife Council School Admissions Policy
- Ensuring Secondary School catchments align with the associated primary schools



Why are we looking at this?

Rathillet Primary School closed in the spring of 2014. The school had not been in operation since academic session 2010/11.

Rathillet Primary School catchment area was rezoned to Balmerino Primary School following the closure

The addresses within the former Rathillet Primary School were zoned to Bell Baxter High School.

The addresses within Balmerino Primary School catchment area are zoned to Madras College.

P7 Pupils from the former Rathillet Primary School catchment area have been afforded the opportunity to choose whether they wish to attend Bell Baxter (catchment secondary school) or transfer with peers to Madras College.

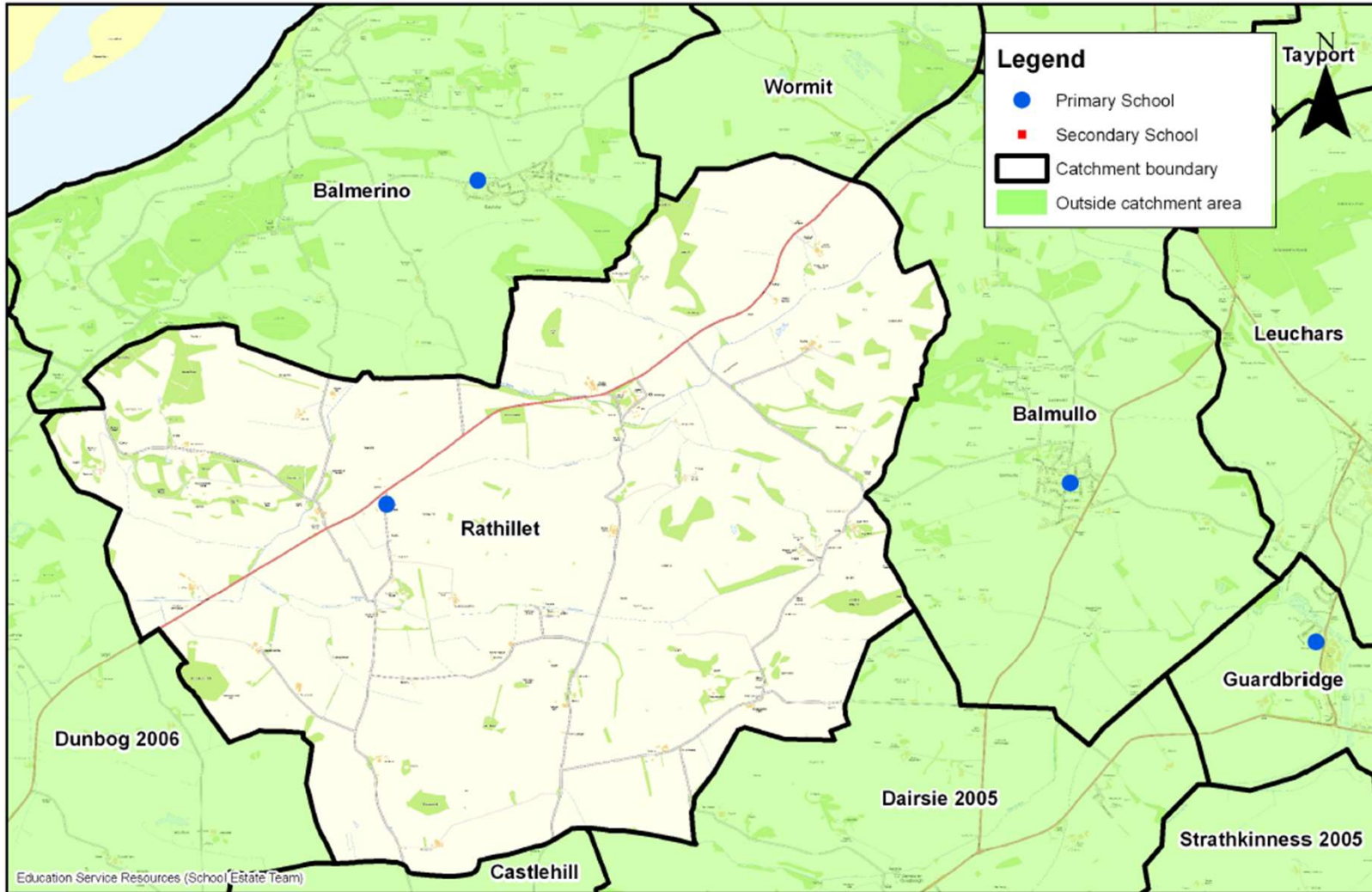


Background

- Over the past 10 years, pupils from the Rathillet Primary School catchment area, which was zoned to Balmerino Primary School in 2014, have been afforded the opportunity at P7 to choose either Bell Baxter High School or Madras College
- The majority of pupils living in this area are choosing to attend Madras College
- Fewer than 5 pupils from the former Rathillet Primary School catchment area are enrolled at Bell Baxter High School.
- Both secondary schools will grow over time, with 1600 units planned within the Bell Baxter High School catchment area and over 1000 units within Madras College catchment area.



Former Rathillet Primary School catchment area



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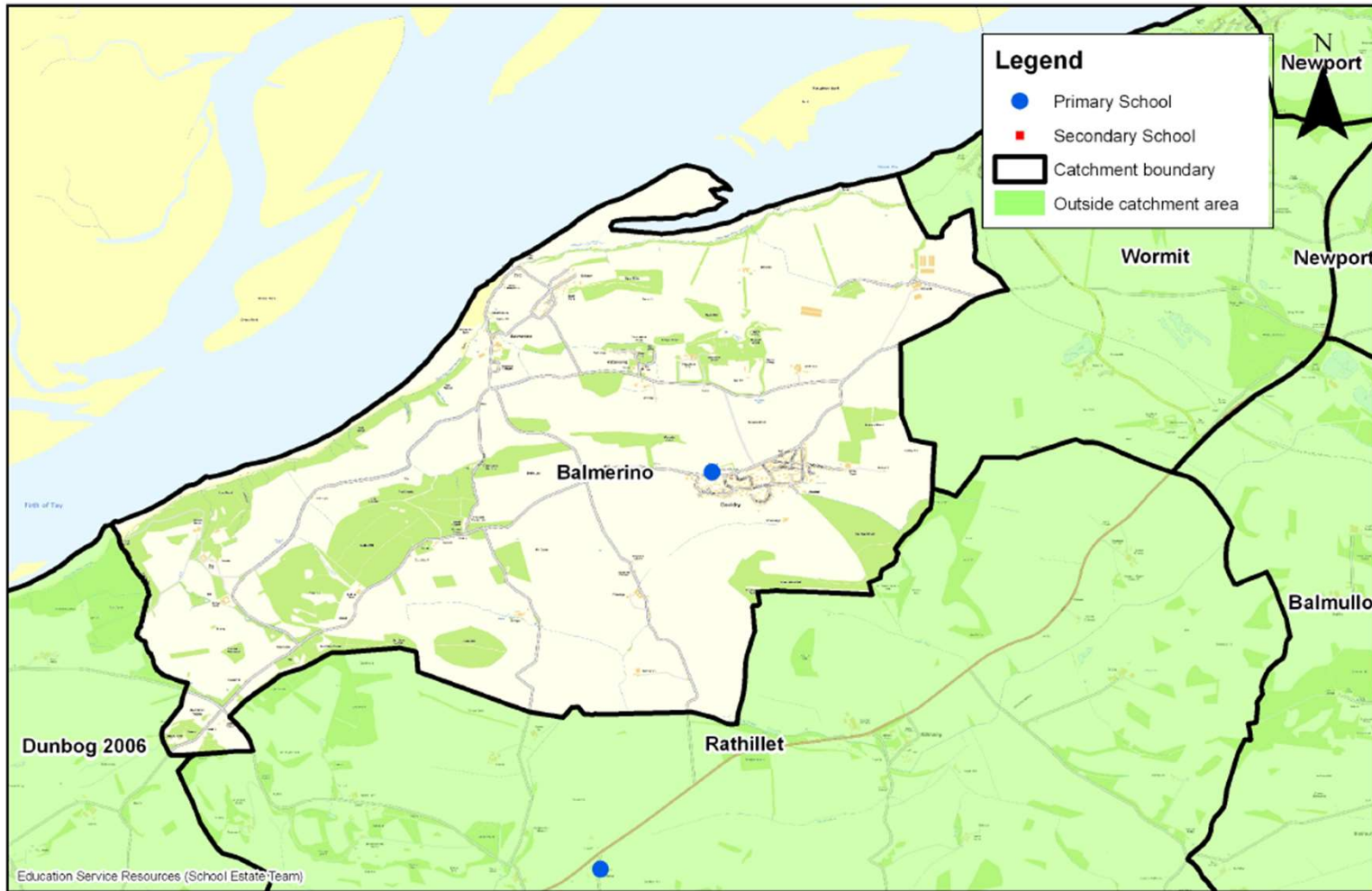
Rathillet Primary School
Primary School Catchment Area - August 2007
Fife Council Education Service

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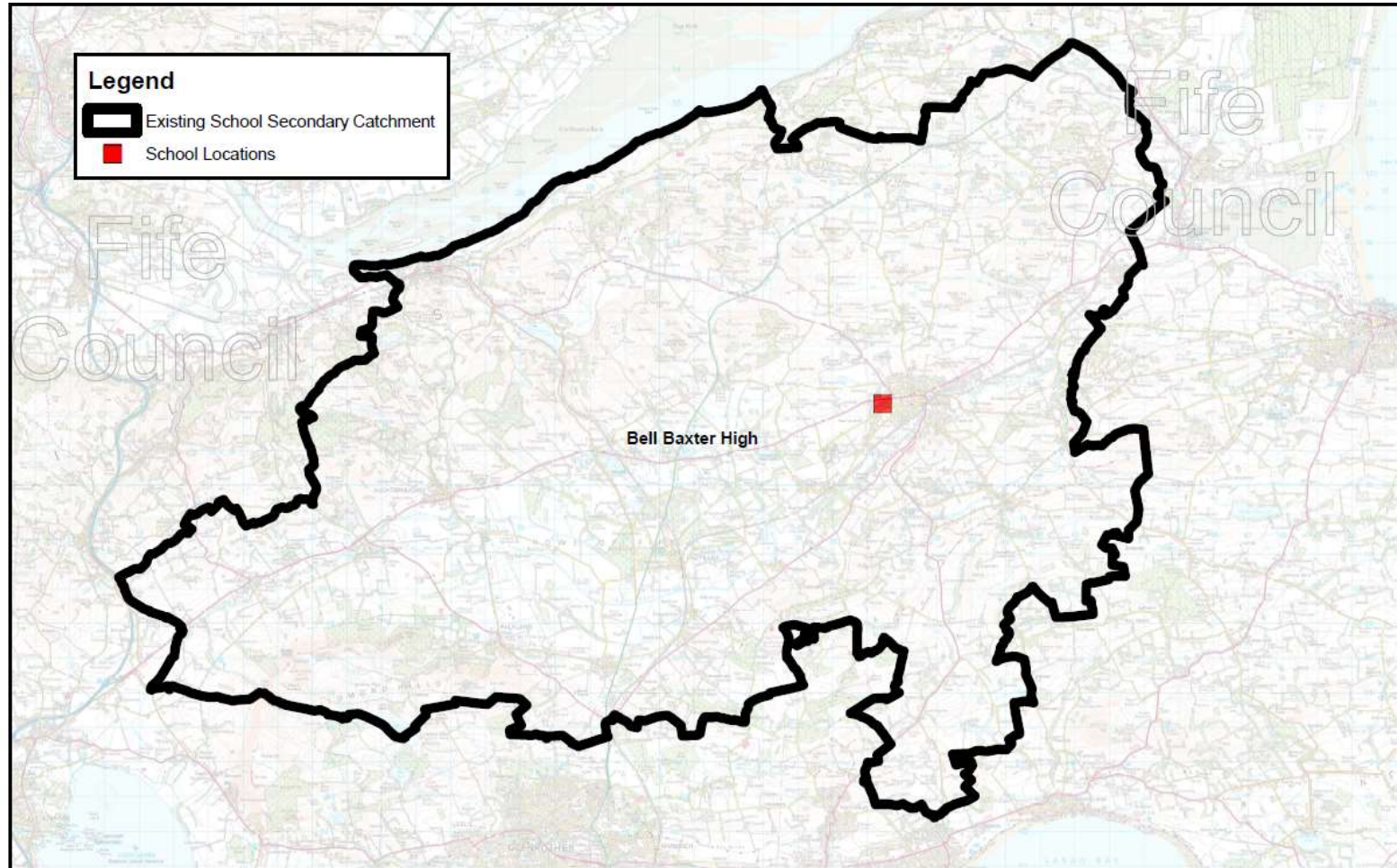


Former Balmerino Primary School Catchment Area





Existing Bell Baxter High School Catchment Area



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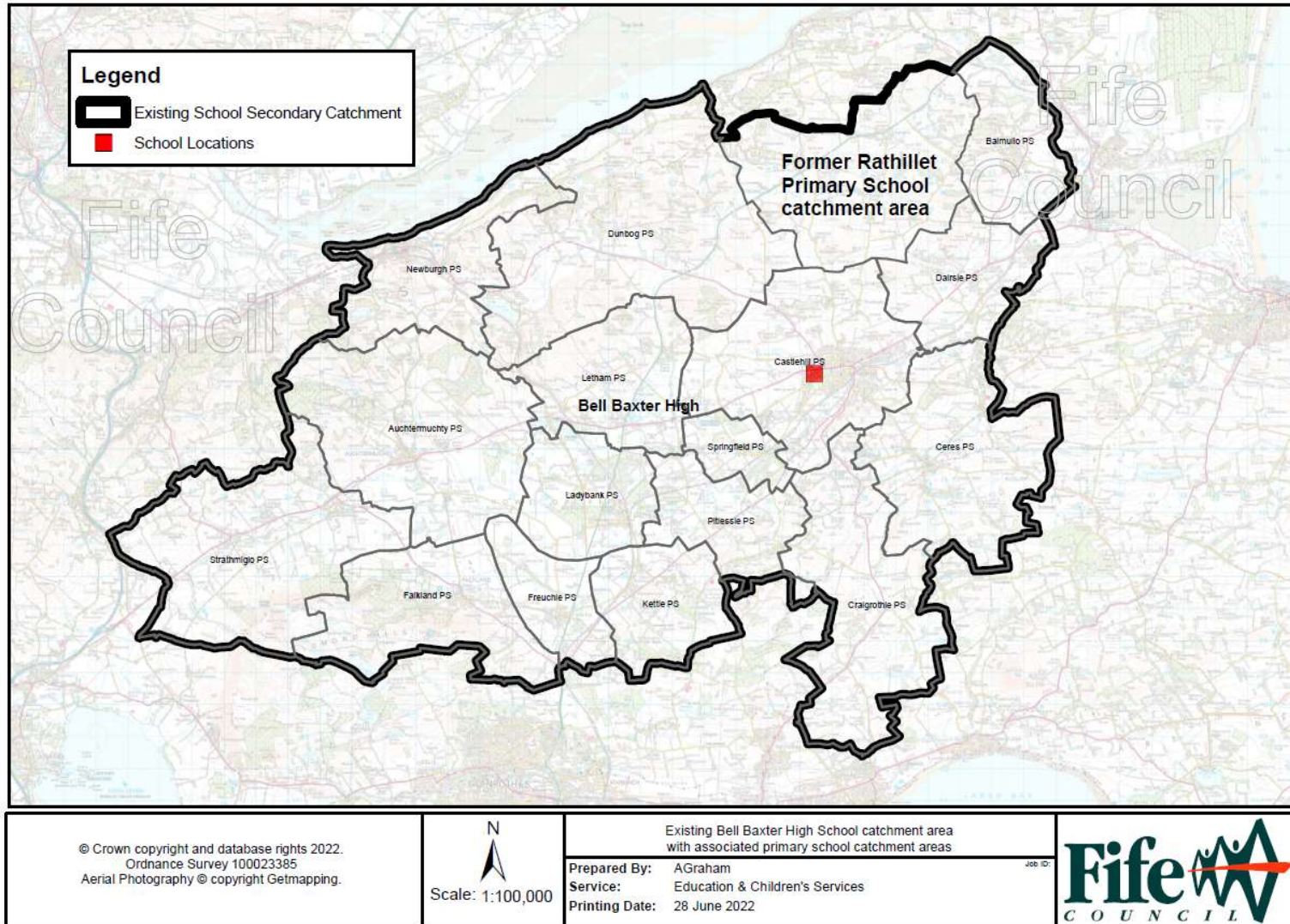
Existing Bell Baxter High School Catchment Area

Prepared By: AGraham
Service: Education & Children's Services
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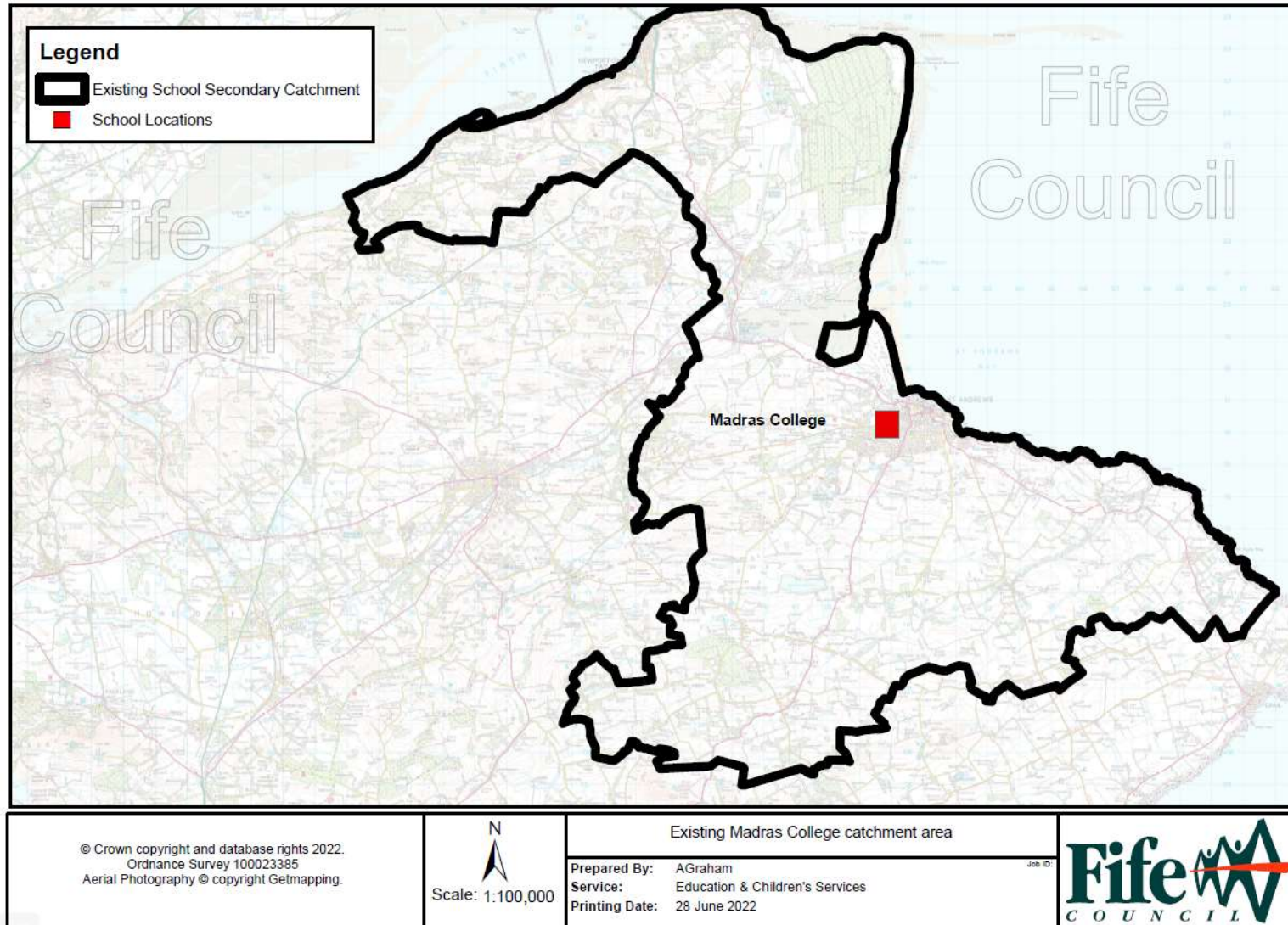


Existing Bell Baxter Catchment Area with associated primary school catchment areas



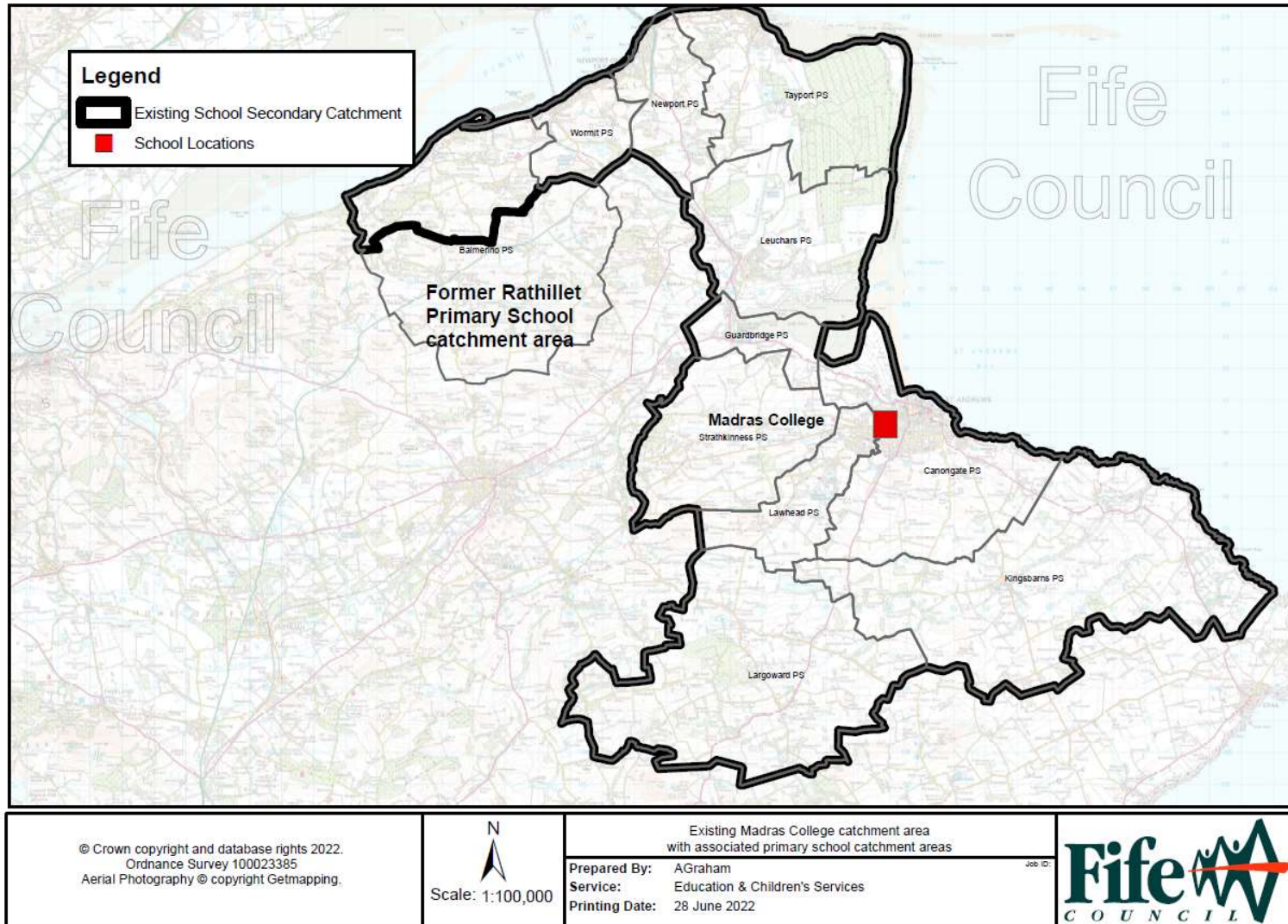


Existing Madras College Catchment Area





Madras College Catchment area with catchment areas of associated primary schools





Educational Benefits

As part of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, the local authority must prepare an educational benefits statement which includes the likely effects of a relevant proposal.

The educational benefits of this proposal include:

1. ensuring that pupils from the Balmerino school community all transfer to the same secondary school
2. all households in the one primary school catchment area being associated with one secondary school
3. allowing staff within secondary schools to manage transition arrangements
with only pupils from their associated primary schools
4. allowing opportunities for placing requests into Bell Baxter High School
5. encouraging and fostering the already strong links with local communities based on current trends choosing Madras College rather than Bell Baxter High School due to forged friendships at primary school.
6. removing anxiety and uncertainty for parents and families regarding the choice of secondary education for their children



The Proposal

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

This would mean that all addresses within the former Rathillet Primary School catchment area, currently zoned within Balmerino Primary School catchment area, would be zoned to Madras College from 30 June 2023.

As a result, current P7 pupils would be afforded the opportunity to enrol at either Bell Baxter High School or Madras College, for S1 starting August 2023.

All other pupils with addresses within the former Rathillet Primary School catchment area, and new pupils who move into the area of Rathillet from 30 June 2023, would be zoned to Madras College



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Consultation Process

Statutory consultation in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Council required to consult for a minimum of 30 school days and have one public meeting

Statutory consultation period – Wednesday 5 October to Thursday 1 December 2022

Education Scotland HM Inspectors involvement

Consultation Report

Decision by Fife Council's Cabinet Committee around March 2023.



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
	Public meetings held on: <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 Drop-in sessions at: <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 HM Inspectors 3-week review
16 January 2023	Education Service receive report from Education Scotland HM Inspectors
13 February 2023	Consultation Report published 3 weeks before Cabinet Committee
March 2023	Report submitted to the Cabinet Committee



Public Meetings and Drop-In Sessions

- Public meetings are being held in the Assembly Halls of the following schools:

Madras College on Monday 31 October from 6-7 pm

Bell Baxter High School on Thursday 10 November from 6-7 pm

Drop in sessions on the same dates and venues from 5-6 pm

- **In addition, drop in sessions at:**

Balmerino Primary School on Monday 31 October from 2.45-3.30 pm

Balmerino Primary School on Thursday 10 November from 2.45-3.30 pm



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Discussion

Have Your say at

www.fife.gov.uk

[Rezone the catchment areas of Bell Baxter High School & Madras College | Fife Council](#)

by completing the online Consultation Response Form

or

sending comments by email to:

Sustainableschoolestate.enquiries@fife.gov.uk