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**PROPOSAL TO CONSULT ON CATCHMENT PROPOSAL FOR  
YARROW PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PHILIPHAUGH COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL, SELKIRK**

**Report by Interim Service Director, Children & Young People**

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**30 APRIL 2019**

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**1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report proposes that a Statutory Consultation is commenced in respect of a proposal to amend the catchment areas of Yarrow Primary School and Philiphaugh Community School, Selkirk.**
- 1.2 Following a sustained decline in pupil numbers at Yarrow Primary School, Council officers have been meeting with parents to agree strategies to increase the roll and improve the sustainability of the school. One of the options identified was to consider increasing the size of the catchment area. Officers held an informal drop in session in Yarrowford Village Hall in December 2018, where views were expressed for the Yarrowford and Broadmeadows area to be included in the catchment for Yarrow Primary School. This area is currently part of the Philiphaugh Community School catchment area. It is therefore proposed that a statutory consultation process is commenced to establish whether there is support for this amendment to both catchment areas.

**2 RECOMMENDATION**

**I recommend that the Committee approves the proposal to commence a Statutory Consultation to obtain views on the proposal to amend the catchment areas of Yarrow Primary School and Philiphaugh Primary School.**

### 3 BACKGROUND

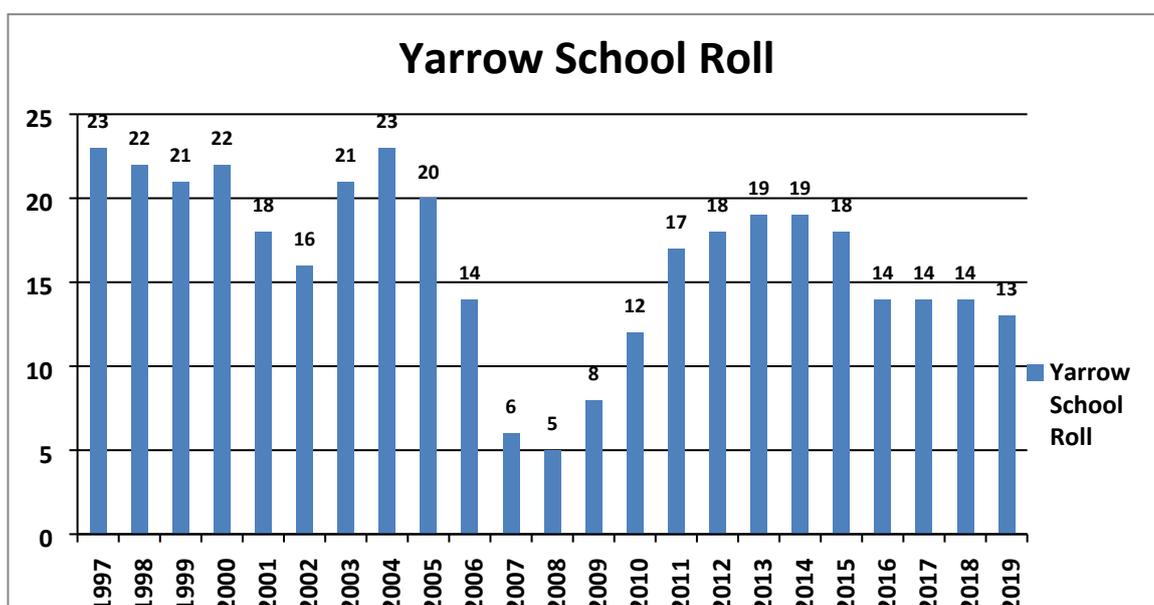
3.1 Children & Young People Services commenced a School Estate Review in February 2016. The strategic principles of this review are to:-

- 3.1.1 Increase educational opportunities for all generations in the community;
- 3.1.2 Improve outcomes for children and young people;
- 3.1.3 Improve sustainability;
- 3.1.4 Future proof the school estate; and
- 3.1.5 Improve affordability.

3.2 The School Estate Review comprises a review of the rural schools and all schools with a roll under 50. A strategy was adopted to proactively support the schools in becoming more sustainable. There has been engagement with parent councils and each school was asked to draw up a sustainability plan. This work was led by parents and began with a focus on the strengths and unique selling points of each school. This led to some positive outcomes e.g. a breakfast club being started and the introduction of Early Learning and Childcare settings at certain schools. Other schools have been very proactive, through social media, promoting their strengths and achievements, building better connections in and across their communities.

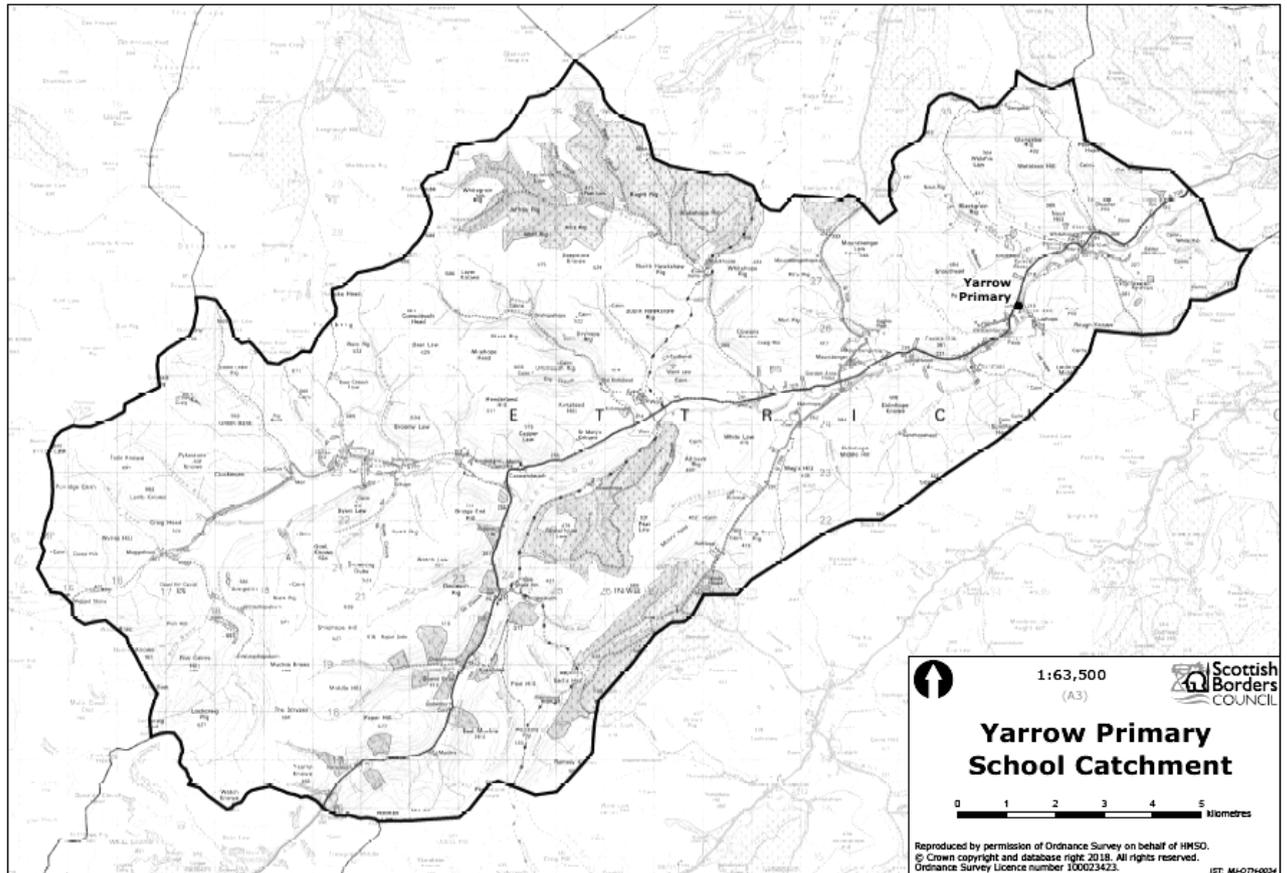
3.3 Several meetings have been held with parents at Yarrow during the School Estate Review. The parents have highlighted their concerns about the falling school roll and wished to investigate options to increase pupil numbers and improve the sustainability of their school in their community. One of the options that they wished to pursue was an extension of the school's catchment area.

3.4 Yarrow's school roll has fluctuated over the years and currently has 13 pupils. The school's capacity is 50. It is currently projected that no children will enrol into Primary 1 in August 2019 and that the roll will drop to 11 children for 2019/20 school year.



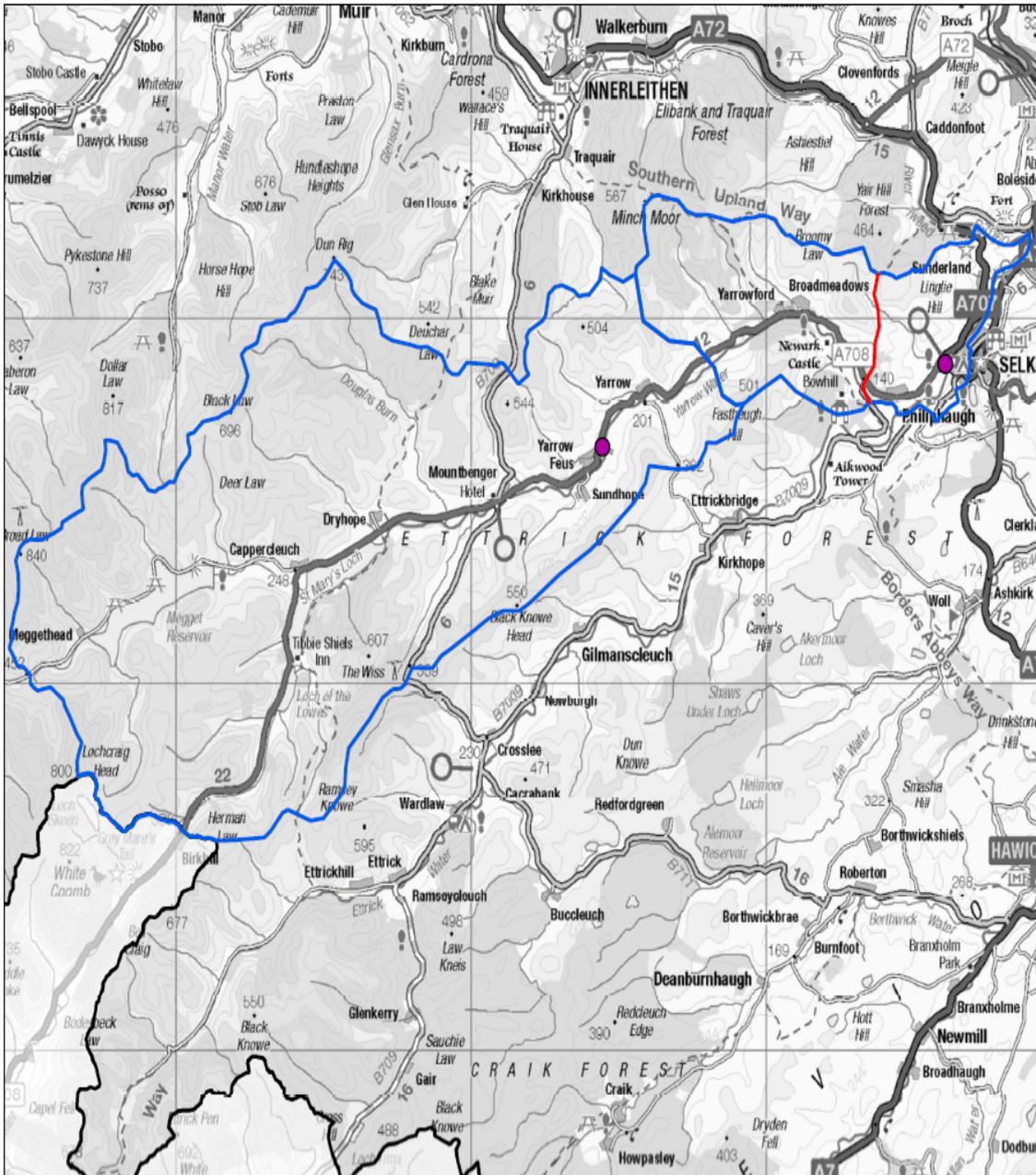
3.5 Council records indicate that there are currently 11 primary aged children in the catchment area (2 pupils are attending the school through placement requests). Current records indicate that there is currently only one pre-school aged child residing in the catchment area.

3.6 The current catchment area is:-



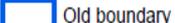
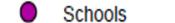
3.7 Officers held an informal drop in session at Yarrowford Village Hall on 11 December 2018, to seek the views of the local community regarding catchment areas. Approximately 12 people attended the morning session, all of whom considered that it would be appropriate to consult upon a proposal to amend the catchment area for Yarrow Primary School to include the Yarrowford and Broadmeadows area. There are currently 8 pupils residing in the Yarrowford and Broadmeadows area; who all currently attend their catchment school, Philiphaugh Community School in Selkirk. It is therefore proposed to consult with the community to obtain their views on the proposal to amend the catchment zones.

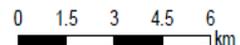
3.8 The proposed new catchment area is:-



## Yarrow/Philliphaugh primary catchment update

### Legend

-  New boundary
-  Old boundary
-  Schools



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- 3.9 A copy of the draft Proposal Paper for the consultation is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.10 The proposed consultation will seek views on whether there is support for the proposal to amend the catchment areas. It is not considered that the proposal will have a material impact on Philiphaugh Community School. The number of children in the area under consideration area is relatively low and the Philiphaugh roll has been at a consistent level for a number of years. There are currently 125 pupils at the school which equates to occupancy of 83%. The average occupancy over the last 10 years has been 85%.
- 3.11 If there is a positive response to the proposal, and a formal recommendation is made to Councillors to amend the catchment, it is proposed that pupils, from the Yarrowford and Broadmeadows area, currently attending Philiphaugh, can decide which school they would like to attend and Council funded transport will be provided. This arrangement will also apply to any future siblings.

## **4 IMPLICATIONS**

### **4.1 Financial**

Based on the number of children currently in the area proposed for consultation it is estimated that a contract for one additional vehicle would be required to transport the children to Yarrow Primary School. This is projected to cost an additional £15,000 per annum. This cost has been calculated in conjunction with the School Transport team based on their detailed knowledge of procurement and market in the area.

### **4.2 Risk and Mitigations**

The consultation will be carried out in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This process will be overseen by Legal Services. The proposal seeks to improve the sustainability of a school, which is considered important by its community.

### **4.3 Equalities**

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been commenced in respect of this proposal and it is anticipated that there are no adverse equality implications.

### **4.4 Acting Sustainably**

This proposal may result in one additional vehicle being operated in the Yarrow Valley for school transport purposes.

### **4.5 Carbon Management**

This proposal may result in one additional vehicle being operated in the Yarrow Valley for school transport purposes.

