



Proposal Document

Proposal:

To rezone an area of ground to the west of Whitestripes Avenue in Aberdeen, from Bucksburn Academy to Oldmachar Academy, with effect from 1 August 2020

The schools affected by these proposals are:

**Bucksburn Academy
Oldmachar Academy**

Statutory Consultation Period

Monday 27 January 2020 to Sunday 15 March 2020 (inclusive)

All submissions expressing views on the proposals detailed in this document should be made online, in writing or via email by Sunday 15 March 2020.

It is intended to respond to issues raised during this consultation within a report to be presented to the Education Operational Delivery Committee at its meeting in May 2020.

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1. LIST OF CONSULTEES

Notice of the issuing of this Proposal Document will be provided to:

- The Parent Councils of the affected schools
- The parents of the pupils at the affected schools
- The parents of children expected to attend an affected school within 2 years of the date of publication of this Proposal Document
- The pupils at the affected schools
- The teaching and support staff at the affected schools
- The trade unions representatives of the above staff
- The Community Councils for the areas affected
- The constituency MSP
- Regional MSPs for the area
- The Constituency MP
- Community Planning Partnership Board
- Chief Operating Officer, Aberdeen City Council
- Chief Education Officer, Aberdeen City Council

A copy of this Proposal Document can be viewed at:

- Aberdeen City Council, Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1AB
- Public libraries in the vicinity of the schools affected
- The schools affected by the proposal

The Proposal Document is also available on the Aberdeen City Council website:

www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations

The document is available in alternative formats or in translated form for readers whose first language is not English. Please apply to Corporate Landlord, Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1AB, by telephone on 01224 522273; or by e-mail:

[**schoolestate@aberdeencity.gov.uk**](mailto:schoolestate@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

STATUTORY CONSULTATION

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Aberdeen City Council has reshaped its service delivery model, aiming to deliver its services in a more collaborative, joined-up way. The model is underpinned by the principles of strengthening transparency, accountability, engagement, inclusiveness, shared vision and values, and a commitment to joint learning. This will allow us to ensure that decisions are taken holistically, taking into account the impact on the direct delivery of services and the wider potential benefits to the citizens of Aberdeen.

2.2 Under this model, the Council is reviewing and forward planning for its entire estate holistically, rather than considering the education estate in isolation. This approach will ensure that our financial responsibilities and educational responsibilities are fully met whilst providing opportunities for the delivery of public statutory services in the future. It will also maximise the use of available resource in delivering statutory services, and the priorities outlined within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

2.3 The Local Outcome Improvement Plan sets out a vision for Aberdeen City where all people can prosper. This reflects our desire to help all people, families, businesses and communities to do well, succeed and flourish in every aspect.

2.4 This proposal contributes to the key priorities and themes for Aberdeen, as they are set out in the Local Improvement Plan:

- **Prosperous People:** Through ensuring children have access to high quality learning and teaching through managing sustainable school rolls, we can assist in ensuring they have the **best start in life**, that they are **safe and responsible**, and **respected, included, and achieving**.
- **Prosperous Place:** Through engaging and consulting with communities on the future of the school estate within their localities, we can help to develop **empowered, resilient and sustainable communities**.

Our Vision for the School Estate

2.5 Aberdeen City Council's vision is for the school estate to enable the efficient delivery of the above priorities, by providing the highest standards of facilities which allow staff and partners to deliver high quality learning experiences to all children and young people, families and communities in their local school.

2.6 To achieve this vision the school estate will be utilised to provide:

- sustainable school rolls
- safe, nurturing and inclusive environments for all;
- stimulating and inspiring learning environments which encourage curiosity and a commitment to lifelong learning;

- flexible and adaptable spaces which can respond to the changing needs of pupils and communities;
- buildings which are environmentally and economically sustainable;
- appropriate multi-agency spaces to support close partnership working.

3. THE PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The proposed area of land to be rezoned is highlighted in the map in Appendix 1 of this document. The land lies to the west of Whitestripes Avenue, and is the site of the new Grandhome housing development, which is currently under construction.
- 3.2 The map in Appendix 1 also shows the existing school zone boundaries in this area of the city. It shows that the planned extent of the Grandhome development currently falls partly within the Oldmachar Academy catchment zone, and partly within the Bucksburn Academy catchment zone.
- 3.3 Whilst the western side of the Grandhome development, which falls within the Bucksburn Academy zone, has not yet been constructed, the current arrangements would mean that in future, secondary aged pupils living in this part of the development would be required to travel over three miles in order to reach their zoned school at Bucksburn. With the River Don running between the Grandhome development and Bucksburn, access to direct and safe walking routes to school would be limited for these pupils. However, those pupils living in the eastern side of the Grandhome development would be zoned to Oldmachar Academy, and would have a shorter distance to travel, with a greater number of options available for walking safely to school. In addition, having different school zone arrangements in place for different parts of the same development, can be confusing for families and make it more difficult for the development to grow as a single community.
- 3.4 In order to provide clarity for families living within the Grandhome development, now and in the future, and also to ensure safe and appropriate travel routes to school for all pupils living within the development, it is proposed that the boundary line between the Oldmachar Academy zone and the Bucksburn Academy zone is adjusted, so that the whole of the Grandhome development is included within the Oldmachar Academy zone. This would mean that all pupils living in any part of the Grandhome development in the future would be entitled to a place at Oldmachar Academy.
- 3.5 The map in Appendix 2 of this document shows the proposed changes to the school zone boundary, with the proposed new boundary following the line of the River Don. If the proposals are accepted, this would ensure that all of the land to the east of the river is zoned to Oldmachar Academy, removing the need for pupils to travel to the other side of the river in order to reach their zoned school.
- 3.6 It is acknowledged that as the Grandhome development continues to grow over the coming years, there is likely to be a requirement for additional secondary school capacity to be provided, to serve the new Grandhome community. This may require further changes to school zones in this area of the city, and any proposals to make further changes to the school zoning arrangements would be subject to separate consultation at the appropriate time.
- 3.7 The anticipated effects of the proposed changes on the schools concerned are described below.

4. THE AFFECTED SCHOOLS

Oldmachar Academy

- 4.1 Should the rezoning proposals be accepted, any secondary aged children living within all parts of the Grandhome development (as shown in the map in Appendix 2) in the future would be entitled to a place at Oldmachar Academy.
- 4.2 Table 1 below shows the forecasted pupil roll at Oldmachar Academy, each year until 2026, taking into account all of the planned housing within the initial phases of the Grandhome development to be constructed within that timescale, and which are already included within the Oldmachar Academy catchment zone. The school has capacity for a total of 1104 pupils, and so the table shows that there is sufficient capacity at the school to accommodate the numbers of pupils expected to be attending the school, at least until the school session 2026/27.

Table 1 : Forecast pupil numbers at Oldmachar Academy

School Capacity : 1104

Current Pupil Roll	Forecast Pupil Rolls						
	Aug 2020	Aug 2021	Aug 2022	Aug 2023	Aug 2024	Aug 2025	Aug 2026
716	818	871	920	974	1001	1019	1044

- 4.3 It is anticipated that the later phases of the development currently zoned to Bucksburn Academy will be completed after 2026, and so the proposal to include these phases within the Oldmachar Academy catchment zone is not expected to affect the numbers of pupils attending the school before that time.
- 4.4 As the Grandhome development continues to grow over the coming years, there is likely to be a requirement for additional secondary school capacity to be provided, to serve this new community. The figures above indicate that there will be sufficient capacity available at Oldmachar Academy to accommodate pupils from the Grandhome development in the short term, until this new school provision is in place. The new provision may require further changes to school zones to be made at that time, and any proposals for further changes will be subject to separate consultation as appropriate.

Bucksburn Academy

- 4.5 Due to the Grandhome development not yet being fully constructed, there are currently no pupils who live within Grandhome attending Bucksburn Academy. The effect of the proposals on pupils currently at this school, if they are implemented, is therefore likely to be minimal.
- 4.6 Due to other planned major housing developments elsewhere in the Bucksburn Academy catchment zone, there is a requirement to extend the capacity of this school, in order to accommodate pupils from those developments. The proposal to amend the school zone boundaries so that the western side of the Grandhome development is zoned to Oldmachar Academy, and not to Bucksburn, will therefore help to avoid placing further pressure on pupil numbers at Bucksburn Academy in the future.

5. EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

5.1 The proposals described in this document will have the following benefits:

- The proposals provide opportunities for establishing safer walking routes to school for pupils living in the areas affected;
- The schools affected by the proposals will have sustainable and viable pupil rolls which help with the delivery of the full breadth of Curriculum for Excellence;
- A sustainable roll ensures that effective teacher staffing levels are maintained and led by a range of promoted teaching staff. Effective year group numbers will be maintained and children will be able to benefit from a variety of curriculum choices and learning opportunities within their peer groups, both formally and informally;
- If implemented, this proposal will assist Aberdeen City Council in delivering city wide secondary education provision in schools with sustainable pupil rolls, and in a way which ensures that all pupils are educated in buildings which are not over crowded.

5.2 The implementation of this proposal would therefore help to maximise the educational benefits for pupils attending the schools affected.

6. OPTIONS FOR CONSULTATION

6.1 The options under consideration and for which the Council seeks comment from interested stakeholders are:

- (i) To retain the status quo and maintain the existing school zones for Oldmachar Academy and Bucksburn Academy, or:
- (ii) To rezone an area of ground to the west of Whitestripes Avenue in Aberdeen, from Bucksburn Academy to Oldmachar Academy, with effect from 1 August 2020.

7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

7.1 To assist stakeholders in accessing relevant information, a dedicated area of Aberdeen City Council's website has been populated with all information within this consultation document and further detail on the consultation process and data relating to the proposal.

The relevant web pages can be accessed at:

www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations

Please contact us on the telephone number below if you want this document in Braille, large print or on an audio CD, or if you want the document translated into another language.

إذا كنت تود الحصول على هذه الوثيقة بالخط العريض أو البريلا أو الأشرطة الصوتية المدمجة أو كنت تود ترجمتها الى لغة أخرى فالرجاء الاتصال بنا على الهاتف أدناه.

আপনি যদি এই দলিলটি ব্রেইলে, বড় ছাপার অক্ষরে বা শোনার জন্য সিডি, অথবা দলিলটি অন্য কোন ভাষায় অনুদিত চান তবে অনুগ্রহ করে নীচের টেলিফোন নম্বরে ফোন করে আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

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01224 522273

6.2 A copy of this statutory consultation document will be available for public viewing during the period of consultation at the following venues:

Marischal College
Central Library
Bucksburn Library
Bridge of Don Library
Bucksburn Academy
Brimmond School
Kingswells School
Stoneywood School
Oldmachar Academy
Danestone School
Forehill School
Glashieburn School
Greenbrae School
Middleton Park School
Beacon Learning Centre
Danestone Community Centre

8. PUBLIC MEETING

8.1 A public meeting to discuss the proposals will take place on:

Wednesday 26th February 2020, from 7.00pm to 8.00pm at Oldmachar Academy.

9. SUBMISSION OF VIEWS

8.1 Any interested stakeholders may respond to the consultation online, via the Council's Consultation Hub: <https://consultation.aberdeencity.gov.uk/>

Alternatively comments can be submitted in writing to the address above, or by sending an email to:

schoolestate@aberdeencity.gov.uk

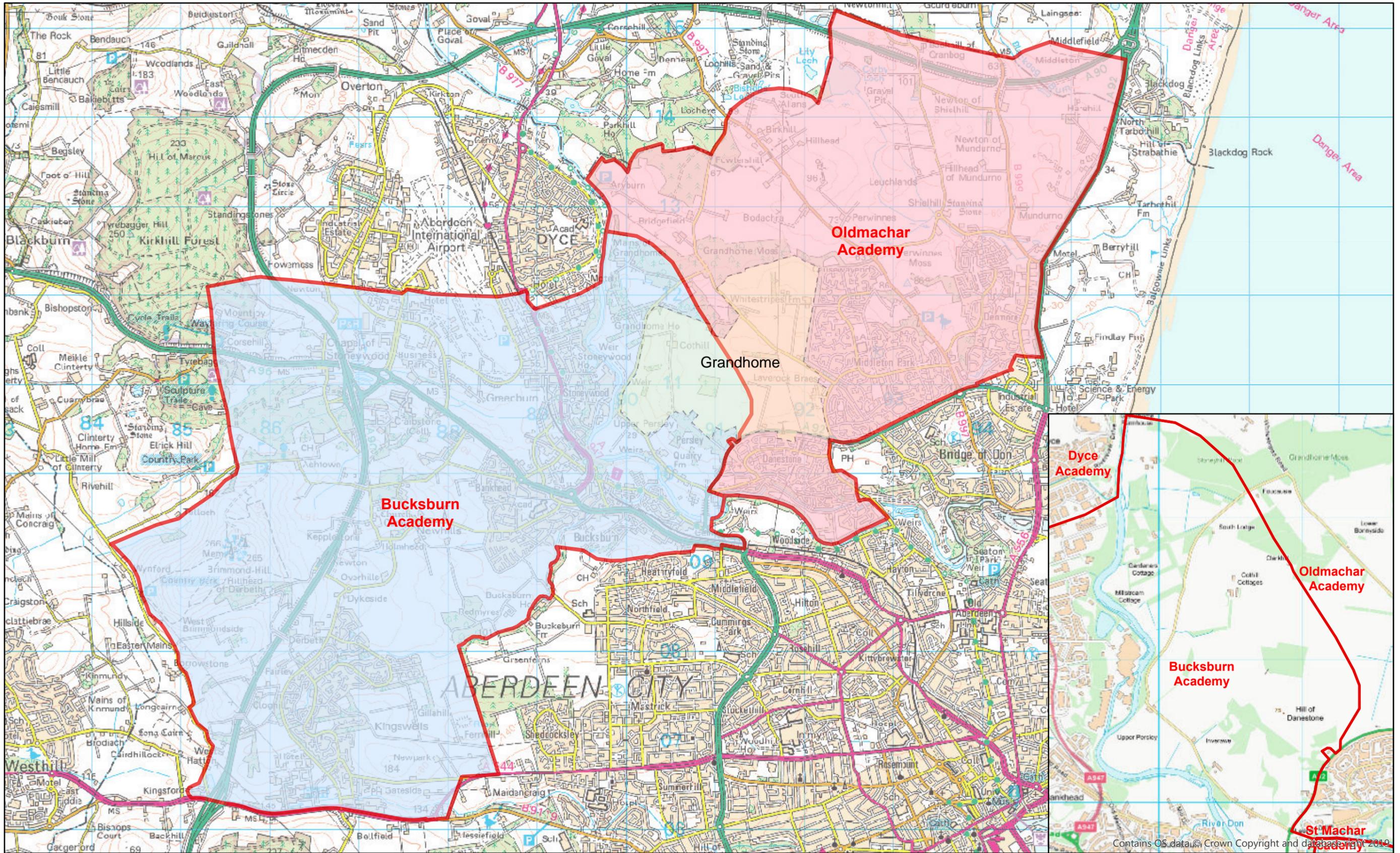
All responses should be submitted by Sunday 15 March 2020.

10. OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

9.1 A summary of submissions will be published on the council website at

www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations

9.2 A report on the consultation will be delivered to the Education Operational Delivery Committee at its meeting in May 2020. This will provide information for Elected Members to make a final decision on the proposal.



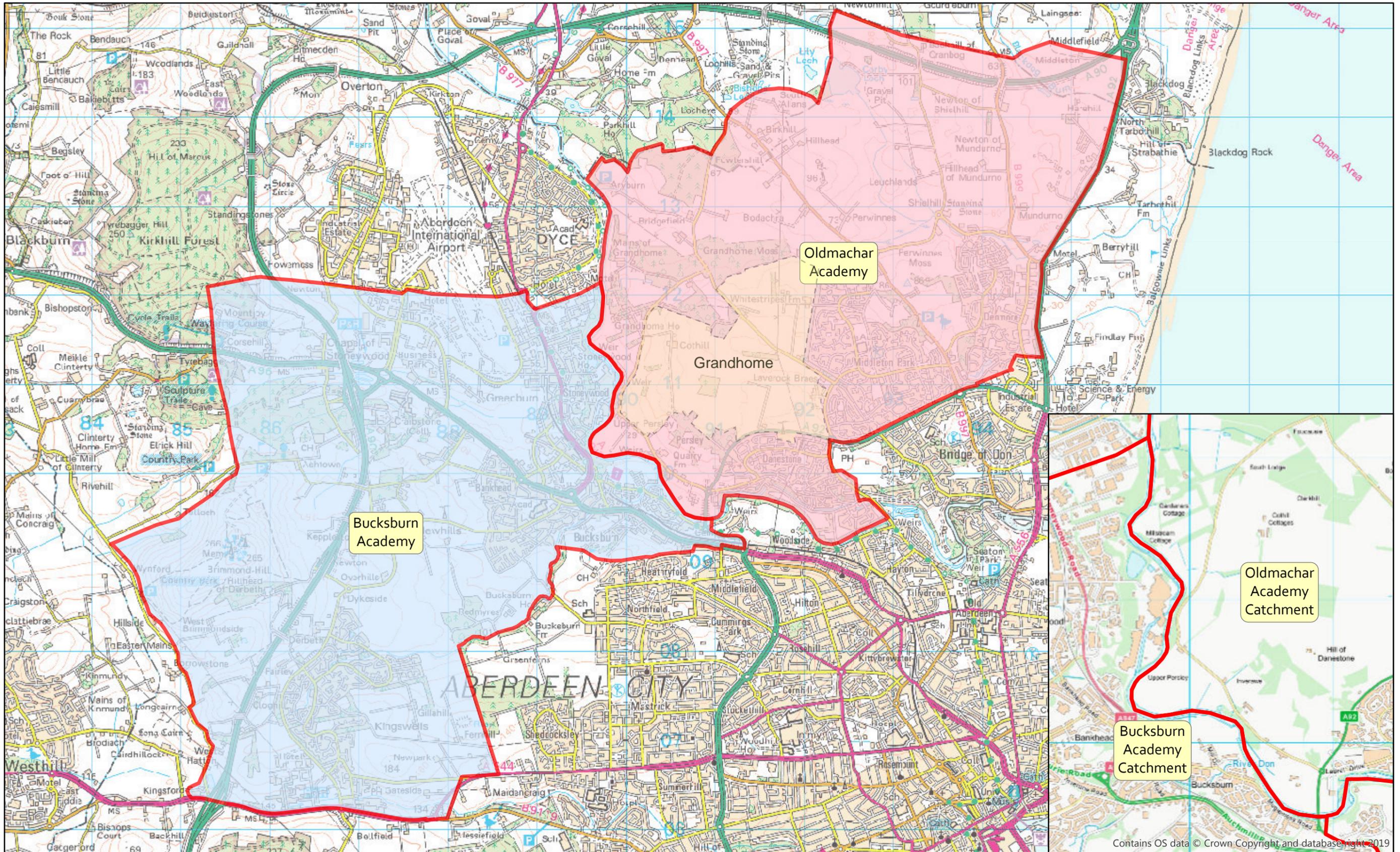
Bucksburn Academy and Oldmachar Academy Catchment (Existing) Consultation
December 2019

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Bucksburn Academy and Oldmachar Academy Catchment (Proposed) Consultation
December 2019

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