



## **Proposal Paper**

# **Alteration of Catchment Areas for Greenbrae School and Scotstown School**

Statutory Consultation Period

**Monday 19 February 2024 to Monday 15 April 2024 (inclusive)**

The schools affected by these proposals are:

**Greenbrae School  
Scotstown School**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

## *What is this document about?*

- 1.1 This document provides details of a proposal by Aberdeen City Council to make some changes to the catchment areas for Greenbrae School and Scotstown School, which currently extend beyond the city boundary and into parts of Aberdeenshire, including parts of Blackdog and surrounding areas. The Council is proposing to adjust the northern edges of the catchment areas so that they align with the city boundary, and no longer include parts of Aberdeenshire.
- 1.2 In 2023, Aberdeenshire Council approved a change to its catchment area for Balmedie School, and the edge of the catchment was extended to meet the city boundary. As a result of this, the Balmedie School catchment area now includes some areas of land which also fall within the existing Greenbrae School or Scotstown School catchment areas. This means that there are effectively 'dual zones' in place, and any children living within these areas of Aberdeenshire would have an entitlement to attend Balmedie School as well as Greenbrae School or Scotstown School.
- 1.3 The proposed changes to the catchment areas for Greenbrae School and Scotstown School would remove the dual zones, and confirm that anyone living in the affected area of land within Aberdeenshire would be entitled to attend Balmedie School, and not Greenbrae School or Scotstown School. This would help to remove any ambiguity and provide clarity on the school placing arrangements in this area.
- 1.4 Before a decision is taken on whether to go ahead with the proposals, the Council wishes to hear the views of pupils, parents, staff and other stakeholders who may be affected by the changes.
- 1.5 A public consultation has therefore been launched, so that members of the public can give their views about the proposed changes, before a decision is taken on whether they should go ahead.
- 1.6 The public consultation will be open from Monday 19 February 2024 until Monday 15 April 2024, and views and comments about the proposals can be submitted at any time during this period.
- 1.7 You can submit your views online, using the Council's consultation hub, which can be accessed from <https://consultation.aberdeencity.gov.uk>. You can also send your comments by email, to: [schoolestate@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:schoolestate@aberdeencity.gov.uk)
- 1.8 A public consultation meeting will be held on Wednesday 13 March 2024, from 7.00pm to 8.00pm at Bridge of Don Academy. The meeting is open to anyone who wishes to ask questions of Council officers and/or express their views about the proposals.
- 1.9 All of the comments and views received during the consultation period will be summarised and included in a final consultation report, which will be submitted to the Council's Education and Children's Services Committee at its meeting on 2 July 2024. Members of the Committee will consider all of the comments submitted before making a decision on whether the proposals should go ahead.
- 1.10 If the proposals are approved, the catchment area changes are expected to take effect from August 2024.

1.11 The full details of the proposals, including maps to show the proposed changes to the school catchment areas, are provided in the sections below.

## 2 LIST OF CONSULTEES

### *Who has been asked to comment on these proposals?*

Notice of the consultation and a copy of this Proposal Document will be provided to:

- The Parent Councils of Greenbrae School and Scotstown School
- The parents of the pupils at Greenbrae School and Scotstown School
- The parents of children expected to attend Greenbrae School or Scotstown School within two years of the date of publication of this Proposal Document
- The pupils at Greenbrae School and Scotstown School
- The teaching and support staff at Greenbrae School and Scotstown School
- The trade union representatives of the above staff
- The Community Councils for the areas affected
- The constituency MSPs
- Regional MSPs for the area
- The Constituency MPs
- Community Planning Partnership Board
- Chief Education Officer, Aberdeen City Council
- Chief Education Officer, Aberdeenshire Council

A copy of this Proposal Document is available on the Aberdeen City Council website at [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations](http://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 067831; or by e-mail: [schoolestate@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:schoolestate@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

## 3 BACKGROUND

### *Why are these changes being proposed?*

- 3.1 Aberdeen City Council has created a School Estate Plan, which was approved by the Council's Education Operational Delivery Committee in September 2022. This sets out the actions that the Council wishes to take to develop the school estate over the next ten years and beyond.
- 3.2 Aberdeen City Council's vision is for our buildings and grounds to be used to deliver highly effective learning experiences and to support pupil, staff and community wellbeing. Across Aberdeen City, we will make the best use of our facilities to support the learning needs of all. As a result, our facilities will help to ensure each and every learner has the opportunity to attain and achieve a wide range of qualifications and develop the skills for life, learning and work.
- 3.3 We want to make sure that the school estate can provide:

- sufficient capacity to meet current and future demand for school places;
- 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.

3.4 To achieve this vision we need to make some changes to parts of our school estate, and when proposing changes to the way our schools are organised, it is important that we gather the views of the pupils, parents, staff and other stakeholders who may be affected, before a decision is taken on whether to make any changes.

3.5 This document sets out a proposal to make changes to the school catchment areas for Greenbrae School and Scotstown School, and it explains how members of the public can share their views about the proposals.

## 4 THE PROPOSALS

### *What are the proposed changes?*

Aberdeen City Council is proposing:

- **To alter the school catchment area for Greenbrae School, so that the northern edge of the catchment area aligns with the Aberdeen City boundary, and so that the catchment area no longer includes land within Aberdeenshire;**

**And:**

- **To alter the school catchment area for Scotstown School, so that the northern edge of the catchment area aligns with the Aberdeen City boundary; and so that the catchment area no longer includes land within Aberdeenshire.**

4.1 Currently, the northern edge of the catchment area for Greenbrae School does not fully align with the boundary line between Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. This is illustrated in the maps at Appendix A below. Part of the catchment area stretches beyond the city boundary and includes a small area of farmland, to the north-west of Blackdog in Aberdeenshire. There is also a very small area of rural land to the south of Potterton, which falls within the city boundary, but which is currently not included within the Greenbrae School catchment area. This was formerly included within the catchment area for Balmedie School in Aberdeenshire.

4.2 Similarly, the northern part of the catchment area for Scotstown School stretches beyond the city boundary, and covers an area of housing in the southern part of Blackdog in Aberdeenshire. The remaining part of Blackdog is included within the catchment area for Balmedie School, which is under Aberdeenshire Council's jurisdiction.

- 4.3 In 2023, following a public consultation, Aberdeenshire Council made changes to the catchment area for Balmedie School, so that the whole of Blackdog is now included within the Balmedie School catchment area, and so that the southern edge of the catchment area now aligns with the boundary line between Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City.
- 4.4 As a result of those changes, the catchment areas for Greenbrae School and Scotstown School now overlap with the newly adjusted catchment area for Balmedie School. This has created 'dual zones', where any primary aged children living within those overlapping areas would be entitled to attend Greenbrae School or Scotstown School, as well as Balmedie School. These dual zones are indicated on the maps at Appendix A.
- 4.5 To help remove any ambiguity about the school placing arrangements for any children living in these areas, and to assist with longer term forecasting of pupil numbers at Greenbrae School and Scotstown School, the Council is proposing to make changes to the catchment areas for these two schools, so that the northern edges of the catchment areas are brought into alignment with the city boundary, and no longer overlap with the catchment area for Balmedie School in Aberdeenshire.
- 4.6 If the proposed changes are accepted, this would mean that in the future, primary aged children living within the areas of Aberdeenshire where the catchment areas currently overlap, would continue to be zoned for Balmedie School, but they would not be zoned for Greenbrae School or Scotstown School.

## **5. THE AFFECTED SCHOOLS**

### *How would the changes affect each of the schools involved?*

#### **Greenbrae School**

- 5.1 As indicated within the maps at Appendix A, the proposed changes to the catchment area for Greenbrae School would result in a small area of rural land within Aberdeenshire, to the west of Blackdog, being removed from the Greenbrae School catchment area. The area would remain within the catchment area for Balmedie School. This means that, if the proposals are accepted, any primary aged children living in this area in the future would continue to be zoned for Balmedie School, but they would no longer also have an entitlement to attend Greenbrae School.
- 5.2 In addition, there is a small strip of rural land south of Potterton, which falls within the Aberdeen City boundary, but which currently is not included within the catchment area for Greenbrae School. This land was formerly included within the catchment area for Balmedie School until the changes were made to that catchment area in 2023, and consequently it does not currently fall within any primary school catchment area. The proposed changes will result in this area of land being included within the Greenbrae School catchment area.
- 5.3 Given that the areas of land which will be affected by the proposals are relatively small, and as they are rural areas of land with very few residential properties, the proposed changes are not expected to have any significant impact on pupil numbers at Greenbrae School.
- 5.4 The proposed changes and the removal of the current dual zone situation would, however, help to provide clarity and remove any future ambiguity over school placing arrangements for Greenbrae School.

## **Scotstown School**

- 5.5 The maps at Appendix A show that currently, the northern edge of the Scotstown School catchment area extends beyond the city boundary and across a small part of the settlement of Blackdog in Aberdeenshire. The proposed changes to the catchment area, to align its northern edge with the city boundary, would mean that this part of Blackdog would no longer be included in the Scotstown School catchment area, but it would remain included within the catchment area for Balmedie School. Primary aged children living in this area in the future would continue to be zoned for Balmedie School, but would no longer also have an entitlement to attend Scotstown School.
- 5.6 Given that the affected area of Blackdog includes a limited number of houses, the number of children likely to be living within them in the future is relatively small, and therefore the proposed change to the catchment area is expected to result in only a small reduction in the number of pupils attending Scotstown School in the future. The impact on the school as a result of these changes is therefore expected to be minimal. Currently, there are 21 children enrolled at Scotstown School, who live within the affected area of Blackdog.
- 5.7 If the proposed changes to the catchment area are approved, any children who live within this part of Blackdog and who are attending Scotstown School at the time the changes are implemented, would continue to be entitled to attend Scotstown School, until the end of their P7 year. There would be no requirement for these children to move schools as a result of the proposed changes to the catchment area.
- 5.8 Similarly, if the proposals are approved, any child living in the affected area of Blackdog who reaches primary school age after the changes to the catchment area are implemented, and who at that time has an older sibling who is attending Scotstown School, would have the option of also enrolling at Scotstown School, in order to keep family groups together.

## **6. EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS**

### *How would the proposed changes benefit pupils?*

- 6.1 The above proposals would realise the following educational benefits for the affected pupils:
- The proposals would assist in forecasting pupil rolls within Greenbrae School and Scotstown School and allow for sustainable growth within the catchment area.
  - Sustainable rolls ensure that effective teacher staffing levels are maintained and led by a range of promoted teaching staff. Effective year group numbers can be better maintained, and children are able to learn within a variety of peer group settings, both formally and informally.
  - The proposed changes to school catchment areas would provide clarity on the future arrangements for school enrolment at Greenbrae School and Scotstown School, which would help remove any ambiguity for parents and pupils in securing a school placement.

## **7. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS**

### *How will the consultation work and how can I submit my views?*

## **The Proposal Paper**

- 7.1 A copy of this proposal paper and other information about this consultation can be accessed from: [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations)
- 7.2 A copy of this document will also be available for public viewing during the period of consultation in the following buildings:

Marischal College  
Central Library  
Greenbrae School  
Scotstown School  
Bridge of Don Library

## **Public Meeting**

- 7.3 A public meeting to discuss the proposals will take place on:  
  
Wednesday 13 March 2024, from 7.00pm to 8.00pm at Bridge of Don Academy.

## **Submitting Your Views**

- 7.4 Any members of the public can respond to the consultation online, using the Council's Consultation Hub: <https://consultation.aberdeencity.gov.uk/>

Alternatively, comments can be submitted by sending an email to:

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

Or by writing to:

Greenbrae/Scotstown Schools Consultation, Corporate Landlord, Aberdeen City Council, Business Hub 10, Second Floor South, Marischal College, Broad Street, ABERDEEN AB10 1AB

All responses must be submitted by Monday 15 April 2024.

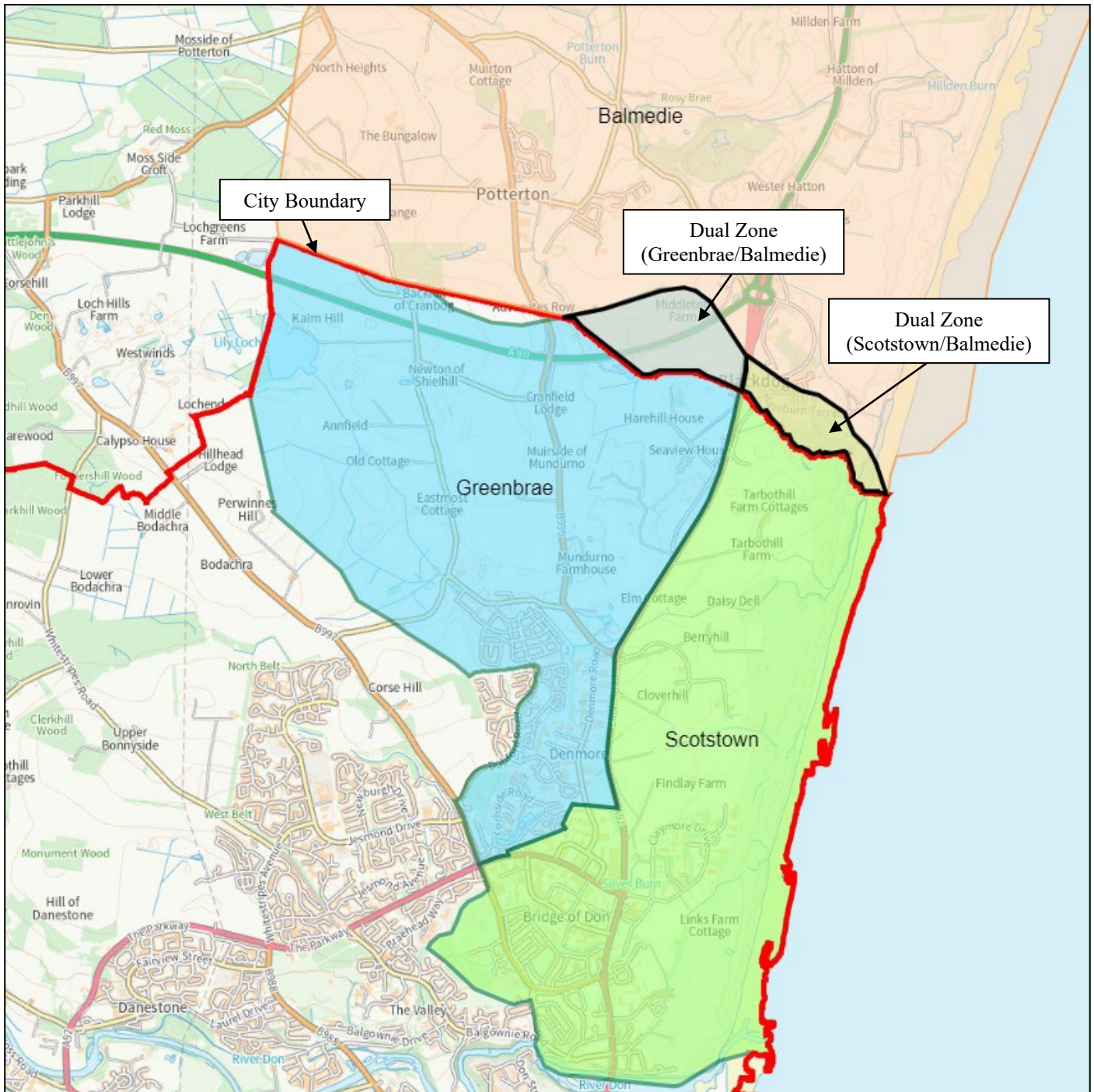
## **Reporting the Outcome of the Consultation**

- 7.5 A summary of all comments received during the consultation will be published on the Council's website at [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations)
- 7.6 A report on the consultation will be presented to the Education and Children's Services Committee at its meeting on 2 July 2024. This will provide information to enable Members to make a final decision on the proposals.



## Appendix 1

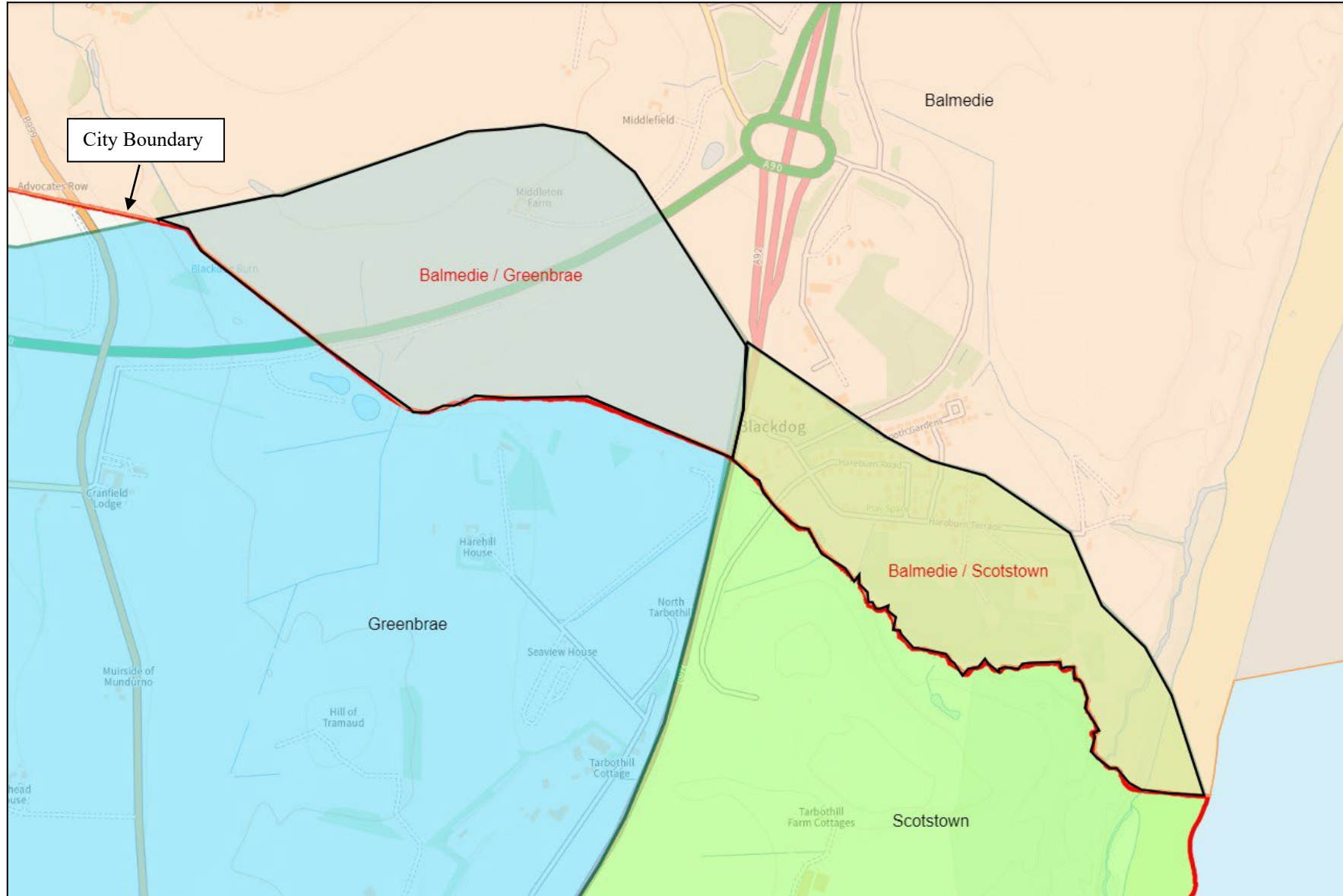
### Map A: Current Catchment Areas



The map above shows the extent of the current catchment areas for Greenbrae School, Scotstown School and Balmedie School. The red line indicates the boundary between Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. The areas bordered with a thick black line indicate the current dual zone areas.

Map B below shows the dual zone areas in more detail.

Map B: Current Dual Zone Areas in Detail



## Map C: Proposed Catchment Areas



The map above shows the catchment areas as they would be if the proposed changes are accepted. The northern edges of the Greenbrae School and Scotstown School catchment areas would align with the City boundary, removing the dual zone areas with Balmedie School.