

**ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW NON-DENOMINATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL AT CALDERWOOD,
EAST CALDER AND ASSOCIATED PROPOSALS**

A REPORT OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Thursday 26 September to Friday 15 November 2019

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to give information on:

- West Lothian Council's proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school at Calderwood, East Calder and associated proposals to:
 - Review admission arrangements in order to establish the catchment area for the new school
 - Review admission arrangements arising from alterations to the non-denominational primary school catchment area at East Calder Primary School
 - Review transfer arrangements from primary school to secondary school
- the Consultation Process
- Consultee Responses
- Notes of Public Meeting

1.2 SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

West Lothian Council, Education Services propose to establish a new non-denominational primary school at Calderwood, East Calder.

In association, it is further proposed to review admission arrangements and establish a catchment area for the new school, review admission arrangements arising from proposed alterations to the current non-denominational catchment area at East Calder primary School. And finally, review transfer arrangements from primary school to secondary school.

1.3 BACKGROUND

Offering due regard to the West Lothian Council Local Development Plan (LDP), review of the school estate in West Lothian and with cognisance of current school catchment areas and capacities the requirement for a new non-denominational primary school in the Calderwood area of East Calder is a key priority.

A site for a proposed new primary school at Calderwood was identified in the 2009 West Lothian LDP. The site allows for children from the entire Calderwood housing development and those children from a smaller number of dwellings in the vicinity to be educated at a new non-denominational primary school in the development area.

The proposed creation of a new education establishment and review of school catchment area is required to ensure future housing provisions in East Calder have appropriately associated catchment

non-denominational primary schools and also ensure West Lothian Council meet statutory educational responsibilities.

1.4 TIMELINE

The following timeline was established and incorporates the organisation of a public meeting, Education Scotland involvement, the preparation and publication of the report on the outcomes of the consultation and subsequent submission to West Lothian Council Education Executive for its decision in January 2020.

Date	Event	Description
April 2019	Education Executive Meeting	Meeting to discuss proposal and agree continuation to pre consultation phase
May 2019	Pre Consultation	Gather and share information in advance of statutory consultation
September 2019	Education Executive Meeting	Meeting to review proposal and Consultations Document and agree commencement of Statutory Consultation phase.
26 September 2019	Start of Statutory Consultation	Beginning of formal public consultation (min 6 continuous weeks consultation period including min of 30 school days)
October 2019	Public Meetings	Public Meetings to discuss proposal
15 November 2019	End of Consultation	End of Public Consultation
November 2019	Submit report to Education Scotland	West Lothian Council Education Services relays report on proposal and consultation findings to Education Scotland
Mid December 2019	Offer Education Scotland at least 5 days notice prior to publishing final report	Upon receipt of response from Education Scotland and on consideration of previous consultation period representations, Authority will prepare and publish final consultation report
20 December 2019	Publication of final consultation report	A minimum of three weeks after publication of

		consultation report Authority will make final decision
21 January 2020`	Education Executive Meeting	Decision made

1.5 CONSULTEES

In terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, any proposal to make amendments to the school estate in this case, establishment of a new education establishment, requires a formal consultation.

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, sets out the statutory consultation requirements.

The statutory consultees for a proposal to relocate an education establishment are prescribed as follows:

- the Parent Council or Combined 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 two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper
- 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
- any trade union which appears to the education authority to be representative of the persons mentioned in bullet point above
- the community council (if any)
- the Community Planning Partnership (within the meaning of section 4(5) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 for the area of the local authority in which affected school is situated.
- any other community planning partnerships considered relevant by the Authority.
- any other education authority that the education authority considers relevant
- any other users of any affected school that the education authority considers relevant
- in relation to any relevant proposal which affects a denominational school, the Church, Denominational Body or Scottish Hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church

1.6 CONSULTATION PROCESS

The consultation period incorporated a period of 30 school days (excluding any school holiday) from Thursday 26 September 2019 until Fri 15 November 2019. This timescale adheres to the statutory consultation period for such circumstances which is a minimum of 6 consecutive weeks and include at least 30 school days.

To communicate, the Education Service proposal information was delivered through the undernoted media avenues:

- West Lothian Council Website <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/Calderwood-Primary-School-Consultation>
- West Lothian Council digital media products
- Local Press
- Available in hard copy via central locations within West Lothian
- Hard copy available for postal distribution on request

In order to ensure all parties had the same opportunity to access the consultation information, facilities were put in place to communicate the proposal in a manner best suited to the needs of the individual. To this regard, the Consultation Document was made available through the following means as and when requested:

- Translation Services
- Provision for deaf and hearing impaired, blind and visually impaired

A copy of the Consultation Document is attached as Appendix B.

A public meeting was conducted at East Calder Primary School on Thursday 26 October 2019. Comprehensive minutes of the public meetings are detailed in Section 3 of this report.

During the consultation period views on the proposal were welcomed in writing to the address given below:

Melanie Laurie, Education Services, Civic Centre, Howden Road South, EH54 6FF

Responses by e-mail were directed to Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk

All interested parties were invited to submit their comments by close of business Friday 15 November 2019.

2. CONSULTEE RESPONSES TO PROPOSAL

West Lothian Council Education Services noted comments made through a variety of means however only those official representations submitted in the terms of the **Consultation Document SECTION 5: Consultation Process and How To Have Your Say (Appendix B)** have been recorded for reporting purposes.

No hard copy written representations were received during the consultation period. All responses from consultees were received either in electronic format (email) or by oral representation at the statutory public meetings.

2.1 RESPONSES RECEIVED

2.1.1 Email Responses:

There was 1 individual electronic response received.

As part of the consultation process and in order to ensure a rigorous and thorough examination of the responses received, Council officers read every response. Officers ensured that the views and opinions of respondents were given due consideration and that acknowledgments were offered to each of the consultee submissions received.

For the purpose of this report respondent comments are anonymised where appropriate.

Respondent Group	Comment
Parent	<p>We would like to provide the following comments under each heading based on being residents of Calderwood and parents of young children (6 and 10) who attend the local Catholic Primary School.</p> <p>Establish a new non-denominational primary school within Calderwood We strongly support the plans to develop this School in the area for 2021/22. We believe it will help the wider community of East Calder and alleviate some of the pupil-space-pressure on East Calder Primary. We also would have liked to have seen some consideration of the impact which this will also have on St Pauls Primary with many parents living in Calderwood of non/or different faith sending their children to St Pauls. I think it would have added greater context to the forecasting of pupil numbers for example, as well as providing a greater sense of belonging to those of us with children being educated in the local area.</p> <p>We would suggest that, as part of the development of the School, that a mix of indoor and outdoor facilities are provided which are open to the local community. For example, a Mixed Use Games Area (MUGA) which has all-weather capabilities for basketball, football etc. This will help with</p>

	<p>the wider development of the amenities of Calderwood for children growing up there. In terms of internal facilities, this could be in terms of indoor gymnasium being able to have table tennis/badminton/fitness classes open in the evening. Playing fields should also be prioritised, with good drainage (a problem in Calderwood), to help children stay active and within the locale.</p> <p>We also support the inclusive approach to breakfast and after school clubs. The provision at St Pauls (breakfast club) is very welcome and, again, would have benefitted your consultation if this was cited along with East Calder Primary School.</p> <p>Review admission arrangements in order to establish Catchment area for the new School These look fine to me and as long as the building, as outlined, is built which allows for growth and potential extension to accommodate the significant number of families moving into the area, then I think they should be supported.</p> <p>Review admission arrangements arising from alterations to East Calder Primary We do not have a view on this.</p> <p>Review transition arrangements from Primary to Secondary School We strongly welcome the decision to move catchment area to West Calder. What we would welcome further consideration by the Council on, is the proposed development of a High School within East Calder to serve communities of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• East Calder (including Calderwood)• Mid Calder• Kirknewton <p>We understand, that there was plans for a High School to be considered in the future which are in our Title Deeds documentation. We think West Lothian Council should outline their plans to commit to this by 2024. The reason for this, is the development of up to 3,000 homes in Calderwood alone coupled with the wider communities mentioned above, places an obligation on the Council to look for an appropriate local High School. This will also benefit the new West Calder High School, which is fantastic, not creak at the seams due to the high pupil numbers.</p> <p>We appreciate that this is perhaps out with the scope of this consultation. However, they are related in the minds of parents living in the area and would further make West Lothian an attractive place to raise happy, healthy children in.</p> <p>Many thanks and good luck with the development.</p>
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	Response
	<p>Planning takes account of placing requests made by parents for denominational education, and the impact on future parental choice that a new school may have.</p> <p>Plans are in place for community use of facilities including the Mixed Use Games Area and also a football pitch. West Lothian Council has arrangements for community use of school premises under its letting arrangements.</p> <p>A new secondary school is identified as a future provision within the Local Development Plan, but is not within the Council's 10 year capital programme.</p>

3. NOTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

3.1 East Calder Primary School Thursday 24 October 2019

WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL

PROPOSAL TO CREATE NEW NON-DENOMINATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL AT CALDERWOOD, EAST
CALDER AND ASSOCIATED PROPOSALS

MINUTES OF STATUTORY CONSULTATION MEETING
THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER 2019, 6.30pm

Present:

Panel Members:

Cllr David Dodds, Executive Councillor for Education
Catherine Campbell, Senior Education Development Officer
Melanie Laurie, Education Project Officer

Representation from:

Head Teacher, East Calder Primary School

Attendees: 23 people attended the statutory consultation meeting, comprising 20 parents/grandparents, 2 Councillors and the Chair of the East Calder /Calderwood Community Council.

Introductions and Overview

Aims of Statutory Consultation Exercise:

- Formal consultation required in accordance with Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010
- Information sharing opportunity – details the specifics and the reasoning behind the proposal
- Opportunity to capture the views of consultees
- Invaluable research approach

Summary of Proposal:

- Establish a new non-denominational primary school within the Calderwood area in East Calder
- Review admission arrangements in order to establish the catchment area for the new school
- Review admission arrangements arising from alterations to the non-denominational primary school catchment area at East Calder Primary School
- Review transition from primary school to secondary school

Rationale:

- West Lothian Council ongoing commitment to provide quality and long term sustainable education establishments
- Obligation to meet demands of housing developments in the area
- Ensure new housing developments have specified catchment schools aligned
- Review of current and projected pupil roll indicators for East Calder Primary School and the implications arising from new housing developments

Group Discussion

Cllr David Dodds opened the floor for discussion:

- Catherine Campbell, Senior Education Development Officer commenced by offering an overview of the previously conducted Pre-Consultation engagement sessions. It was explained that at that time, Council officers initially proposed delivery of a new non-denominational primary school at Calderwood with a further proposal to associate the new primary school to the new non-denominational secondary school in Winchburgh. Feedback attained during the Pre- Consultation process indicated that whilst consultees were in full support of delivery of a new primary school in the Calderwood area the proposed link to the new Winchburgh was not favoured. Acknowledging these comments, Council officers have reviewed this element of the proposal and moving forward, propose that Calderwood Primary School will remain in the existing secondary school catchment area and have primary to secondary school association with West Calder High School. It was further emphasised that there will be no amendments to the existing East Calder Primary/West Calder High School association.

Response:

Meeting attendees warmly received this information.

- Clarification was sought as to whether there would be any amendment to the existing school catchment area for those dwellings in the Raw Holdings area.
- Response:
- Officers detailed the proposed catchment area map and identified the Raw Holdings area that will remain in the existing East Calder Primary School catchment area. The Raw Cottages area which is a separate area, again highlighted for information, is located closer to the Calderwood development and will be included in the Calderwood Primary School catchment.
- Having been offered an overview of the Statutory Consultation timeline a question was asked whether this timeline was considered tight. It was asked whether any red tape could cause a delay in completion of the Consultation process and subsequent delivery of the school

Response:

It was advised by Council officers that they do not foresee any issues that would be detrimental to the completion of the Statutory Consultation process. All required steps

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are on track for completion on the January 2020 deadline. In relation to the building timeline, it was further advised that groundworks have already been initiated and whilst there could be mitigating circumstances that could hinder construction and delivery of the new school specific contingency measures will be adopted accordingly.

- Officers were asked that when the school opens in 2021 as a 2 stream establishment will it be fully occupied.

Response:

Whilst the infrastructure of new school will offer capacity to accommodate 462 pupils it is not anticipated that pupil numbers will be at this level in the first instance.

- Explanation was sought on what will happen to those children currently attending East Calder Primary however live in the Calderwood area and the impact this will have on younger siblings.

Response:

Officers reassured attendees that no pupil will be asked to move school as a result of the proposals being put forward. Younger siblings of those pupils currently attending East Calder Primary School and living within the proposed new Calderwood Primary School catchment area will retain catchment status of the older sibling and will be permitted to attend East Calder Primary School if parents wish siblings to attend the same school. This catchment status would remain until the sibling link is broken i.e. should the elder sibling leave primary school education prior to commencement of the younger sibling at primary school.

- It was asked when parents are required to make the decision on whether to move their child from East Calder Primary School to Calderwood

Response:

Attendees were advised that the Head Teacher and Management Team for the new school will be appointed well in advance of opening. Both the Calderwood and East Calder Primary School Head Teachers will work collaboratively to ensure that the whole community have full involvement in each step of the delivery of Calderwood Primary School allowing a full awareness of the new provision and allow an informed decision as to whether a move from East Calder Primary to Calderwood is preferred.

- Officers were asked to explain the rationale behind the initial proposal to associate Calderwood Primary with the new Winchburgh secondary school

Response:

As the Calderwood and Winchburgh secondary projects are running in alignment there was an initial view that a Calderwood/Winchburgh association would be an appropriate proposal to take forward for Consultee consideration. After the Pre-Consultation engagement sessions however it was realised by officers that this was not preferred by

the community hence the reason to propose that the Calderwood area remain in the existing secondary school catchment area.

- It was asked whether West Calder High School could cope with the additional pupil numbers and when was it expected to reach capacity.

Response:

Officers confirmed that review of current and predicted pupil roll indicators show that West Calder High School will have capacity to accommodate the additional pupil numbers generated from the Calderwood area.

- Meeting attendees sought an update on West Lothian Council's intention to provide a non-denominational secondary school in East Calder.

Response:

Officers explained that the current Capital Programme does not include provision of a new secondary school for the East Calder area. This programme will conclude in 2028.

- It was suggested that delivery of new residential properties in the Gavieside area would clearly show the requirement for a new secondary school in East Calder.

Response:

Officers noted this comment and advised that whilst the introduction of new dwellings at Gavieside may have an impact on school capacities, specific in depth pupil roll calculations will be conducted and appropriate contingencies will be put in place if and where required. Delivery of a new secondary school is not considered an option for progression during this Capital Programme period.

- A question was raised in relation to the quality of teaching at the new school.

Response:

The Head Teacher along with Management Team and Teaching Staff of the new school will work with West Lothian Council Education Officers to ensure that by adopting creative teaching and learning approaches, Calderwood Primary will be fully equipped to deliver the full breadth of Curriculum for Excellence. As is best practice throughout all education establishments, a key aim will be to promote opportunities for learners to achieve across all curricular areas, broadening scope for attainment and achievement.

- It was asked when teaching staff would be appointed

Response:

It was advised that teaching fulfilment will be confirmed in advance of the opening of the school.

- What will happen if the school is not ready to open in 2021?

Response:

Education Services

It is not envisaged that this will be the case. Council officers conduct regular review meetings to discuss the progress of the project and consider any possible risks to delivery. Should any unforeseen circumstances arise that may impact delivery these will be acted upon at the earliest opportunity with the relevant contingencies adopted.

- Will there be breakfast club and after school care provisions?

Response:

Calderwood primary school will offer breakfast club facilities. There may be opportunity to offer pupils after school activities, these are more often delivered by teaching staff on a voluntary basis and will be ad hoc throughout the school year. In relation to a permanent after school care provision within Calderwood Primary this would be a consideration for the Head teacher and relevant outside care providers.

- Clarification was sought as to whether a child needs to currently be in attendance at East Calder Primary School Nursery to be able to move to the new Calderwood School. Will it go against you if your child attends St Paul's Nursery?

Response:

All placements would be made in terms of the Council's Admission Policy. Attendance at a particular nursery does not guarantee placement in a particular primary. All nurseries are non-denominational.

- Will the school will be opening as a full P1-P7 school, and if so, will there be enough pupils?

Response:

Officers advised there are no intentions to open Calderwood Primary on a phased basis. It is anticipated that there will be sufficient uptake at the outset of opening P1-P7 cohorts.

- Confirmation was requested to ensure that no children will be forced to move to Calderwood School.

Response:

Officers reiterated that there will be no impact to pupils currently in attendance at West Lothian schools. Under no circumstances will pupils be required to move from their existing primary school to the new school at Calderwood.

Next Steps

- Collate and review feedback received from Statutory Consultation discussions
- November 2019 – West Lothian Council will submit report on findings of Statutory Consultation to Education Scotland for review
- December 2019 – On receipt of response from Education Scotland, West Lothian Council will prepare and publish Final Consultation Paper
- January 2020 - West Lothian Council Education Executive review Final Consultation Paper and make final decision on proposal.

Close

Cllr David Dodds concluded the meeting by thanking attendees for their attendance and participation in discussions.

4. ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

The single e-mail response received strongly supports the proposal, and made suggestions for consideration.

The attendees at the Statutory Consultation Meeting warmly received the amended consultation proposal, and sought clarification of various aspects of them.

No expression of opposition to the proposal was received during the statutory consultation.

5. REPORT BY EDUCATION SCOTLAND

Education Scotland has written a report on West Lothian Council's proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school at Calderwood, East Calder and associated proposals.

Education Scotland agrees that the Council's proposal provides a strong case for the proposed new school. The proposal is supported by appropriate amendments to catchment areas, in line with the proposed location of the new Calderwood Primary School. The Council outlines the associated educational benefits. HM Inspectors endorse this view. All children, parents and school staff who met HM Inspectors were supportive of the proposal. The Council's proposal, should it proceed, will see an increase in the school estate to accommodate projected housing expansion within the community.

The full Education Scotland report is attached as Appendix C.

Appendix A

26 September 2019

Dear Consultee

West Lothian Council Education Services

Proposal to Establish a new Non-Denominational Primary School at Calderwood, East Calder and Associated Proposals

West Lothian Council's Education Executive at its meeting on 23 April 2019 authorised West Lothian Council's Education Services to commence statutory consultation on the proposals to:

- Establish a new non-denominational primary school at Calderwood, East Calder;
- Establish a catchment area for the new school;
- Review the non-denominational primary school catchment area at East Calder Primary School; and
- Review transfer arrangements from Primary to Secondary School.

The consultation document outlining the proposal is available online from 26 September 2019 on the following webpage:

www.westlothian.gov.uk/Calderwood-Primary-School-Consultation

Hard copies of the consultation document are also available for uplift from the Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, EH54 6FF or can be requested in writing from:

Melanie Laurie, Project Officer, West Lothian Council Education Services, Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, EH54 6FF.

The consultation period is from Thursday 26 September 2019 until Friday 15 November 2019.

A public meeting to discuss the consultation document will be held at:

- East Calder Primary School, Thursday 24 October 2019. 6.30-8.00pm.

You are also invited to submit your comments on the consultation in writing to Melanie Laurie at the above address or by e-mail to:

Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk

For written representations to be considered they must be received no later than 5pm on Friday 15 November 2019.

A decision on the proposal is planned to be made in January 2020 by the Council's Education Executive. This decision will be based on feedback received from all stakeholders through written responses and feedback from meetings and from feedback received from Education Scotland.

Yours sincerely



James Cameron
Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources)