

**ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW NON-DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL AT  
WINCHBURGH AND ASSOCIATED PROPOSALS**

**A REPORT OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION**

**Thursday 26 September to Friday 15 November 2019**

**CONTENTS**

<b>1.</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>Page</b>
	1.1 Purpose of Report	3
	1.2 Summary of Proposal	3
	1.3 Background	3
	1.4 Timeline	4
	1.5 Consultees	5
	1.6 Consultation Process	6
	1.7 Associated Proposals – Further Pre and Statutory Consultation	6
<b>2.</b>	<b>CONSULTEE RESPONSES TO PROPOSAL</b>	
	2.1 Responses Received	7
	2.1.1 School Pupil Council Response	7
	2.1.2 Email Responses	7
<b>3.</b>	<b>NOTE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS</b>	
	3.1 Winchburgh Primary School Wednesday 9 October 2019	19
<b>4.</b>	<b>ANALYSIS OR CONSULTATION RESPONSES</b>	24
<b>5.</b>	<b>REPORT BY EDUCATION SCOTLAND</b>	24
<b>Appendix A</b>	Letter to Consultees	25
<b>Appendix B</b>	Consultation Document	
<b>Appendix C</b>	Education Scotland Report	

## 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 secondary school at Winchburgh and associated proposals
- 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 secondary school at Winchburgh with 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 secondary school catchment areas at Linlithgow Academy and Broxburn Academy
- Review transition arrangements from primary to secondary school

### 1.3 BACKGROUND

As part of the delivery strategy for the West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) it is proposed to establish a new non-denominational secondary school as a key priority.

West Lothian Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure sufficient school places, to improve the quality of the school education provided, to raise standards of education and to secure best value in available resources.

To this regard, the creation of a new education establishment offers cognisance to ongoing property developments in West Lothian and enables opportunity to create flexible learning spaces and improve the range of learning environments across the existing non-denominational secondary school estate.

### 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

## Education Services

the consultation and subsequent submission to West Lothian Council Education Executive for its decision in January 2020.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Description</b>
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 ( <b>min 6 continuous weeks consultation period including min of 30 school days</b> )
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 <b>after</b> 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 Friday 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/Winchburgh-NonDenominational-Secondary-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 Winchburgh Primary School, on Wednesday 9 October 2019. Council officers outlined the key elements of the proposal and answered question from meeting attendees. 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](mailto:Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk)

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

### **1.7 ASSOCIATED PROPOSALS – BANGOUR DEVELOPMENT AREA – FURTHER PRE-CONSULTATION AND STATUTORY CONSULTATION**

A separate pre-consultation exercise followed by a separate statutory consultation will be initiated to gather public perception on the proposal to deliver a new non-denominational P1-P7 primary school within the Bangour Development Area incorporating Dechmont Infant School, and the associated realignment from Broxburn Academy catchment to the catchment of the proposed new secondary school at Winchburgh at such time as proposals in relation to the proposed new Bangour Development Area primary school progress.

## **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.

## Education Services

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 School Pupil Council Response

##### Winchburgh Primary School Pupil Forum - 10 October 2019

In attendance – HT, 2x DHT and 12 pupils representing P1-7

##### New Secondary School in Winchburgh

- Discussed who is likely to attend the new school.
- Expect the school to be open in the summer of 2022 (in time for our current P5 children to start S1)
- P6 and P7 are expected to still go to Linlithgow Academy – questions on being able to choose to move back to new school in Winchburgh discussed. (this might be an option in the future).
- We should start to see some of the building work happen over the next few months.
- We will be able to see pictures and photographs similar to the information we got for the Auldathie district park.
- P5 Pupil forum rep absent but will follow-up at a later date.
- P1-4 may have further discussion once we have pictures and photos to look at – there might be some short video clips of what the inside will look like.
- What would be good about having a secondary school in Winchburgh? It means we wouldn't have to get a bus. We would get a brand new school.

**Officer Response** - Officers noted that pupils at Winchburgh Primary School were pleased by the prospect of a new school, and shorter transport times.

#### 2.1.2 Email Responses:

There were 4 individual electronic responses 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.

**Education Services**

<b>Respondent Group</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
Parent	<p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>This is a welcome proposal, but 2 years too late.</p> <p>I note that the consultation makes no mention of how WLC will manage over-crowding at Linlithgow Academy (LA) until and beyond August 2022. In section 1.2 of the consultation, it states that the current LA capacity is 1320, however this year's roll is 1327 and next year's roll is forecast at 1407.</p> <p>It is not clear how long the over-crowding will persist even with the new Winchburgh school, but I assume for several years if only S1s from Winchburgh are sent to the new school. And I see that the LA school roll is forecast to climb even higher in subsequent years.</p> <p>My son is at Linlithgow Academy and the corridors/communal spaces are already definitely too crowded. My daughter was at LA, was a prefect in S6 on break duties but found it impossible to manage the number of pupils in different areas due to the crowding.</p> <p>This crowding affects the safety risk and the wellbeing of the pupils, particularly the younger/shorter ones who feel squashed/trampled but also the older ones who prefer to go out of school as much as possible during breaks because of the crowding and associated lack of communal spaces for older year groups to congregate in (except for S6).</p> <p>With the increased LA roll, I would like to request to know what measures will be put in place to manage crowding and also to adequately resource the school with teachers during this peak period.</p> <p>In the meantime, since it was the WLC delay to building this school which has caused this problem, I would ask WLC to consider all</p>	<p>The management of pupil numbers at Linlithgow Academy prior to the establishment of the new school is out with the scope of the consultation.</p> <p>No change is proposed to the phasing outlined in the consultation document.</p> <p>West Lothian Council does not intend to assign S1s living in the new Winchburgh catchment to another school from August 2021 or creating a S2 and/or S3 year group at the new Winchburgh school from August 2022.</p> <p>No existing secondary school pupils in West Lothian will be required to relocate to the proposed new secondary school in Winchburgh, but may do so if they so wish when the required year group is operational.</p>

Education Services

	<p>possible additional measures at Winchburgh to reduce the ongoing pressure at LA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assigning S1s living in the new Winchburgh catchment to another WL secondary from August 2021 and creating a S2 year group at the new Winchburgh school from August 2022</li> <li>2. Encouraging S3s at LA but living in Winchburgh catchment to switch to the new Winchburgh school from August 2022, by creating a S3 year group.</li> <li>3. Requiring younger siblings of pupils currently at LA who have not yet started S1 to go to the new Winchburgh school from August 2022.</li> </ol> <p>Yours sincerely</p>	
<p>Parent</p>	<p>We are responding as parents of two children who currently attend Winchburgh Primary School, in P7 and P5 at the time of the consultation. We will be directly affected by the timing of the proposed changes, with our older child due to transition to Linlithgow Academy in August 2020 and our younger child due to transition to secondary school in August 2022.</p> <p>This response has been prepared with the best educational interests of our own children as our priority, coupled with our views on what we consider the best and fairest transition arrangements generally.</p> <p>Please also note, at the time of initially drafting this response, we based our input wholly on the consultation as published, which is appropriate. However, on Tuesday 12 November we become aware that James Cameron of West Lothian Council attended a meeting at Winchburgh Primary School at which he asked parents whether they would consider moving their children to the new secondary school at Winchburgh in S2 or S3. We are disappointed to hear this has been raised with a small number of parents during a consultation that has yet to close. We are also disappointed that parents were only advised of this meeting in an email sent by</p>	<p>Officers attended the Parent Council meeting and stated that there was no change to the proposal in the consultation document but that at the pre-consultation meeting the question of admission from S1-S3 was raised. Officers confirmed that this would require a further consultation if it was to be taken forward. Officers confirmed that that no change to the proposal of an S1 stage in 2022 is being proposed, but that at this meeting they were merely seeking to determine if there was any expressed demand that would justify this. It should be noted that the correspondent was not in attendance at the meeting.</p> <p>Pupils living in the proposed new catchment area who will have older siblings in attendance at Linlithgow Academy will be permitted to attend Linlithgow Academy if parents wish them to attend the same school as their older sibling.</p> <p>No change to the phasing outlined in the consultation document is proposed.</p> <p>Pupils resident in the catchment area may attend the proposed new secondary school in Winchburgh, if their parents so</p>

**Education Services**

	<p>Winchburgh Primary School after 5pm on Monday 11 November. It is not helpful or appropriate to arrange a meeting at such short notice when critical information is being conveyed. No agenda was issued or a suggestion that a representative of WLC would offer an alternative proposal to that which is contained within a formal consultation.</p> <p>This appears to undermine the public consultation process and sends a very poor message to parents. Whilst you might wish to consider the possibility of offering a relocation from Linlithgow Academy to the newly opened Winchburgh secondary school as an option so that parents can make the best choice for their child’s education, we would be concerned if this were forced upon pupils who have settled into secondary school before 2022. It would also suggest that – again in stark contrast to the very positive consultation proposals – WLC would intend to remove the sibling place guarantee at Linlithgow Academy. We hope that these concerns will be addressed in due course, providing assurance to parents whose children will be affected by the transition.</p> <p>The format of our response follows the format of the consultation, commenting on relevant sections in order. The numbers indicated in brackets reflect the numbering in the consultation document.</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>Section One</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We note that Winchburgh Primary School currently falls within the catchment area for Linlithgow Academy (1.4).</li> <li>2. We note that the proposed catchment area for the new non-denominational secondary school at Winchburgh would include new and existing properties in Winchburgh. This would include our current home, which was completed in 2015 (1.5).</li> </ol>	<p>wish when the required year group is operational.</p> <p>It is proposed that free school transport for those who qualify in terms of West Lothian Council’s policy will remain in place for the duration of the secondary education of pupils who meet the catchment criteria for Linlithgow Academy prior to 2022 and for younger siblings who will attend Linlithgow Academy in terms of the sibling link criterion.</p> <p>West Lothian Council will follow the advice and guidance of Connect (the Scottish Parent Teacher Council) in relation to establishing the new Parent Council.</p>
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**Education Services**

	<p>3. We note that it is proposed that the new non-denominational secondary school be populated on a phased basis, with an initial intake in 2022 of S1 students only (1.6). We are pleased that West Lothian Council recognises the potential impact on families who will at that time have children at Linlithgow Academy whose younger siblings are yet to commence secondary school. This includes our family. We are very pleased that the consultation proposes that pupils who will fall within the catchment for the new Winchburgh secondary school will be permitted to attend Linlithgow Academy with their older sibling, rather than have no option but to attend a different secondary school. We expect this proposal to be the default and preferred option given its inclusion in the consultation. This is very important for the following reasons:</p> <p>a. The connection and support provided by an older sibling to a younger sibling on commencing secondary school is part of the learner journey for each child and has both educational and social benefits. It is important that this opportunity be made available, without question, to those families who believe that it will be in the best interests of their children to attend the same secondary school. It is also very important that the spirit and intention of this proposal be maintained, and that this is not suddenly or quietly changed to a less attractive option for families in Winchburgh who have children who will commence secondary school before and after 2022.</p> <p>b. The sense of identity that children feel in their school years has positive benefits in terms of their involvement with extra-curricular activities and fundraising, and it is both practical and family-centred to ensure that children have the opportunity to share this experience at the same secondary school if possible.</p> <p>c. It will be safer for younger siblings to commence secondary school with an older sibling who can help ensure the younger child arrives safely at school and returns safely home after school, particularly in the winter months. For our own family, we feel that this</p>	
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Education Services

	<p>is particularly important in the interests of child safety as our daughter is younger and will benefit from having the care and protection of a highly responsible older brother.</p> <p>d. The practicalities for busy working parents of managing the arrangements for two separate secondary schools could be problematic for various reasons, including attending parent-teacher evenings and building a relationship with teachers and school administrators.</p> <p>e. The impact on overall pupil numbers at Linlithgow Academy of guaranteeing younger sibling enrolments is likely to be low, given that the majority of the increased school roll numbers at Winchburgh Primary School are in the more junior years that would be due to transition to secondary school after 2022. There are comparatively few children in the current P7 and P6 years that would have younger siblings who might wish to attend Linlithgow Academy in due course.</p> <p>We will follow the plans with interest as they develop. Our intentions at this time would be to take the opportunity to send our younger child to Linlithgow Academy from August 2022, taking advantage of the practical and forward-thinking proposal set out in this consultation. We would be disappointed if this option were taken away as it is sensible and practical.</p> <p>We note that the phased approach to populating the new secondary school at Winchburgh means that our older child will undertake all of his secondary schooling at Linlithgow Academy, according to the current catchment status and arrangements, and we are content with this approach and grateful for the certainty set out in the consultation. We do not want or expect this to change and we do not want to have a relocation of school forced upon our child. Further, we note that no existing secondary school pupils in West Lothian will be required to relocate to the proposed new secondary school in Winchburgh, based on the proposals in the formal consultation. This would mean that</p>	
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	<p>even if the new secondary school were populated differently to the proposals set out, our older child would not be required to relocate. This is sufficiently reassuring that his schooling will not be disrupted against his or our wishes. We expect this level of certainty to be guaranteed, as it is clearly in the best interests of the pupils – a pupil and family-centred approach is absolutely critical. This must not be changed to make relatively small savings (say, on transport costs) at the expense of the future of the children affected. We would strongly oppose any new proposals that differ to those in the consultation document that we consider to be to the detriment of our children.</p> <p>There are numerous reasons why children who commence their secondary schooling at Linlithgow Academy should and must be allowed to continue to completion of their secondary studies if they so wish. They include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The sense of identity that children develop within their school has educational benefits. Being part of the school community, adopting the school ethos and values, developing and building friendships and connections with the teaching staff are all part of the secondary school experience. Sometimes pupils have to move school. But this should never be forced upon children who have settled into their school and whose expectation is that they will continue to learn and grow in their school environment.</li> <li>b. The learning style and approach differs within schools and is established in S1 and S2 before decisions are made about which subjects to choose for exams and, ultimately, to shape later education choices and indeed life choices. S3 is a critical year and we would absolutely expect that if our son is doing well at Linlithgow Academy, is settled, happy and flourishing, he will be allowed to continue there – if this is the best thing for his learner journey.</li> <li>c. There can be a ‘domino effect’ when a major change occurs that can have negative consequences. Secondary school is a time at which children develop socially, emotionally, and intellectually. It is a lot to cope with. A</li> </ol>	
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	<p>major change to a set routine can have positive benefits, but it can have a negative impact, the effects of which might not be fully apparent at first. We would wish to avoid that for our children and for other local children whose secondary education falls within this period of transition for secondary schools in our area. The consultation includes proposals that have been set out with the best interests of the children in mind, and this must remain the priority.</p> <p>d. The sense of identity that children feel in their school years has positive benefits in terms of their involvement with extra-curricular activities and fundraising, and it is both practical and family-centred to ensure that children have the opportunity to share this experience at the same secondary school if possible.</p> <p>Section Two</p> <p>1. We note that the proposed phased population of the new secondary school is described as having notable advantages. The intention is to populate the new school with S1 initially, then S1 and S2 and so on. We recognise that for many local families this may be a preferred option. We note that we would have the choice to send our younger child to the new local secondary school or to Linlithgow Academy, as she would have an older sibling there. We would wish to ensure that this degree of flexibility is maintained, with the option to choose the best learner journey for the individual child.</p> <p>2. We note that the existing arrangements for admission, transition and transport to secondary school will apply to pupils in catchment, both before the proposed new high school is opened, and while there is a sibling link for any younger siblings who might attend Linlithgow Academy from 2022 in accordance with the proposals set out in this consultation. We strongly support the continuity this would ensure for families that need to plan for the future, both in terms of the expectations and aspirations of their children and in terms of work patterns and hours, which often need</p>	
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	<p>to be planned and budgeted for well in advance. It is important that fully-funded transport provision remains in place for the duration of the secondary education of pupils who meet the catchment criteria for Linlithgow Academy, both prior to 2022 and for younger siblings who will attend Linlithgow Academy while the sibling link is in place. We would be extremely disappointed if this proposal were changed to a worse option for local families, and we fully expect West Lothian Council to act in the very best interests of families whose children will fall within what is effectively a period of transition from existing secondary school arrangements for Winchburgh to new arrangements. In such cases, it is important that those affected by the transition have options in place that support the pupils. Our children get just one chance at their education and we will do all we can to ensure that bureaucracy does not determine their chances.</p> <p>3. We very much welcome the multi-use space approach proposed for the new secondary school in Winchburgh. If well planned and delivered, the new school should form a vibrant part of the growing local community and will enable families to engage with the new facilities whether their children attend the secondary school or not. It would also enable social links to be maintained between children who attend the local secondary school and those who are at Linlithgow Academy.</p> <p>4. We are very pleased that sustainability will be a key feature of the new secondary school.</p> <p>5. We note that the consultation makes reference to parental involvement and the establishment of parent forums. We support this approach. However, we would caution the Council to be aware that in small communities, not all parents have an equal voice. It is not guaranteed that establishing parent forums will ensure that all parents have an opportunity to shape the strategic direction of the school. It is a noble ambition to deliver a welcoming school that is inclusive to all, but we would advise caution and an approach that ensures those parents who do</p>	
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Education Services

	<p>not feel comfortable engaging with existing groups are not sidelined or drowned out by louder voices and more prominent local individuals.</p> <p>Section Three</p> <p>This section refers to the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) and compliance with legislative requirements. In terms of human rights, we would expect the issues we have raised already in this response to be the type of considerations that would form part of an IIA. We would wish to ensure that West Lothian Council avoids a situation in which it tells local parents, such as ourselves, that it is meeting its legal obligation to provide secondary schooling locally, and that our son must commence S3 in Winchburgh regardless of whether it is best for his learner journey, and that our daughter will no longer have the option to choose Linlithgow Academy or the new local high school.</p> <p>The IIA might determine that this approach would be legal, but it should go further and consider the ethical and moral perspective and the longer-term impact on children of the potential disruption and uncertainty. We hear much these days about how resilient children are. Please do not overestimate this because it suits budgetary considerations. Your current proposals, as set out in the consultation, appear to be sound, well-considered, and focused on the best outcomes for pupils and their families. We would be concerned and indeed suspicious if this were to change and that proposals were later introduced that are less favourable to our family and families in a similar situation to ours.</p> <p>Currently, we are strongly in favour of the proposals as set out in the consultation. If they are to change radically, we would expect a new consultation to be issued before any decisions are taken and implemented.</p> <p>We note that it is proposed that final decisions be made in January 2020. Should</p>	
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Education Services

	<p>there be changes to the proposals set out in the consultation, we would expect this date to be extended to allow full and detailed consultation with parents who are unhappy about any changes to the proposals. Otherwise, it would give the impression that the consultation was not conducted in good faith.</p> <p>In summary, we would like to have the option for our son – who will commence secondary school in 2020 at Linlithgow Academy – to remain there for the duration of his secondary school education if that is the choice our family makes for him. We would like to have the option to send our daughter to Linlithgow Academy in 2022 and for her to also remain there for the duration of her secondary education if that suits best. The current consultation makes clear provision for our wishes. The proposals are good. Please do not change them in any way that would make these options less favourable to pupils in the transition period.</p>	
<p>Parent</p>	<p>This email is in relation to requested responses and views on the Winchburgh Non-Denominational Secondary Consultation.</p> <p>My son is in P7 at Winchburgh PS and we warmly and strongly welcome the proposal of transition from P7 to S1 at Linlithgow Academy, with his time from S1 all the way through to S6 secured and without any proposed disruption.</p> <p>We had been cautiously concerned the children would be asked to move to the new school in Winchburgh in S3, after 2 years of developing meaningful friendships, good relationships with teachers and having firmly embedded Linlithgow’s school ethos, social activities and identity. It has been a great comfort knowing that our son won’t be needlessly separated from his school life and friends.</p> <p>More importantly, the teachers who will have gotten to know him over S1 and S2, will know his strengths as well as gaps and will be enabled to continue developing his learning</p>	<p>Pupils living in the proposed new catchment area who will have older siblings in attendance at Linlithgow Academy will be permitted to attend Linlithgow Academy if parents wish them to attend the same school as their older sibling.</p> <p>Pupils resident in the catchment area may attend the proposed new secondary school in Winchburgh, if their parents so wish when the required year group is operational.</p> <p>It is proposed that free school transport for those who qualify in terms of West Lothian Council’s policy will remain in place for the duration of the secondary education of pupils who meet the catchment criteria for Linlithgow Academy prior to 2022 and for younger siblings who will attend Linlithgow Academy in terms of the sibling link criterion.</p>

Education Services

	<p>and attainment. This is something that a brand new set of teachers at another school would have had difficulty matching as they simply wouldn't know him.</p> <p>We also welcome the opportunity for siblings to have a place at Linlithgow Academy and that transport and support will continue. It could be that his brother will choose to attend the new Winchburgh High School along with his classmates as the school will be open by then, but to have the option of having both boys attend the same school should they wish it is excellent.</p> <p>It's heartening to see that the local authority is putting the needs of the children first over the needs of the authority and that any pain through the transition of new catchment areas and schools is being borne by those who have proposed the idea, rather than children being asked to bare the upheaval and disruption though no fault of their own.</p> <p>My thanks to you and your team and we look forward to the approval of these proposals soon.</p>	
<p>Community Council</p>	<p>The West Lothian Council should make every effort to ensure there is a pathway away from the main road for pedestrian traffic to the new schools for children living in the south and east of the community. It was envisaged that a footpath from Tippet Knowes through the new Block J development would allow the existing footpaths either side of this area to complete the link. It would allow "Pedestrian Buses" to the new primary school and allow children of Winchburgh Primary school west of Tippet Knowes safe pedestrian access in the other direction. This would have the added bonus of a reduction in the traffic congestion outside Winchburgh Primary School.</p>	<p>The footpath to the south of the site along the B9080 is outwith the school boundary and will not form part of the schools works as it remains in the ownership of Winchburgh Developments. It will be set back from the road as far as is practicable. There will be two direct pedestrian access routes from the east, and access into the school grounds from the north east, and south east. There are two further pedestrian access points towards the western end of the site, which will be linked to light controlled crossing point on the B9080 allowing safe access from Tippet Knowes Road, and area south of the B9080. These arrangements are part of the larger access strategy which forms part of the Winchburgh Masterplan.</p>

### 3. NOTE OF PUBLIC MEETING

#### 3.1 Winchburgh Primary School:

**MINUTE OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD IN WINCHBURGH PRIMARY SCHOOL  
9 OCTOBER 2019, TO DISCUSS PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT:  
“Establishment of new non-denominational secondary school at Winchburgh  
and associated proposals”**

#### **In attendance from West Lothian Council:**

Councillor David Dodds	Executive Councillor for Education
James Cameron	Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources)
Catherine Campbell	Senior Education Development Officer
Andrew Cotton	Senior education Planning Officer
Iain Harvey	Head Teacher, Winchburgh Primary School
Melanie Laurie	Education Project Officer

#### **Minute taker:**

Melanie Laurie	Education Project Officer
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**Meeting attendees (from sign in sheet):** 10 parents, one of whom was also a member of the Community Council)

#### **Education Services Presentation:**

- **Introduction** – James Cameron  
James Cameron – Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) commenced by introducing West Lothian Council officers and offering an overview of the individual responsibilities held within the Authority.
- **Aims of Consultation Meeting** - James Cameron
  - Formal consultation required in accordance with Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010
  - Information sharing opportunity
  - Capture views from consultees
  - Invaluable research approach

- **Summary of Proposal** – James Cameron
  - Creation of a new non-denominational secondary school in Winchburgh
  - Establish a non-denominational catchment area for the new school
  - Review of non-denominational catchment areas at:
    - Broxburn Academy
    - Linlithgow Academy
  - Review primary to secondary school associations
  
- **Rationale for Change** – James Cameron
  - West Lothian Council obligation to ensure new housing developments have a specified secondary school catchment area
  - Review of current and projected pupil roll indicators for Broxburn Academy and Linlithgow Academy and the implications arising from new housing developments
  - West Lothian Council ongoing commitment to providing quality and long term sustainable educational provisions for all pupils
  
- **Next Steps** – Melanie Laurie – Education Project Officer
  - Collate and review feedback received from Statutory Consultation period
  - November 2019 – West Lothian Council submit report on findings of Statutory Consultation to Education Scotland for review
  - On receipt of response from Education Scotland, West Lothian Council prepare and publish Final Consultation Paper – publication schedule December 2019
  - January 2020 – West Lothian Council Education Executive meet to review Final Consultation Paper and make final decision on proposal

**End of Education Service Presentation**

**Discussion Opportunity - Councillor Dodds opened the floor to comments and questions:**

<b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>
An attendee asked if the proposals were likely to go ahead
<b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>
Officers advised that the Planning Application has been submitted and to date the consultation process had not revealed any issues that will affect the project timing. Financial Close is planned for April 2020. Further to this the Head of Education shared that at the pre-consultation the new Dechmont Primary School community were very positive about having an association with the new secondary school in Winchburgh, although there was a small turnout at the meeting.
<b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>
This was followed up with a question if the school in Dechmont would close.
<b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>
Officers explained that a statutory consultation would take place to replace Dechmont Infant School with a P1-P7 stage school.

## Education Services

<b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>
An attendee asked for clarification if Winchburgh Primary children would automatically be associated with Winchburgh Secondary School.
<b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>
Officers explained that the term 'association' is used in the Education Act and establishing an association of Winchburgh Primary with Winchburgh Secondary was a formal part of this process.
<b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>
A concern was raised regarding the ability of Winchburgh Primary to cope while the new provision was in construction.
<b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>
Officers explained that the New Holy Family Primary is expected to open in 2022 on the same site as the secondary schools. The Head Teacher of Winchburgh Primary explained that the school was currently coping with the two-stream set up (two class per year group). Both schools were working cooperatively to use the spaces well. Officers anticipated that the intake would be similar next year but there may be some pressure in August 2021 which we were aware of.
<b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>
In response one attendee indicated that they had heard of an issue at lunchtime where children had been asked to sit on the floor to eat as it was too busy.
<b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>
Comment noted. The Head Teacher assured the group that this occurred only once at the beginning of the session. As a result lunches are now split between the two schools and the situation is managed well. He further explained that as well as eating it was important that lunchtimes ensured a social experience.
<b>Question/Comment – West Lothian Council</b>
The Head of Education noted that at the pre-consultation the view had been expressed that the school could open S1-S3, but that this was not the proposal.
<b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>
An attendee sought clarification as to whether parents could decide which school their child attended.
<b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>
Officers explained that the authority would not change the sibling link. Pupils living in the proposed new catchment area who will have older siblings in attendance at Linlithgow Academy will be permitted to attend Linlithgow Academy if parents wish them to attend the same school as their older sibling. Any move by children already placed in another secondary school would be voluntary. No existing secondary school pupils in West Lothian will be required to relocate to the proposed new secondary school in Winchburgh, but may do so if they so wish when the required year group is operational.
Officers indicated that views from the Parent Council on this issue may be sought.

### Education Services

<b>Question/Comment – West Lothian Council</b>
The Head of Education sought the views of meeting attendees on the school name.
<b>Response : Attendees</b>
The views of the group were unanimous with the preferred option being Winchburgh Academy.
<b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>
Views noted.
<b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>
One attendee asked if the new school would have a uniform.
<b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>
Officers explained that yes, the new schools would have uniform. This would be part of the branding exercise in consultation with the school community.
<b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>
An attendee asked how the first intake of S1 secondary children would be managed to ensure children get the full experience of secondary.
<b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>
Comment noted. Officers explained that staffing would ensure delivery of children's entitlement to a Broad General Education. Although a very dynamic situation the anticipated intake from Winchburgh as well as placing requests from out with the area are going up.
<b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>
➤ A question was asked as to whether children at Bridgend or any other Linlithgow catchment had been considered.
<b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>
Officers explained that no proposals to include these areas had been made. There was currently no requirement or need to take children out of Linlithgow as the new Winchburgh Secondary would ease capacity there. However, some parents from the areas mentioned had shown interest and officers anticipated some placing requests.
<b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>
Discussion took place regarding future housing development and the requirement of a second Winchburgh Primary School. One attendee asked if there was an indicative timeline for this new school facility.
<b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>
Officers provided an indicative timeline of 2025-28 for the requirement of an additional Winchburgh Primary School. However, this was dependent on future housing development
<b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>

### Education Services

A question was raised regarding the sports facilities at the new Winchburgh Secondary and the extent of Community use.
<b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>
Officers explained that the schools will have priority for the sports facilities up to 6pm on school days and on Saturday mornings. The Council has made no decision on future management, but currently out with these times facilities are managed by West Lothian Leisure in other schools.
<b>Question/Comment - Attendee</b>
Following this an attendee voiced their preference for a Pay and Play facility.
<b>Response : West Lothian Council</b>
Comment noted

#### Meeting Close:

Group were thanked for their attendance and participation in discussions.

#### 4. ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Three of the four e-mail responses received support the proposal, and made comment and suggestions for consideration. The fourth, concerning pedestrian access, makes comment and suggestion for consideration.

The attendees at the Statutory Consultation Meeting sought clarification of various aspects of the consultation proposal and made suggestions for consideration.

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 secondary school at Winchburgh and associated proposals.

Education Scotland agrees that the proposed new secondary school and the associated catchment changes have the potential to relieve pressure on the existing local provision of secondary education. The new school has the potential to provide modern, improved facilities closer to the young peoples' homes and communities. Should the proposal go ahead, the council should continue to work with stakeholders in terms of planning routes to the new school and clarifying entry arrangements for year groups of young people.

The full Education Scotland report is attached as Appendix C.

West Lothian Civic Centre  
Howden South Road  
Livingston  
West Lothian  
EH54 6FF

**Contact: James Cameron**

Tel 01506 281680

E-mail: [james.cameron@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:james.cameron@westlothian.gov.uk)

26 September 2019

Dear Consultee

## **West Lothian Council Education Services**

### **Proposal to Establish a new Non-Denominational Secondary School at Winchburgh 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:

- Establishment of a new non-denominational secondary school at Winchburgh
- Review admission arrangements to establish the catchment area for the new school
- Review admission arrangements arising from proposed variations to the non-denominational school catchment areas at Linlithgow Academy and Broxburn Academy; and
- Review transition 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/Winchburgh-NonDenominational-Secondary-Consultation](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/Winchburgh-NonDenominational-Secondary-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 26 September 2019 to 15 November 2019.

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

- Winchburgh Primary School, Wednesday 9 October 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](mailto:Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk)



For written representations to be considered they must be received no later than 5pm on Wednesday 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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Cameron". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

**James Cameron**

**Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources)**