

**PROPOSAL TO REVIEW ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS ARISING FROM
SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA VARIATIONS AT HARRYSMUIR PRIMARY
SCHOOL AND TORONTO PRIMARY SCHOOL**

A REPORT OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Thursday 18 February 2021 until Friday 2 April 2021

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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 review Admission Arrangements arising from School Catchment Area Variations at Harrysmuir Primary School and Toronto Primary School
- the Consultation Process
- Consultee Responses
- Notes of Public Meeting

1.2 SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

West Lothian Council, Education Services propose to:

- Review of non-denominational primary school catchment areas at:
 - ❖ Harrysmuir Primary School
 - ❖ Toronto Primary School
- Transfer only the proposed dwellings at the Eagle Brae development from Harrysmuir Primary School catchment to Toronto Primary School catchment
- Make best use of existing and future school capacities

Education Services
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 June 2021.

| Date | Event | Description |
|------------------|--|---|
| 29 May 2018 | Education Executive Meeting | Meeting to review proposal and Consultations Document and agree commencement of Statutory Consultation phase. |
| 19 January 2021 | Education Executive Meeting | Meeting to update Education Executive on timescales for the review |
| 18 February 2021 | Start of Statutory Consultation | Beginning of formal public consultation (min 6 continuous weeks consultation period including min of 30 school days) |
| 04 March 2021 | Public Meeting | Public Meeting to discuss proposal |
| 02 April 2021 | End of Consultation | End of Public Consultation |
| 16 April 2021 | Submit report to Education Scotland | West Lothian Council Education Services relays report on proposal and consultation findings to Education Scotland |
| Mid May 2021 | 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 |
| Late May 2021 | Publication of final consultation report | A minimum of three weeks after publication of consultation report Authority will make final decision |
| 22 June 2021 | Education Executive Meeting | Decision made |

1.3 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

1.4 CONSULTATION PROCESS

The consultation period incorporated a period of 30 school days (excluding any school holiday) from Thursday 18 February 2021 until Friday 2 April 2021. 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/article/68387/Proposal-to-Review-Admission-Arrangements-arising-from-School-Catchment-Area-Variations-at-Harrismuir-Primary-School-and-Toronto-Primary-School>
- 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 via Zoom on Thursday 4th March 2021.

Council officers outlined the key elements of the proposal and answered questions from meeting attendees. Minutes of the public meeting 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:

Catherine Campbell, 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 2 April 2021.

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 meeting.

2.1 RESPONSES RECEIVED

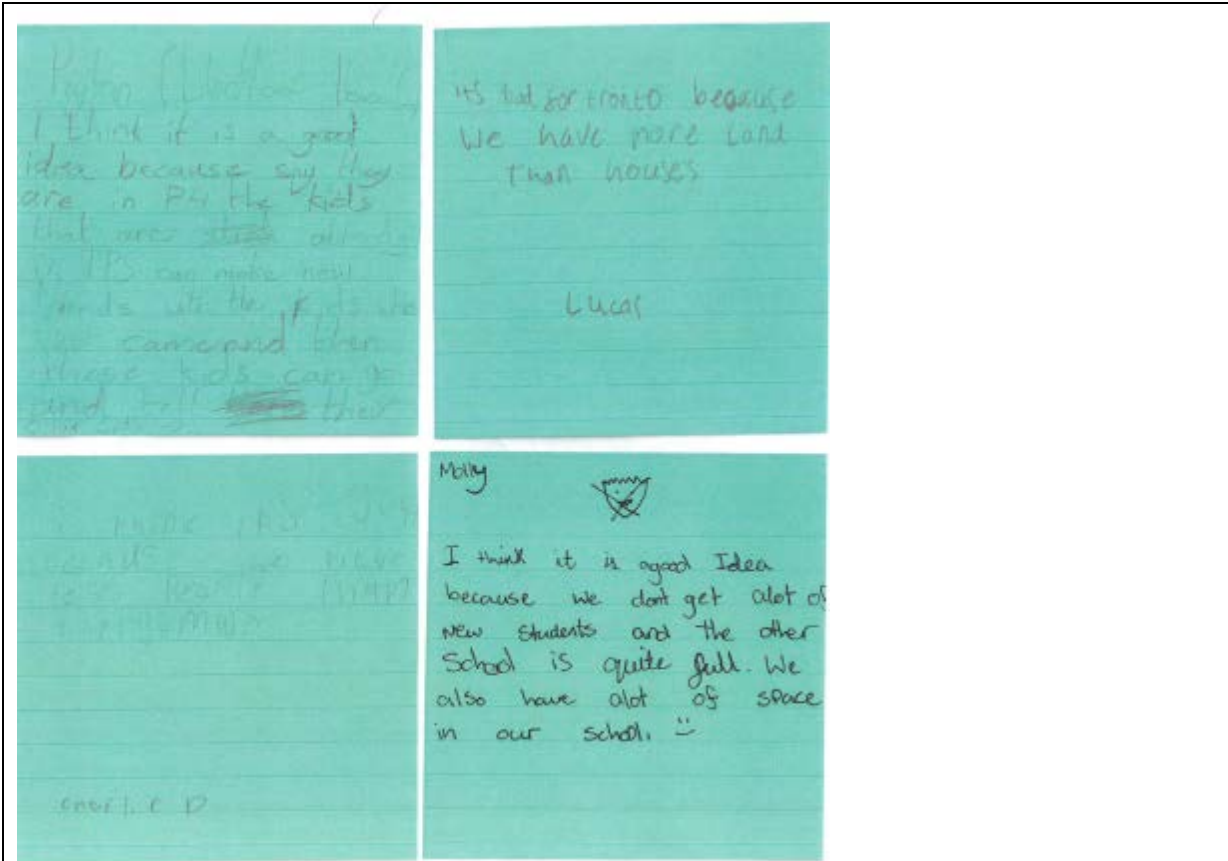
2.1.1 School Pupil Council Response

Respondent Group Toronto PS Pupil Council - 8 pupil representatives provided individual feedback.

Meeting with Pupil Leadership Team
Monday 15th March 2021

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| <p>I think its a good idea as Harrys main has alot of students in it already and we dont so ifal it would be quite good. -Ellie</p> | <p>EMILY I think its a good idea cause we have only half the amount of students as the other school so it would stop them from getting to many people and here a chance to teach more.</p> |
| <p>I think it should go to Toront because we have the sites and when children come to Toronto they always settle in.</p> | <p>MOSH I think its ok Because it would help so the people moving there would know that theres a local school near by to let there children go there But at the same time it would be more expensive to provide chairs extra pens and staff But it would be nice to see new people enjoying there new school. but if they were to walk it might be a distance</p> |

Toronto Primary School
Livingston



Response

Officers noted the positive feedback from the majority of pupils' regarding the proposal.

2.1.2 Email Responses:

There was one individual electronic response received.

| | |
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| <p>Representatives from Ladywell Community Parent Council</p> | <p>I am writing to you on behalf of Ladywell Community Parent Council regarding the review of the current non-denominational catchment area of Harrysmuir Primary School.</p> <p>LCPC is concerned about the distance and safety aspects entailed with the children living at Eagle Brae and having to attend Toronto Primary School in Howden. This is a fourteen minute walk where the children would have to walk from Eagle Brae to Toronto Primary School. Many children do not have the option of a parent/carer being able to walk with them to school.</p> <p>Officers Response</p> <p>Sections 42 and 51 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 require education authorities to provide free transport to a child's catchment school where the walking distance from home is defined as 3 miles or over for all children over eight and 2 miles for children under eight. The act places a duty on councils to take safety into account when assessing walking routes under these statutory distances. What constitutes safety is not defined in the act and it is up to each individual council to determine.</p> <p>West Lothian policy-</p> <p>West Lothian Council has a far better distance qualification for free school transport than the statutory requirement. It is 1.5 miles or over for primary children and 2 miles or over for secondary children attending their catchment school. The distance is determined by the</p> |
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Education Services

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| | <p>shortest walking route from a family's permanent home address to the school gate. For a walking route to be deemed as being acceptable for a child to walk whilst accompanied by a responsible adult three simple tests are applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The route must be paved and of adequate width, or be a shared roadway. • The route must have an all-weather surface. • The route must be lit. <p>All the walking routes are assessed by a qualified transportation engineer. Where suitable walking routes do not exist transport to school is made available below the council's qualifying distances.</p> <p>https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/32237/School-Transport-Policy</p> |
| | <p>Consultee Comment</p> <p>We have come up with two possible routes that the children may walk .</p> <p>1. Start at Eagle Brae . Walk up Ladywell East Road .Walk under underpass at Heatherbank onto Briarbank .Walk onto Burnbank .Walk underpass at Burnbank to Cederbank .Continue walking to Forestbank . Walk over flyover at Forestbank into Howden . Walk under underpass onto Toronto Primary.</p> <p>2.Start at Eagle Brae .Continue on Ladywell East Road .Cross at underpass at Osprey Brae .Cut through Osprey Brae .Cross over Cousland Road .Walk under underpass .Turn Left and follow path along Howden East Road .Arrive at Toronto Primary School</p> <p>Both of which we deem to be high risk for the children's safety. Cousland Road is a very busy main road and whether or not there is a pelican crossing is immaterial and not safe for young children to be walking this area un-supervised.</p> <p>Officers Response</p> <p>As you note there is an underpass to cross Ladywell East Road from the proposed housing at Eagle Brae to the Osprey Brae area.</p> <p>Toronto Primary School catchment already includes the following streets that are north of the Cousland Road: Osprey Brae, Ravens Brae, Alderbank, Briarbank, Burnbank, Cedarbank, Cloverbank, Piriebank, Forestbank and Gorsebank. Together these comprise 436 existing residential properties that are north of the Cousland Road and where the designated walking route to Toronto Primary School crosses over the Cousland Road via one of the existing bridges over the Cousland Road. There is not capacity at Harrysmuir Primary School to accommodate the children from these 436 residential properties.</p> <p>The walking route route from the new houses at Eagle Brae to Toronto via Briarbank and the Hospital Path is approximately 0.75 miles in length and crosses Ladywell East Road, Cousland Road and Howden West Road via grade separated bridges or underpasses. There is therefore no concern about a suitable walking route of 1.5 miles or less not being</p> |

Education Services

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| | <p>available in this instance.</p> |
| | <p>Consultee Comment</p> <p>Should the children continue to attend their catchment school - Harrysmuir then the children do not need to cross any major roads or underpasses and would walk through their housing scheme onto Harrysmuir.</p> <p>We understand that Harrysmuir is nearing capacity but should we not be considering how many children will be moving onto high school and how many will be starting primary from nursery in subsequent years?</p> <p>Officers Response</p> <p>Harrysmuir Primary School has had a high occupancy level for a number of years and is likely to continue to attract non-catchment placing requests. This catchment review proposal balances those likely requests with the existence of spare capacity at Toronto Primary School to make best use of resources in the School Estate.</p> |

3. NOTE OF PUBLIC MEETING

**MINUTE OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM
4 MARCH 2021, TO DISCUSS PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT:
“PROPOSAL TO REVIEW ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS ARISING FROM
SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA VARIATIONS AT HARRYSMUIR PRIMARY SCHOOL
AND TORONTO PRIMARY SCHOOL”**

In attendance from West Lothian Council:

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Councillor David Dodds | Executive Councillor for Education |
| Catherine Campbell | Senior Education Development Officer |
| Andrew Cotton | Senior Education Planning Officer |
| Tim Wallace | WLC – Harrysmuir Head Teacher |
| Laura Gingell | WLC – Toronto Head Teacher |

Meeting attendees : 3 attendees from Education Scotland and HMIE

Education Services Presentation:**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:

- Review of non-denominational primary school catchment areas at:
 - ❖ Harrysmuir Primary School
 - ❖ Toronto Primary School
- Transfer only the proposed dwellings at the Eagle Brae development from Harrysmuir Primary School catchment to Toronto Primary School catchment
- Make best use of existing and future school capacities

Rationale:

- Review of current and projected pupil roll indicators for Harrysmuir Primary School and Toronto Primary School
- West Lothian Council obligation to meet demand for education provision
- Implications arising from proposed new housing development at Eagle Brae
- Harrysmuir Primary School has a capacity of 415 and a current pupil roll of 398.
- Toronto Primary School has a capacity of 415 and a current pupil roll of 260.

End of Education Service Presentation**Discussion Opportunity - Councillor Dodds opened the floor to comments and questions:**

- Laura Gingell asked about the number of houses planned and the likely number of children
- Andrew Cotton explained it was 30 houses and would be likely to be around 10 children
- Laura Gingell said that Toronto had plenty of capacity and would welcome the children from the proposed development
- Tim Wallace said he would encourage his parent council to respond.
- Tim Wallace also commented the Harrysmuir roll was full and so the school supported the proposals.

Meeting Close:

Councillor Dodds thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in discussions.

4. ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

The two attendees at the Statutory Consultation Meeting supported the consultation proposal.

One of the two e-mail responses received expressed support for the proposal, and made comment and suggestions for consideration.

One expression of opposition to the proposal was received via email during the statutory consultation. Concerns centred around walking routes, distances and capacity levels which officers responded to.

5. REPORT BY EDUCATION SCOTLAND**5.1 LEGISLATIVE DUTY**

This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of West Lothian Council's proposal to review the admission arrangements arising from school catchment area variations at Harrysmuir Primary School and Toronto Primary School. HM Inspectors considered the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. On receipt of the Education Scotland report, the 2010 Act requires West Lothian Council to consider the contents of the report and prepare its final consultation report. Section 6 below provides an explanation of how West Lothian Council has reviewed the initial proposal in the light of representations during the consultation period and from Education Scotland's findings.

The HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the schools; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

5.2 SUMMARY OF EDUCATION SCOTLAND RESPONSE

Education Scotland findings and conclusions are summarised as follows:

HM Inspectors agree that the proposal for the catchment area variations to Toronto Primary School and Harrysmuir Primary School has potential educational benefits. Overall, the proposal considers well the concern of continued growth of Harrysmuir Primary School and the space available within Toronto Primary School. For both primary schools, the proposal has the potential to ensure continued use and development of existing spaces for learning. The location of the Eagle Brae development is under one mile from Toronto Primary School and the council have identified suitable walking routes. If the council proceeds with their proposal, it should continue to engage with parents over their concerns with regard to walking routes.

6. COUNCIL OFFICER REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 REVIEW OF PROPOSAL

Feedback from consultee submissions and the report from Education Scotland have been analysed in order that any issues highlighted were given cognisance and responded to. As a result of this analysis officers conclude the undernoted factors:

Identified Key Benefits:

- both schools will continue to be fully equipped to meet the educational entitlements of children.
- continuity of education provision for children will continue with minimal disruption.
- ensure continued use and development of existing spaces for learning.

In taking forward this proposal, West Lothian Council will ensure ongoing communication with stakeholders in relation to the practical elements around walking routes to both schools.

6.2 RECOMMENDATION

With regard to the 2010 Act and having considered all of the information received during the consultation process, officers of West Lothian Council are satisfied that no comments have been received which would have caused them to review the merits of the proposal to vary the catchments at Harrysmuir primary school and Toronto primary school.

Based on these findings, it is recommended that West Lothian Council Education Executive agree to implement the proposal to vary the catchments at Harrysmuir primary school and Toronto primary school.

17 February 2021

Dear Consultee

West Lothian Council Education Services

Proposal to Review Admission Arrangements arising from School Catchment Area Variations at Harrysmuir Primary School and Toronto Primary School

West Lothian Council's Education Executive at its meeting on 29 May 2018 authorised West Lothian Council's Education Services to commence statutory consultation on the proposals to:

- review and amend the current non-denominational catchment area of Harrysmuir Primary School;
- review and amend the current non-denomination catchment area of Toronto Primary School

The consultation document outlining the proposal is available online from 18 February 2021 on the following webpage:

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/68387/Proposal-to-Review-Admission-Arrangements-arising-from-School-Catchment-Area-Variations-at-Harrysmuir-Primary-School-and-Toronto-Primary-School>

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:

Catherine Campbell, Senior Education Development Officer, West Lothian Council Education Services, Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, EH54 6FF.

The consultation period is from Thursday 18 February 2021 until Friday 02 April 2021 inclusive. A public meeting to discuss the consultation document will be held at:

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Time: Thursday March 4th 2021 6:30 PM to 8.30PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88066979663?pwd=YWRTQmFwMFUwMjJHamFCNDB1anNTZz09>

Meeting ID: 880 6697 9663

Passcode: wlc

You are also invited to submit your comments on the consultation in writing to Catherine Campbell 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 02 April 2021.

A decision on the proposal is planned to be made in June 2021 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)



**West Lothian
Council**

Appendix B – Consultation Document

WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL, EDUCATION SERVICES

**PROPOSALS TO AMEND CATCHMENT AREAS OF
HARRYSMUIR PRIMARY SCHOOL AND TORONTO PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

February 2021

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|---|--|
| <p>SECTION 1</p> <p>1.1 Purpose of this document</p> <p>1.2 Background</p> <p>1.3 Summary of Proposals</p> <p>1.4 Integrated Impact Assessment</p> | |
| <p>SECTION 2</p> <p>2.1 Proposal 1 and Educational Benefit Statement</p> <p>2.2 Proposal 2 and Educational Benefit Statement</p> | |
| <p>SECTION 3</p> <p>3.1 Consultation Process: How To Have Your Say</p> | |

SECTION ONE

This section introduces the reason for the consultations. It provides information about why West Lothian Council is proposing to change the non-denominational primary school catchment areas of Harrysmuir Primary School and Toronto Primary School.

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| <p>1.1</p> | <p>PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT</p> |
| | <p>The purpose of this document is to advise:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. West Lothian Council's proposals to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. review and amend the current non-denominational catchment area of Harrysmuir Primary School; II. review and amend the current non-denomination catchment area of Toronto Primary School 2. the educational benefits of this proposal and how it will make things better; and 3. information on how you can give your views and take part in the consultation process. <p>West Lothian Council believes that thorough and effective consultation will support better outcomes for pupils, their families and the wider community as a whole.</p> <p>Public consultations are necessary when a local authority is proposing to make a change to the school estate and/or the surrounding catchment area. To carry out a public consultation the council requires to follow the statutory guidance outlined in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. With this in mind this document is organised into three sections:</p> |

Section 1 of this document introduces the proposals, and gives background and rationale.

Section 2 contains the educational benefits statement and provides an assessment of the effects of this proposal on the children/young people and their families of the affected schools.

Section 3 details how West Lothian Council has organised the consultation process to meet the requirements of the legislation, and how you can take part and give your views.

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| 1.2. | BACKGROUND |
| | <p>The former Operational Services depot at Eagle Brae has been identified as a site for housing development with a provisional allocation of 30 dwellings.</p> <p>Whilst undertaking initial reviews it was established that under the existing catchment area specifications the roll at Harrysmuir Primary School currently already sits close to the capacity of 415. Current figures show a pupil population of 398.</p> <p>Forecasts indicate this trend is likely to continue and the pupil roll will remain above capacity for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>It has therefore been acknowledged the potential impact the development of 30 dwellings will have on already strained pupil volumes at Harrysmuir Primary School.</p> <p>Toronto Primary School has a capacity of 415 and a current roll of 260 so capacity is available for the proposed development.</p> <p>In order to ensure that as a way forward, the Council rectifies notable strains to the existing Harrysmuir Primary School intake a viable option would be to transfer the catchment area of the proposed new dwellings located at the Eagle Brae site to Toronto Primary School catchment.</p> <p>No existing residential dwellings are affected by this proposal and Toronto Primary School is well within capacity limitations to meet the possible demands that any new dwellings in the Eagle Brae area will determine.</p> |
| 1.3. | SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS |
| | <p>Proposal 1 - Review and amend the current non-denominational catchment area of Harrysmuir Primary School.</p> |

| | |
|-------------|--|
| | <p>Proposal 2 - Review and amend the current non-denominational catchment area of Toronto Primary School.</p> <p>For the reasons stipulated in section 1.2. it is proposed to transfer the projected dwellings pertaining to the development site at Eagle Brae depot from Harrismuir Primary School catchment area to Toronto Primary School catchment.</p> |
| 1.4. | INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT |
| | <p>To meet statutory equality duties, the Council conducts an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to critically assess policies and practices and ensure compliance with all legislative requirements.</p> <p>The aim of an IIA is to examine policies and practices in a structured way taking account of equality, human rights and socioeconomic disadvantage (poverty) implications when making decisions, ensuring the impact within the community is recognised and addressed accordingly.</p> <p>IIA screening is completed using the Council's Integrated Impact Assessment Toolkit and allows the Authority to recognise positive steps it can take to promote fairness and equality of opportunity for all.</p> <p>As part of the consultation process the Council will consult with a wide range of stakeholders, staff, parents/carers and young people and will welcome and address comments on the IIA process.</p> <p>The outcome of the Integrated Impact Assessment will inform the Report on the Outcome of Consultation.</p> |

SECTION TWO

This section contains the educational benefits gained should the proposal come to fruition.

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| 2.1. | PROPOSAL 1 |
| | <p>Review the current non-denominational catchment area of Harrysmuir Primary School.</p> <p>It is proposed that as Harrysmuir Primary School does not have the capacity to host potential pupils from the considered development at the current Eagle Brae site, a feasible solution, offering minimal disruption, would be to change the catchment area for the dwellings within this particular area to Toronto Primary School.</p> <p>The proposal will have a positive impact on the balance between the numbers of pupils in the each of the direct school communities and will alleviate any predicted pupil roll pressures as a result of the Eagle Brae development.</p> <p>Apart from the aforementioned schools, it is not envisaged that any other schools within the direct vicinity and the respective attending pupils and staff will be affected by this proposal.</p> |
| 2.1.1 | EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT STATEMENT |
| | <p>Whilst assessing the educational benefits of this proposal, the undernoted determinants are considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum For Excellence |

Curriculum for Excellence is the national curriculum of experiences and outcomes for all pupils, 3-18 years.

The national guidance from Education Scotland encourages education authorities to ensure that curricular provisions offer opportunities for learners to achieve across all curricular areas and develop skills, attributes and capabilities through courses aligned with the key principles of Curriculum for Excellence: challenge and enjoyment, breadth, progression, depth, personalisation and choice, coherence and relevance.

A key educational advantage of this proposal is that Harrysmuir Primary School will be fully equipped to deliver the full breadth of Curriculum for Excellence.

Continued engagement of creative teaching and learning approaches in a viable and sustainable school establishment broadens scope for attainment and achievement and builds a positive ethos for staff and pupils alike.

- **Admission**

Criteria for admission at Harrysmuir Primary School will continue to be in accordance with West Lothian Councils current admission arrangements.

https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/2215/5-Primary-School--Policy-Document/pdf/5_Primary_School_-_Policy_Document.pdf

- **School Management/ Staff Teams**

The proposal does not foresee alteration to the current school management structure. All existing staffing facilitations and day to day operations within Harrysmuir Primary School will continue as is.

Any amendments to current staffing at Harrysmuir Primary School will be undertaken in accordance to West Lothian Councils statutory recruitment processes.

- **Accommodation**

No alterations to the fabrication of premises both inside and out are required as a result of this proposal. Harrysmuir Primary School will continue to offer internal and external provisions fully equipped to deliver a purposeful and resourceful education facility.

- **School Transport**

There are no anticipated amendments to existing school transport provisions as a result of this proposal. Any requests for school transport provisions will be considered in accordance with West Lothian Councils School Transport Policy.

[https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/2152/Transport-to-and-from-School---Mainstream/pdf/Transport to and from School - Mainstream.pdf](https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/2152/Transport-to-and-from-School---Mainstream/pdf/Transport_to_and_from_School_-_Mainstream.pdf)

- **Transition**

Harrysmuir Primary School and Toronto Primary School will continue to be feeder primaries and aligned to Inveralmond Community High School. Transition programmes currently adopted will be unaffected by the proposed amendment to catchment allocation. The relative establishments will endeavour as always to ensure the transition process will continue to be a seamless and positive experience for those pupils involved.

- **School Grounds/ Outdoor Learning/ Playground**

The school grounds and playground area at Harrysmuir Primary School will continue to offer ample scope for development of the outdoor classroom. This will have a positive impact on the learning environment for Harrysmuir Primary School pupils and will support the development of good relationships and positive behaviour, not only in the classroom, but also outdoors and in the wider community.

Car parking and pupil drop off / uplift areas will continue to ensure safe and efficient traffic flow in. Appropriate car park protocols and risk assessments will be maintained.

- **Breakfast / After School Clubs**

The Breakfast Club at Harrysmuir Primary School will continue to provide pupils with a healthy breakfast and offer opportunity to sample and develop preferences for healthy options. The Club aims to establish positive relationships at the start of the school day, helping to reduce lateness or poor attendance and improve attitude, behaviours and motivation to learn.

Pupils will be invited to take part in extracurricular activities which usually take place in blocks throughout the school session. These after school clubs are ordinarily led by school staff on a voluntary basis but can, at times, be organised by specialist providers.

- **Community Links**

All external links that Harrysmuir Primary School has established will remain with the establishment continuing to have clear and distinct associations within the local community.

- **Benefits for Any Other School Users**

| | |
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| | <p>The proposed changes will have no impact on existing external school users. All existing provisions will remain.</p> |
| 2.2 | PROPOSAL 2 |
| | <p>Review the current non-denominational catchment area of Toronto Primary School.</p> <p>Transfer the intimated Eagle Brae Depot development dwellings from the Harrysmuir Primary School catchment area to Toronto Primary School catchment.</p> <p>On review of current and projected school roll and capacity figures for both Harrysmuir Primary School and Toronto Primary School it is proposed Toronto Primary School is in best position to host potential pupils from the considered development at the Eagle Brae Depot site.</p> <p>This proposal offers a feasible solution with minimal disruption. Advancement of the proposal will have a positive impact on the balance between the numbers of pupils in the each of the direct school communities and will alleviate any predicted pupil roll pressures as a result of the Eagle Brae development.</p> <p>It is not envisaged that any other schools, the attending pupils and staff within the direct vicinity will be affected by this proposal.</p> |
| 2.2.1 | EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT STATEMENT |
| | <p>Whilst assessing the educational benefits of this proposal, the undernoted determinants are considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum For Excellence Curriculum for Excellence is the national curriculum of experiences and outcomes for all pupils, 3-18 years. |

The national guidance from Education Scotland encourages education authorities to ensure that curricular provisions offer opportunities for learners to achieve across all curricular areas and develop skills, attributes and capabilities through courses aligned with the key principles of Curriculum for Excellence: challenge and enjoyment, breadth, progression, depth, personalisation and choice, coherence and relevance.

A key educational advantage of this proposal is that Toronto Primary School will be fully equipped to deliver the full breadth of Curriculum for Excellence.

Continued engagement of creative teaching and learning approaches in a viable and sustainable school establishment broadens scope for attainment and achievement and builds a positive ethos for staff and pupils alike.

- **Admission**

Criteria for admission at Toronto Primary School will continue to be in accordance with West Lothian Councils current admission arrangements.

https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/2215/5-Primary-School--Policy-Document/pdf/5_Primary_School_-_Policy_Document.pdf

- **School Management/ Staff Teams**

The proposal does not foresee alteration to the current school management structure. All existing staffing facilitations and day to day operations within Toronto Primary School will continue as is.

Any amendments to current staffing at Toronto Primary School will be undertaken in accordance to West Lothian Councils statutory recruitment processes

- **Accommodation**

No alterations to the fabrication of premises both inside and out are required as a result of this proposal. Toronto Primary School will continue to offer internal and external provisions fully equipped to deliver a purposeful and resourceful education facility

- **School Transport**

There are no anticipated amendments to existing school transport provisions as a result of this proposal. Any requests for school transport provisions will be considered in accordance with west Lothian councils School Transport Policy.

https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/2152/Transport-to-and-from-School---Mainstream/pdf/Transport_to_and_from_School_-_Mainstream.pdf

- **Transition**

Toronto Primary School will continue to be a feeder primary and aligned to Inveralmond Community High School. Transition programmes currently adopted will be unaffected by the proposed amendment to catchment allocation. The relative establishments will endeavour as always to ensure the transition process will continue to be a seamless and positive experience for those pupils involved.

- **School Grounds/ Outdoor Learning/Playground**

The school grounds and playground area at Toronto Primary School will continue to offer ample scope for development of the outdoor classroom. This will have a positive impact on the learning environment for Toronto Primary School pupils and will support the development of good relationships and positive behaviour, not only in the classroom, but also outdoors and in the wider community.

Car parking and pupil drop off / uplift areas will continue to ensure safe and efficient traffic flow in. Appropriate car park protocols and risk assessments will be maintained.

- **Breakfast / After School Clubs**

The Breakfast Club at Toronto Primary School will continue to provide pupils with a healthy breakfast and offer opportunity to sample and develop preferences for healthy options. The Club aims to establish positive relationships at the start of the school day, helping to reduce lateness or poor attendance and improve attitude, behaviours and motivation to learn.

Pupils will be invited to take part in extracurricular activities which usually take place in blocks throughout the school session. These after school clubs are ordinarily led by school staff on a voluntary basis but can, at times, be organised by specialist providers.

- **Community Links**

All external links that Toronto Primary School has established will remain with the establishment continuing to have clear and distinct associations within the local community.

- **Benefits for Any Other School Users**

The proposed changes will have no impact on existing external school users. All existing provisions will remain.

SECTION THREE

CONSULTATION PROCESS: HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY

This section provides information on how West Lothian Council has organised the consultation process for the proposal contained within this document. It also provides information on how you can take part and give your views.

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS - HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY

In terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, any proposal to alter the catchment area of a school requires a formal consultation process.

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 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 the local authority in which any affected school is situated.
- any other community planning partnership that the education authority considers relevant
- 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

As stated in the terms of the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010 statutory consultation periods should last a minimum of six weeks continuous and incorporate a minimum of 30 school days (excluding school holidays). Therefore the consultation period for this particular proposal will run from 18 February 2021 until 02 April 2021 inclusive.

The consultation paper will be made available for reference electronically and in paper format.

Public meetings will be held in respect of the proposals at the venues listed below:

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Time: Thursday March 4th 2021 06:30 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88066979663?pwd=YWRTQmFwMFUwMjJHamFCNDB1anNTZz09>

Meeting ID: 880 6697 9663

Passcode: wlc

These meetings will give interested parties a formal opportunity to express their views. Representatives of the council will be present at the meetings to outline the proposals, facilitate discussions and answer questions.

The council website will contain information on the consultation and this will be updated as necessary. The web address is: <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/49192/Schools-and-Education-Open-Consultations>

During the consultation period any views on this proposal should be sent in writing to the address given below:

Catherine Campbell, Education Services, Civic Centre, Howden Road South, EH54 6FF

Responses can also be made by e-mail to Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk

All responses to be received by no later than 5.00pm Friday 02 April 2021.

Consultation Timeline:

Following the end of the Consultation period West Lothian Council must provide Education Scotland with a report detailing all findings pertaining to the Consultation period.

All written and oral comments received during the consultation process are recorded and represented in said report, along with the Council's response to those comments.

Education Scotland will consider the Council submission and advise their response accordingly.

West Lothian Council will ensure that considerations received from Education Scotland are included in the final Consultation Report. This final Report will be made available and notification will be given to those individuals or groups that have made representations during the Consultation period.

West Lothian Council will not make any decisions, or put any changes into effect until the final Consultation Report has been concluded, published and subsequently presented to the Education Executive on 22 June 2021.

The above Consultation Timeline encompasses statutory legislative requirements detailed as per Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010

Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by West Lothian Council to review the admission arrangements arising from school catchment area variations at Harrysmuir Primary School and Toronto Primary School.

May 2021

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of West Lothian Council's proposal to review the admission arrangements arising from school catchment area variations at Harrysmuir Primary School and Toronto Primary School. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the schools; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 4 March 2021 in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- virtual visits to the site of Harrysmuir Primary School and Toronto Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

2.1 West Lothian Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#).

2.2 The consultation period ran from 17 February 2021 until 2 April 2021. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and taking account of public health risks, the council arranged a virtual public meeting to take place on 4 March 2021. Two senior officers and two headteachers from West Lothian Council attended the meeting along with the Executive Councillor for Education. No members of the public attended the public meeting. Senior officers were available to respond to any questions that arose from the presentation and proposal. The council made appropriate arrangements to consult with children and staff. During the consultation period the council received less than five responses from parents and stakeholders. Of the responses, the main concern related to safe walking routes

for those who move into the new Eagle Brae development. Members of Toronto Primary School Pupil Council provided individual responses. Pupil Council responses were positive and in favour of the proposal.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The council sets out a strong case for the proposal to vary the catchment areas of Harrysmuir Primary School and Toronto Primary School. HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has potential educational benefits. Harrysmuir Primary School is near to capacity and projections undertaken by West Lothian Council expect this to continue. The proposal seeks to keep the Harrysmuir Primary School current and future rolls within capacity. The school roll of Toronto Primary School has the capacity to accommodate the projected increase from the Eagle Brae development of around 30 residential homes. Should the council move forward with the proposal, both schools will continue to be fully equipped to meet the educational entitlements of children. Therefore, continuity of education provision for children will continue with minimal disruption.

3.2 The educational benefit statement correctly identifies that there is little impact upon current education provision for children if the proposal moves forward. Additionally, no physical adaptations are required to accommodate any aspect of the proposal. Furthermore, the council does not foresee any change to staffing levels or school management for the schools. Therefore, children will continue to experience learning and teaching as they do now.

3.3 All children, parents and staff from Toronto Primary School and Harrysmuir Primary School were in favour of the proposal. A few parents from Harrysmuir Primary School identified that expansion of the school building would be a preferred alternative to the variation of catchment areas. There was recognition from stakeholders that Harrysmuir Primary School is near its maximum school roll and that space in the school is already utilised to near full capacity. If the proposal were not progressed, the addition of more pupils to Harrysmuir Primary School's roll would add to the pressure in an already busy school. Toronto Primary School has ability to increase its current school roll as it is not near capacity. HM Inspectors agree that the variation of Toronto Primary School's catchment area to include the Eagle Brae development supports both schools with minimal disruption.

3.4 A few stakeholders raised concerns surrounding safe walking routes to and from Toronto Primary School. The council as part of the public consultation process has addressed the concerns. The council has identified safe walking routes to Toronto Primary School from the Eagle Brae development with underpasses and bridges to avoid crossing busy roads. HM Inspectors recommend that safe walking routes to and from the school continue to be reviewed.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree that the proposal for the catchment area variations to Toronto Primary School and Harrysmuir Primary School has potential educational benefits. Overall, the proposal considers well the concern of continued growth of Harrysmuir Primary School and the space available within Toronto Primary School. For both primary schools, the proposal has the potential to ensure continued use and development of existing spaces for learning. The location of the Eagle Brae development is under one mile from Toronto Primary School and the council have identified suitable walking routes. If the council proceeds with their proposal, it should continue to engage with parents over their concerns with regard to walking routes.

HM Inspectors
May 2021