

**PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE HOPEFIELD NURSERY SCHOOL TO BLACKBURN
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

A REPORT OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Monday 12 September 2022 until Friday 04 November 2022

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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 proposals in relation to Dechmont Infant School.
- the Consultation Process
- Consultee Responses
- Notes of Public Meeting

1.2 SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

West Lothian Council, Education Services propose to:

- Hopefield Nursery School will be relocated to Blackburn Primary School and retain its name as Hopefield Nursery Class.
- The relocation of Hopefield Nursery School to Blackburn Primary School will take effect from April 2023.
- Children attending Hopefield Nursery School will transfer to a new facility within Blackburn Primary School from April 2023, or as soon as possible thereafter.

1.3 BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSAL

Hopefield Nursery School currently occupies a standalone building to the West side of Bathgate Road, Blackburn.

Hopefield Nursery School has reached its limitations as a nursery setting and doesn't lend itself to modern early years pedagogy and practice. The kitchen facilities are insufficient to meet the meal entitlement for 1140 hours of high-quality Early Learning and Childcare. The inflexible and enclosed layout made maintaining Covid mitigations very challenging.

In August 2012 the Head Teacher of Blackburn Primary School assumed the role of Head Teacher of Hopefield Nursery School, since transferred to the management of the Headteacher of Our Lady of Lourdes PS from August 2021. The proposal would realign the management responsibility back to the Head Teacher of Blackburn Primary School.

A new purpose-built nursery facility located within the existing Blackburn Primary School building.

The new facility will be included in the Council's strategic planning for the delivery of 1140 hours of high-quality Early Learning and Childcare for all 3 and 4-year olds and eligible 2-year olds.

1.4 TIMELINE

The following timeline was established and incorporates the organisation of a public meeting, Education Scotland involvement, the preparation and publication of the report on the outcomes of the consultation and subsequent submission to West Lothian Council Education Executive for its decision in 21 March 2023.

Date	Event	Description
23 August 2022	Education PDSP Meeting	To seek Panel recommendation for submission to Education Executive on proposal to commence formal public consultation.
06 September 2022	Education Executive Meeting	Meeting to discuss proposal and agree continuation to statutory consultation phase
12 September 2022	Start of Consultation	Beginning of formal public consultation (min 6 continuous weeks consultation period including min of 30 school days)
26 October 2022	Public Meeting	Public Meetings to discuss proposal
4 November 2022	End of Consultation	End of Public Consultation
November 2022	Submit report to Education Scotland*Dates to be agreed in advance with Education Scotland	West Lothian Council Education Services relays report on proposal and consultation findings to Education Scotland
December 2022	Deadline for Education Scotland three week period for reporting back to Education Services	Education Scotland response to West Lothian Council submission
December 2022	Give Education Scotland at least 5 days notice prior to publishing final report	Upon receipt of response from Education Scotland Authority will prepare and publish final consultation report
December 2022	Publication of final consultation report	A minimum of three weeks after publication of consultation report Authority will make final decision
17 January 2023	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 Monday 12 September 2022 until Friday 04 November 2022. 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/75367/Proposal-to-Relocate-Hopefield-Nursery-School>
- West Lothian Council digital media products
- 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 held at:

Blackburn Primary School on Wednesday 26 October 2022 at 7pm.

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 04 November 2022.

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 Email Responses Received

One email response from a parent was received regarding the proposals.

Email Response
<p>Hello XXXXX</p> <p>First of all I would like to apologise for not being able to attend the meeting on Wednesday night, my daughter had a football game that evening and I was needing to get home for my youngest daughter.</p> <p>I was talking to Alison McCarney there and she mentioned that you hadn't received my previous emails with my questions regarding the nurseries. My questions are as follows</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If hopefield is going to be moving to blackburn primary will it then be named blackburn primary nursery? 2. When the nursery moves over will it be a term time nursery? 3. What will happen to the present hopefield building? Is it able to get turned into a nursery for children with additional support needs? Or is there already a plan for the nursery? <p>If you could possibly get back to me know this I would really appreciate it.</p> <p>Thanks</p>
Officers Response
<p>Good afternoon XXXX,</p> <p>Thank you for your email. I've responded to your questions below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposal is that the nursery will retain its name Hopefield Nursery Class in the new setting. 2. For the purposes of the consultation the current model will move over to the new facility. However, we are undertaking a review of early years child care models within each community. 3. There are currently no plans for the future use of the building. This is normal while we await the outcome of the statutory consultation. If the proposals are agreed Property Services will take a review of the facility in the future and present a report to Council Executive before a decision is made. <p>If you have any further questions or comments don't hesitate to get back in touch.</p> <p>Kind regards</p>

3 NOTE OF PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTE OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT
BLACKBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2022 AT 7PM
TO DISCUSS PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT:

“DECHMONT INFANT SCHOOL PROPOSALS TO RELOCATE SCHOOL,
INTRODUCE YEAR STAGES P4-P7, REVISE CATCHMENT FOR STAGES P4-P7”

In attendance from West Lothian Council:

Andrew Maguire	Executive Councillor for Education
Greg Welsh	Head of Education (Primary, Early Learning and Resources)
Catherine Campbell	Senior Education Development Officer

Meeting attendees: 5 members of staff and 1 Education Scotland representative.

- Cllr Maguire opened the meeting with introductions and the agenda.
- Greg Welsh delivered a PowerPoint presentation to the attendees.
- Link to Education Services Presentation here:



Hopefield ELC
Statutory Consultati

Additional Comments During the Education Presentation:

The Head of Education explained that the new facility at Blackburn PS had recently been issued a completion certificate and Care Inspectorate registration. Three nursery schools in the authority built some time ago to the same design have been identified as having similar issues:

- not conducive for a modern early child care learning environment.
- standalone building that doesn't lend itself to modernising or peer working.
- not suitable for eligible 2-year olds.

The new facility has registration for 10 eligible 2-year olds. Not part of this consultation.

Discussion Opportunity – Cllr Maguire opened the floor to comments and questions:

Education Services

Attendee Comments
Discussion took place around the change in management.
WLC Response:
The management was changed 18 months ago. With benefit of hindsight this change has resulted in the requirement for a further change but was logical at the time. It was recognised that there was a lot of investment from the Head Teacher of Our Lady of Lourdes PS and HoE was sure this would continue under the new management. There was a good working relationship between Blackburn PS and Our Lady of Lourdes PS as demonstrated by the presence of both Senior Leadership teams at the meeting.
Attendee Comments
One attendee raised a question on behalf of parent who couldn't attend the meeting. Could the nursery also open to 3-year olds before the April 2023 proposal? This would avoid an additional transition point for the parent's child.
WLC Response:
HoE indicated that the authority would be open to looking into the possibility if we're able to run this sustainably. The authority will look at particular cases and want to avoid two transitions in a short period of time.
Attendee Comments
Discussion took place around the Early Years Child Care model that is currently offered at Hopfield Nursery School. An attendee commented that Hopfield doesn't have a lot of children outwith term time. Another attendee said that it was their impression that term time with extended hours was the preferred offer.
WLC Response:
The authority is undertaking a review of the Early Years Child Care offer within each community 'Your Council Your Say' to ensure that as much as possible the provision offered meets family's requirements. The authority requires an overview of the number of children that would provide a balance of eligible 2s, 3- and 4-year olds as well as attendance patterns. WLC early years team will also consult with staff on this.
Attendee Comment:
An attendee asked what will happen to the building.
WLC Response:
HoE explained that Property Services own the building and any change to its function will go through Council Executive. There were no plans for its future use at the moment. Any proposals would be challenging with the building located within school grounds.
Attendee Comment:
One attendee asked about nursery car parking and drop off.
WLC Response:
The authority ensures that the locality of a school and nursery are within walking distance of homes. There's no policy to provide parking for every member of staff and visitor.
WLC Response:
The group took the opportunity to visit the new nursery facility which had been set out with new Community Playthings furniture and resources.
Attendee Comment:
Discussion took place around the new facility and transitions. The group recognised that a lot of hard work had been put into making the new facility look like a fantastic learning environment. The fact that the new facility is close by and open will allow greater opportunities to visit in the future. It was anticipated that most children and staff will be very happy with transition arrangements as a result.

Meeting Close:

Cllr Maguire thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in discussions.

4 ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

One email response from a parent was received with questions regarding the proposals including the naming of the new nursery, nursery transitions and future use of the Hopefield building. No expressions of opposition to the proposals were received during the consultation period.

The 5 attendees at the Statutory Consultation Meeting, all members of staff unanimously supported the consultation proposals. Although the number of attendees was small this was not unexpected with the current roll at Hopefield Nursery School and that few parents raised any concerns regarding the proposals to staff.

5.0 REPORT BY EDUCATION SCOTLAND

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by West Lothian Council to relocate Hopefield Nursery School to Blackburn Primary School.
November 2022

Summary

HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has the potential to bring clear educational benefits for the children attending Hopefield Nursery in the coming years. Should the proposal go ahead, the council should continue to work with parents and staff to ensure a smooth transition to the new building.

6.0 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:

- The new provision will offer children the opportunity to play, learn and develop within a modern facility which will benefit from up-to-date design and materials.
- The new facility will provide an opportunity to increase the capacity of the nursery including eligible 2-year olds.

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.

Based on these findings, it is recommended that West Lothian Council Education Executive agree to implement the proposal to relocate Hopefield Nursery School to Blackburn Primary School. If agreed the changes would be implemented from April 2023.

Appendix A – Letter to Consultees

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

12 September 2022

Dear Consultee

West Lothian Council Education Services Proposal to relocate Hopefield Nursery School.

West Lothian Council's Education Executive at its meeting on 06 September 2022, authorised Education Services to commence statutory consultation on the proposal to:

- Relocate Hopefield Nursery School to a new facility within Blackburn Primary School

The consultation document outlining the proposal is available online from 12 September 2022 on the following webpage:

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/75367/Proposal-to-Relocate-Hopefield-Nursery-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, Project Officer, West Lothian Council Education Services, Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, EH54 6FF.

The consultation period is from 12 September 2022 until 04 November 2022.

A public meeting to discuss the consultation document will be held at Blackburn Primary School on Wednesday 26 October 2022 at 7.00pm-8.00pm.

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 04 November 2022.

A decision on the proposal is planned to be made in March 2023 by the Council's Education Executive. This decision will be based on feedback received from all stakeholders through written responses and through information gathered from public meetings. Feedback received from Education Scotland will also be offered due regard.

Yours sincerely

Greg Welsh

Head of Education (Primary, Early Learning and Resources)

Appendix B – Consultation Document

WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL

EDUCATION SERVICES CONSULTATION

**PROPOSED RELOCATION OF HOPEFIELD
NURSERY TO BLACKBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

SECTION 1: Purpose of this Document

SECTION 2: The Proposal

SECTION 3: The Educational Benefit Statement

SECTION 4: Integrated Impact Assessment

SECTION 5: Consultation Process and How To Have Your Say

SECTION 1: PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to give information on:

- West Lothian Council's proposal to relocate Hopefield Nursery School to Blackburn Primary School leading to closure of Hopefield Nursery School.
- The educational benefits to be gained through the implementation of this proposal; and
- How you can give your views and take part in the consultation process.

West Lothian Council believes that thorough and effective consultation will support better outcomes for pupils and their families and will enable the vast majority of children.

Public consultations are necessary when a local authority is proposing to make a significant change to its school estate, in this case the relocation of a school. To carry out a public consultation West Lothian Council requires to follow the statutory guidance outlined in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. With this in mind, this document is further organised into the following sections:

Section 2 details the proposal and gives the background and rationale.

Section 3 contains the educational benefits statement in relation to the proposal and provides an assessment of the effects of this proposal on the children/young people and their families of the affected nursery and school.

Section 4 provides information on the Integrated Impact Assessment undertaken in reference to the proposal. An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) is undertaken to ensure that the Council meets its statutory requirement to assess policies and practices and ensure that they meet the legislative requirements in relation to its equality, human rights and socioeconomic obligations.

Section 5 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.

SECTION 2: PROPOSAL AND BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSAL

2.1. THE PROPOSAL: -

Hopefield Nursery School will be relocated to Blackburn Primary School and retain its name as Hopefield Nursery Class.

The relocation of Hopefield Nursery School to Blackburn Primary School will take effect from April 2023.

Children attending Hopefield Nursery School will transfer to a new facility within Blackburn Primary School from April 2023, or as soon as possible thereafter.

2.2 BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSAL

Hopefield Nursery School currently occupies a standalone building to the West side of Bathgate Road, Blackburn.

Hopefield Nursery School has reached its limitations as a nursery setting and doesn't lend itself to modern early years pedagogy and practice. The kitchen facilities are insufficient to meet the meal entitlement for 1140 hours of high-quality Early Learning and Childcare. The inflexible and enclosed layout made maintaining Covid mitigations very challenging.

In August 2012 the Head Teacher of Blackburn Primary School assumed the role of Head Teacher of Hopefield Nursery School, since transferred to the management of the Headteacher of Our Lady of Lourdes PS from August 2021. The proposal would realign the management responsibility back to the Head Teacher of Blackburn Primary School.

A new purpose-built nursery facility located within the existing Blackburn Primary School building.

The new facility will be included in the Council's strategic planning for the delivery of 1140 hours of high-quality Early Learning and Childcare for all 3 and 4-year olds and eligible 2-year olds.

2.3 SITE LOCATION

The nursery will be re-located to a new purpose-built nursery class facility within the Blackburn Primary School building.

Hopefield Nursery School will permanently relocate from its original building, identified in red '1' on 'Map 1 – map of locations' in Appendix 1, to Blackburn Primary School, identified in blue '2' on Map 1;

2.4 ADMISSION CRITERIA

There will be no amendment to criteria for admission to Hopefield nursery class.

Admission will continue to be in accordance with West Lothian Council's current admission arrangements details of which are outlined via the attached link, <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/apply-for-elc-3-or-4-year-old>

2.5 OTHER FACTORS CONSIDERED

The need to address the permanent re-provision of Hopefield Nursery School;

The condition and suitability of the current establishment to facilitate high quality Early Learning and Childcare;

The need to develop inspirational learning environments which raise the aspirations of children and young people, staff and the wider community;

The need to address early learning & childcare provision for the local area and create a sustainable school estate for future generations; and

To meet the requirements for extended access to Early Learning and Childcare.

SECTION 3: THE EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT STATEMENT

The Educational Benefits Statement, for the proposal, has been prepared having regard to the Guidance and Explanatory Notes published by the Scottish Government in association with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act, 2010. The specific educational benefits of the proposal are outlined below in terms of the following:

- 3.1 Curriculum
- 3.2 Transition
- 3.3 School Management
- 3.4 Staff Teams
- 3.5 Accommodation
- 3.6 Outdoor Learning
- 3.7 Capacity

CURRICULUM

In Scotland, we have the benefit of curriculum guidance which spans both the ELC sector and the early stages of primary school. Curriculum for Excellence 'early level' supports the implementation of a responsive, continuous play-based curriculum for children aged three to six. Through responsive and intentional planning, staff will provide, a blend of child-initiated and adult-initiated learning experiences. The emphasis will be on child-centred play pedagogy to ensure continuity in children's curriculum experiences.

The re-designation of Hopefield Nursery School as a nursery class within the school building will support continuity and progression in children's learning and further develop and enhance the current staffing and leadership model.

The new facility will help develop a flexible, enabling and creative child-centred curriculum that is responsive to the uniqueness of each child and their family.

Additionally, the new facility will provide the opportunity to develop consistent learning and teaching experiences for children within the existing school and provide smooth pastoral and curricular transitions.

3.2 TRANSITION

The transition and continuity in learning between nursery and primary is enhanced by strong, consistent leadership across the Early Level. Children will benefit from seamless transition between pre-school and primary with staff and management who know them well - located within the same physical building.

High on the list of priorities for staff will be the development of a comprehensive transition programme to support children's transition into the new facility and to explore increased learning opportunities between early years and P1.

3.3 SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

While Hopfield Nursery School is registered as a stand-alone nursery school, the current staffing, budget and management operation is in line with the nursery class model in operation across all authority managed nursery establishments.

No change to the current management structure is proposed although the management responsibility would transfer back to the Headteacher of Blackburn Primary School.

3.4 STAFF TEAMS

All early year's practitioners and support staff in post at the point of movement will transfer into the new facility.

Staffing arrangements will be consistent with West Lothian Council's local agreements. Detailed consultation will be undertaken with members of staff, Trade Unions and Professional Associations for staffing the relocated nursery school.

3.5 ACCOMMODATION

The provision of a new modern facility will make a clear statement about the value the Council places on investing in education and lifelong learning, and provide a new vibrant learning community. The new early learning and childcare provision will offer children the opportunity to play, learn and develop within a state-of-the-art facility which will benefit from modern design and materials and consider good practice learned through collaborative working with other Councils and through experience and good practice developed within West Lothian. The new facility will be sustainable and energy efficient.

The new facility will be flexible and allow the creative and multiple-use of spaces by the staff and children, and also by the community. Experience in our other new school buildings has demonstrated that a new and flexible learning environment can inspire children and have a positive impact on the general health and wellbeing of children, increase aspirations, attainment, achievement and positive destinations beyond school.

The new facility will signal to the whole community how West Lothian Council values 21st century learning. This new nursery class facility will represent best value through the effective and efficient use of Council resources. By locating the new facility at the heart of the existing community, it will provide a hub for learning, activities and facilities that will contribute to improving people's health and wellbeing, adding to the strength and vibrancy of its community.

The nursery class facility will provide an opportunity to increase the capacity of the nursery in line with the projected population increase in a high-quality learning environment with direct access to a secure dedicated outdoor play area.

The provision of high-quality technology for learning will provide the potential to transform ways of learning and teaching by giving children and staff flexible and ubiquitous access to a fully digital learning environment.

3.6 OUTDOOR LEARNING

Daily, high quality outdoor play experiences have a direct and positive impact on children's physical, cognitive, social, mental health and emotional development.

The new setting will make good use of access to the outdoors, not only through the immediate outdoor space but also through ensuring access to local woodlands, parks and green spaces.

The outdoor environment will contain more opportunity and stimulate children's curiosity and wonder for learning. Natural play will be a key feature of this space allowing children to interact with natural elements of the environment in an imaginative way including activities such as mud kitchens, den making and safe climbing.

3.7 CAPACITY

The current registered capacity at Hopefield Nursery Class is 35 children aged 3 and 4 years old. There's no current capacity for eligible 2-year olds.

The planned capacity at the new Blackburn nursery class facility is 53 children aged 3 and 4 years old and includes 10 places for eligible 2-year olds. This capacity is subject to Care Inspectorate certification and confirmation by West Lothian Council.

The nursery class facility will provide an opportunity to increase the capacity of the nursery in line with the projected community requirements.

SECTION 4: INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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.

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.

IJA 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.

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 IJA process.

The outcome of the Integrated Impact Assessment will inform the Final Consultation Report and the Council's consideration of the proposed changes prior to reaching a decision on whether they should be implemented.

SECTION 5: CONSULTATION PROCESS: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

In terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, any proposal to relocate 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 for a proposal to relocate or close a school or nursery 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

Council officers will be present at the public meetings to outline the proposals, facilitate discussions and answer questions.

The Consultation meetings will give interested parties a formal opportunity to express their views.

The consultation period will incorporate a period of 30 school days (excluding any school holiday) from **Monday 12th September 2022 until Friday 4th November 2022**. 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.

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

Public Meeting

A formal public meeting will be held to discuss the proposal. Anyone wishing to attend the public meeting is invited to do so. The public meeting, which will be convened by West Lothian Council will be addressed by the Head of Education, and other senior officers of the Council, and chaired by an independent person.

The public meeting will be an opportunity to:

- Hear more about the proposal
- Ask questions about the proposal
- Have your views recorded so that they can be considered as part of the consultation process.

The public meeting will be held in **Blackburn Primary School, 216 Riddochhill Rd, Blackburn, EH47 7HB on Wednesday 26th October 2022 at 7.00pm – 8.00pm.**

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

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

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

All interested parties are invited to submit their comments by close of business **Friday 4th November 2022**.

An on-line version of this document and other items related to the consultation can be found on the West Lothian Council website using this link:

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/49192/Schools-and-Education-Open-Consultations>
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.

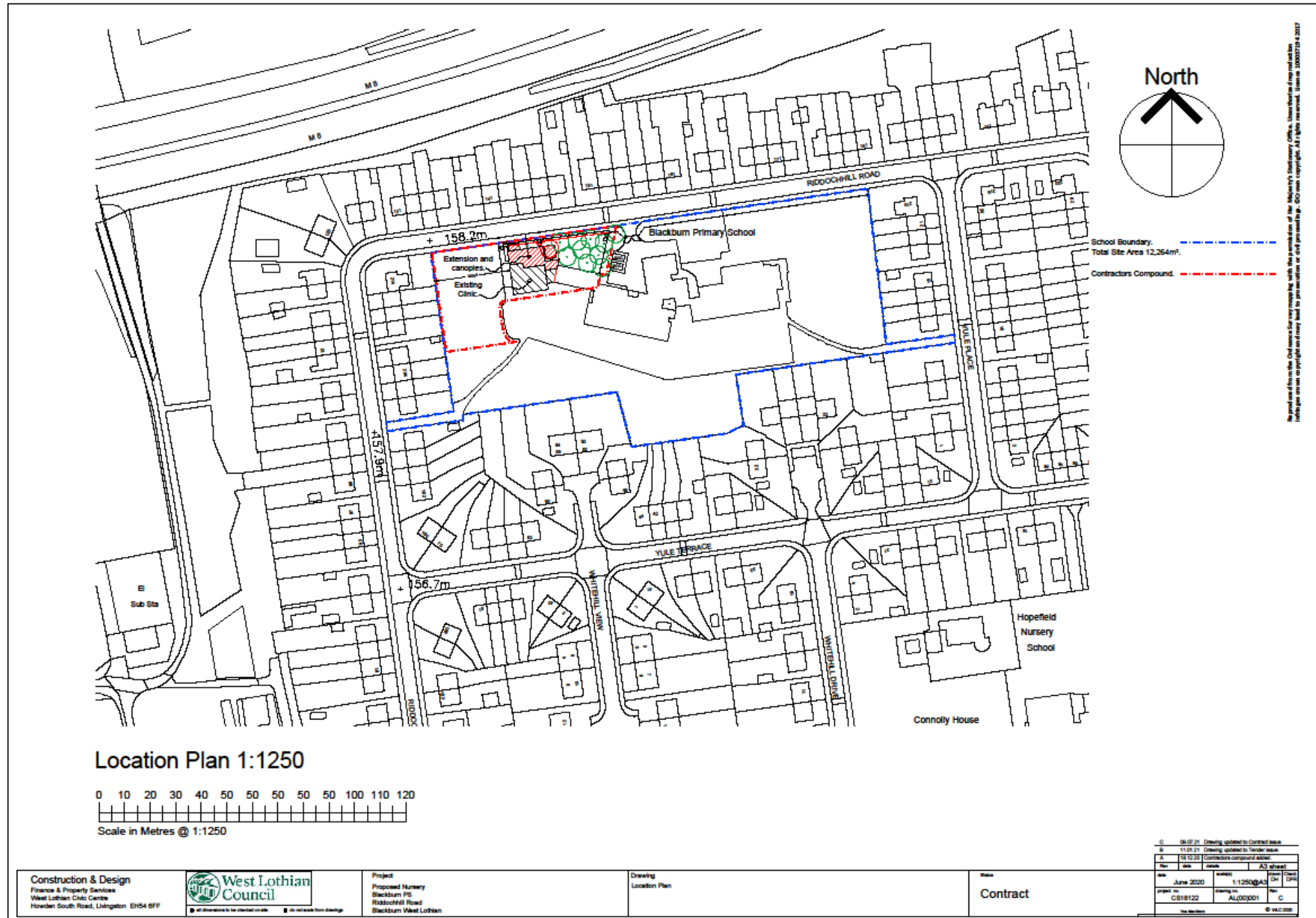
West Lothian Council will not make any decision, or put any changes into effect, until the Final Consultation Report has been concluded, published and subsequently presented to the Education Executive on **17th January 2023**.

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

Statutory Consultation Timeline – Blackburn Nursery Class Re-Designation

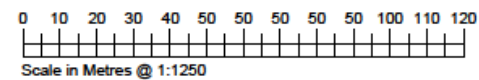
Date	Event	Description
23 August 2022	Education PDSP Meeting	To seek Panel recommendation for submission to Education Executive on proposal to commence formal public consultation
6 September 2022	Education Executive Meeting	Meeting to discuss proposal and agree continuation to statutory consultation phase
12 September 2022	Start of Consultation	Beginning of formal public consultation (min 6 continuous weeks consultation period including min of 30 school days)
26 October 2022	Public Meeting	Public Meetings to discuss proposal
4 November 2022	End of Consultation	End of Public Consultation
November 2022	Submit report to Education Scotland*Dates to be agreed in advance with Education Scotland	West Lothian Council Education Services relays report on proposal and consultation findings to Education Scotland
December 2022	Deadline for Education Scotland three week period for reporting back to Education Services	Education Scotland response to West Lothian Council submission
December 2022	Give Education Scotland at least 5 days notice prior to publishing final report	Upon receipt of response from Education Scotland Authority will prepare and publish final consultation report
December 2022	Publication of final consultation report	A minimum of three weeks after publication of consultation report Authority will make final decision
17 January 2023	Education Executive Meeting	Decision made

APPENDIX 1



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Location Plan 1:1250



Construction & Design
Finance & Property Services
West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road, Livingston EH54 6FF



Project
Proposed Nursery
Blackburn PS
Reddochill Road
Blackburn West Lothian

Drawing
Location Plan

Block
Contract

C	06/07/21	Drawing updated to Contract Issue			
B	11/03/21	Drawing updated to Tender Issue			
A	18/11/20	Contractor compound added			
Rev	Date	Issue	A3 sheet	Drawn	
	June 2020		1:1250@A3	DM	
Project No.	CS18122	Drawing No.	AL000001	Per	C
For Details		© WLC 2020			



Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by West Lothian Council to relocate Hopefield Nursery School to Blackburn Primary School.

November 2022

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#) ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of West Lothian Council's proposal to relocate Hopefield Nursery School to Blackburn 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 of the setting; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children in the council area.
- 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 26 October 2022 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
- visits to the sites of Hopefield Nursery, Blackburn Primary School and Our Lady of Lourdes 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 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

2.2 The consultation ran from 12 September 2022 until 4 November 2022. A public meeting took place on 26 October 2022 in Blackburn Primary School. Five members of staff from Blackburn and Our Lady of Lourdes Primary Schools attended the meeting. No parents were in attendance. Members of the public were encouraged to respond to the consultation by email, either to the address given on the council website or directly to the Head of Education. Only one written response was received.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The council believes that the relocation of Hopefield Nursery to Blackburn Primary School will support continuity and progression in children's learning. It will help ease the transition from nursery to primary one as both will be located within the same building. For those children moving to Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, HM Inspectors are confident that the strong relationships between the two primary schools should facilitate a smooth transition. The accommodation for the new nursery is far superior to the existing provision at Hopefield Nursery and should provide a rich learning environment for children attending. The new facilities are more flexible, allowing multi-use for staff and children. The current registered capacity at Hopefield Nursery is 35 with no capacity for eligible two year olds. Moving to the new facility will allow an increase in capacity to 53 with provision of ten places for eligible two year olds. This should support a requirement in Blackburn for an eligible two year old provision.

3.2 The council sees additional educational benefit in encouraging high quality outdoor play. Whilst this facility already exists at Hopefield Nursery and is well used, the provision at the new facility is accessible and attractive. There is also potential for additional outdoor space at Blackburn Primary School to be utilised by the nursery. However, there is some anxiety amongst nursery staff that as the new outdoor space is smaller it may limit children's experiences. Care should be taken by the council to ensure that the views of nursery staff who transfer to the new facility are considered.

3.3 All stakeholders who spoke to HM Inspectors or responded in writing are in agreement with the proposals. The existing nursery building is outdated and a new facility is welcomed. Stakeholders are keen that the new nursery continues to be named Hopefield and the council have confirmed the name of the facility to be Blackburn Primary School and Hopefield Nursery Class. A few questions were asked by parents and staff about the future of the existing building once vacated. However, at this stage there are no plans in place for its future use. Children who spoke to HM Inspectors are very positive about the proposals, as are parents. No concerns regarding educational benefits were raised with HM Inspectors. Existing nursery staff transferring to the new nursery did express some concern regarding parking at Blackburn Primary School, which is limited. A few parents are also worried about dropping-off children in the immediate area due to congestion at busy times. Whilst the council is not obliged to provide parking for staff, due regard should be given to any safety concerns regarding dropping-off children once the new nursery is open.

4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has the potential to bring clear educational benefits for the children attending Hopefield Nursery in the coming years. Should the proposal go ahead, the council should continue to work with parents and staff to ensure a smooth transition to the new building.

**HM Inspectors
November 2022**

