

**PROPOSAL TO REVIEW ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS ARISING FROM  
SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA VARIATIONS AT WEST CALDER HIGH SCHOOL  
AND DEANS COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL**

**A REPORT OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION**

**Monday 30 January 2023 until Friday 24 March 2023**

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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 West Calder High School and Deans Community High 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:
  - ❖ West Calder High School
  - ❖ Deans Community High School.
- The principal aim of the proposal is to address the demands of future housing developments and ensure the best use of existing and future school capacities in West Lothian non-denominational school catchment areas.

**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 2023.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Description</b>
17 January 2023	Education Executive Meeting	Meeting to review proposal and Consultations Document and agree commencement of Statutory Consultation phase.
30 January 2023	Start of Statutory Consultation	Beginning of formal public consultation ( <b>min 6 continuous weeks consultation period including min of 30 school days</b> )
21 March 2023	Public Meeting	Public Meeting to discuss proposal
24 March 2023	End of Consultation	End of Public Consultation
17 April 2023	Submit report to Education Scotland	West Lothian Council Education Services relays report on proposal and consultation findings to Education Scotland
08 May 2023	Deadline for Education Scotland three-week period for reporting back to Education Services	Education Scotland response to West Lothian Council submission
22 May 2023	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
29 May 2023	Publication of final consultation report	A minimum of three weeks <b>after</b> publication of consultation report Authority will make final decision
20 June 2023	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 Monday 30 January 2023 until Friday 24 March 2023. 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/77104/Proposal-to-Review-Admission-Arrangements-Arising-from-School-Catchment-Area-Variations-at-West-Calder-High-School-and-Deans-Community-High-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 held at West Calder High School on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

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](mailto:Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk)

All interested parties were invited to submit their comments by close of business Friday 24 March 2023.

## **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**

**None**

## **3. NOTE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**MINUTE OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT WEST CALDER HIGH SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 21ST MARCH 2023., TO DISCUSS PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT: "PROPOSAL TO REVIEW ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS ARISING FROM SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA VARIATIONS AT WEST CALDER HIGH SCHOOL AND DEANS COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL**

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

Catherine Campbell  
Andrew Cotton

Senior Education Development Officer  
Senior Education Planning Officer

**Meeting attendees :** 1 attendee from Education Scotland

**Discussion Opportunity**

**4. ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES**

No responses were received and no members of the public attended the public meeting.

As the proposal was of a technical nature and did not affect any existing children this was not a surprise.



January 2023

Dear Consultee

### **West Lothian Council Education Services**

West Lothian Council's Education Executive at its meeting on 17 January 2023 authorised West Lothian Council's Education Services to commence statutory consultation on the proposals below.

The principal aim of the proposals are to address the demands of future housing developments and ensure the best use of existing and future school capacities in West Lothian.

The proposals only affect 6 existing residential properties around the B7015 north of Gavieside and do not affect any children currently in education in West Lothian.

- **Proposal to Review Admission Arrangements arising from School Catchment Area Variations at Parkhead Primary School and Meldrum Primary School.**
- **Proposal to Review Admission Arrangements arising from School Catchment Area Variations at Deans Community High School and West Calder High School.**

The consultation documents outlining the proposals are available online on the following webpage:

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

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 will run from 30 January 2023 until 5pm on Friday 24 March 2023. A public meeting to discuss the consultation document will be held:

**Date: Tuesday 21 March 2023**

**Time: 7.00PM to 8.00PM**

**Venue: West Calder High School,  
Limefield Lane, West Calder, EH55 8BF**

You are also invited to submit your comments on the consultation by e-mail to:

[Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk)

For written representations to be considered they must be received no later than **5pm on Friday 24 March 2023**.

Decisions on the proposals are planned to be made in June 2023 by the Council's Education Executive. These decisions 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

**Greg Welsh**

**Head of Education (Early Years, Primary and Resources)**

**Appendix B – Consultation Document**

**WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL EDUCATION SERVICES  
CONSULTATION DOCUMENT  
January 2023**

**REVIEW OF ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS AS A RESULT OF  
ALTERATION TO THE NON-DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL  
CATCHMENT AREAS OF:**

- **WEST CALDER HIGH SCHOOL; AND**
- **DEANS COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL**

**SECTION 1**

- 1.1 Purpose of this Document**
- 1.2 Background**
- 1.3 Summary of Proposals**

**SECTION 2**

- 2.1 Educational Benefit Statement**

**SECTION 3**

- 3.1 Integrated Impact Assessment**

**SECTION 4**

- 4.1 Consultation Process: How To Have Your Say**

## SECTION ONE

This section introduces the reason for the consultation. It provides information about why West Lothian Council is proposing to review admission arrangements as a result of alteration to non-denominational primary school catchment areas.

### 1.1 PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to advise:

1. West Lothian Council's proposals to review admission arrangements as a result of alteration to the non-denominational primary school catchment areas of:
  - I. West Calder High School
  - II. Deans Community High School
2. The educational benefits of the proposals and how they will make things better; and
3. Information on 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, their families and the wider community as a whole.

Public consultations are necessary when a local authority is proposing to make a change to the school estate in this instance, proposed amendment to school catchment areas. 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:

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 the proposals 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.

## **1.2. BACKGROUND**

The West Lothian Local Development Plan was approved in September 2018.

In recognition of the West Lothian Local Development Plan, West Lothian Council has an obligation to address school capacities within the non-denominational primary school education sector. Doing so will offer opportunity to better match allocated housing developments to existing and future primary school capacities.

The Gavieside Farm site is identified in the Local Development Plan as part of the West Livingston and Mossend Core Development Area (CDA). It has an indicative allocation of 1900 new homes and a new non-denominational school is proposed as part of the development.

## **1.2 RATIONALE FOR CHANGE**

Discussions with the developer have identified that the first phase of development will not generate a sufficient number of primary school children to make delivery of the new primary school viable.

However the existing catchment primary school at Parkhead in West Calder is also under capacity pressure.

The proposed site is not within walking distance of any non-denominational primary school so until the new primary school is delivered a public transport based solution will be required.

Therefore it is proposed that the catchment non-denominational primary school should be changed to Meldrum Primary School as the transport distance of 4 miles / 10 minutes is comparable to Parkhead PS (2.5 miles / 7 minutes) but Meldrum School has spare capacity available for the new children and there is no other housing development planned within the Meldrum catchment.

In order to ensure children can transition from primary to secondary with their peer group it is proposed to change the non-denominational secondary catchment from West Calder High School to Deans Community High School to ensure children from the Gavieside development transition to secondary alongside children living in the existing Meldrum Primary School catchment.

This proposed catchment change also reduces future pressure on the West Calder High School roll as development comes forward within the West Livingston and Mossend Core Development Area.

### **1.3 EXISTING PROPERTIES IN THE AREA OF CHANGE**

The proposal affects 6 existing residential properties at Gavieside Farm, Stepend, Guns Green and Grange Riding Centre. None of the properties have any children attending schools or ELC settings in West Lothian.

### **1.4 ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

There will be no impact to pupils currently in attendance at West Lothian schools as a result of proposed variations to school catchment areas. All pupils will continue to attend their existing schools for the remainder of their primary stage education.

## 1.5 SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

Review admission arrangements as a result of alteration to the current non-denominational primary school catchment areas of:

- I. West Calder High School
- II. Deans Community High School

The principal aims of the proposals are to address the demands of future housing developments and ensure the best use of existing and future school capacities in West Lothian non-denominational school catchment areas.

## SECTION TWO

This section contains the expected educational benefits to be gained should the proposals come to fruition.

### 2.1 EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT STATEMENT

Whilst assessing the educational benefits of the proposals, the undernoted factors were considered:

- **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 is that the affected schools will continue to be fully equipped to deliver the full breadth of Curriculum for Excellence.

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**

There will be no impact to pupils currently in attendance at West Lothian schools as a result of proposed variations to school catchment areas. All pupils will continue to attend their existing schools for the remainder of their secondary stage education.

Younger siblings of pupils currently attending West Calder High School and Deans Community High School would retain the catchment status of the older sibling and would be permitted to attend the existing school establishment if parents wish siblings to attend the same school.

This catchment status would remain until such times that the sibling link is broken i.e. should the elder sibling leave secondary stage education prior to commencement of the younger sibling at secondary school.

Criteria for admission will continue to be in accordance with West Lothian Council's current admission arrangements.

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/32389/Applying-for-a-place-in-a-West-Lothian-Council-secondary-school>

It is proposed to transfer only the 6 specified dwellings set out in section 1.3 of this report.

- **School Capacity**

West Lothian Council do not anticipate any impact to existing school capacities at the detailed schools as a result of the proposed school catchment alterations.

- **School Management/Staff Teams**

West Lothian Council do not foresee alteration to current school management structures at the schools detailed in this report. All existing staffing facilitations and day to day operations within each of the schools will continue as is.

Any amendments to current staffing will be undertaken in accordance to West Lothian Council statutory recruitment processes.

- **School Transport**

There is an anticipated requirement for school transport from the Gavieside Development regardless of whether the catchment review proposals are progressed. Funding for transport costs will be sought as part of the S75 agreement with the housing developer.

Any requests for school transport provisions will be considered in accordance with West Lothian Council's School Transport Policy. [West Lothian Council School Transport Policy](#)

- **Transition**

Parkhead Primary School, will continue to be aligned to West Calder High School with Meldrum Primary School remaining aligned to Deans Community High School.

Transition programmes currently adopted will be unaffected by the proposed amendment to catchment allocation. All of 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 areas at the identified primary schools will continue to offer ample scope for development of the outdoor classroom. This will have a positive impact on the learning environment for all 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. Appropriate car park protocols and risk assessments will be maintained.

- **Breakfast / School Clubs**

Breakfast clubs will continue to provide pupils with a healthy breakfast and offer opportunity to sample and develop preferences for healthy options. The aim of the club is to establish positive relationships at the start of the school day and improve attitude, behaviours and motivation to learn.

Pupils will continue to be invited to take part in a wide range of extracurricular activities. Activities are designed to offer opportunity to learn new skills and enhance experiences. Participation in these activities promotes and encourages social interaction, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

- **Parental Involvement**

Parents and carers are an integral part of the school community with their ongoing contributions and working partnerships being considered key to the success of the school. West Lothian Council do not foresee any impact to existing opportunities for parental involvement and engagement as a result of the intimated proposals.

A principal focus as always is the delivery of a welcoming school that is inclusive for all parents, carers, pupils and staff.

- **Community Links**

All external links that each of the highlighted secondary schools has established will remain with each 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 for other school users will continue as a result of the proposed catchment area review.

## **SECTION THREE**

This section provides information on the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) conducted by Council officers to meet statutory equality duties, to assess policies and practices and ensure compliance with all legislative requirements.

### **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.

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.

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.

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 FOUR

This section provides information on how West Lothian Council has organised the consultation process for the proposals 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 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 30 January 2023 until 24 March 2023.

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	Date/Time
West Calder High School	21 March 2023 – 19.00

This meeting 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. The web address is: [www.westlothian.gov.uk/education](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/education)

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](mailto:Education.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk)

All responses to be received by no later than 5.00pm 24 March 2023.

#### **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 20 June 2023.

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

Propozycja władz lokalnych West Lothian Council dotycząca przeglądu obwodu niewyznaniowych szkół podstawowych w następujących placówkach: Deans Community High School, West Calder High School, W celu uzyskania kopii niniejszego dokumentu należy zadzwonić do Catherine Campbell pod numer telefonu 01506 281666. NALEŻY PODAĆ IMIĘ I NAZWISKO, JAK I JEZYK, W KTÓRYM WYMAGANE JEST TŁUMACZENIE

West Lothian savivaldybės pasiūlymas peržiūrėti ne denominacinių pradinį mokyklų pasiekiamumo zonas Deans Community High School, West Calder High School,

Jei norėtumėte šio dokumento kopijos prašome skambinti Catherine Campbell telefonu 01506 281666. PATEIKITE SAVO VARDĄ, ADRESĄ IR KALBĄ J KURIAJ NORĖTUMĖTE, KAD DOKUMENTAS BŪTŲ IŠVERSTAS.

Vestloziānas domes (*West Lothian Council*) priekšlikums pārskatīt nekonfesionālo pamatskolu – Deans Community High School, West Calder High School

Ja jūs vēlaties saņemt šī dokumenta eksemplāru, lūdzam zvanīt Catherine Campbell uz 01506 281666. JUMS JĀNORĀDA JŪSU VĀRDS, UZVĀRDS UN ADRESE, KĀ ARĪ VALODA, KURĀ JŪS VĒLATIES ŠO DOKUMENTU SAŅEMT

بلدية ويست لوثيان West Lothian Council – عرض لمراجعة مناطق القبول العادية للمدارس الابتدائية غير الدينية وذلك لكلا من مدرسة لينليثغو West Calder High School الابتدائية ومدرسة ليلينثغو بريدج Deans Community

إذا رغبت بالحصول على نسخة من هذه الوثيقة ، فيرجى منك الاتصال بميلاني لوري Catherine Campbell على رقم الهاتف 01506 281666 وذكر اسمك وعنوان سكنك واللغة التي ترغب بأن تتم ترجمة هذه الوثيقة إليها.

ويست لوتهين كونسيل، لنلتهاگاؤ پرائمری اسکول، لنلتهاگاؤ برج پرائمری اسکول، اسپرنگ فيلڈ پرائمری اسکول، لوپورٹ پرائمری اسکول اور بوگ بال پرائمری اسکول پر ایک غیر فرقہ ورانہ پرائمری اسکول کے جغرافیائی علاقوں کا جائزہ لینے کی تجویز

اگر آپ اس دستاویز کی ایک نقل حاصل کرنا چاہیں تو برائے مہربانی 01506 281666 پر میلینی لاوری سے رابطہ کریں، اپنا نام، پتہ مہیا کرتے ہوئے اور اُس زبان کے بارے میں بتاتے ہوئے جس میں آپ چاہتے ہیں کہ اس دستاویز کا ترجمہ کیا جائے



西洛錫安議會政府關於對 Deans Community High School (林利斯戈小學)、West Calder High School (林利斯戈橋小學)

如果您想要一份本文檔的副本，請致電給 Catherine Campbell，號碼是 01506 281666。請將您的姓名、地址和希望將該文件翻譯成的語言告訴我們。

West Lothian Council (西洛錫安議會) · 提议审查 Deans Community High School, West Calder High School ,

如果您得到本文件的一份副本，請致電Catherine Campbell 01506 281666 提供您的姓名地址和您希望以何種語言獲得翻譯文件

ওয়েস্ট লথিয়ান কাউন্সিল নির্দিষ্ট ধর্মীয় মূল্যবোধের বাইরের নিম্নোক্ত প্রাইমারি স্কুলগুলোর ক্যাসমেন্ট এরিয়া পর্যালোচনার ব্যাপারে প্রস্তাবনা করছে, স্কুলগুলো হল লিনলিথগো প্রাইমারি স্কুল, লিনলিথগো ব্রীজ প্রাইমারি স্কুল, স্প্রিং ফিল্ড প্রাইমারি স্কুল, লোপার্ট প্রাইমারি স্কুল এবং বগহাল প্রাইমারি স্কুলের

আপনি এই ডকুমেন্টটির একটি কপি পেতে চাইলে অনুগ্রহ পূর্বক মেলানি লরিকে 01506 281666 নম্বরে টেলিফোন করুন। কল করার সময় আপনার নাম, ঠিকানা এবং আপনি যে ভাষাতে ডকুমেন্টটির অনুবাদ পেতে চান তা জানাবেন।

# **Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010**

**Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by West Lothian Council to review admission arrangements arising from school catchment area variations at West Calder High School and Deans Community High School.**

April 2023

## 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](#) ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of West Lothian Council's proposal to review admission arrangements arising from school catchment area variations at West Calder High School and Deans Community High 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; and other children and young people 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 21 March 2023 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 site of Deans Community High School and West Calder High School including discussion with relevant consultees.

## 2. Consultation process

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

2.2 The council ran a public consultation from 30 January to 24 March 2023. Copies of the proposal were made available to stakeholders online and in paper format and communication of the proposal was placed on the council website and in local media. A public meeting was held on 21 March 2023. No stakeholders attended the public meeting and the council did not receive any written responses to its consultation. Given the proposal does not affect any children or young people currently attending school this lack of engagement was not unexpected by the council.

### 3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The proposal covers a change in catchment areas for a planned housing development in the Gavieside area. Currently there are no children or young people attending schools in West Lothian from that area. Alongside this proposal, another proposal was undertaken covering primary school provision for the Gavieside area. If the primary school proposal is agreed then children in the Gavieside area will attend Meldrum Primary School. This proposal would enable all these children to then attend Deans Community High School as they move to secondary school. HM Inspectors agree that there are educational benefits to ensuring all the children who attend a primary school are zoned to attend the same secondary. This can help with transition arrangements and continuity of learning in regard to a shared curriculum between primary and secondary.

3.2 The council states that this proposal will help to reduce potential pressure on West Calder High School, whose roll will be affected by other housing developments in the area. HM Inspectors agree that it is important for school rolls to be managed to help ensure they do not exceed capacity. The council states that the proposal will have no current impact on traffic and that they anticipate providing school transport for young people from the Gavieside development. It will be important for the council to continue to monitor school rolls and capacity, traffic and safe routes to school as families move to the Gavieside and other local housing developments over the next few years.

3.3 Stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors were positive about this proposal. Senior school leaders and young people at both schools are clear that as West Calder High School already has capacity issues it is sensible to move the Gavieside area to the Deans Community High School catchment. In addition, senior school staff at Deans Community High School are clear their school has capacity and that the proposal may help address a reducing school roll. Young people raised aspects that will need considered as families start to move into the housing development. They are concerned that young people living in the new houses may not have the same opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities as their peers due to transport limitations. They also thought that there might be an impact on building friendships and social relationships for those living further away from Deans Community High School. Young people at Deans Community High School are positive about welcoming young people from Gavieside to their school.

### 4. Summary

HM Inspectors agree there are potential educational benefits to this proposal. If this proposal is agreed alongside the primary school proposal, then all children in the Gavieside area will transition from Meldrum Primary School to Deans Community High School. HM Inspectors recognise the benefits when children transition to the same secondary school as their peers. The proposal, if agreed, may also help in managing the school roll at West Calder High School which is affected by other local housing developments across the area. It will be important for the council to continue to monitor school rolls as families move into the Gavieside and other local developments.

**HM Inspectors**  
**April 2023**