

10am, Thursday, 14 March 2013

Outcome of the Consultation Process for the Proposal to close Castlebrae Community High School and associated catchment changes affecting Portobello High School and Liberton High School

Item number	8.6
Report number	
Wards	Leith; Leith Walk; Craightinny/Duddingston; Portobello/Craigmillar; Liberton/Gilmerton; Southside/Newington

Links

Coalition pledges	P03 and P04
Council outcomes	C01 and C02
Single Outcome Agreement	S03

Gillian Tee

Director of Children and Families

Contact: Billy MacIntyre, Head of Resources

E-mail: billy.macintyre@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3366

Contact: Mike Rosendale, Head of Schools & Community Services

E-mail: mike.rosendale@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 2218

Executive summary

Outcome of the Consultation Process for the Proposal to close Castlebrae Community High School and associated catchment changes affecting Portobello High School and Liberton High School

Summary

The purpose of this report is to advise on the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the proposal to close Castlebrae Community High School with effect from July 2013. The report responds to the main issues raised during the consultation process and provides recommendations on how to proceed.

Pupils in Castlebrae Community High School continue to experience very poor educational outcomes compared with similar schools elsewhere in the city and also nationally.

The school roll has fallen significantly over the last ten years and has been the smallest secondary school roll in the city over this time. The 2012/13 start of session roll was 198 pupils, an occupancy level of 30% and the S1 intake was only 21 pupils. The school roll has subsequently fallen to 165, an occupancy rate of 28%, of which 17 are in S1. The school roll is expected to decline further over the next few years to an expected low of 158 pupils in 2015/16. The position is unsustainable.

There is spare capacity in the other secondary schools in the local area which could accommodate both the existing and future projected school roll from Castlebrae Community High School up to an estimated 2020. The educational outcomes being achieved in these schools are far higher and the majority of pupils already choose to attend other secondary schools in the area; based on the 2012/13 start of session roll data Castlebrae Community High School attracted just 23% of its catchment population.

After taking account of the representations made and listening to the issues raised during the consultation, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- There are very poor educational outcomes for the young people of Castlebrae Community High School as a result of the low roll;
- Better educational outcomes could be achieved at neighbouring schools for these young people;
- Spare capacity exists at neighbouring schools until an estimated 2020, after which the Council is committed to providing a new secondary school for the Craigmillar area with the capital investment programme

for 2017/18 including provision of £0.618m for the early stage design development costs for the new school thus reinforcing the Council's commitment to its delivery based on an assumed opening date of August 2020;

- The community programme can be re-provided in the local Craigmillar area;
- Vocational opportunities for students can be re-provided;
- Although no issues regarding the safety of walking routes from the Castlebrae area to Portobello High School were identified, in light of the issues raised during the consultation support will be provided for free home to school transport;
- A thorough transition programme and additional resources are proposed to allay young people's concerns about transferring to a new school and ensure that this process will be successful (the progress of which will be monitored); and
- It is proposed to reinvest some of the savings back into the Craigmillar area to provide additional support for young people and families.

The Director of Children and Families still considers that the case for closure substantially outweighs the objections made.

Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

- Approve that Castlebrae Community High School should close in July 2013;
- Note the statutory requirement to refer its decision to Scottish Ministers;
- Approve that the Portobello High School catchment area be extended to incorporate the Niddrie Mill, Newcraighall and Castlevie Primary School catchment areas together with the area of land shown in the map in Appendix 1 on page 94 on which there are no dwellings at present and for which there is currently no designated non-denominational secondary school catchment;
- Approve that Liberton High School becomes the sole non-denominational catchment secondary school for the Prestonfield Primary School catchment area;
- Approve that the existing Castlebrae Community High School pupils are offered a place at Portobello High School;
- Approve that, at any point, should there not to be sufficient space at Portobello High School to accommodate S1 pupils in the revised

enlarged catchment area who wish to attend the school then pupils would have priority access to any other non-denominational secondary school in the city. In accordance with the existing placing in schools guidelines this priority would sit above any non-catchment siblings at any of the other schools;

- Approve that free home to school transport would be provided, regardless of distance from their home to the school, to all pupils who were on the Castlebrae Community High School roll at the start of the 2012/13 school year whose denominational catchment school would change to be Portobello High School and who have already chosen, or if a decision is made to close the school choose, to attend Portobello High School. Also further approve that this principle would also apply to any future pupils from the existing Castlebrae catchment area whose denominational catchment school would change to be Portobello High School and who choose to attend Portobello High School in any future year until a new secondary school in Craigmillar has been built;
- Approve that the existing Castlebrae Community High School building be declared surplus from the end of the 2012/13 school session; that the building be demolished as soon as possible and that any disposal proceeds which would arise in the event that the disposal of the site is progressed directly by the Council be ring-fenced towards the cost of delivering a new secondary school in Craigmillar;
- Approve the following costs, the details of which are set out in the report:
 - £551,000 for the demolition of the existing school buildings to be funded through prudential borrowing over five years at an annual cost of £130,000;
 - £77,000 per annum of recurring revenue costs to fully re-provide the community facilities currently delivered in the school;
 - £10,000 of one-off funding for the provision of replacement school uniforms for those children who need them; and
 - £120,000 per annum for reinvestment into the Craigmillar area as set out in Section 2.5 to provide additional support for pupils who would move from Castlebrae Community High School and those in catchment primary schools.
- Note that the use to which any future revenue cost savings of an estimated £1.116m per annum which would arise as a result of the proposed closure would be considered as part of the Council budget setting process in 2014/15;

- Note that the timing for the required delivery of a new secondary school in Craigmillar, currently anticipated to be 2020, and how the new school will be funded shall be kept under review with updates being provided to Council during the annual budget process as part of the update of the Capital Investment Programme; and
- Note that, at a later date, it is the intention that further public consultation takes place to align minor anomalies in primary school catchments relating to land that currently has no non-denominational primary school catchment coverage.

Measures of success

In the event that Council approves the recommendation to close Castlebrae Community High School with effect from July 2013 there are considered to be three key measures of success:

- the transition and integration process for pupils from Castlebrae Community High School to move to their new school being as smooth as possible with disruption for pupils and their families being kept to a minimum;
- the educational outcomes for pupils from Castlebrae Community High School being improved in which regard the tracking of progress of young people who move from Castlebrae Community High School would be a priority together with ensuring that adequate resources are in place to support any young people with additional needs; and
- the re-provision of the existing community and other services and the associated transition process being as smooth as possible with minimum disruption for service users.

Financial impact

The current annual budget for Castlebrae Community High School is £2.297m; in the event that the recommendations within this paper were approved the financial impact would be as follows:

- £804,000 would be transferred to the receiving schools to ensure that the needs of pupils are fully met;
- £77,000 would be invested into fully re-providing the community facilities currently delivered in the school;
- £120,000 would be invested into the Craigmillar area to provide additional support for pupils who move from Castlebrae Community High School and those in catchment primary schools;

- £50,000 would be invested to provide free home to school transport in response to the issues and concerns expressed during the consultation period;
- £130,000 would be incurred (over a period of five years) to fund the cost of demolishing the existing buildings to create a site which will ultimately realise a significant capital receipt to be used as part of the funding for a new secondary school in Craigmillar; and
- £1.116m of revenue costs savings would arise on an ongoing basis, the use of which would be considered as part of the Council budget setting process in 2014/15.

The position for the 2013/14 financial year would show a small revenue cost saving of £12,000. Whilst there would be a part year impact of the items highlighted above, the following additional one-off costs would arise in this year:

- £83,000 of capital investment into fully re-providing the community facilities currently delivered in the school;
- £10,000 for the provision of replacement school uniforms for those children who need them;
- £115,000 for the costs associated with securing the buildings prior to demolition; and
- The recovery of school budget over-spends of £400,000 which have been incurred during recent years in order to provide additional staffing resources to the school.

Equalities impact

The contents and recommendations in this report have a relevance to, and impact on, the three Equality Act 2010 public sector duties to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, (ii) advance equality of opportunity and (iii) foster good relations. They also have relevance to, and impact on, a number of areas of human and children's rights, specifically rights to education and learning and rights to participation. As a consequence, equality and rights impact assessment has been embedded through the process to date, and will continue to be a feature of this work going forward. A record of impact assessment is attached at Appendix 7.

Sustainability impact

Until the replacement secondary school in Craigmillar is required and built there would be a reduction in energy consumption within the school estate with less carbon emissions assisting the Council to meet its carbon emission targets.

There is the opportunity to re-use and rationalise furniture, materials and equipment across the rest of the school estate assisting with resource use policies. Using spare capacity at other schools would make more effective use of these buildings.

There is potential for the development of housing on a brownfield site; that of the existing Castlebrae Community High School.

Although it is proposed to provide free home to school transport; this is anticipated to be through bus passes allowing children to use existing bus routes and not the provision of any new dedicated services unless that proved to be necessary. There should, therefore, be limited impact.

Consultation and engagement

The purpose of this report is to advise on the outcome of the statutory consultation process which undertaken between 25 October and 7 December 2012 relating to the proposed closure of Castlebrae Community High School.

The consultation process itself was extensive and involved four public meetings which were held between 13 and 29 November 2012 together with a number of other meetings with local community groups including the Portobello & Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership. An extensive consultation exercise was also undertaken with pupils with more than 400 pupils taking part in face to face sessions and almost 1,100 pupils taking part in online surveys.

As is required under the legislation, either the summary or full consultation paper was provided to all relevant parties including the parents at Castlebrae Community High School in addition to the associated High Schools and Primary Schools and the appropriate parent councils. It should be noted that the Council did not simply give notice to affected parties as required by the legislation; it provided each party with a comprehensive summary of the proposal to make information on the proposal more readily accessible. In the consultation paper they were invited to attend one of the four public meetings and/or to submit a formal response to the consultation proposals by post or email.

The full range of formal and informal consultation meetings which were undertaken is as follows:

- 22 October 2012 Books For Babies
- 26 October 2012 Community Programme (CP) Fighting Fit Participants
- 26 October 2012 CP Family Centre Participants
- 29 October 2012 CP Hairdressing Participants
- 30 October 2012 CP ESOL Participants (Intermediate level)
- 31 October 2012 CP Family Centre Participants
- 31 October 2012 CP Morning Cookery Class Participants
- 31 October 2012 CP ESOL Participants (Beginners)

- 31 October 2012 CP Afternoon Cookery Class Participants
- 31 October 2012 CP Fitness Suite Participants/Temporary SSO
- 31 October 2012 Informal discussion with Books for Babies Board
- 1 November 2012 CP Spanish Participants
- 2 November 2012 CP Art Participants
- 2 November 2012 CP Computing Participants
- 2 November 2012 CP Instrument Making Participants
- 2 November 2012 CP Woodwork Participants
- 8 November 2012 Meeting with key Local Activists
- 13 November 2012 Public Consultation Castlebrae Community High School
- 14 November 2012 Public Consultation Portobello High School
- 14 November 2012 CCHS Pupil Consultation
- 15 November 2012 Community Regeneration Meeting
- 15 November 2012 CCHS Pupil Consultation
- 19 November 2012 Portobello High School Pupil Consultation
- 20 November 2012 Community Council Meeting
- 22 November 2012 CCHS Pupil Consultation
- 26 November 2012 CCHS Pupil consultation
- 26 November 2012 Public Consultation Liberton High School
- 28 November 2012 Portobello/Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting
- 28 November 2012 Castleview Primary School Pupil Consultation
- 29 November 2012 Public Consultation Holy Rood RC High School
- 29 November 2012 Prestonfield Primary School Pupil Consultation
- 29 November 2012 Newcraighall Primary School Pupil Consultation
- 29 November 2012 CCHS Pupil Consultation
- 3 December 2012 CP Hairdressing Participants
- 4 December 2012 Holy Rood RC High School Pupil Consultation
- 4 December 2012 Meeting with key Local Activists
- 5 December 2012 Liberton High School Pupil Consultation
- 5 December 2012 CP Cooking Participants
- 5 December 2012 Meeting with CCHS CP Manager/Family Centre participants representative and partner and Parent Council Chair.
- 6 December 2012 CP Spanish Participants
- 7 December 2012 CP Fighting Fit Participants
- 7 December 2012 CP Computer Class Participants
- 7 December 2012 CP Art Participants
- 7 December 2012 CP Instrument Making Participants

- 7 December 2012 CP Woodwork Participants

Background reading / external references

The [report](#) to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 9 October 2012 which sought approval to undertake a statutory consultation on the proposed closure of Castlebrae Community High School. The recommendations in the report were varied through a motion which was approved the details of which can be found in paragraph 6.2 of the [minutes](#) of the meeting.

The full [Consultation Proposal Paper](#) which was produced containing details of the proposals and the associated implications arising together with the Educational Benefits Statement, supporting data, information analysis and other background information.

The reports to Council on [25 October 2012](#) and [22 November 2012](#) relating to the delivery of a new Portobello High School.

The report to the Planning Committee on 6 December 2012 on the [Craigmillar Urban Design Framework Review: Options for public consultation](#) which provided an update on progress made in delivering key elements of the Craigmillar Urban Design Framework and set out options for further consultation with residents of Craigmillar and other interested stakeholders.

The reports to the Finance and Budget Committee on [17 January 2013](#) and to Council on [7 February 2013](#) which included, and approved, provision for the early stage funding for the project to deliver a new secondary school in Craigmillar in the five year Capital Investment Programme.

Outcome of the Consultation Process for the Proposal to close Castlebrae Community High School and associated catchment changes affecting Portobello High School and Liberton High School

1. Background

- 1.1 Pupils in Castlebrae Community High School continue to experience very poor educational outcomes compared with similar schools elsewhere in the city and also nationally.
- 1.2 The school roll has fallen significantly over the last ten years and has had the smallest secondary school roll in the city over this time. The 2012/13 start of session roll taken from the 2012 annual school census was 198 pupils, an occupancy level of 30%, and the S1 intake was only 21 pupils. The school roll has subsequently fallen to 165, an occupancy rate of 28%, of which 17 are in S1. The school roll is expected to decline further over the next few years to an expected low of 158 pupils in 2015/16. The position is unsustainable.
- 1.3 There is spare capacity in the other secondary schools in the local area which could accommodate both the existing and future school roll from Castlebrae Community High School up to an estimated 2020. The educational outcomes being achieved in these schools are far higher and the majority of pupils already choose to attend other secondary schools in the area; based on the 2012/13 start of session roll Castlebrae Community High School attracted just 23% of its catchment population.
- 1.4 The catchment data for 2012/13 is now available based on the start of session roll; at the start of the current school year there were 753 secondary pupils in the Castlebrae catchment area, a more detailed analysis of which is provided in the following table.

Secondary School Attended	Pupils	%
Holy Rood RC	296	39%
Castlebrae	176	23%
Portobello	123	16%
St Thomas of Aquin's RC	52	7%
James Gillespie's	25	3%
Liberton	25	3%
Other	56	9%
Total Catchment Pupils	753	100%

1.5 In light of the above, careful consideration was given to the future of Castlebrae Community High School which established the case for a consultation exercise regarding a proposal to close the school with effect from July 2013.

1.6 The consultation process was undertaken between 25 October and 7 December 2012 based on the following proposals:

- Castlebrae Community High School should close in July 2013;
- The Castlebrae Community High School catchment would be split between Liberton High School and Portobello High School to which the majority of the catchment would be assigned;
- Pupils from the Prestonfield Primary School catchment area would have Liberton High School as their non-denominational catchment secondary school;
- Pupils from the Niddrie Mill, Newcraighall and Castlevie Primary School catchment areas would have Portobello High School as their non-denominational catchment secondary school;
- There are a small number of non-catchment pupils who currently attend CCHS and they would be offered a place at Portobello High School along with their peer group;
- An area in the nearby vicinity which currently has no designated catchment would be assigned to Portobello High School;
- Future pupil placements would be based on these new boundaries;
- Should the intake limit at Portobello High School be exceeded by catchment demand, placing requests from pupils in its revised enlarged catchment area to any other city secondary school would be prioritised;
- Existing denominational catchment boundaries would remain unaffected. The majority of the Prestonfield Primary School catchment area would continue to have St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School as its catchment denominational secondary school with the remaining three primary school areas continuing to have Holy Rood RC High School. Parents would continue to be able to exercise this as a choice for their children; and

- The community facilities currently provided within Castlebrae Community High School would be re-provided to alternative locations in the area.

2. Main report

2.1 Statutory Consultation Exercise

2.1.1 On 9 October 2012 the Education, Children and Families Committee approved that a statutory consultation should be carried out regarding the proposed closure of Castlebrae Community High School. Committee granted this approval based on the proposal detailed in the associated [report](#) to that Committee but subject to the following amendments:

- (i) rather than a *dual-catchment* arrangement being applied for pupils from the Castlevue, Niddrie Mill and Newcraighall Primary School catchment areas together with the area of land shown in Appendices 4 and 5 (of the report) for which there is currently no designated non-denominational secondary school catchment, that Portobello High School be allocated as the sole non-denominational secondary catchment school for these areas; and
- (ii) to further approve that in the event that there should be insufficient capacity within Portobello High School for future S1 intakes, placing requests from pupils from the proposed new Portobello High School catchment area, including pupils from the Castlevue, Niddrie Mill and Newcraighall Primary School catchment areas, would have priority access to any secondary school in the city.

2.1.2 The consultation period ran from 25 October 2012 to 7 December 2012. The rationale for the proposals is set out in the Consultation Summary paper which is included at Appendix 1. The full consultation paper can be accessed [here](#).

2.1.3 Four public meetings were held between 13 and 29 November 2012. At each meeting, which was independently chaired, Council officials answered questions following a short presentation. Records of each meeting are included at Appendix 2. In accordance with the request by Committee, a number of other meetings were held during the consultation period with local community groups including the Portobello & Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership.

2.1.4 Representations were also invited by letter and by e-mail. 56 separate responses were received during the consultation period however in some instances this included more than one submission from the same respondent, either an individual or group. Responses were received from 43 different groups, organisations or individuals and most (37) objected to the proposals; only two respondents gave conditional support for the proposals with the remaining four commenting on the proposals rather than offering any specific opinion either way. An analysis of the 43 respondents is provided in the following table which categorises respondents where this has been possible to

do so from their submission; there were some (others) where this was not possible.

Respondent	No
Elected Representatives	1
Parents Forum/ Parent Council	1
Staff Response	3
Organisations	5
Pressure Groups	1
Parents	7
Pupils	2
Community users	10
Other	13
Total	43

- 2.1.5 A summary of all submissions is included in Appendix 3, with copies of the full submissions being available in the Elected Members lounge for reference.
- 2.1.6 An extensive consultation exercise was also undertaken with pupils with more than 400 pupils taking part in face to face sessions and almost 1,100 pupils in online surveys. The aim of the consultation process was to give every pupil currently attending Castlebrae Community High School the opportunity to discuss and express their views, as well as enabling pupils at other affected secondary schools to consider what the potential impacts would be on them and their schools. Pupils in P6 and P7 of the feeder primaries were consulted as appropriate in agreement with the respective Head Teachers. The results of this consultation process are included in Appendix 4.
- 2.1.7 Responses to all of the major issues raised during the consultation process are considered in the 'Key Themes and Issues and Council Responses' section which follows. The Council's response to Education Scotland's report on the educational aspects of the proposals is contained in section 2.3 of this report.

2.2 Key Themes and Issues and Council Responses

- 2.2.1 A number of points were recurrent in the public meetings, the consultation undertaken with pupils and in the responses received during the consultation period. This section draws out the main themes and issues together with the Council's response.

2.2.2 Geography, Demographics and School Roll

Issue Raised	Castlebrae High School has not failed – it is the regeneration of Craigmillar that has failed and the area needs a Community High School more than anywhere else in Edinburgh. Craigmillar has 46% of the population income deprived and is the poorest area in the city and the most vulnerable sector of the community should be supported.
Council Response	<p>The necessity for a new school in Craigmillar has been recognised and the Council accepts it must now assume from PARC financial responsibility for the delivery of a new Community High School in Craigmillar. The capital commitment to delivering the new school in 2020 has already been initiated with the inclusion of early stage funding for design development in the Council Capital Investment Programme. Full details are provided in Section 2.8 of this report.</p> <p>The proposal seeks to support the community of Craigmillar by creating better educational outcomes for its pupils than can be currently achieved.</p>
Issue Raised	Children brought up in poverty are twice as likely to start school with developmental problems as better-off classmates and the children would be better served by a small local school.
Council Response	It is recognised that children who are brought up in poverty are likely to achieve less well than children who are not brought up in poverty. These children need the best quality education and this cannot be provided at Castlebrae Community High School with such a low roll and the consequent difficulty in providing a comprehensive education resulting in poor educational outcomes. Castlebrae Community High School is a small local school but which currently delivers poor educational outcomes.
Issue Raised	Low roll has been caused by decanting families from Greendykes and Niddrie and then demolishing the housing stock. The demolition programme has resulted in a reduction in the number of 10-15 year-olds in the Castlebrae catchment area. Much of the new housing in Craigmillar has been designed for childless families rather than provide family homes.
Council Response	The secondary age population in the Castlebrae High School catchment area has dropped by just 3% in the past 10 years; from 776 pupils in 2002 to 753 pupils in 2012. By comparison, the city-wide drop in the secondary pupil population was 8.5%

	<p>over the same period.</p> <p>The main reason that rolls at Castlebrae High school are low is parental choice. The 1981 Education (Scotland) Act gave parents the statutory right to request places in schools outside their catchment area. In 1980, before the Act was passed, the roll at Castlebrae was 988 pupils. By 1990 the roll had dropped to 313 pupils; a fall of over 68% in ten years. Since 1990 the roll at Castlebrae has remained low and the percentage of catchment pupils choosing to attend Castlebrae Community High School has fallen from 43% in 2002 to just 23% in 2012 (based on the start of session roll).</p>
Issue Raised	Low roll at Castlebrae also dictated by a worn out building and geography and bus timetables that facilitate placements to surrounding school.
Council Response	<p>As has been explained above, the main reason for the low rolls at Castlebrae High School is parental choice. Whilst the condition of Castlebrae High School might have been a contributory factor to the decision made by parents to choose another school it is not considered to be a main determining factor. There are other schools in the city which are in poorer condition but where the roll remains consistently high; an example being Boroughmuir High School.</p> <p>Under the 1980 Education Act the Council has no choice but to grant requests to other schools if there are places available at them. This follows the majority of parents' wishes, with only 23% choosing Castlebrae.</p>
Issue Raised	Craigmillar will not be able to attract families if there is no local high school and the sale of family homes at the planned Persimmons site will be badly affected.
Council Response	An alternative viewpoint might be taken that the change of catchment school to Portobello High School might be a more attractive proposition to those families who might be considering moving into the local area.
Issue Raised	The proposed closure will put social cohesion at risk within the Craigmillar community.
Council Response	Community facilities will be re-provided. Based on the 2012/13 start of session roll, 77% of the school catchment population already attend other schools.
Issue	The travelling community in Craigmillar will become more

Raised	marginalised.
Council Response	The views of Travellers expressed in the consultation did not include explicit concerns about their potential marginalisation should Castlebrae close. Travellers said it would be unlikely that they would access other provision, partly on the basis of the geographic convenience of Castlebrae. It should be noted that Holy Rood RC High School is geographically closer to the site residents. The consultants highlighted that Travellers should be involved in discussions about alternative community provision and this will take place.

2.2.3 School Rolls

Issue Raised	Continual threat of closure by the Council has adversely affected rolls at Castlebrae.
Council Response	The roll at Castlebrae has been declining for many years; a trend which continued up to 2009 up to which point it had been the intention to build a new secondary school in Craigmillar with the intended delivery date having been 2012. As indicated above, the main decline in the roll occurred in the 1980s, following the introduction of parental choice by the Government.
Issue Raised	The Council need to more thoroughly check its roll projections for Portobello, Holy Rood and Castlebrae.
Council Response	The respondent provided no clarification regarding what was perceived to be at fault with the roll projections which were produced and reflected in the Consultation Report therefore it is not really possible to respond to this point. Whilst projections are, by their very nature, estimates which must be based on assumptions these were based on the most accurate information available at the time of production. It should be noted that the declining rolls expected at these schools is in line with the city wide projections for a declining 11-16 year old age group. These city wide projections are produced by a national body.
Issue Raised	The Portobello school population may be growing faster than the average so there may not be available space in later years. What is the fall back position if roll projections are wrong?
Council Response	The analysis which has been carried out indicates that in the years up until to 2020 either all, or the vast majority, of the pupils in the enlarged catchment area forecast to attend Portobello and Castlebrae Community High Schools could be accommodated in Portobello High School. This analysis is based on the expected

	<p>Castlebrae Community High School pupils going to Portobello as their new school and that a similar proportion of catchment pupils will continue to opt to attend their catchment denominational school at Holy Rood. However it is likely that, based on experience of other school closures, some pupils will choose to attend other non-denominational schools. This would reduce the total number of pupils to be accommodated in Portobello High School.</p> <p>We know that the Portobello catchment area is not growing faster than other areas of the city, indeed the majority of its feeder primary schools are experiencing less demand for places than many other areas of the city.</p> <p>Should Castlebrae close, the Children and Families Department would work with the school to accommodate all of the Castlebrae pupils living in the enlarged Portobello High School catchment area who wish to attend the school. However, if in any year there is not enough space in Portobello High School to accommodate all requests from S1 pupils within the revised catchment area, then places at Portobello High School would be allocated in the following order of priority:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exceptional cases; then 2. Pupils with siblings in the school; and then 3. Pupils without siblings in the school on the basis of the shortest safest walking distance from home to school. <p>Any remaining S1 pupils who could not be accommodated at Portobello High School would be given priority access to any other non-denominational secondary school in the city.</p>
<p>Issue Raised</p>	<p>What will happen to rolls beyond 2020 if a new Craigmillar High School is not built?</p>
<p>Council Response</p>	<p>We still expect and intend to build a new school in Craigmillar and see it as central to the regeneration of the area. We know the new school will be needed in the future once a significant part of the anticipated new housing is built and when there is no longer enough space in other local high schools to take all the children living in the area. At present we believe there should be enough capacity in neighbouring schools until around 2020 but we will regularly review the position to better understand when work to plan and develop the new school must begin.</p> <p>Until only very recently, sole responsibility for the delivery of a new secondary school in Craigmillar lay with PARC. However,</p>

	<p>the Council recognises that it now must assume financial responsibility for the delivery of a new Community High School in Craigmillar. The capital commitment to delivering the new school in 2020 has already been initiated with the inclusion of early stage funding for design development in the Council Capital Investment Programme.</p>
--	---

2.2.4 New School for Craigmillar

<p>Issue Raised</p>	<p>All the business plans of PARC Craigmillar Ltd have sought provision of a new Community High School.</p> <p>The PARC Board requests that the Council makes a capital commitment to a replacement Community High School to be commenced as soon as finances permit and in line with projected catchment requirement.</p> <p>PARC is no longer able to fully fund a new Community High School and financial responsibility will now have to fall to the Council. In the future PARC will remit surpluses to the Council as a contribution to the cost of a new school.</p> <p>The revised draft master plan still reserves a site for a new school and a commitment to a new school would be a major confidence boost for the area and would support regeneration.</p>
<p>Council Response</p>	<p>The Council recognises that it now must assume financial responsibility for the delivery of a new Community High School in Craigmillar.</p> <p>The capital commitment to delivering the new school in 2020 has already been initiated with the inclusion of early stage funding for design development in the Council Capital Investment Programme. However, considerable additional capital funding still requires to be identified and the surpluses which are expected to be provided by PARC represent a key component of the overall funding package for the new school. Full details are provided in Section 2.8 of this report.</p>
<p>Issue Raised</p>	<p>Go with existing award winning plans for a new school instead of the turmoil that would arise from the transfer of pupils to Portobello pending a new school.</p>
<p>Council Response</p>	<p>The plans for a new school which were produced by PARC in 2008/09 are now out of date. Since the original design for the new school was produced a number of key changes have arisen in the interim period which require a re-design to be undertaken:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community library has been delivered elsewhere in the local area; • the space metrics which the Council applies to its new schools have been significantly reduced; and • building regulations have changed. <p>With regard to planning, the previous master-plan for the regeneration of the area showed the school in a town centre location, although planning permission for the original school design was never sought as the project was put on hold due to the economic down-turn.</p> <p>PARC has advised they are currently considering the future direction for the regeneration of the Craigmillar town centre and is reviewing the bids of potential development partners to deliver the new town centre. The intended location for a new school will form an integral part of any proposals and this may be different to that originally proposed. Once a development partner is appointed, a new master plan will be progressed in conjunction with the planned review of the Craigmillar Urban Design Framework.</p>
Issue Raised	A new school will revitalise regeneration of the area.
Council Response	The importance of a new school to the regeneration of the area has been recognised and the Council accepts it must now assume financial responsibility for the delivery of a new Community High School in Craigmillar from PARC. The capital commitment to delivering the new school in 2020 has already been initiated with the inclusion of early stage funding for design development in the Council Capital Investment Programme.
Issue Raised	It will be harder to sustain a case for a new school if pupils at Castlebrae are dispersed at different schools across the city.
Council Response	This is not correct and the case for a new school has already been accepted. With rolls in all secondary schools in the city expected to rise in future years up to 2025 there will be a consequential reduction in the spare capacity available at these other schools to accept any such dispersal in future.
Issue Raised	Can't see how a commitment can be made for a new school as this will be decision for a future administration.
Council	A commitment to the delivery of a new school can be, and already has been, made by the current Council with the inclusion

Response	of funding in the Capital Investment Programme to cover early stage design development work for a new school based on an assumed opening date of August 2020.
Issue Raised	The best alternative would be to build a large new campus in Craigmillar that could accommodate Portobello and Castlebrae pupils.
Council Response	<p>The option of a combined school in Craigmillar or Brunstane was considered recently as one of the potential fall-back options for a new Portobello High School should it not ultimately prove to be possible to progress the preferred option of building the new school on Portobello Park. Both options had a number of advantages including the potential to achieve significant cost savings (relative to other fall-back options) through the economies of scale of building one school rather than two.</p> <p>However, apart from the community issues and poor location of both sites relative to what the extended catchment area would be, the size of the school itself at 2,200 pupils is an issue. Whilst not impossible to create a good large school it is considerably more difficult. Research suggests that the optimal school size is between 600 and 1,600 and that any higher would require school structures which are essentially 'schools within schools'. On balance, the advantages were considered to be outweighed by the disadvantages and this was not an approach which was recommended.</p>
Issue Raised	PARC promised a new high school to house buyers.
Council Response	<p>This is a question which would be for PARC to answer however it very much was the intention of PARC to deliver a new school and it was the unexpected economic downturn which resulted in the achievement of this objective no longer being possible. However, as explained above, the Council has now made a commitment to the delivery of a new school based on an assumed opening date of August 2020 and, in the interim, will make arrangements to ensure that the children within the existing Castlebrae catchment area have access to a school which will provide them with a high quality education.</p>
Issue Raised	Although Castlebrae High School is in a state of disrepair there are problems with the fabric of Portobello so school condition should not be a reason for closure.
Council	The current condition of Castlebrae Community High School is

Response	not a reason for closure having been proposed.
Issue Raised	Castlebrae currently has good sports facilities whereas the facilities at Portobello are inadequate.
Council Response	It is acknowledged the existing Castlebrae Community High School has better external sports facilities <i>on site</i> than Portobello. However, pupils at Portobello have access to excellent external sports facilities at off-site locations which will also apply for those pupils who would transfer from Castlebrae.
Issue Raised	The Council has to publish verifiable criteria which will trigger the decision to start the process of building a new school.
Council Response	A commitment to the delivery of a new school has been made by the Council with the inclusion of funding in the Capital Investment Programme to cover early stage design development work for a new school based on an assumed opening date of August 2020. The trigger point will be defined by the catchment rolls in neighbouring schools compared against their capacity, along with an on-going assessment of the number of pupils coming from the new housing in the Craigmillar area.
Issue Raised	The catchment boundaries should be re-instated when a new Castlebrae High School is built.
Council Response	Should the decision be taken to close the existing Castlebrae Community High School then a statutory consultation process would require to be undertaken in advance of the project to deliver a new secondary school in Craigmillar being initiated. This process would cover the catchment boundaries which would apply to the new school.
Issue Raised	Could Castlebrae be refurbished on a phased approach by moving pupils into one half of the school?
Council Response	Refurbishment of the existing school was never considered as a viable option. The building is in a relatively poor condition and converting it to a school which is fit for purpose as a learning environment in the 21st century would be both costly and would also introduce significant constraints into the design process restricting what could be delivered. In addition, the objective of having a new school at the heart of the regeneration of the town centre would not be achieved by building on the existing site.
Issue Raised	Castlebrae should become a specialist junior college catering for pupils from S3 onwards from across the city.

Council Response	Castlebrae Community High School would require significant financial investment to become a specialist junior college. Our secondary schools across the city are not full and therefore it would not be appropriate to spend money when many schools provide a range of vocational options within their school or within a group of neighbouring secondary schools.
-------------------------	---

2.2.5 Pupil and Staffing Considerations (Castlebrae)

Issue Raised	Looming threat of closure has adversely affected morale and confidence and well being of pupils and staff and this will affect the school roll and levels of attainment.
Council Response	The school roll has been low since 2002 when it sat at 387. Over the last 10 years, the roll has gradually declined due to parental placing requests and spaces in other secondary schools. Attainment levels achieved by pupils have been low for a number of years. We are working with the school to support staff to continue to provide education to Castlebrae pupils during this time.
Issue Raised	Pupils have left the school since the proposed closure was announced making it harder for the school to function properly.
Council Response	Scottish legislation makes it possible for parents to request the education of their child at schools other than their catchment school if there are available places. A number of pupils have enrolled in other schools since the proposal to close Castlebrae was announced. The staffing allocation and curriculum offering remains the same as it was in August 2012.
Issue Raised	No guarantee that S3 pupils doing existing vocational courses can have that subject at another school; S2 pupils are unsure of choices that will be available – pupils are currently in limbo.
Council Response	<p>Course choice for Castlebrae pupils at alternative schools can only go ahead if the decision is made to close the school and when parents then choose which school they wish their child to be educated at. Analysis of the vocational curriculum at Castlebrae against the vocational curriculum at Portobello High School shows that we are able to offer similar vocational experiences to those offered at Castlebrae.</p> <p>All of the vocational curriculum is able to be offered within Portobello High School either on site or through College provision. Hairdressing, digital media, hospitality, retail and</p>

	<p>creative industries are able to be delivered within Portobello High School while automotive and construction will be delivered through Edinburgh College. Pupils will be transported to College as is the normal practice for pupils from Portobello High School currently following construction courses and will be accompanied by a member of staff. This approach strengthens the identity of pupils with their new school and demonstrates our commitment to continue the delivery of vocational provision.</p> <p>Delivery of some provision by Edinburgh College is common across all of our schools for pupils in S4-S6. We are working closely with the new Edinburgh College's senior management team to deliver the senior phase of Curriculum for Excellence S4-S6 and in particular to deliver an increase in vocational curriculum provision for all of our S4-S6 learners. This will be focused on auditing the total vocational resources across each of the colleges and all of our secondary schools within three geographical areas across the city. Following this audit, a strategic plan will be developed to ensure that across all of our schools, learners have equity of access to vocational provision.</p>
Issue Raised	If a child goes from a school with 200 pupils to one with 1,305 pupils how can they receive the same individual attention?
Council Response	In all schools, no matter what their size, pupils are known by key staff in the school. Pupil Support staff have a caseload of pupils whom they know very well. There would be additional pupil support staff transferred to the receiving schools to support transition and to provide continuity in support for all young people from Castlebrae including those with additional support needs. All subject teachers have responsibility to ensure that the needs of pupils are met and if pupils require further support, then referrals to Pupil Support ensure that the necessary support is in place and additional resources would be provided as necessary.
Issue Raised	Children need more one to one tuition than the other schools in the city.
Council Response	Pupils with additional learning needs will have the necessary resource allocation and support from staff to ensure they are supported in their learning. Additional support needs resources and staffing will transfer to the receiving schools with the pupils with the agreement of individual staff.
Issue Raised	What would be the re-provision for children with physical disabilities?

Council Response	Any young person with a physical disability would have an additional support plan. It is the responsibility of all schools to ensure that the needs of young people are met including those with a disability. The additional support plan would detail the additional support which the young person would need and any additional resource which is required to ensure they are able to maximise their education.
Issue Raised	Castlebrae is a safe place to learn but pupils transferring from Castlebrae will be outsiders at Portobello.
Council Response	There are well over 100 Castlebrae catchment pupils who currently attend Portobello High School and so it is likely that Castlebrae pupils will already know some of these pupils. Transition arrangements to Portobello and any other school will ensure that relationships with existing pupils are made prior to Castlebrae pupils moving to any new school.
Issue Raised	Greater threat of bullying at Portobello High School.
Council Response	There is no evidence that there is a greater threat of bullying at Portobello. Portobello provides a good standard of education and has a very positive school ethos. Any incident of bullying is treated seriously and transition work will take place to ensure that Castlebrae pupils feel supported.

2.2.6 Achievement and Attainment

Issue Raised	The impact of studying in a school building widely acknowledged to be well beyond its use-by date does not help outcomes.
Council Response	The current school building at Castlebrae is not of a good standard however it does meet minimum requirements with regard to health and safety as do all of our schools.
Issue Raised	Support has fallen in recent years with the closure of Instep in 2009 and the temporary headship at the school has affected leadership and loss of staff has restricted engagement with primary school pupils.
Council Response	Instep provided support for positive destinations for Castlebrae young people and, as this became a national priority expected to be undertaken in all schools by Pupil Support staff, the funding for Instep ended in 2009. Data for positive destinations during the period of Instep does not show a positive trend with the number of young people moving into positive destinations being

	<p>variable on a year to year basis.</p> <p>Significant additional funding has been allocated to Castlebrae Community High School over recent years.</p> <p>The current Head Teacher was appointed permanently in November 2010. There has been no greater loss of teaching staff than at any other school.</p> <p>Engagement with primary pupils within the Cluster is agreed by all Head Teachers within the Cluster who agree a programme of developments and visits. There is no evidence to support that there has been any detrimental impact on engagement with primary pupils.</p>
Issue Raised	The high percentage of pupils with additional support needs is not adequately taken into account when considering levels of attainment.
Council Response	Levels of attainment are compared with schools which serve pupils from a similar background. These are the comparator schools which are the closest to Castlebrae in terms of a range of indicators including socio-economic background and the number of pupils on free school meals.
Issue Raised	A low school roll, small class sizes with lots of teacher time is the best way to tackle educational challenges and ASN pupils.
Council Response	Castlebrae has benefited from smaller class sizes for many years without improvements in attainment. It is the responsibility of the teaching staff, supported by specialist staff, to meet the needs of those young people with additional support needs.
Issue Raised	How will larger classes help improve the education of the children – it is more likely that they will be lost in the system.
Council Response	In all schools, young people are known well by staff and schools have considerable experience of transition. In Portobello they are experienced in preparing for over 200 young people transferring to their school on an annual basis as part of their S1 intake. Transition arrangements include ensuring that all staff know about the learning needs of pupils. Pastoral care is strong in both Portobello and Holy Rood. All pupils benefit from tracking, target-setting and regular meetings with their Pupil Support teacher and therefore no child will be lost in the system.
Issue Raised	How many pupils from Castlebrae will end up being at risk of exclusion, truancy or bullying, especially if 44% of them have

	Additional Support Needs?
Council Response	Pupils who have additional support needs have a range of different needs not necessarily social, emotional and behavioural. Some young people have specific learning difficulties. The young people who have additional support needs will be well supported. Based on the 2012/13 start of session roll, 77% of the school catchment population already attend other schools where the levels of exclusion, truancy and bullying continue to improve. Additional support needs resources and staffing will transfer to the receiving schools with the pupils with the agreement of individual staff.
Issue Raised	For 3 of the past 5 years Castlebrae has outperformed WHEC and Craigoyston in terms of pupils moving into a positive destination.
Council Response	This is correct however Craigoyston is an improving school. The positive destinations figure achieved by Craigoyston in September 2011 was 19.5% greater than that achieved at Castlebrae. The latest position regarding positive destinations for the 2011/12 school leaver cohort has been provided later in this report in section 2.2.12 and does show an improved position at Castlebrae.
Issue Raised	The Council notes “exclusion incidents” at 49% of Castlebrae school roll, compared with an average 6.2% at surrounding schools. How could moving pupils to Portobello where parents have no involvement impact positively on attainment?
Council Response	If the decision is taken to close Castlebrae, the Head Teachers of any receiving school will work hard to engage parents and to form positive relationships with them as partners in their child’s learning.
Issue Raised	The educational attainment of some of the feeder primary schools are below the city average and pupils going to Portobello may find it hard to “catch up”.
Council Response	Portobello High School takes pupils from a number of different primary schools and within these schools there is a range of educational attainment achieved by these pupils. The teaching staff ensure they have a good understanding of where a child’s learning is in order that they can build on this through different teaching approaches. Any young person who requires additional support will receive this.

Issue Raised	Castlebrae is not comparable with other schools in Scotland that retain the primary pupils from their catchment.
Council Response	Edinburgh has the highest number of parental placing requests of any local authority meaning that there are a number of secondary schools who receive pupils from other schools than their catchment schools. Schools are experienced in pastoral and curricular transition arrangements to ensure young people achieve success in whichever school they attend.
Issue Raised	In terms of educational outcomes Castlebrae scores on average 17th out of 21 schools rather than being at the bottom.
Council Response	Data against comparator schools is taken over a 3 year period giving a 3 year average. The data contained in the committee paper of October 2012, did not contain information related to 2012 attainment as the information was not available. Evaluation of performance in S4 measures, including the 2012 cohort data now available, shows how the school has performed over the three year period 2010-2012, with an average of 21st out of 21, performing notably less well than similar schools.
Issue Raised	Pupil tracking shows value added attainment by the end of S4/S5 is considerable.
Council Response	The school would have shared this information with HMIE during their visits to the school however the quality indicator 1.1 Improvements in Performance was evaluated as weak.

2.2.7 Castlebrae – Case for Retention

Issue Raised	Castlebrae High School is at the heart of the community.
Council Response	Community facilities will be re-provided.
Issue Raised	Hard working staff team committed to providing good quality teaching.
Council Response	We recognise the commitment and hard work of staff.
Issue Raised	Personal learning plans for all students to help them reach their potential.

Council Response	Personal learning planning is in place in all schools.
Issue Raised	Excellent pastoral care and support to individual students.
Council Response	We recognise the commitment and dedication of staff in delivering pastoral care and support to individual students. We are confident that a high level of care and support will be provided in other schools.
Issue Raised	Partnership programmes with colleges and universities, including LEAPS and Lothian Step Up.
Council Response	All schools access the LEAPS (Lothian Equal Access Programme) to support pupils into Higher Education. Schools have a range of partnerships to support their students into a positive destination and to enhance the curriculum in S4-S6.
Issue Raised	An excellent extra-curricular programme which includes lunch clubs, after school clubs and school holiday programmes.
Council Response	Similar levels of extra-curricular opportunity exist in all of our schools. Many schools operate school summer school programmes including transition programmes.
Issue Raised	Supporting transition into jobs, college or university.
Council Response	Support into a positive destination is a key priority for all schools. Each school has a range of partners that support this process and all schools track each of their school leavers working closely with Skills Development Scotland and other partners.
Issue Raised	Over 90% positive destinations for pupils this year.
Council Response	A detailed response on the latest position regarding positive destinations for the 2011/12 school leaver cohort has been provided later in this report in section 2.2.12.
Issue Raised	Strong links with the business community and an extensive programme of enterprise activities to help prepare students for work.
Council Response	We recognise that Castlebrae has strong business links and preparation for work activities. Most schools have similar business links and activities targeted to support groups of

	individuals as they prepare to leave school.
Issue Raised	Wide range of vocational training unmatched at surrounding schools.
Council Response	<p>Analysis of the vocational curriculum at Castlebrae compared with that offered at Portobello showed that Portobello currently provides vocational curriculum in all areas with the exception of hairdressing, automotive and construction courses.</p> <p>Hairdressing would be re-provided at Portobello High School and automotive and construction will be delivered through Edinburgh College in line with current practice at Portobello High School for the delivery of some of the vocational curriculum. Pupils will be supported through transport arrangements being provided to College and through the support of a member of staff who will accompany them.</p> <p>We are committed to ensuring that there continues to be provision for vocational courses in Portobello; the way in which this will be achieved is described in a response to an earlier point in section 2.2.5.</p>
Issue Raised	Teachers will have much bigger classes, with more stress, with less pastoral work at replacement school.
Council Response	Teachers have class sizes based on agreed maximum levels. It is usual to have S1 and S2 class sizes of a maximum of 20 for approximately half of the school week. In other non-practical subjects, class sizes are usually set ensuring that there are smaller classes for pupils who have greater learning needs. All schools receive a similar staffing budget and there is no evidence to suggest that there will be less pastoral support at any receiving school. We are committed to ensuring that pastoral support staffing is enhanced to support the transition of Castlebrae pupils to another school.

2.2.8 Impact on Portobello High School

Issue Raised	A decision to increase the Portobello High School roll should not be made until there is a decision on where and when the new Portobello High School will be built.
Council Response	There is no proposal to increase the capacity for either the existing Portobello High School or the intended new building and this will remain at the current level of 1,400. Should Castlebrae close, the roll at Portobello High School is not expected to

	increase beyond the school's capacity.
Issue Raised	A replacement Portobello High School building is uncertain and more than six years late in delivery.
Council Response	The delivery of a new Portobello High School is not more than six years late but has been delayed by several years due to the recent court action. The delivery of a new Portobello High School at the earliest opportunity remains a priority for the Council; updates were provided to Council on 25 October 2012 and 22 November 2012 .
Issue Raised	Site options for rebuild will make it difficult to expand to take in the Castlebrae catchment.
Council Response	There is no intention to increase the capacity for the new Portobello High School which will remain at the current approved level of 1,400. Options to create a joint campus were considered but discounted.
Issue Raised	The temporary change of catchment boundaries should not affect the location of the new Portobello High School.
Council Response	The proposals have had no impact on the location for a new Portobello High School. The preferred location for a new Portobello High School remains Portobello Park. On 22 November 2012 Council approved that a statutory consultation process be undertaken during 2013 regarding two potential fall-back options to identify what the preferred option would be in the event that it ultimately proved not to be possible to build the new school on Portobello Park. The fall-back options were a phased build on the existing school site or a new build on the former Scottish Power site at Baileyfield (should the Council be successful in acquiring this site).
Issue Raised	Portobello High is struggling to function. Most recently the assembly hall suffered storm damage when part of the roof was blown off in September.
Council Response	The necessity for additional investment to be made to the existing Portobello High School to keep it fully operational until a new school is delivered has already been reported to Council on 22 November 2012 together with the additional costs estimated to be required to achieve this. This investment is required regardless of any decision to close Castlebrae Community High School and arrangements are being progressed to prioritise the necessary works.

Issue Raised	More children will be crammed into an old school which is not fit for purpose and which cannot accommodate a large increase in numbers. Portobello is already the largest school in Edinburgh and if it becomes any larger the education of the children will suffer. Merging the school catchment should not occur until there is a new Portobello High School that has sufficient space and facilities.
Council Response	The existing Portobello High School has a capacity for 1,400 pupils and this is not expected to be exceeded with the intake from Castlebrae. Portobello High School has operated in the past with a higher school roll than we are planning. As recently as 2002 the school roll stood at 1,468 and in the early 1980s the roll was as high as 1,800. The new school will also have a capacity of 1,400 pupils, with the same number of timetabled spaces (which determines capacity) as the existing school.
Issue Raised	The lunch area for school dinners is inadequate.
Council Response	The school has previously managed to accommodate a roll in excess of 1,400 pupils. It is anticipated that dining arrangements to cover a roll of up to 1,400 can be reinstated as necessary.
Issue Raised	The change would exceed the capacity of Portobello High School by 2017 to 2018. A new Craigmillar High would have to be initiated now to be delivered by then.
Council Response	<p>The analysis which has been carried out indicates that in the years up until to 2020 either all, or the vast majority, of the pupils in the enlarged catchment area forecast to attend Portobello and Castlebrae Community High Schools could be accommodated in Portobello High School. This analysis is based on all of the expected Castlebrae Community High School pupils going to Portobello as their new school. However it is likely that, based on experience of other school closures, some pupils will choose to attend other schools. This would reduce the total number of pupils to be accommodated in Portobello High School.</p> <p>Should Castlebrae close, Children and Families would work with the school to accommodate all of the Castlebrae pupils living in the enlarged Portobello High School catchment area who wish to attend the school. However, if in any year there is not enough space in Portobello High School to accommodate all requests from S1 pupils within the revised catchment area then places at Portobello High School would be allocated in accordance with</p>

	<p>established prioritisation protocols. Any remaining S1 pupils who could not be accommodated at Portobello High School would be given priority access to any other non-denominational secondary school in the city.</p> <p>A commitment to the delivery of a new school has now been made with the inclusion of funding in the Capital Investment Programme to cover early stage design development work for a new school based on an assumed opening date of August 2020.</p>
Issue Raised	The projections do not take account of the circa 100 pupils that come from other catchments e.g. Leith Academy. Taking account of this the school would be over capacity from 2013 and pupils would have to be turned away.
Council Response	The projections were based on the patterns of placing requests that had previously been experienced in the Portobello area, for example the intake of 210 pupils at Portobello in 2012 comprised just 162 catchment pupils from Portobello; 21 pupils from the Castlebrae catchment area, 14 pupils from the Leith catchment area and 13 pupils from various other catchment areas. It should be noted however that while overall secondary rolls continue to drop across the city, there will be localised variations in the catchment numbers year by year which will affect the number of non-catchment pupils that can be accommodated at a school in any given year. The registrations for 2013 have shown that Portobello has a higher number of catchment pupils for this one year, which will limit the availability of non-catchment places.
Issue Raised	Sufficient resources need to be allocated to Portobello High School to take account the support needs of Castlebrae pupils.
Council Response	Resources for pupils with additional needs are allocated to each school based on need. We will ensure that this is the case for any receiving school if the decision goes ahead and, if so, when parents decide which school they wish their child to attend. Additional support needs resources and staffing will transfer to the receiving schools with the pupils with the agreement of individual staff.
Issue Raised	There is limited space at Portobello to cater for pupils with additional support needs.
Council Response	Additional support for learning is often provided during mainstream classes. Extraction groups, while in place for Literacy development, are not the normal way to deliver support

	for learning. Pupils with social, emotional and behavioural needs will be able to access additional support within the Support Base at Portobello High School.
Issue Raised	Question if vocational training provided at Castlebrae can be run elsewhere as Portobello High School has limited space.
Council Response	It is common for some vocational curricular experiences to be delivered in either a school, College environment, workplace or community facility depending on the activity. Portobello currently delivers a range of vocational curriculum within their current timetable. Most of this provision will be offered within Portobello High School with two courses, automotive and construction, offered within College. Transport will be provided to and from College and a member of staff will accompany pupils involved in these courses. The way in which this will be achieved is described in an earlier response in section 2.2.5.

2.2.9 Impact on Holy Rood High School

Issue Raised	The school draws lots of non-catholic pupils but this has been a considered choice on their part but if Castlebrae closes the school may draw pupils to the detriment of the school and its function as a faith school.
Council Response	Based on the 2012/13 start of session rolls, around 25% of the pupils at Holy Rood are already from the Castlebrae catchment and this pattern is expected to continue in the future. It is expected that those parents who choose Holy Rood do so in the knowledge of what attending a faith school means. Additional information on attending Holy Rood and understanding what it means to be educated within a faith school will be issued to parents to support their decision as to which school they wish their child to attend.
Issue Raised	The needs of existing and future Holy Rood pupils should not be compromised by the proposals.
Council Response	Based on the 2012/13 start of session rolls, around 28% of the pupils at Holy Rood are already from the Castlebrae catchment. Outcomes for learners continue to be very good and Holy Rood provides a very good quality of educational provision. We will work closely with the Head Teacher to ensure that any issues regarding the needs of existing and future Holy Rood pupils are not compromised.
Issue	Resources must be put in place to allow forward planning and to

Raised	support a successful transition.
Council Response	Transition planning will consider both pastoral transition and curricular transition. Forward planning has already started and both pastoral and curricular transition arrangements are being developed however until the decision is made by Council on 14 March 2013 and, if that decision is to for the school to close, until parents then choose which school they wish their child to attend, more detailed planning for individuals cannot commence. Resources will be in place to support a successful transition.
Issue Raised	There will be a need to focus on supporting pupils who have never previously attended a denominational school. Pupils seeking placement at Holy Rood should be made aware of the nature and ethos of the community that they are joining.
Council Response	We will work closely with the Head Teacher so that parents who intend choosing Holy Rood understand what it means to be educated in a denominational school. We will also work with the Head Teacher to ensure that those pupils when they start at Holy Rood continue to be supported in this aspect.
Issue Raised	The temporary fix of transferring the Castlebrae catchment to Portobello will cause more problems than it will solve and it would be more sensible to accelerate provision of a new school for Craigmillar, provide a new school for Portobello and allow Holy Rood to be a true denominational school.
Council Response	The educational rationale and justification for the closure of Castlebrae Community High School remains. Building a new school in Craigmillar at this time would leave the educational issues of a very low roll unresolved and the issue of poor educational outcomes would still remain.
Issue Raised	If too many pupils transfer to Holy Rood it could affect the educational outcomes at the school.
Council Response	Holy Rood has a capacity of 1,200. It is the responsibility of the school to meet the needs of their learners. Holy Rood does this very well and delivers a very good quality of educational experience. Based on the 2012/13 start of session rolls there were 296 pupils from the Castlebrae catchment who already attend Holy Rood with no detrimental impact.

2.2.10 Travel to Schools

Issue Raised	Dedicated travel should be provided otherwise children may arrive late and tired.
Council Response	<p>Council policy is that pupils would be eligible for free home to school transport where they live more than three miles from their catchment secondary school. This policy is consistent with government guidelines which consider that up to three miles is an acceptable walking distance for secondary school pupils. The majority of the housing in the Craigmillar area is located less than two miles from Portobello High School.</p> <p>Further details relating to home to school transport, and the proposals to respond to the concerns expressed on this matter during the consultation, are provided in Section 2.6 of this report.</p>
Issue Raised	What arrangements will be made for people with physical disabilities?
Council Response	Each case would be individually assessed and where considered necessary transport would be made available.
Issue Raised	Portobello High school is two miles and a 30 minute journey away from parts of Craigmillar. How is that “in the immediate vicinity”?
Council Response	With Portobello High School being around a mile and a half from most of the Craigmillar area, it is closer than the eastern part of the existing Portobello catchment which takes in Joppa. The travel distances are well within the three miles limit whereby pupils would become eligible for free home to school transport.
Issue Raised	Children living within the new, enlarged catchment have too far to walk to/from school; the travel time to school will take much longer and pupils will have to walk in the dark.
Council Response	Most of the Craigmillar area lies within a radius of a mile and a half of Portobello High School with a walking distance of under two miles (approximately 30 to 35 minutes). The area with the furthest walking distances (over 2 miles) is from Newcraighall where walking times are estimated to be around 45 minutes, although the walking time from Newcraighall to Castlebrae Community High School is also some 40 minutes. In parts of the catchment such as the Jewel the walking times to Portobello High School will be less than the time taken to reach Castlebrae Community High School. The four walking routes that have

	been assessed to Portobello High School have lighting along their full length.
Issue Raised	The extra walking distance to Portobello will make pupils more vulnerable to bullying.
Council Response	Any incident of bullying is treated seriously and transition work will take place to help ensure that Castlebrae pupils feel supported at their new catchment school.
Issue Raised	The walking routes to Portobello involve long journeys passing through open areas. Are the walking routes to Portobello High School safe?
Council Response	<p>An evaluation has been undertaken of four potential walking routes from Craigmillar/Newcraighall to Portobello High School. These routes cover access from east, central and west Craigmillar and from Newcraighall. It is expected that the majority of pupils would use these routes or some variation.</p> <p>Most of the routes run along the roadside although a few sections are footpath only. All routes have tarmaced surfaces, are lit and have pelican crossings or underpasses at main road crossing points. Taking account of the above, there are deemed to be safer walking routes to Portobello High School from different parts of Craigmillar/Newcraighall.</p>
Issue Raised	Approximately half of the pupils at Castlebrae have particular support needs so asking them to walk long distances will add to difficulties with attendance and performance.
Council Response	We recognise that a number of pupils from Castlebrae have additional support needs and each individual pupil's needs will be considered as part of the transition process.
Issue Raised	Castlebrae has an 81% attendance rate, compared to 89% at surrounding schools. How would the attendance rate for Craigmillar pupils improve if they have an extra two miles to commute?
Council Response	Attendance at school is influenced by a number of factors including enjoying school and having a curriculum which motivates learners. Expectations are that pupils attend school and young people who have any attendance difficulty are supported by Pupil Support staff in the first instance, working closely with parents. Schools also work closely with the Education Welfare Service who support the young person and

	their family to improve attendance.
--	-------------------------------------

2.2.11 Community Uses/Adult Education

Issue Raised	There is no other Community Education School in East Edinburgh.
Council Response	Leith Academy is a Community High School and Portobello High School has a community programme.
Issue Raised	The facilities and classes for adults at Castlebrae cannot be replicated locally and would be a huge loss.
Council Response	The Council has agreed that there will be no loss of the community programme to Craigmillar. Four out of the nine classes on offer have no local residents participating in them and one class has only one local resident attending it. There has been agreement to relocate all of the existing provision into one of the many other local facilities in the Craigmillar area. Some classes where there are no local participants would like to be relocated to a venue in another area.
Issue Raised	Wider aspects of community education seem to be forgotten when quoting statistics on usage.
Council Response	The Community Programme Report incorporated at Appendix 6 clearly reflects the impact that engagement in the adult education programme has had on individuals and groups accessing it. The wider educational and social impacts have been taken into account in the report and the proposed relocation of the programme.
Issue Raised	The Family Centre provides quality childcare and family support and its closure would be a great loss to the community.
Council Response	It has been recognised that the Family Centre provides a very important and highly regarded service in the local area. For this reason, the service will not be closed but relocated.
Issue Raised	The Family Centre provides support five days a week and it enables use to be made of other facilities and classes at Castlebrae.
Council Response	The Family Centre provides drop-in support for parents and carers and crèche provision that supports the following: Adult Programme Classes, English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Spanish, Computing, Fighting Fit and Fitness Suite.

	The preferred option of the users of these services would be the relocation of the whole provision into one venue if possible. This has been reflected in the Community Programme Report in Appendix 6 and the proposed venue to which the centre would be relocated is Castlevue Community Centre.
Issue Raised	It would be detrimental for the facilities for football and rugby training to disappear and with growing financial pressure any assurances on protecting facilities may become eroded.
Council Response	The management of the 3G pitch will transfer to Castlevue Community Centre to manage and any profit made from letting the pitch will be available for reinvestment by them. It is envisaged that the current access to these facilities will be increased under the proposed new management arrangements.
Issue Raised	Castlebrae is the registered office for the Literacy Trust and serves as the literacy hub for the area.
Council Response	The Council is in negotiation with the chairperson of the Literacy Trust which manages the Books for Babies project regarding the provision of new office space which the literacy Trust would be able to use as their new business address.

2.2.12 Financial Considerations

Issue Raised	The Council has left the responsibility for providing the new school with PARC, which has either been a huge mistake or indifference to the needs of Craigmillar.
Council Response	<p>Responsibility for the provision of a new Community High School in Craigmillar did rest with PARC however this has proved not to be possible. This is not as a result of a mistake or indifference to the needs of Craigmillar but as an unavoidable consequence of the economic downturn.</p> <p>The Council recognises that it must now assume financial responsibility for the delivery of a new Community High School in Craigmillar. The capital commitment to delivering the new school in 2020 has already been initiated with the inclusion of early stage funding for design development in the Council Capital Investment Programme. However, considerable additional capital funding still requires to be identified and the surpluses expected to be provided by PARC represent a key component of the overall funding package for the new school.</p>

Issue Raised	The funds raised by the closure of Castlebrae are needed to pay for the costs associated with a new Portobello High School.
Council Response	This is not correct. The original budget for the new Portobello High School was approved by Council in February 2009. After taking into consideration costs incurred to date, what remains within this budget is expected to be sufficient to deliver a new Portobello High School either on the preferred location of Portobello Park or, if that ultimately proves not to be possible, one of the two fall-back options which have been identified.
Issue Raised	The closure of Castlebrae will be used to subsidise unexpected Portobello High School maintenance costs.
Council Response	This is not correct. It is the intention that the additional works identified as being necessary for Portobello High School to continue in operation until a new school is built will be funded from Asset Management Works Budgets which contain no funding relating to Castlebrae Community High School.
Issue Raised	The savings made should be used to address the poor state of maintenance at Portobello High School.
Council Response	The decision has already been taken to undertake the additional works identified as being necessary for Portobello High School to continue in operation until a new school is built and is not dependent on the closure of Castlebrae Community High School or any savings arising from any decision to do so.
Issue Raised	If savings are made from closing Castlebrae then money will be taken out of a deprived area.
Council Response	If the decision is taken to close Castlebrae Community High School then savings would arise. The majority of these savings relate to property and staffing costs and it is unclear why this would constitute money being taken out of a deprived area. However, it is proposed that some of the anticipated savings are reinvested back into the area through initiatives to support transition arrangements and also to support local primary schools. Further details are provided in Section 2.5.
Issue Raised	Cost over-run on building the new Portobello High School could mean sports and community facilities in Craigmillar missing out.
Council Response	There is no cost over-run on building the new Portobello High School. The tender for the project came in under the allocated budget. Accordingly, after taking into consideration the costs

	<p>which have been incurred to date, what remains within the project budget is expected to be sufficient to deliver a new Portobello High School either on the preferred location of Portobello Park or, if that ultimately proves not to be possible, one of the two fall-back options which have been identified.</p>
Issue Raised	<p>Outcomes for young people are stated as being significantly poorer than other schools despite significant resources being allocated to Castlebrae Community High School but the school usually outperforms WHEC and Craigroyston in terms of pupils moving into a positive destination.</p>
Council Response	<p>The positive destination statistics which were published in 2011, showed that WHEC and Craigroyston out-performed Castlebrae.</p> <p>The Scottish Government School Leaver Destinations data relating to school leavers from session 2011/12 was published in January 2013. This shows that Castlebrae made significant improvements in the number of young people moving into a positive destination from 42% in 2010/11 (21 pupils out of 50) to 92.3% in 2011/12 (48 pupils out of 52). The full details for all secondary schools in the city are included in Appendix 8. The comparator figures for Portobello High School are 88% in 2010/11 (221 pupils out of 251) increasing to 90% in 2011/12 (226 pupils out of 251).</p> <p>As a result of the poor performance in Castlebrae's positive destinations for the 2010/11 cohort, the Council worked with the school to secure improvements. This included establishing an Employability Hub and an Activity Agreement Hub within the Craigmillar area, two additional CLD workers being allocated to work within the community and within the school, the city wide Activity Agreement lead officer working closely with partners and the school and the renewed focus on this area by all staff including the Head Teacher and the range of partners involved in supporting positive destinations at Castlebrae.</p> <p>The number of Castlebrae school leavers involved in Activity Agreements, as 'first step' provision supporting them to become ready to move into training, further or higher education or employment, is 19.5% which is significantly higher than for WHEC or Craigroyston where they are 6.7% and 6.3% respectively. Similarly, the number of Castlebrae school leavers involved in training programmes is 19.2% which is, again, higher than for WHEC and Craigroyston where they are 16% and 11.1% respectively.</p>

	This improvement is recognised as significant. The focus now moves on to reducing the number of young people requiring Activity Agreements and increasing the number who are ready to take up an opportunity in training, further or higher education or employment straight from school.
Issue Raised	Children with special needs cost more to educate and Castlebrae has more than average.
Council Response	Young people with additional support needs do cost more to educate however this is taken into account when school staffing formulas are agreed. We will ensure that there continues to be a sufficient allocation of resources to receiving schools to support those young people with additional needs.
Issue Raised	If the school closes, pupils should be given new uniforms.
Council Response	This point is accepted and it is proposed that, should the decision be taken to close Castlebrae Community High School, the parents of any pupils who, as a consequence, require to move to a new school in August 2013 would be reimbursed for the cost of providing the elements of the uniform that need to be changed for their new school. The one-off cost of this has been estimated to be £10,000.
Issue Raised	There is available money to replace Castlebrae High School due to the delay in building in Portobello High School.
Council Response	Although there has been a delay in building the new Portobello High School the project will continue to go ahead and will continue to need its budget. Accordingly there is no money available from this source.
Issue Raised	Insufficient financial information to judge if saving money is a prime motivation.
Council Response	Saving money is not, and never has been, a prime motivation for the proposal to close the school. Whilst financial savings would be generated; the prime motivation remains the very poor educational outcomes which pupils continue to experience as a result of the unsustainably low school roll.

2.2.13 Pupils' Transition Concerns

Issue Raised	Losing touch with school friends and having to make new friends in a new school environment.
Council Response	We recognise that transition can be difficult however we are experienced in transition. Each year around 3,000 young people transfer from primary to secondary schools, not all to their catchment secondary school. The receiving schools will ensure that pupils have friends in classes and will plan activities to help Castlebrae pupils make new friends.
Issue Raised	That their education would be disrupted, including having to catch up with other pupils, not getting the same choice of subjects, their preparation for exams being affected.
Council Response	Careful planning will take place to ensure that there is continuity in learning. Information will be passed on each pupil from the teachers at Castlebrae to the teachers at the receiving schools therefore all teachers will be aware of the learning needs of their pupils. In a larger school, there is considerably more subject choice and we are committed to make sure that the vocational courses being offered at Castlebrae can be offered in other schools. Preparation for exams is very important and we would ensure by considering the needs of each individual pupil what, if any, additional support they might require.
Issue Raised	That they might be bullied, badly treated or branded in a negative way at a new school.
Council Response	We know that pupils will be concerned about how they will get along with their new fellow school pupils. We can assure pupils from Castlebrae that no school tolerates bullying, that any incident of bullying will be treated seriously and that much work will be done prior to August 2013 to ensure that pupils have visited their receiving school a few times, that they have met their fellow pupils and that they have the necessary support to make it a successful transition. Significant numbers of children from the existing catchment area already attend other schools.
Issue Raised	Concerns about losing their own teachers.
Council Response	Some of the teaching staff at Castlebrae will transfer to the receiving schools and therefore there will be some teachers which pupils will continue to know. New teachers will have all of the information about young peoples' learning needs in order to

	support them.
Issue Raised	Pupils at receiving schools were concerned about overcrowding and class sizes rising with a negative impact on learning.
Council Response	No receiving school is expected to take more pupils than it can accommodate. Class sizes won't rise because they are determined by a class size maximum of 20 for practical subjects and 30/33 for non-practical subjects. More pupils will mean more class sets rather than an increase in class sizes.

2.2.14 Changes to Liberton Catchment Area

No comments were made regarding the principle of the change of catchment area for Liberton High School; the change would have no effect on the school as the pupils from Prestonfield Primary School are already considered catchment pupils for Liberton.

Issue Raised	Liberton High School requested that the school would continue to be considered for new investment given the significant amount of funding the building requires for future maintenance.
Council Response	The Council is currently undertaking condition surveys of the entire school estate (other than PPP schools and those for which the replacement is currently underway) to allow an updated position to be evaluated in identifying priorities for investment on the basis of need across the estate. Liberton High School will be actively considered as part of this evaluation.

2.2.15 Process and Procedures

Issue Raised	The summary paper contains many half truths and misleading statistics. Castlebrae usually out performs WHEC and Craigroyston in terms of pupils moving onto positive destinations.
Council Response	The positive destination statistics which were published in 2011 and which, as the most up to date information available at the time, were used for the consultation report showed that WHEC and Craigroyston out-performed Castlebrae.
Issue Raised	The positive aspects of the school and its community wing have been ignored by the Council.
Council	It is recognised that Castlebrae has many positive aspects. We

Response	recognise the committed and hard working teaching staff, the levels of pastoral support and the range of vocational curriculum on offer.
Issue Raised	The consultation process has sought to portray the closure of Castlebrae High School as a foregone conclusion.
Council Response	This is not the case and was never the intention. The final decision of the Council on whether or not to close Castlebrae Community High School will not be taken until 14 March 2013.
Issue Raised	Too much consultation going on in Portobello at the same time.
Council Response	During the vast majority of the consultation period this was the only formal consultation process which was being undertaken in the Portobello area. The consultation process for the proposed Portobello Park Public Bill did not start until 3 December 2012 and ran until 31 January 2013; the period of overlap was only one week.
Issue Raised	Full consultation paper is too long.
Council Response	The full consultation paper extended to 52 pages and is required under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 which sets out some of the content which must be included in it such as the Educational Benefits Statement. For a proposal which is so complex and of such a sensitive nature it is a difficult balance to strike between providing sufficient information to explain the basis for the proposals and not over-complicating the matter. In light of the length of the full proposal paper, a much shorter summary paper was also produced which is included at Appendix 1.
Issue Raised	Equalities assessment undertaken late. An Impact Assessment should have been undertaken prior or in conjunction with the community/stakeholders.
Council Response	The report considered by the Education, Children and Families Committee on 9 October 2012 which sought permission to consult on the potential closure of Castlebrae Community High School made it clear that the closure of the school would impact on a number of areas which come under our equalities and rights impact assessment (ERIA) process. The gathering of information, consultation with the local community and monitoring of outcomes, which are essential parts of the

	<p>assessment process, formed an integral part of the overall consultation process. There was no requirement for the ERIA to be completed and included in the original report to the Education, Children and Families Committee.</p> <p>Preparation for the ERIA commenced on 1 October 2012 with identification of the areas where consultation was required. The groups which it was felt needed to be consulted were agreed over the following weeks and the particular issues needing to be addressed were considered. The assessment of impact on rights and equalities was integrated into the consultation process with staff, pupils and user groups. During the consultation period it was decided to widen the consultation to include other groups where an impact might be felt and an extensive range of consultation meetings was undertaken.</p> <p>The Equalities and Rights Impact Assessment is an on-going process used to inform elected members of the potential impact on rights and equalities of the proposed school closure. The outcome of this work in the form of an Equalities Impact Assessment Report is included at Appendix 7.</p>
Issue Raised	The Parents Forum should have had some involvement in the proposals prior to their publication and thereafter during the consultation.
Council Response	The purpose of the consultation process is to seek the views of those affected by the proposals. It is not the Council's normal practice to consult in advance of the approval to consult being sought with any of the consultees, statutory or otherwise. All parents (and the Chair of the Parent Council) were provided with details of the proposals and had the opportunity to participate in the consultation process through the four public meetings.
Issue Raised	Reservations about involvement of CLD and their neutrality.
Council Response	The Community Learning and Development (CLD) team approached the audit and consultation process relating to the Community Programme and additional provision in an unbiased and neutral way. As this area is within the scope of CLD it was considered both appropriate and necessary for that team to undertake this assessment. Should the decision be taken to close the school, the relocation of the programmes will be carried out in consultation with the tutors, staff and participants to venues which have the capacity to support them. Some of these will be CLD establishments. All Community Centres are

	managed in partnership between CLD and the Management Committee of the Charity that holds the centre lease. The management committees are made up of local people and the charities are registered with OSCR and are voluntary organisations in their own right.
Issue Raised	Involvement of pupils at Castlebrae was handled poorly.
Council Response	A very extensive consultation process was undertaken with pupils the results of which are detailed in Appendix 4. The aim of the consultation was to give every pupil currently attending Castlebrae Community High School the opportunity to discuss and express their views, as well as enabling pupils at other affected secondary schools to consider what the potential impacts would be on them and their schools. Pupils in P6 and 7 of the feeder primaries were also consulted. More than 400 pupils took part in face to face sessions and almost 1,100 pupils took part in the online surveys. The Council believes that the aim of the consultation was achieved.
Issue Raised	Consultation with users of the Family Centre was poorly handled.
Council Response	An audit was undertaken of the Community Programme and additional provision based in, or delivered from, Castlebrae Community High School. This also involved discussion with participants and service users. The details are included in Appendix 6. Following the initial stage of the review, a letter was submitted from Family Centre users raising some points of concern about the consultation process. As a result, the audit team met with the Family Centre users on 5 December 2012 and resolved these issues by re-issuing the questionnaire and providing copies of the original completed questionnaires to the participants. No questionnaires were returned.
Issue Raised	The Gypsy Travellers have not been approached.
Council Response	A meeting was held with representatives of the North Cairntow Gypsy/Traveller Community on 29 November 2012.
Issue Raised	Staff at Castlebrae High School questioned the accuracy/validity of some of the attainment and comparative data.
Council Response	This information is analysed nationally and used by Education Scotland.

2.3 Education Scotland

Legislative Context

- 2.3.1 The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 requires that the authority refer the proposals to Education Scotland so that they may prepare a report on the educational aspects. In producing their report, which is included in Appendix 5, Education Scotland considered the proposals of the authority as set out in the consultation document and the verbal and written responses received during the consultation period.
- 2.3.2 HM Inspectors state they found that the proposal from The City of Edinburgh Council to close Castlebrae Community High School and transfer young people to Portobello High School sets out some educational benefits to those children and young people currently attending Castlebrae catchment area schools.
- 2.3.3 HM Inspectors state they specifically note that the council has set a challenging timeline to take forward the proposal for the closure, particularly in relation to transitions. They then state that, given the issues raised in their report, the Council now needs to provide further assurances and clarification in relation to these issues in order to be fully confident that the educational benefits outlined in the proposal will be realised. The key issues identified in the Education Scotland report summary relate to the continuity of curricular provision including vocational opportunities; the future planned work at Portobello High School including the move to a new build school; safe routes to schools and transition arrangements.

Response to Education Scotland

- 2.3.4 The Act requires that the Council's consultation report include 'a statement of the authority's response to Education Scotland's report'.
- 2.3.5 Most of the issues raised in the Education Scotland report were also raised by other respondents and the Council responses to these issues is incorporated in Section 2.2 of this report. However, there are several issues identified in the Education Scotland report which were not raised by other means and which require a response together with the key issues in the Education Scotland report summary which, although already covered to varying degrees elsewhere in this report, merit a full response.
- 2.3.6 The various issues, and the Council response to them, are set out below in the order in which they appear in the Education Scotland report with references quoted being to that report. The Council is confident that the issues identified have either already been addressed or that all required arrangements and plans are in place to ensure that any essential actions which are necessary to mitigate these issues will be taken timeously. As a consequence the Council remains confident that the educational benefits identified in the proposal will be fully realised.

2.3.7 Consultation with Primary School Parents

<p>Issue Raised</p>	<p>In paragraph 2.11 HM Inspectors make reference to parents of children attending Castleview Primary School having expressed the view that they had not been consulted fully on the proposal or on which school they would choose to send their child.</p>
<p>Council Response</p>	<p>As is required under the relevant legislation the summary consultation paper was sent to each of the associated High Schools and Primary Schools for distribution to staff and a copy of the summary consultation report was distributed to parents of pupils in these schools by Pupil Post. Each school also received several copies of the full consultation paper to ensure they were readily available for parents if requested (the summary paper highlighted these were available in schools as well as including a link to the report online). It should be noted that the Council did not simply give notice to affected parties as required by the relevant legislation; it provided each party with a comprehensive summary of the proposal to make information on the proposal more readily accessible. In the summary consultation paper parents were invited to attend one of the four public meetings and/or to submit a formal response to the consultation proposals by post or email.</p> <p>The Council has not engaged with parents to determine the school of choice for children in P7 in the affected primary schools as, at this point, this would be entirely inappropriate as no decision has been taken regarding the future of the school and to do so would be seen as being presumptive of an outcome.</p>

2.3.8 Educational benefits for Young People with Additional Needs

<p>Issue Raised</p>	<p>In paragraph 3.4 HM Inspectors express the view that the proposal does not make sufficiently clear the educational benefits in relation to attainment and achievement for those young people with identified additional needs.</p>
<p>Council Response</p>	<p>A detailed analysis has been undertaken for all young people within Castlebrae including those with additional needs. This was carried out by a consultant educational psychologist. The range of additional needs includes those young people with learning, social and emotional and physical needs.</p> <p>The Pastoral Transition Working Group which has been established comprises Pupil Support Depute Head Teachers</p>

from each of the schools (Castlebrae Community High School, Portobello High School and Holy Rood RC High School) together with the Quality Improvement Officer for Pupil Support. This group have considered the range of pastoral transition activities which will take place and also the support required for those young people with additional needs.

Additional Support Needs review meetings are in place in all schools for young people with additional needs and Pupil Support staff from the receiving schools will attend these meetings at Castlebrae Community High School for individual young people. Review meetings focus on progress and future planning. Future planning would include identifying the current level of need of the particular young person and ensuring that this provision and support is in place and that the curriculum is appropriate to meet their needs. Pupil Support staff in both Portobello High School and Holy Rood RC High School would ensure that information is shared with teachers of these pupils to ensure that their learning needs were met within a classroom context.

Where additional support is currently in place through learning assistant hours, these hours would be automatically transferred. Where a level of support is currently being offered at Castlebrae, this level of support would be delivered in either Portobello High School or Holy Rood RC High School and if there are further needs identified through the review meetings described above, additional support would be provided.

Without referencing individuals, the type of support which a young person with additional needs is offered includes: support from a learning assistant in class, extraction for aspects of learning e.g. literacy and numeracy, group work on aspects of personal and social development including behaviour, attendance within a learning base or a behaviour support base for part of their timetable, adjustments to the timetable to suit the needs of the learner and regular review meetings which involve parents and the learner and access to a range of services provided by partner organisations such as NHS, counselling, youth work, etc.

These types of support are in place in all of our schools and young people with additional needs are well supported by key staff who have a specific responsibility in this area. To further support pastoral transition, we propose to transfer Pupil Support staff from Castlebrae Community High School to either Portobello High School or Holy Rood RC High School should the

	<p>staff agree. In addition, we would support both Portobello High School and Holy Rood RC High School with an additional resource of an additional Depute Head Teacher/Pupil Support resource of a day a week from April to June 2013.</p> <p>We are confident that the level of pupil support offered to young people from Castlebrae Community High School will ensure effective pastoral transition and provide, throughout their education in these schools, a level of additional support which meets their needs.</p> <p>Full details of proposed pastoral transition arrangements are contained in Appendix 9.</p>
--	--

2.3.9 Portobello High School Capacity

Issue Raised	<p>In paragraph 3.6 HM Inspectors make reference to the potential for the capacity of Portobello High School to be slightly exceeded for 2013/14 if all Castlebrae pupils were to transfer to Portobello High School. Concerns were also expressed at other points in the Education Scotland Report regarding pressure on the capacity of Portobello High School.</p>
Council Response	<p>The position regarding the projected combined roll at Portobello has changed significantly since the consultation paper was produced. The latest assessment is shown below which is based on the actual school rolls at both Portobello High School and Castlebrae Community High School as at 18 February 2013 to which an adjustment has been made, based on previous experience, for the expected fall off in pupil numbers between S4 to S5 and S5 to S6. This analysis assumes that the full S1 intake limit of Portobello High School of 260 will be utilised as this now appears more likely for August 2013 than the 237 which has been shown as an assumption in the consultation report.</p> <p>The latest projections show a potential combined school roll of 1,417 if the entire projected roll from Castlebrae Community High School sought places at Portobello High School. However, not all pupils from Castlebrae will choose Portobello High School. Even if the capacity was marginally exceeded this is not considered to be an issue and would be entirely manageable. An excess of 17 pupils represents just 1.2% of the capacity of the school and it has previously operated very effectively with a roll which is considerably higher than this.</p>

	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	Total
Projected Portobello Roll at August 2013		211	231	245	214	141	1,042
Projected Castlebrae Roll at August 2013		17	28	35	29	6	115
Maximum combined S1 intake August 2013	260						260
Projected Combined Roll at August 2013	260	228	259	280	243	147	1,417

2.3.10 Prioritisation Criteria

Issue Raised	<p>In paragraph 3.6 HM Inspectors state that in the meetings with them, parents expressed a lack of understanding and clarity surrounding the prioritisation criteria. They then suggest that in taking this proposal forward, the council may wish to provide further assurance and clarification on this aspect with families and children within the Castlebrae Community High School and Portobello High School catchment areas.</p>
Council Response	<p>Should the decision be taken to close Castlebrae Community High School, the Children and Families Department would work with the school to try to accommodate all of the Castlebrae pupils living in the enlarged Portobello High School catchment area who wish to attend the school. However, if in any year there is not enough space in Portobello High School to accommodate all requests from pupils within the revised catchment area then places at Portobello High School would be allocated in the following order of priority:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Exceptional cases; then 2 Pupils with siblings in the school; and then 3 Pupils without siblings in the school on the basis of the shortest safest walking distance from home to school. <p>Any remaining pupils who could not be accommodated at Portobello High School would be given priority access to any other non-denominational secondary school in the city.</p> <p>The prioritisation process set out above, and which was included in both the full and summary consultation reports, is consistent with that applied in all areas of the city with the exception of the priority access to other non-denominational secondary school in the city which would be given to any remaining pupils who could not be accommodated at Portobello High School.</p>

2.3.11 Call-in Procedure

<p>Issue Raised</p>	<p>In paragraph 3.8 HM Inspectors state that Scottish Ministers have the right to call-in decisions to close schools. They then state that the current timeline for this proposal is challenging and suggest that the Council will need to give due consideration to the possible impact of this process on the Council's plans and on the young people concerned, were the call-in process to take place.</p>
<p>Council Response</p>	<p>The Council is aware of the right of Scottish Ministers to call-in the proposals the process being detailed in Section 2.10.</p> <p>Should Council take a decision on 14 March 2013 to close Castlebrae Community High School the six week potential call in period would conclude on 25 April 2013. In order to ensure that the transition process was started as soon as possible, letters would be sent to parents following any Council decision on 14 March 2013 to close the school asking them to indicate which school they wish their child to be educated at. The letter would acknowledge that there is still the possibility that the Scottish Government could call-in the decision however in the best interests of young people, we require to have information regarding parental choice of school as soon as possible after the decision is made in order to allow individual transition arrangements to be progressed. We believe that this is enough time, given the small numbers of pupils, for both pastoral and curricular transition to be undertaken effectively, particularly so given the preparatory transition work already well underway.</p> <p>Should Scottish Ministers decide to call in any decision to close Castlebrae Community High School the Council would be unable to proceed until such time as Scottish Ministers issued their decision. No timescale is set out within the Act for a determination by Scottish Ministers if the Council decision is called in which makes it impossible to determine the impact on the process as the length of any delay could not be determined or predicted. In reality, if the decision was made to call-in the proposals it would be highly unlikely that any proposal would be capable of being implemented in July 2013.</p>

2.3.12 Community Programme and Facilities

<p>Issue Raised</p>	<p>In paragraph 3.9 HM Inspectors state that Castlebrae Community High School is currently used for a range of community programmes and facilities. They then suggest that</p>
----------------------------	--

	<p>the Council needs to give further consideration and clear reassurance to users as to how it will re-provide the community programme and facilities within the local community. They finally suggest that further consideration needs to be given to the impact of the loss of, for example, the free gym and crèche facilities on children and adults well-being, particularly within an area of significant deprivation. In the report summary at paragraph 4.5 it is then suggested that the Council also needs to continue to engage with the wider community with regard to the re-provision of the community programme and facilities.</p>
Council Response	<p>An extensive audit of community use and other services within the existing Castlebrae Community High School has been undertaken and recommendations made regarding the relocation of these services following consultation with school staff, participants and users. The results are detailed in Appendix 6. The existing service provision and the proposed relocation or alternative provision of these services should the school be closed is summarised in Section 2.4 of this report.</p> <p>Should the decision be made to close Castlebrae Community High School the Council will continue to work with key community organisations in Craigmillar on the relocation and future development of the community programme.</p>

2.3.13 Continuity of Curricular Provision

Issue Raised	<p>In paragraph 4.1 HM Inspectors suggest the proposal may have a detrimental impact on the education of young people if the Council does not address aspects of transition relating to the curriculum, meetings learner's needs and positive destinations. In particular, ensuring young people in S3 receive their entitlement to a broad general education, those in S4/5 who may exit education rather than start a new school, and those with particular additional support needs who currently receive extensive one to one support.</p>
Council Response	<p>Considerable work has been carried out to ensure that there will be effective curricular transition. This includes an analysis of the current provision in Castlebrae Community High School, in Portobello High School as the proposed receiving school and Holy Rood RC High School as the current denominational school for the Castlebrae catchment area.</p> <p>In both Portobello High School and Holy Rood RC High School there is a broader range of provision particularly in S3-S6. An</p>

	<p>audit of vocational provision currently delivered at Castlebrae Community High School has been undertaken and arrangements are in place for similar vocational provision to be made available at Portobello. Most of this provision will be offered within Portobello High School with two courses, automotive and construction, offered within College. Transport will be provided to and from College and a member of staff will accompany pupils involved in these courses.</p> <p>Currently pupils in S1 and S3 at Castlebrae Community High School study German. This is not currently offered at Portobello High School however arrangements have been made to ensure that this will be able to be delivered by existing Modern Languages staff who are qualified to teach German.</p> <p>A range of partners currently work with staff at Castlebrae to enhance aspects of personal and social development. An audit has been carried out and most of this provision is also currently offered at Portobello High School. Where this is not the case, partners have agreed that they would transfer their provision supporting personal and social development to Portobello High School.</p> <p>Full details of curriculum transition and provision are contained in Appendix 9.</p>
--	---

2.3.14 Vocational Provision

Issue Raised	<p>In paragraph 4.1 HM Inspectors suggest the Council needs to set out more clearly how it intends to deliver the vocational opportunities, at the same level of provision currently available to young people at Castlebrae Community High School, within the receiving schools. They advise this includes consultation with the range of partners who currently support such opportunities. They then suggest the Council needs to provide greater clarity about how it intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from this proposal.</p>
Council Response	<p>Analysis of the vocational curriculum at Castlebrae against the vocational curriculum at Portobello High School shows that we are able to offer similar vocational experiences to those offered at Castlebrae.</p> <p>All of the vocational curriculum is able to be offered within Portobello High School either on site or through College provision. Hairdressing, digital media, hospitality, retail and creative industries are able to be delivered within Portobello</p>

	<p>High School while automotive and construction will be delivered through Edinburgh College. Pupils will be transported to College as is the normal practice for pupils from Portobello High School currently following construction courses and will be accompanied by a member of staff. This approach strengthens the identity of pupils with their new school and demonstrates our commitment to continue the delivery of vocational provision.</p> <p>Delivery of some provision by Edinburgh College is common across all of our schools for pupils in S4-S6. We are working closely with the new Edinburgh College's senior management team to deliver the senior phase of Curriculum for Excellence S4-S6 and in particular to deliver an increase in vocational curriculum provision for all of our S4-S6 learners. This will be focused on auditing the total vocational resources across each of the colleges and all of our secondary schools within three geographical areas across the city. Following this audit, a strategic plan will be developed to ensure that across all of our schools, learners have equity of access to vocational provision.</p>
--	--

2.3.15 Portobello High School Building

Issue Raised	<p>In paragraph 4.2 HM Inspectors state the Council acknowledges publicly that Portobello High School requires renovation work to keep it operational and fit for purpose. They then suggest that in taking forward the proposal, the council should seek to assure families of those children and young people currently attending Castlebrae catchment area schools that future planned work at Portobello High School, including the move to a new build school, will not disrupt their children's education.</p>
Council Response	<p>The Council has already acknowledged that works are required to Portobello High School to keep it fully operational until a new school can be built and these works will be progressed regardless of any decision to close Castlebrae Community High School. As is the case for works undertaken to any schools, in determining how and when to undertake such works the emphasis will very much be on minimising any disruption and/or inconvenience to the school and its pupils and teaching staff.</p> <p>Regarding the move to a new build school at a future point; the Council has considerable experience of decanting pupils from one building to another with very little impact on the day to day operations of the school, let alone any disruption the pupil's education.</p>

	<p>The Council has not, at any point, stated that an aspect of the educational benefits for the proposal would be based on a future new school build for Portobello High School. However, rather than being a potential disruption to education, the converse would apply and it would represent a significant benefit. Moving to a brand new, state of the art school which has been designed around the principles of Curriculum for Excellence would undoubtedly be of significant benefit.</p> <p>When a new Portobello High School would be delivered is not yet determined and is dependent on the option which the Council eventually progresses, the preference continuing to be to build on Portobello Park. Of the three options identified, the anticipated timescales for completion are as follows showing the maximum numbers of pupils at Castlebrae who, if they did choose to move to Portobello, would have to move to a new building at the estimated point of completion. The pupil numbers have been adjusted for the anticipated fall-off between S4/S5 and S5/S6. It is important to note that these numbers are based on an assumption that all pupils from Castlebrae will transfer to Portobello High School which we believe will not be the case.</p>
--	---

Site Option	Anticipated Completion Date	August 2013 year stages remaining	Pupils as at August 2013 remaining
Portobello Park	January 2016	S2 to S4	42
Baileyfield	August 2017	S3 and S4	17
Existing Site	August 2019	None	None

2.3.16 Safe Routes to School

Issue Raised	In paragraph 4.3 HM Inspectors suggest that the concerns raised by young people and parents about the travel route to Portobello High School require further consideration. They then suggest the Council now needs to provide young people and their parents with information on how it will ensure young people's safety and that, in doing so, they should consider carrying out a full risk assessment of the walking routes and possible alternatives.
Council Response	In light of the concerns which were expressed during the consultation period, a full assessment has already been undertaken of the potential walking routes between the Castlebrae catchment area and Portobello High School. The details of this assessment and the conclusions reached as a

	<p>result are set out in section 2.6 of this report.</p> <p>Based on the site inspections and evaluation all four routes which were identified are considered to provide safe walking routes to Portobello High School from the Craigmillar and Newcraighall areas.</p> <p>The majority of the housing in the Craigmillar area is located less than two miles from Portobello High School. Whilst this distance is within the qualifying distance of three miles and no safety issues regarding any routes have been identified which would otherwise necessitate the provision of free home to school transport, the circumstances here are unique. This is an area of obvious concern to both parents and their children and was also identified as an issue for consideration from the Equality and Rights Impact Assessment.</p> <p>In recognition of the issues and concerns identified it is proposed that free home to school transport would be provided, regardless of distance from their home to the school, to all pupils who were on the Castlebrae Community High School roll at the start of the 2012/13 school year whose denominational catchment school would change to be Portobello High School and who have already chosen, or if a decision is made to close the school choose, to attend Portobello High School. This principle would also apply to any future pupils from the existing Castlebrae catchment area whose denominational catchment school would change to be Portobello High School and who choose to attend Portobello High School in any future year until a new secondary school in Craigmillar is built.</p>
--	---

2.3.17 Transition Arrangements

Issue Raised	<p>In paragraph 4.4 HM Inspectors suggest the Council now needs to set out sufficiently clearly the arrangements for supporting young people at Castlebrae Community High School to make a positive transition to Portobello High School. They then suggest that the Council needs to ensure that the necessary transitional arrangements are clearly planned and implemented in good time for young people to be well supported in their learning and wellbeing during the time of transition. They further suggest that in taking forward the proposal, the Council needs to ensure that it provides sufficient time for clear communication with parents, staff and young people to alleviate some of their concerns and ensure effective transitions for young people to Portobello High School. They conclude by stating that whatever course of</p>
---------------------	---

	<p>action the Council chooses to take, it needs to continue to consult with parents, staff and children and young people at the schools directly affected by this proposal.</p>
<p>Council Response</p>	<p>The Council very much understands the importance of ensuring that the necessary transitional arrangements are clearly planned and implemented in good time for young people to be well supported in their learning and wellbeing during the time of transition.</p> <p>In the educational benefits section of both our consultation report and in the presentation given at the four public meetings, the Council covered aspects of transition however to go into too much detail before now might have been considered to be insensitive and suggested a presumption regarding a particular outcome.</p> <p>There has already been considerable planning for both pastoral and curriculum transition which is explained in detail in Appendix 9 which also sets out the process and timescales for consultation, communication and engagement with all parties who would be affected by this proposal.</p>

2.4 Community Use

- 2.4.1 Apart from their educational function, schools can provide a focus for the local community and this is a factor when considering proposals for closure. This is particularly relevant for Castlebrae Community High School which is one of eight such community schools within the city for which they receive additional funding to facilitate the provision of community related services.
- 2.4.2 In preparing the original report to the Education, Children and Families Committee seeking approval to consult on closure, officers collated information about the current community programme from the published programme and the school website but did not engage directly with school based staff or participants in the community programme as this was considered inappropriate prior to any decision by Committee to proceed with any consultation.
- 2.4.3 It was concluded, on the basis of an initial analysis, that current activities could be relocated to other facilities in Craigmillar but it was recognised that the information gathered needed to be supplemented by a more detailed analysis of the community activities.
- 2.4.4 Committee was advised that, should the proposal to consult on the closure of the school be approved; this area would be assessed fully in consultation with the appropriate staff and other relevant parties and would also form part of the intended consultation process with the school and local community to determine

what existing services should be re-provided and how that would be best achieved.

2.4.5 An extensive audit of community use and other services within the existing Castlebrae Community High School has now been undertaken and recommendations made regarding the relocation of these services following consultation with school staff, participants and users. The results are detailed in Appendix 6. The existing service provision and the proposed relocation or alternative provision of these services should the school be closed is summarised as follows:

Service	Relocation or Alternative Provision Proposals
Family Centre	Castleview Community Centre
3G Pitch	Castleview Community Centre
Fitness Suite	Membership to Thistle Foundation
ESOL Beginners	Castleview Community Centre
ESOL Intermediate	Castleview Community Centre
Hairdressing Intermediate 2	Portobello High School
Cooking (Morning)	Portobello or Holy Rood RC High School
Cooking (Evening)	Portobello or Holy Rood RC High School
Spanish	Castleview Community Centre
Computing	Castleview Community Centre
Fighting Fit	Early Years Centre/Castleview Community Centre/Whitehouse
Art	Whitehouse/Arts Centre
Instrument Making	Broughton High School
Woodwork	Duncan Place Resource Centre/Portobello or Holy Rood RC High School.
Gym Hall	Only two lets per week in the last term; gym hall available in Castleview Community Centre
Craigmillar Books for Babies	New East Neighbourhood Office or CLD Office Castleview Primary School
Active Schools Co-ordinator	There is no requirement to relocate this programme. All schools have an Active School Coordinator therefore pupils will be able to access a similar extra-curricular and holiday programme in their receiving school.

2.4.6 The additional annual revenue costs associated with delivering the above are estimated to be £77,000 comprising mainly the staffing costs for the Family Centre provision and also tutor costs for the adult classes.

- 2.4.7 The one-off capital costs associated with delivering the above are estimated to be £83,000 comprising mainly the costs of works required to install security fencing around the 3G pitch; undertake internal works to the community centre changing areas, provide a new power supply for the 3G pitch and meet Care Inspectorate Standards.
- 2.4.8 Should the decision be made to close Castlebrae Community High School the Council will continue to work with key community organisations in Craigmillar on the relocation and future development of the community programme, in particular Craigmillar Alliance Trust (CAT) who recently took over the lease of the Whitehouse and have applied for the lease of the old Craigmillar Library. It is hoped this engagement will assist the CAT Trustees in their aspirations for the development of their properties.

2.5 Investment Proposals

- 2.5.1 On 9 October 2012, when approving the proposal to consult on the proposed closure, the Education, Children and Families Committee instructed that consideration be given to using any revenue cost savings that would arise as a result of the proposed closure for investment in Craigmillar and the pupils of Castlebrae Community High School.
- 2.5.2 It is recommended that should the school close, approximately £120,000 of the revenue cost savings should be made available each year for a minimum of three years as an investment in other areas as follows:

Supporting Castlebrae pupils in their transition

- (i) £20,000 should be allocated to provide additional provision for Castlebrae pupils in their new receiving schools before-school, during school breaks and after school time. Sessional staff would use existing school resources such as computer rooms or art studios to put on programmes of activity. They would be line managed by the current Youth Worker in Schools in both Portobello and Holy Rood RC High Schools. These staff would prioritise engagement with former pupils of Castlebrae Community High School in each school campus, addressing emerging needs, providing a supportive adult role and creating provision that facilitates positive change.
- (ii) £40,000 should be allocated to extend the current Castlebrae Youth Work contract to provide continued support to the secondary aged pupils and other young people in the Craigmillar area. The creation of this post would provide a community/school link and home/school partnership. The post would meet with pupils' parents, deliver the senior phase of Curriculum of Excellence, in partnership with other providers, deliver the positive destinations agenda and provide community based support for young people residing in Craigmillar. They would be one of the key link workers to other key staff in the area such as Education Welfare Officers and Social Workers.

Supporting Primary Schools associated with Castlebrae

Primary Schools associated with Castlebrae currently benefit from involvement in a range of programmes to support the emotional development of children and young people.

- All four Castlebrae primary schools have been trained in the 'Growing Confidence' programme.
- All four schools are involved in delivering the 'Growing Confident Kids' programme which is a P1-P7 programme developing emotional literacy.
- Schools within the Castlebrae cluster are also involved in the 'Roots for Empathy' programme which aims to reduce bullying and aggression in children. This is funded and delivered by Action for Children.
- Staff in Castlevue and Newcraighall primary schools are trained in 'Seasons for Growth' which deals with loss, bereavement and family breakdown allowing staff work with groups of young people affected.
- Place2Be is delivered in Niddrie Mill and St Francis. This is a counselling service jointly funded by the school, council and NHS.
- Castlevue is registered with UNICEF to become a Rights Respecting Schools, embedding young peoples' rights within the school ethos and culture.

The following is proposed additional investment to support the Castlebrae cluster primary schools.

- (i) £40,000 should be allocated to appoint a family/community worker to work with the cluster primary schools providing a resource to develop stronger work with parents in supporting their child's learning.
- (ii) £20,000 should be allocated to ensure Place2Be is offered across all of the Castlebrae Cluster primary schools.
- (iii) Within existing resources we expect to see an improved service delivery for vulnerable children through the establishment of a Children Services Management Group. An officer within this group will have a lead responsibility for Getting it Right for Every Child. This individual will establish an effective multi-agency team of practitioners who support children in the school cluster (Team around the Cluster or 'TATC'). This additional support will result in improved collaboration and the ability to respond to both individual need and the needs of groups of children and their families.

2.6 Safe Routes to School

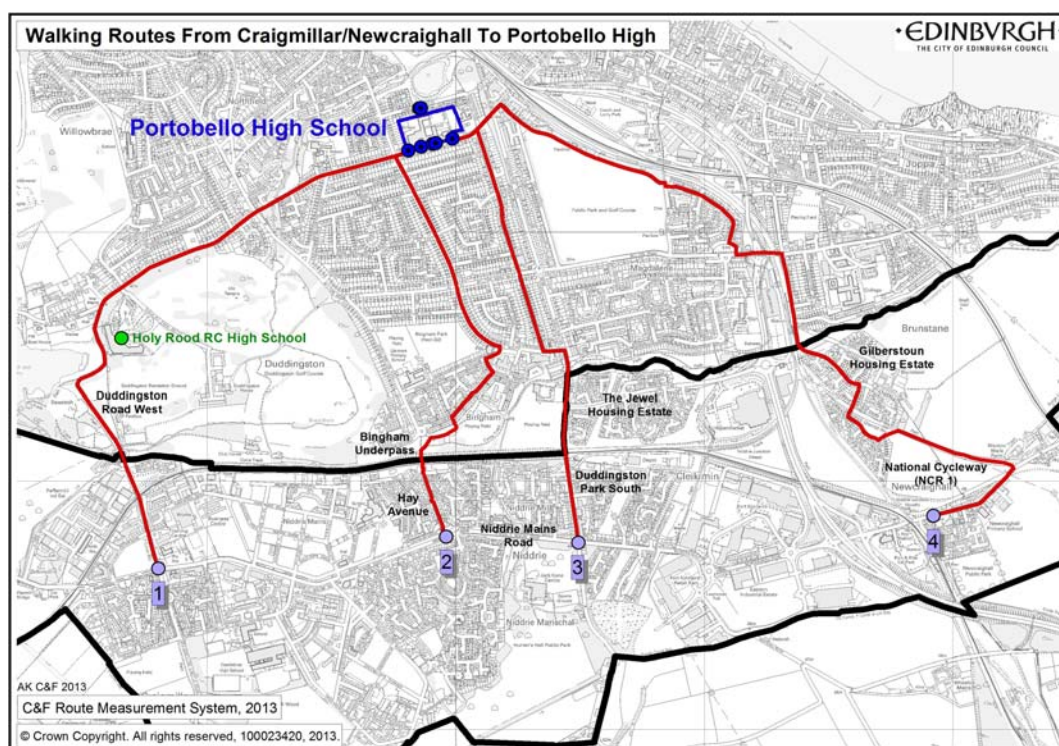
2.6.1 An assessment has been undertaken of the potential walking routes between the Castlebrae catchment area and Portobello High School. Taking account of

the geography and the existing roads and footpaths that serve the area between the Castlebrae catchment area and the Portobello High School catchment area, four main pedestrian routes were identified that it would be expected pupils would use. The four routes are as follows.

Route	Detail
1	From Craigmillar via Duddingston West and Holy Rood RCHS
2	From Craigmillar/Niddrie via Bingham underpass
3	From Niddrie via Duddingston Park South
4	From Newcraighall via National Cycleway (NCR1) and Gilberstoun

2.6.2 It is expected that pupils on the west side of the Castlebrae catchment would use routes 1 and 2; from the centre of the catchment that they would use routes 2 and 3 and from the east side of the catchment that they would use route 4. The following table shows the distance of each route to Portobello High School and the estimated walking time based on average speed of 3 mph. Walking times would be greater for those pupils that live in housing developments south of Niddrie Mains Road.

Route	Distance (metres)	Distance (miles)	Estimated Walking Time
1	2,618m	1.6 miles	33 mins
2	1,970m	1.2 miles	24 mins
3	1,912m	1.2 miles	24 mins
4	3,625m	2.3 miles	45 mins



2.6.3 In evaluating each route the starting point was taken as the crossing of Niddrie Mains Road/Newcraighall Road which is the main road that runs through Craigmillar and then onto Newcraighall. The end point of the route evaluation is

where the footpaths connect with the Portobello High School catchment area and on to the routes that existing catchment pupils will be using when walking to Portobello High School.

- 2.6.4 The routes were assessed through a site visit on 3 January 2013 by three officers from the Council including representatives from the Council Health and Safety Team, Road Safety Team and Children and Families. The evaluation was mainly based on the risk posed by vehicular traffic although where a potential route option crosses an area of derelict land this has been a factor in its exclusion from being recommended as a safer route. Also, for a route to be recommended as being a safer route, the footpath had to be lit and surfaced. As the survey was conducted in daylight, only those lights that were damaged/vandalism could be identified and this appeared to be a greater problem in those areas furthest from residential areas.
- 2.6.5 Within each of the options there were variations that pupils may decide to take. However, for the purposes of route evaluation only a single safer route was identified for each of the options and this is the recommended safer route. For the most part, the safer route is the expected route that pupils would take to reach Portobello High School.
- 2.6.6 In terms of taking short cuts, on route 1 pupils may decide to go through an unlit and unsurfaced path alongside Cavalry Park instead of following the roadside footpath and there is evidence by way of an informal path that pupils are already taking this option to reach Holy Rood RC High School from Craigmillar. On route 4, pupils may decide to take a short cut over the disused railway from Newcraighall village to connect with the National Cycleway path thereby avoiding the walk along Newcraighall Road. Although shorter, the route is only part surfaced and is unlit and is not a recommended route.
- 2.6.7 Based on the site inspections and evaluation, the four routes are considered to provide safe walking routes to Portobello High School from the Craigmillar and Newcraighall areas. It is not proposed that additional works are required to the assessed routes, but the footpath lights will need to be working particularly along the National Cycleway where it passes through an area of countryside. Should the proposal to close the school be approved the necessity to ensure that the lights along the identified routes were operational would be stressed to the relevant departments.
- 2.6.8 The results of the assessment undertaken were shared with Lothian and Borders Police for comment. In response, they advised that they could see no concerns from a Police point of view, other than the obvious additional road safety issues encountered by travelling greater distances and crossing more major arterial routes. The pupils would not be crossing any of the ASB (anti social behaviour) hotspots, street crime is not currently a major issue and there is nothing to suggest that this should concern them. They did advise that, as

with everything, however, they will need to be alive to the possibility of emerging trends.

- 2.6.9 The majority of the housing in the Craigmillar area is located less than two miles from Portobello High School. Whilst this distance is within the qualifying distance of three miles and no safety issues regarding any routes have been identified which would otherwise necessitate the provision of free home to school transport, the circumstances here are unique. This is an area of obvious concern to both parents and their children and was also identified as an issue for consideration from the Equality and Rights Impact Assessment.
- 2.6.10 In recognition of the issues and concerns identified it is proposed that free home to school transport would be provided, regardless of distance from their home to the school, to all pupils who were on the Castlebrae Community High School roll at the start of the 2012/13 school year whose denominational catchment school would change to be Portobello High School and who have already chosen, or if a decision is made to close the school choose, to attend Portobello High School. This principle would also apply to any future pupils from the existing Castlebrae catchment area whose denominational catchment school would change to be Portobello High School and who choose to attend Portobello High School in any future year until a new secondary school in Craigmillar is built.
- 2.6.11 For secondary school pupils in receipt of free home to school transport, this is ordinarily met through the provision of a bus pass allowing pupils to use existing Lothian Bus routes to get to school. The annual cost of a bus pass is currently £237 for a child aged between 5 and 15 and £342 for a child aged 16 or over. Obviously the numbers of pupils involved; their age and the associated costs will be dependent on the number of pupils who choose Portobello High School as their new school. An approximate annual recurring cost of £50,000 has been assumed.

2.7 Existing Castlebrae Community High School Buildings

- 2.7.1 Should the closure of the school proceed, the existing school site would become surplus. Alternative ways have been identified to re-provide the existing community and other services which currently operate from the school and no alternative use for the building has been identified. It is therefore recommended that the building would be demolished as soon as possible following closure allowing current property related costs such as rates to cease and any potential new costs which may be required (were the buildings to remain) such as security to be avoided.
- 2.7.2 Under the existing agreement between the Council and PARC Craigmillar Ltd, if the Council was to declare the land surplus PARC have the option to draw down the land for development. In drawing down the land in this way, responsibility for the existing building and its demolition would also transfer to

PARC. Discussions with PARC have identified that the option to draw down the land would not be exercised at this point which leaves the land in Council ownership. It is, however, acknowledged that the future use of this land and when it should be developed requires to be considered as part of the forthcoming master planning process for the Craigmillar area. The existing site is currently already identified for housing development whenever it became available.

- 2.7.3 Once a conclusion is reached regarding the future use of the existing site the outcome will be taken back to Council for consideration as necessary however, in the interim, it is recommended that the site be declared surplus and that any ultimate disposal proceeds which would arise in the event that the disposal of the site is progressed directly by the Council be ring-fenced towards the cost of delivering a new secondary school in Craigmillar. Responsibility for the costs of demolition which have been estimated by Property Services to be £551,000 will fall to the Council. It is recommended that these are funded through prudential borrowing over a five year period at an estimated annual cost of £130,000.
- 2.7.4 Should the decision be taken to close Castlebrae Community High School, the necessary permissions required to demolish the existing buildings will be progressed to ensure that this can be actioned at the earliest opportunity. Property Services have advised that the lead time between a decision being taken and demolition commencing could be between six and twelve months allowing for the necessary permissions to be secured and a contractor appointed. During this period, there will be the necessity to ensure that appropriate security measures in place, including secure steel shuttering of the building, and this will entail some further property costs continuing. It has been assumed that, should a decision be taken to close the school and that decision could then be enacted in April, the demolition could commence at the start of the 2014/15 financial year. The ongoing security and other costs which would arise in 2013/14 have been estimated to be £115,000.

2.8 A Future New Secondary School in Craigmillar

Background

- 2.8.1 The need for top quality educational and learning opportunities through the delivery of a new high school has, for many years, been seen as being central to the regeneration of the Craigmillar area of the city. Whilst new homes can be built in the area; education and learning has always been seen as the driving force behind creating a sustainable, long-lasting and vibrant local community.
- 2.8.2 A new school was originally intended to form an important part of the redeveloped Craigmillar town centre, and be based at a new site off Niddrie Mains Road. Together with the proposed public library and new sports facilities, it was to be at the very heart of the regeneration of the Craigmillar area, serving a wide range of needs for the entire community. As well as

providing a first class educational facility, the school and library were also seen as being of major benefit for the wider community, providing opportunities for education, recreation and entertainment in the evenings and the weekends.

- 2.8.3 The proposed new facilities would have seen the replacement of the existing Castlebrae Community High School. The delivery of the new school and related facilities was originally identified as one of the community benefits that PARC was to deliver with the investment requirements being fully met by PARC. A detailed design was also completed for the new school.
- 2.8.4 Part of the rationale for providing a new secondary school was the provision of places for pupils generated from the new housing anticipated throughout the Craigmillar area. The timescales for any investment in the school require to be related to the numbers of new houses being developed in the area.
- 2.8.5 At present, the delivery of new housing has slowed but with some signs of resurgence. Longer term, over 2,500 new houses are still proposed for development in the Castlebrae catchment area by PARC and via private housing developer on land at Greendykes. This could, once completed, result in the catchment population increasing from 753 pupils (as at the start of the 2012/13 school year) to over 1,000 pupils. However, given the status of the current housing market it is difficult to determine when these houses will be delivered.
- 2.8.6 Using the latest projections available for housing completions and applying established pupil to house ratios that are applied city-wide and taking account of average pupil generation, it is estimated that the Castlebrae Community High School catchment area secondary pupil population could increase by around 125 pupils by 2020. This depends on the predicted new development taking place and assumes a greater provision of houses rather than flats. If private development is slower then pupil generation is likely to be lower, but if private development takes off then pupil generation would probably be higher.
- 2.8.7 The new Craigmillar Library was incorporated into the new East Neighbourhood Office situated at the heart of the new Craigmillar Town Centre. This will serve the local neighbourhood in purpose-built accommodation replacing a number of old premises that are no longer fit for purpose. As well as bringing staff together from several Council departments and partner agencies, the building provides a new community space, with a large modern library delivering a range of activities for all ages. The new hub supports the ongoing regeneration of Craigmillar and will be a key focal point.
- 2.8.8 With regard to planning, the previous master-plan for the regeneration of the area showed the school in a town centre location, although planning permission for the school design was never sought as the project was put on hold due to the economic down-turn. A statutory consultation exercise under the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 was conducted in 2002 which concluded that a site in the

town centre was the best location. The rationale for the relocation of the school was to give it a more prominent location in Craigmillar to endeavour to make it a more popular choice for its catchment population and for it to be a significant contributor to the town centre.

- 2.8.9 PARC has advised they are currently considering the future direction for the regeneration of the Craigmillar town centre and that a new community high school remains a critical part of their master plan for the Craigmillar town centre. PARC is currently reviewing the bids of potential development partners to deliver the new town centre, and an announcement will be made on the preferred partner in early 2013.
- 2.8.10 The intended location for a new school will form an integral part of any proposals. Once a development partner is appointed, a new master plan will be progressed in conjunction with the planned review of the Craigmillar Urban Design Framework.
- 2.8.11 On 6 December 2012 the Planning Committee considered a report [Craigmillar Urban Design Framework Review: Options for public consultation](#) which provided an update on progress made in delivering key elements of the Craigmillar Urban Design Framework and set out options for further consultation with residents of Craigmillar and other interested stakeholders. The location of a new Community High School was identified as one of several matters requiring consideration.
- 2.8.12 The Planning Committee agreed that the options were to be discussed and refined through discussion with the Craigmillar and Portobello Neighbourhood Partnership and a public consultation strategy agreed, before embarking upon a formal consultation exercise. The programme would allow the results of the consultation exercise to be discussed by the Neighbourhood Partnership at the end of May 2013. A revised Urban Design Framework would then be presented to the Planning Committee at its meeting in August 2013; if circumstances allowed, the timescale could be shortened.
- 2.8.13 In the event that any change is proposed to the previously agreed and approved site for a new school, a new statutory consultation process under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 would require to be undertaken.

Timing for a New School

- 2.8.14 In assessing the proposed closure of Castlebrae Community High School, consideration has been given to projected future school rolls in the area and at what point the secondary school capacity which would remain in the area would be insufficient to accommodate demand. This is very complex and is dependent on a number of variables which are, by their nature, inherently difficult to predict with any degree of certainty including the schools to which Castlebrae Community High School pupils would actually transfer, the impact of

declining and then rising secondary rolls and new pupil generation from expected housing developments.

- 2.8.15 There would be a lead time of several years to initiate the project to deliver a new school in advance of when it was actually required. Whilst the necessity to initiate such a project is not expected to arise in the next few years; the projections will be kept under regular review. When it becomes necessary to initiate the project to deliver a new school the appropriate consultation will be undertaken with the community regarding the school capacity, catchment area, scope of services to be provided and transition arrangements.
- 2.8.16 There is currently expected to be sufficient spare capacity within the other secondary schools in the area to accommodate the closure of Castlebrae Community High School until approximately 2020.

Scope for New School and Cost of Delivery

- 2.8.17 The originally proposed new Craigmillar High School (and Community Library) was designed for a core roll of 600 with vocational accommodation for a further 100 learners. The building design had an expansion strategy to accommodate a further 200 if, and when, required to take the capacity to 900.
- 2.8.18 The total Gross Internal Floor Area for the original building was 12,928m² including provision for a community library and shared community facilities. The project was progressed to detailed design stage in November 2008 but planning permission was never sought as the project was put on hold. The cost of the project was previously estimated to be approximately £32m.
- 2.8.19 Since the original design for the new school was undertaken the space metrics which the Council applies to its new schools have been significantly reduced and the construction cost of new buildings has also reduced significantly although building regulations have also changed. Whilst the scope of the project will have to be re-considered nearer the intended start date and has already changed with the subsequent removal of the library; the following key assumptions have been used for the time being in forward planning:
- A capacity of 700 as before;
 - A space allocation of 13m² per pupil (the Scottish Futures Trust space allocation for a school of this capacity of 12m² subject to a slight uplift as considered potentially too low) producing a total learning space of 9,100m²; and
 - The original space allocation, excluding circulation, of 395m² for shared community facilities. The space originally assigned to the proposed library has been removed as that facility has already been built.
- 2.8.20 The total space for the new building would be 9,495m² to which a construction cost of £1,900/m² has been applied (as at Q2 2011) based on the Scottish

Futures Trust cost metric for new schools; this would include provision for delivery of a new sports pitch. An initial high-level assessment of the revised space allocation against anticipated needs has confirmed that, for the anticipated scope of the facility, an area of 9,495m² would be sensible and appropriate.

2.8.21 This produces a project cost before inflation of £18.041m. Based on an assumed required opening date of August 2020; applying construction inflation using the BCIS All-In Tender Price Index between the base date of Q2 2011 and the estimated mid-point of construction this increases the projected cost to £22.39m. The following points should be noted:

- The capacity of the school and what community facilities are located therein will require to be reviewed nearer to the time of the project starting.
- The projected cost is a broad approximation and should be taken as being very much indicative only. No site has, as yet, been identified for the new school and site specific factors and conditions *could* result in a higher cost.

2.8.22 An estimated profile of the total expenditure by financial year has been produced as shown in the table below.

	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	Total £'000
Cost	618	2,555	17,745	1,146	326	22,390

The following points should be noted regarding the projection above:

- This assumes the new school opens in August 2020 with the construction completion date assumed as June 2020 to allow a lead time in advance.
- The costs in 2021/22 relate to the construction retention which is assumed to be payable one year from the date of completion.
- The construction period would be an estimated 18 months preceded by a 15 month period for design development, planning and procurement which would mean an effective project start date of September 2017.
- The necessary education statutory consultation and design team procurement would be progressed prior to this date with September 2017 being the date when the design of the new school would start and from when spend would be incurred.

Council commitment to delivering a new school

2.8.23 At its meeting on 13 December 2012 Council approved an amendment which included an agreement that, amongst other things, the Council remains committed to building a new school in Craigmillar as part of the regeneration process and that this project be prioritised in the five year capital plan to be agreed in February 2013 as part of the budget process.

2.8.24 In accordance with the Council Decision, the estimated expenditure in 2017/18 of £618,000 was incorporated in the Council five year Capital Investment Programme to 2017/18 which was approved by Council on 7 February 2013 and represents a tangible commitment to the delivery of the new secondary school in Craigmillar.

2.8.25 There is a requirement to clarify how the remaining funding required to deliver the new school, estimated at £21.772m (based on the scope defined above and assuming no further site specific costs) would be met. The following *potential* sources of funding have been identified:

- Although the period covered by the recently approved Capital Investment Programme does not extend to 2018/19; in the previously agreed Council ten-year capital investment plan a total of £7m was assigned to Wave 3 schools in that year. With the inclusion in the latest capital budget of sufficient funding to deliver the final school in the Wave 3 programme, St Crispin's Special School, that programme is now completed and this funding could, if it remains available and with Council approval, be applied in future towards the new secondary school in Craigmillar.
- The vast majority of the projected expenditure for the new school arises in 2019/20, with further costs arising in the subsequent two years. This would allow provision to be made for this project as a priority in the future Council Capital Funding allocation for these years.
- A Section 75 agreement with Persimmon Homes exists for land at Greendykes which provides for up to £1.07m to be paid in four instalments based on housing completions 'to improve secondary school provision in South East Edinburgh'; this funding would be applied to the new school. By 2020 is expected that up to half of this may be available, with future contributions being applied retrospectively.
- Funding is expected as a contribution towards the new school from PARC which has confirmed that it is hoped that proceeds from the town centre development will contribute to the delivery of the new community high school. The extent of funding, which is expected to be significant, and when it can be provided, should be clarified within the next few months.
- It is proposed that any disposal proceeds which would arise in the event that the disposal of the existing school site is progressed directly by the Council be ring-fenced towards the cost of delivering a new secondary school in Craigmillar.

2.8.26 In planning the new school, consideration will be given to establishing the school as a centre of excellence in science in partnership with the bio-quarter thereby providing additional impetus to the regeneration of the area.

Regeneration of Craigmillar

- 2.8.27 Changed economic conditions have made regeneration across Scotland even more challenging and Craigmillar has not escaped the consequences of these changes. Notwithstanding this challenge the Council remains committed to the successful continued regeneration of Craigmillar. This work will be led by the Convener of the Economy Committee and the Director of Services for Communities has been asked to bring forward a re-energised plan for Craigmillar.
- 2.8.28 It is envisaged that this plan will be designed to deliver positive outcomes in terms of physical regeneration, educational attainment, social care and economic development. It will be developed and taken forward in partnership with all stakeholders, building on the “Total Neighbourhood” pilot which is already underway.
- 2.8.29 One of the key foundations for this plan is the Urban Design Framework which is currently the subject of consultation through the Planning Committee. This Framework aspires to:
- bring prosperity to the area in terms of jobs, security and the creation of a family-friendly environment
 - breathe new life into the community with schools, town centre, and other facilities alongside new housing;
 - keep the best of Craigmillar, making more of its potential in terms of people, and the cultural, historical and natural features; and
 - link Craigmillar into the rest of the city through visual and physical connections.
- 2.8.30 Despite the challenging economic circumstances, Craigmillar has seen progress in certain respects. For example, the new Neighbourhood Centre and Library opened in 2012, new housing has been delivered in areas such as the centre of Craigmillar, Niddrie Mains and Greendykes, and the Niddrie Burn River Restoration Project is nearing completion. But it is recognised that the pace of development needs to increase and this will be the focus of the regeneration plan for Craigmillar.

2.9 Conclusions

- 2.9.1 The Council has identified significant issues regarding educational outcomes for the pupils attending Castlebrae Community High School as a result of the very low roll which currently sits at 165, an occupancy rate of 28%, of which 17 are in S1.
- 2.9.2 Whilst the percentage of young people from the school moving into a positive destination showed a significant improvement increasing from 42% in 2010/11 (21 pupils out of 50) to 92.3% in 2011/12 (48 pupils out of 52); educational

outcomes continue to be poor. Attainment data is best assessed relative to other schools in Scotland which are considered to be similar in nature to Castlebrae Community High School of which there are 20. The full 2012 comparative data for all 21 schools (which is based on pre-appeal results) is only available for eight measures which are shown in the table below which shows the ranking out of the 21 schools of the attainment of S4 pupils at Castlebrae by the end of S4, S5 and S6. Educational outcomes for pupils at Castlebrae are, and have been consistently, significantly poorer than those for all, or the majority of, the 20 other schools.

Stage	Awards	2009	2010	2011	2012 (pre-appeal)
By end of S4	5+ @ level 3+	14th	17th	20th	21st
By end of S4	5+ @ level 4+	17th	20th	21st	21st
By end of S4	5+ @ level 5+	18th	20th	21st	21st
By end of S5	1+ @ level 6+	20th	20th	20th	21st
By end of S5	3+ @ level 6+	11th	13th	20th	20th
By end of S5	5+ @ level 6+	4th	5th	13th	19th
By end of S6	3+ @ level 6+	17th	17th	18th	21st
By end of S6	5+ @ level 6+	12th	17th	16th	21st

- 2.9.3 It is considered that the needs of young people in the Castlebrae catchment area can better be met at neighbouring schools and there is capacity at these schools to do so. This capacity is expected to be available until 2020; thereafter a new school will be required to serve the Craigmillar area and the Council has committed to this new school, proposing to incorporate the first required tranche of funding in the five year capital investment programme.
- 2.9.4 The Council has identified ways in which the community programme currently offered within the high school building can continue to be offered in the local Craigmillar area in other establishments. It has also identified ways in which to continue to provide the school's highly valued vocational programme currently offered to pupils by making provision in neighbouring schools or through Edinburgh College.
- 2.9.5 Pupils' understandable concerns about transferring to other schools will be addressed through a thorough transition programme. In addition, it is proposed to raise the ratio of pastoral care in Portobello High School to address this concern. There is a great deal of valuable information young people gave to the Council on their thoughts on this proposal to incorporate and respond to in the transition programme.
- 2.9.6 While there will be financial savings as a result of this proposal, it is proposed to reinvest some of these back into the Craigmillar community, in particular to

provide additional support for those children who would transfer to new schools and for young people in their earlier years as detailed in section 2.5.

2.9.7 After taking account of the representations made and the issues arising, the Director of Children and Families still considers that the case for closure substantially outweighs the objections made. However, the following recommendations have been made to vary the proposals in order to respond to issues which were identified during the consultation process as being of particular concern:

- 1 The parents of any pupils who, as a consequence, require to move to a new school in August 2013 would be reimbursed for the cost of providing the elements of the uniform that need to be changed for their new school.
- 2 Although there are considered to be no issues regarding the safety of the walking routes from the Castlebrae area to Portobello High School; it is accepted that the circumstances are unique and support will be provided for free home to school transport.

2.10 Next Steps

Scottish Ministers Call-In Powers

- 2.10.1 Should the Council approve the recommendation to close Castlebrae Community High School, the Council is required to refer the decision to Scottish Ministers to allow them the opportunity to call in the proposals if they so wish.
- 2.10.2 The Council must notify the Scottish Ministers of a closure decision within six working days (starting on and including the day on which the decision was made) and supply the Scottish Ministers with a copy of the proposal paper and of the consultation report.
- 2.10.3 Scottish Ministers have six weeks from the date of the closure decision being made by the Council in which to decide whether to issue a call-in notice to the authority. A call-in notice means that Scottish Ministers may either refuse to consent to the closure proposal or grant their consent for the implementation of the proposal unconditionally or subject to certain conditions.
- 2.10.4 A proposal will be called in by Scottish Ministers if they determine that the Council has either failed significantly to comply with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 or has failed to “take proper account of a material consideration relevant to its decision to implement the proposal”.
- 2.10.5 In considering whether to call in the proposal, Scottish Ministers are to take account of representations made to them within the first three weeks of the six week call-in period. Any persons wishing to make representations to the Scottish Ministers that the decision should, or should not, be called in have

three weeks from the date of the Authority's decision to convey their representations to the Scottish Ministers.

- 2.10.6 The Council cannot proceed further with implementing the closure decision wholly or partly before the six week period has expired, unless the Scottish Ministers have given notice before the end of the period that they will not call the decision in.

Timescales

- 2.10.7 Should Council take a decision on 14 March 2013 to close Castlebrae Community High School the six week potential call-in period would conclude on 25 April 2013.

- 2.10.8 If Scottish Ministers did not call in the closure decision then the Council could then enact it. Castlebrae Community High School would cease to operate from the end of the 2012/13 session (July 2013). On return from the summer holidays pupils would attend their nominated catchment schools; or an alternative choice if a placing request has been accepted.

- 2.10.9 If the school was closed there would be ongoing liaison with staff, parents and pupils. The Children and Families Department would work very closely with the management teams and staff within Castlebrae Community High School and the receiving schools to ensure that the transition and integration process was as effective as possible and that any disruption to the pupils and families affected by the changes is minimised.

- 2.10.10 Should Scottish Ministers decide to call in any decision to close Castlebrae Community High School the Council would be unable to proceed until such time as Scottish Ministers issued their decision. No timescale is set out within the Act for a determination by Scottish Ministers if the Council decision is called in.

2.11 Financial Implications

Gross Revenue Cost Savings

- 2.11.1 Gross annual recurring revenue cost savings of an estimated £1.493m have been identified as arising as a result of the closure of Castlebrae Community High School the details of which are shown in the following table.

Gross Annual Revenue Savings	2012/13 Budget (£'000)	Recurring Savings (£'000)	Budget Transferred (£'000)
Teaching Staff	1,361	725	636
Non-Teaching Staff	348	203	145
Premises	121	121	-
Other Costs	48	25	23
Total Devolved School Budget	1,878	1,074	804
Rates	105	105	-
Cleaning	115	115	-
Grounds Maintenance	15	15	-
Total excluding community funding	2,113	1,309	804
Additional Community High School Funding	184	184	-
Overall Total	2,297	1,493	804

Notes:

1. The 2012/13 budget above is slightly higher than that included in the original Committee report and the consultation paper. School budgets are re-based after the first school term to incorporate a number of adjustments required.
2. The recurring savings shown above are lower than reflected in the original Committee report and the consultation paper; with the budget transferred being correspondingly higher.

2.11.2 In arriving at this position the following key assumptions have been made:

- No potential alternative use for the existing school buildings exists and they would be demolished as soon as possible following closure (estimated to start in April 2014) allowing current property related costs such as rates to cease and any potential new costs which may be required (were the buildings to remain) such as security to be avoided;
- It is conceivable that efficiencies could be achievable in the overall level of non-promoted teachers required if small numbers of pupils could be accommodated within existing class groups at other schools. Parents would have the opportunity to exercise their parental choice rights to choose a different school to that identified for their child subject to sufficient space being available at the intended school.
- It will be very important to ensure that the needs of pupils are fully met therefore it is assumed that the full budget for non-promoted teaching staff would transfer to the receiving schools. Once the distribution of pupils to schools is known with certainty the required level of additional teaching resource to fully meet their needs could, and would, be assessed.
- Any necessary budgets would transfer to the receiving secondary schools. In addition to the above noted provision for teaching costs; other related

costs such as consumables, provision for curricular travel, examination fees, etc. would also move. Existing positive action funding and specific resources allocated for learning support within the existing Castlebrae Community High School budget would be transferred.

- It is assumed that all staff affected by the proposals are re-deployed to either one of the receiving schools or elsewhere within the school estate.

Overall Revenue Cost Savings Position

2.11.3 There are, however, a number of ongoing costs which would require to be incurred as a result of the closure of the school which would reduce the level of recurring savings which would arise. There are also one-off costs which would be incurred during the first year of transition to new schools including the re-provision of community facilities and investment proposals which have been covered earlier in this report.

2.11.4 The net recurring full year savings would not be realised until 2014/15 from when they are estimated to be £1.116m with only part-year savings of £12,000 arising in the 2013/14 financial year as shown in the following table:

	Ref	2013/14 £'000	2014/15 £'000
Gross savings	2.11.1	801	1,493
Providing replacement school uniforms	2.2.12	(10)	-
Re-providing community facilities - revenue	2.4.6	(51)	(77)
Re-providing community facilities - capital	2.4.7	(83)	-
Investment proposals - revenue	2.5	(80)	(120)
Providing home to school transport	2.6.11	(50)	(50)
Demolition of existing school buildings	2.7.3	-	(130)
Security and other costs pending demolition	2.7.4	(115)	-
Legacy over-spends in school budgets (Note 1)	2.10.4	(400)	-
Net savings		12	1,116

Note 1

In 2011/12, with the approval of the Head of Service the school's staffing budget was overspent. In normal circumstances such overspends are managed down over a period agreed with the Head Teacher however it was not considered appropriate to reduce staffing levels while the school's future was under consideration. The position will therefore continue with the overspend estimated to be £400,000 by August 2013. Should the school be closed, this amount will have to be recovered from the savings associated with the closure.

Repairs and Maintenance Costs

- 2.11.5 It is estimated that a repairs and maintenance pressure of approximately £3.5m over the next five years would be avoided if the existing school buildings were not retained. This is not identified as a direct financial saving as no provision for such maintenance works is included in any existing Council capital investment programme budget.
- 2.11.6 The necessity for additional investment to be made to the existing Portobello High School to keep it fully operational until a new school is delivered has already been [reported](#) to Council on 22 November 2012 together with the additional costs estimated to be required to achieve this. These costs are required regardless of any decision to close Castlebrae Community High School and arrangements are being progressed to prioritise the works from future Asset Management Works budgets.

3. Recommendations

3.1 Council is recommended to:

- Approve that Castlebrae Community High School should close in July 2013;
- Note the statutory requirement to refer its decision to Scottish Ministers;
- Approve that the Portobello High School catchment area be extended to incorporate the Niddrie Mill, Newcraighall and Castlevie Primary School catchment areas together with the area of land shown in the map in Appendix 1 on page 94 on which there are no dwellings at present and for which there is currently no designated non-denominational secondary school catchment;
- Approve that Liberton High School becomes the sole non-denominational catchment secondary school for the Prestonfield Primary School catchment area;
- Approve that the existing Castlebrae Community High School pupils are offered a place at Portobello High School;
- Approve that, at any point, should there not to be sufficient space at Portobello High School to accommodate S1 pupils in the revised enlarged catchment area who wish to attend the school then pupils would have priority access to any other non-denominational secondary school in the city. In accordance with the existing placing in schools guidelines this priority would sit above any non-catchment siblings at any of the other schools;
- Approve that free home to school transport would be provided, regardless of distance from their home to the school, to all pupils who

were on the Castlebrae Community High School roll at the start of the 2012/13 school year whose denominational catchment school would change to be Portobello High School and who have already chosen, or if a decision is made to close the school choose, to attend Portobello High School. Also further approve that this principle would also apply to any future pupils from the existing Castlebrae catchment area whose denominational catchment school would change to be Portobello High School and who choose to attend Portobello High School in any future year until a new secondary school in Craigmillar has been built;

- Approve that the existing Castlebrae Community High School building be declared surplus from the end of the 2012/13 school session; that the building be demolished as soon as possible and that any disposal proceeds which would arise in the event that the disposal of the site is progressed directly by the Council be ring-fenced towards the cost of delivering a new secondary school in Craigmillar;
- Approve the following costs, the details of which are set out in the report:
 - £551,000 for the demolition of the existing school buildings to be funded through prudential borrowing over five years at an annual cost of £130,000;
 - £10,000 of one-off funding for the provision of replacement school uniforms for those children who need them; and
 - £77,000 per annum of recurring revenue costs to fully re-provide the community facilities currently delivered in the school;
 - £120,000 per annum for reinvestment into the Craigmillar area as set out in Section 2.5 to provide additional support for pupils who would move from Castlebrae Community High School and those in catchment primary schools.
- Note that the use to which any future revenue cost savings of an estimated £1.116m per annum which would arise as a result of the proposed closure would be considered as part of the Council budget setting process in 2014/15;
- Note that the timing for the required delivery of a new secondary school in Craigmillar, currently anticipated to be 2020, and how the new school will be funded shall be kept under review with updates being provided to Council during the annual budget process as part of the update of the Capital Investment Programme; and
- Note that, at a later date, it is the intention that further public consultation takes place to align minor anomalies in primary school

catchments relating to land that currently has no non-denominational primary school catchment coverage.

Gillian Tee

Director of Children and Families

Links

Coalition pledges	<p>P03 - Rebuild Portobello High School and continue progress on all other planned school developments, while providing adequate investment in the fabric of all schools</p> <p>P04 - Draw up a long-term strategic plan to tackle both over-crowding and under use in schools</p>
Council outcomes	<p>C01 - Our children have the best start in life, are able to make and sustain relationships and are ready to succeed.</p> <p>C02 - Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities.</p>
Single Outcome Agreement	<p>S03 - Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential</p>
Appendices	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Consultation Summary Paper2 Records of the four Public Meetings3 Summary of Consultation Submissions4 Consultation with Pupils5 Report by Education Scotland6 Community Programme and Other Services7 Record of Equality and Rights Impact Assessment8 Positive Destinations 2011/129 Arrangements for Effective Transition

Proposals for the closure of Castlebrae Community High School and associated catchment changes affecting Portobello High School and Liberton High School

Consultation Summary Paper

Introduction

The City of Edinburgh Council is consulting, under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, on a proposal to close Castlebrae Community High School from the end of the 2012/13 school year and make changes to the local non-denominational secondary school catchment areas.

The consultation process will run between 25 October 2012 and 7 December 2012 by when any comments on the proposals have to be submitted.

This paper is a **summary** of the full Consultation Proposal Paper and in general terms it outlines:

- The consultation process
- The proposals
- The reasons for the proposals
- Proposed changes to secondary catchment areas
- Implications for receiving schools
- Educational considerations
- Other considerations
- How to make your views known

If you would like to look at the proposals in more detail please refer to the full Consultation Proposal Paper which contains more data and further information. It also includes the Educational Benefits Statement and other relevant background information relating to the proposals.

Pupils in Castlebrae Community High School (CCHS) continue to experience very poor educational outcomes and, with the smallest secondary roll in the city of 196 pupils (an occupancy level of 33%) which is expected to fall as low as 158 in 2015, the position is not sustainable.

It is estimated that the other secondary schools in the local area could accommodate both the existing and future school roll from the CCHS catchment area up to around 2020 and the majority of pupils living in this area already choose to attend other local schools.

In light of this, we have carefully considered the school's future and have established a case to consult on its closure in July 2013. While the proposals offer pupils places at particular schools, parents will continue to be able to apply, in the first instance, for an alternative school if places are available.

Maintaining the status quo, and keeping Castlebrae Community High School open, is not specifically given as an option but the City of Edinburgh Council could ultimately decide on this course of action if it wishes.

The full Consultation Proposal Paper is available electronically and in paper format. It can be downloaded from the Council website at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/castlebraehighconsultation

Reference copies are available in Craigmillar Library (currently in the East Neighbourhood Office on Hays Drive), Portobello Library and Southside Library. A copy is also available during office hours at the reception of the City of Edinburgh Council Headquarters, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG.

If you would like to pick up a paper copy of the Consultation Proposal Paper locally you will be able to collect one from Castlebrae Community High School, Portobello High School, Liberton High School, Holy Rood High School or any of their associated primary schools.

Alternatively, please call 0131 469 3161 if you would like a copy of the Consultation Proposal Paper to be posted to you.

The Consultation Process

The statutory consultees for the proposals include:

1. The Parent Council of any affected school;
2. The parents of the pupils at the affected school;
3. The parents of any children expected to attend the affected school;
4. The affected students (depending on age and stage);
5. The staff at the affected school and trade union representatives;
6. The Roman Catholic Church;
7. Any other users at the affected school the Council considers relevant;
8. Affected Community Councils and Neighbourhood Partnerships; and
9. Education Scotland.

Four public meetings have been arranged as detailed below to allow you to express your views. Staff from the Council will be present to outline the proposals and take questions and discuss details.

Venue	Date	Time
Castlebrae Community High School 2A Greendykes Road, EH16 4DP	Tuesday, 13 November 2012	7pm

Portobello Town Hall (<i>NB: not High School</i>) Portobello High Street, EH15 1AF	Wednesday, 14 November 2012	7pm
Liberton High School 328 Gilmerton Road, EH17 7PT	Monday, 26 November 2012	7pm
Holy Rood RC High School 55 Duddingston Road West, EH15 3ST	Thursday, 29 November 2012	7pm

Please call (0131) 469 3161 by no later than **noon, on Tuesday, 6 November 2012** if you would like to request free childcare or translation services to be provided at a public meeting.

Please send any written comments on the proposals to Gillian Tee, the Director of Children and Families. They may be sent either by e-mail to cf.propertyreview@edinburgh.gov.uk or by post to:

The Director of Children and Families
City of Edinburgh Council
Waverley Court
Level 1:2 (Castlebrae Consultation)
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh EH8 8BG

Written comments must be with us by close of business on **Friday, 7 December 2012**.

All comments received will be recorded and represented in the final consultation report, along with our response to those comments. Detailed individual responses to submissions during the consultation will not be provided.

If common themes emerge from submissions received we will prepare a Frequently Asked Questions paper and publish it on the website during the consultation process.

Education Scotland Report

At the end of the consultation period Education Scotland will prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposals. In order that this can be done the Council must send them a copy of the proposal paper; copies of written comments received during the consultation period (or, if agreed, a summary of them); a record of the public meetings and any other relevant information. The Education Scotland Report will then be submitted to the Council and it must be taken into account in considering the outcome of the consultation.

The Consultation Report

Following the consultation process, the Council will prepare a Consultation Report. It will include a summary of all the written comments received and issues raised at the

public meetings along with our response to them and will make recommendations on how to proceed.

The Consultation Report will be published at least three weeks before Councillors meet to discuss our recommendations and agree an outcome. When it is published we will notify everyone who made a representation during the consultation period and let them know where they can get a copy of it.

When is a decision expected?

We expect to take the Consultation Report to the Council meeting on 14 March 2013 which means that the report will be published by 21 February 2013. If the Councillors at that meeting decide to close Castlebrae Community High School then Scottish Ministers would have six weeks to decide whether to “call in” the proposals for their review.

Any person wishing to make a representation to the Scottish Ministers that the decision should, or should not, be called in will have three weeks from the date of the Council’s decision to make their representations to the Scottish Ministers. If the Council takes a decision on 14 March 2013 the six week period would end on 26 April 2013.

The Proposals

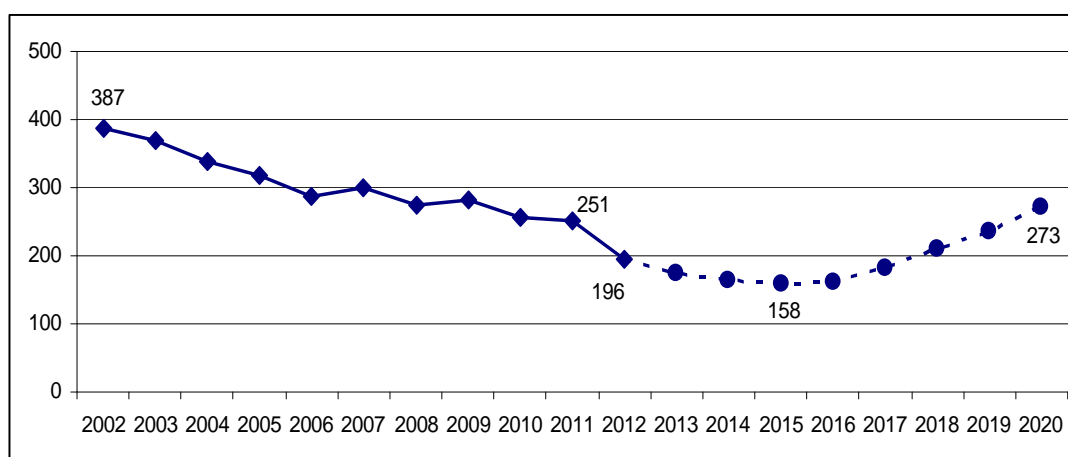
In summary, it is proposed that:

- Castlebrae Community High School should close in July 2013.
- Pupils from the Prestonfield Primary School catchment area will have Liberton High School as their non-denominational catchment secondary.
- Pupils from Niddrie Mill, Newcraighall and Castleview Primary School catchment areas will have Portobello High School as their non-denominational catchment secondary.
- The small number of non-catchment pupils who currently attend CCHS will be offered a place at Portobello High School along with their peer group.
- An area in the nearby vicinity which currently has no designated catchment will be assigned to Portobello High School as shown on page 15 [*in this report included on page 96*].
- Future pupil placements will be based on the new catchment boundaries as shown on pages 15 and 16 [*in this report included on pages 94 and 95*].
- Existing denominational (Roman Catholic) catchment arrangements in the area are not being changed and parents will continue to be able to exercise this as a choice for their children.
- Should the intake limit at Portobello be exceeded by catchment demand, placing requests from pupils in its new catchment area to any other city secondary will be prioritised.
- The community facilities currently provided within Castlebrae Community High School will be re-provided at alternative locations in the area.

The Reasons for the Proposals

The main reasons for the proposals to close Castlebrae Community High School are:

- Educational outcomes for pupils at the school are very poor when compared with similar schools elsewhere in the city and nationally.
- The 2012/13 start of session roll of 196 pupils was the lowest secondary school roll in the city with only 19 pupils starting in S1.
- The school has a capacity of 600 places however with only 196 pupils attending the occupancy rate is the lowest in the city at only 33% there being 404 spare places.
- There are schools in the immediate vicinity with spare capacity and where the educational outcomes being achieved are higher.
- The school roll has fallen significantly over the last ten years and is expected to drop further to a low of 158 in 2015/16. The graph below shows how the school roll has fallen since 2002 and also our projections for the school roll up until 2020.



- In 2011, only 226 pupils in the Castlebrae catchment area attended their local school - a retention rate of 31%. The table below shows which schools pupils living in the Castlebrae catchment area chose to attend in the 2011/12 school year.

Secondary School Attended	Pupils	%
Holy Rood RC	251	34%
Castlebrae	226	31%
Portobello	111	15%
St Thomas of Aquin's RC	43	6%
James Gillespie's	28	4%
Liberton	28	4%
Other	42	6%

- The cost per pupil is 123% above the city average and 42% above the secondary school with the next lowest roll.

Proposed Changes to Secondary Catchment Areas

If CCHS closed the existing non-denominational secondary catchment areas would have to change. There is significant surplus capacity in both Portobello High School and Liberton High School at the moment and this is expected to be the position up to around 2020. Our proposals for the new secondary catchment arrangements are set out below.

Liberton High School - please see the map on page 16 [*in this report on page 95*]

The Liberton High School catchment area would remain the same but the status of the Prestonfield Primary School area would change from dual feeder to sole feeder.

It is proposed that the current Prestonfield Primary School catchment be changed to have Liberton High School as its sole non-denominational catchment secondary school. As this area already has dual-feeder status with both Liberton High School and CCHS and the number of pupils from this area currently going to CCHS is very low (less than 5) the impact of this change on Liberton High School is expected to be insignificant. There are no safe routes to schools issues at present or expected in the future.

Portobello High School - Please see the map on page 15 [*in this report on page 94*]

The Portobello High School catchment area would be enlarged to include the Niddrie Mill, Newcraighall and Castleview Primary School catchment areas.

We propose to make Portobello High School the sole non-denominational catchment secondary school for all other areas of the CCHS catchment – the Niddrie Mill, Newcraighall and Castleview Primary School catchment areas.

There are a number of pupils from the Niddrie Mill, Newcraighall and Castleview Primary School catchment areas who already attend Portobello High School. No safe routes to schools issues are anticipated were CCHS to close and Portobello High School to become the non-denominational catchment secondary school for these areas.

There is also an area of land to the south of the Castleview Primary School catchment (see map on page 15 [*in this report on page 94*]) where there are no houses at the moment. This area does not have a designated non-denominational secondary school catchment and we propose that Portobello High School becomes the sole non-denominational catchment secondary school for that area too.

Implications for Receiving Schools

Impact of proposed changes for Portobello High School

For the proposed changes to work we need to be sure that Portobello High School can accommodate all of the pupils that we could expect to attend it from the enlarged catchment area in future years. An analysis has been carried out that indicates that in the years up until to 2020 either all, or the vast majority, of the pupils in the enlarged

catchment area could be accommodated in Portobello High School. More information about the analysis can be found in Appendix 6 of the Consultation Proposal Paper.

This analysis is based on all of the expected CCHS catchment pupils, based on existing patterns of pupil choice, going to Portobello as their new school. However it is likely that, based on experience of other school closures, some pupils will choose to attend other schools. This would then reduce the total number of pupils to be accommodated in Portobello High School.

Under these proposals, should CCHS close, Children and Families would work with the school to try to accommodate all of the CCHS pupils living in the enlarged Portobello High School catchment area who wish to attend the school. However, if in any year there is not enough space in Portobello High School to accommodate all requests from pupils within the revised catchment area then places at Portobello High School would be allocated in the following order of priority:

- 4 Exceptional cases; then
- 5 Pupils with siblings in the school; and then
- 6 Pupils without siblings in the school on the basis of the shortest safest walking distance from home to school.

Any remaining pupils who could not be accommodated at Portobello High School would be given priority access to any other non-denominational secondary school in the city.

The Portobello High School Building

It has been the intention to build the new Portobello High School on part of Portobello Park however this was the subject of an ongoing legal challenge which culminated in a judgment which concluded that the Council did not have the power to do this. There is no doubt that a new Portobello High School needs to be built as soon as possible but there will now be a further delay in this being delivered.

A report is being taken to the meeting of the Council on Thursday, 25 October which will consider two key questions; what legal options are available to build the new school on part of Portobello Park and what alternative site options are available in the event that this does not, ultimately, prove to be possible.

There has been considerable investment in the school building over the last few years for essential repairs and maintenance works however the position is being reviewed again to identify any further works which may be necessary now to cover the further delay to a new school being built.

If any urgent repairs or maintenance works need to be undertaken at Portobello High School this will be reported back to Elected Members in due course. It is, however, important to note that the works at the school would be required irrespective of any proposal to close CCHS.

Non-catchment children attending CCHS

The small number of non-catchment pupils who currently attend CCHS would be offered a place at Portobello High School along with their peer group.

Options to attend other schools

The existing denominational catchment arrangements (for Roman Catholic schools) will not change and pupils could opt to attend their designated denominational catchment school which, for the majority of the CCHS area, is Holy Rood RC High School. Parents also have the right to exercise parental choice and can apply for places in any other secondary school. Any requests made in this way would follow the normal procedures. Should the intake limit at Portobello be exceeded by catchment demand in any year, placing requests from pupils in its enlarged catchment to any other secondary school in the city would be prioritised.

Educational Considerations

In considering this proposal we are clear that the outcomes for young people in CCHS are currently significantly poorer than those from similar backgrounds in other schools, both in Edinburgh and across Scotland.

Attainment data is best assessed relative to other schools in Scotland which are considered to be similar in nature to CCHS. Including CCHS there are 21 comparator schools which are determined nationally by the Scottish Government; the other 20 schools are mainly from the Glasgow area but also include Craigmyle and WHEC in Edinburgh.

The following table shows the ranking out of the 21 schools of the attainment of S4 pupils at CCHS by the end of S4, S5 and S6. The data is shown for the three year period to 2011; 2012 comparative data is not yet available.

Stage	Awards	2009	2010	2011	3 Year Average
By end of S4	5+ @ level 3+	14th	17th	20th	18th
By end of S4	5+ @ level 4+	17th	20th	21st	21st
By end of S4	5+ @ level 5+	18th	20th	21st	21st
By end of S5	5+ @ level 3+	13th	14th	18th	15th
By end of S5	5+ @ level 4+	20th	16th	20th	19th
By end of S5	5+ @ level 5+	19th	20th	21st	20th
By end of S5	1+ @ level 6+	20th	20th	20th	20th
By end of S5	3+ @ level 6+	11th	13th	20th	17th
By end of S5	5+ @ level 6+	4th	5th	13th	8th
By end of S6	5+ @ level 3+	3rd	12th	14th	11th
By end of S6	5+ @ level 4+	20th	19th	17th	20th
By end of S6	5+ @ level 5+	15th	18th	21st	18th
By end of S6	1+ @ level 6+	16th	19th	21st	20th
By end of S6	3+ @ level 6+	17th	17th	18th	18th
By end of S6	5+ @ level 6+	12th	17th	16th	15th

In respect of National Qualifications, attainment is expressed in terms of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) as follows:

Level 3: Access 3; Standard Grade at 5-6 (Foundation)
Level 4: Intermediate 1 at A-C; Standard Grade at 3-4 (General)
Level 5: Intermediate 2 at A-C; Standard Grade at 1-2 (Credit)
Level 6: Higher at A-C

With such low pupil numbers, it is increasingly challenging for CCHS staff to provide an appropriate curriculum at all stages. For example, while the current S1 roll of 19 will be able to have an appropriate curriculum this year there will be no opportunity to set classes by ability. It is also difficult to deliver the principles of Curriculum for Excellence where young people have choice in their learning and access to a broad range of curriculum experiences.

The receiving schools have the ability to deliver a broad curriculum at all stages and offer a broad range of subject choice and electives. This can increase motivation by focusing on the interests of individual pupils. Larger comprehensive schools offer more opportunities for positive role modelling and taking part in a broader range of experiences. This can encourage ambition and help to develop self-confidence and other personal skills. The range of extra-curricular activities is wider in neighbouring schools than in CCHS. Again, this is due to the size of CCHS and the number of staff in the school rather than any lack of commitment of staff. Pupils would therefore have a greater range of opportunities to develop skills in a wider variety of contexts. All schools have a wide range of activities aimed at developing a range of skills as part of their timetabled curriculum.

Young people moving into positive destinations (employment, training or education) is analysed each year and the figures are published by the Scottish Government. The table below shows the percentage of young people from local schools who moved into a positive destination between 2006/07 and 2010/11.

School	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
CCHS	78.9%	58.8%	67.9%	69.0%	42.0%
Portobello	84.1%	84.8%	88.4%	89.1%	88.0%
Holy Rood	76.9%	74.9%	78.9%	78.6%	82.5%
Liberton	74.5%	74.7%	72.1%	76.0%	81.0%

In Portobello, Holy Rood and Liberton positive destinations have improved. In CCHS the percentage of young people moving into a positive destination has decreased significantly. The most recent data from 2010/11 saw less than half of the school leaver cohort move into a positive destination.

CCHS currently offers a range of vocational curriculum including hairdressing, automotive and construction. The school has achieved good outcomes for young people following vocational courses and has developed the skills of staff in these areas. All the equipment associated with hairdressing and automotive repairs will be able to be transferred to a receiving school to allow for continuation of courses. In addition, we would seek opportunities to share the resources and expertise of staff across the city.

The schools to which pupils would transfer demonstrate higher outcomes and in the short term there is a lot of potential to impact positively on attainment. For example they would:

- have a broader range of subject choice and elective courses;
- benefit by being in larger year groups;
- be grouped in ways that are more appropriate to individual needs;
- enjoy a greater range of opportunities to develop skills in a wide variety of contexts; and
- be able to access a broader range of extra-curricular activities.

In session 2011/12, 15% of CCHS catchment pupils were educated at Portobello High School and 34% educated at Holy Rood High School. Attainment results for these pupils are higher than those attending CCHS. Comparison of both schools' results overall show no negative impact on the quality of educational outcomes across the schools and we conclude that there will be no negative impact of the remaining CCHS pupils transferring to either Portobello or Holy Rood or on the schools as a whole.

This section has summarised the key findings of our wider analysis of educational outcomes. The Consultation Proposal Paper, including the full Educational Benefits Statement (EBS), demonstrates the likely effects of the proposal. Areas considered under the EBS are improvements in performance, learners' experiences, meeting learners' needs, curriculum, ethos and wider achievement opportunities as well as transition in terms of:

- our assessments of the effect of the proposal on a range of school users;
- the potential impact on other users of the school's facilities; and
- the likely effects of the proposal on pupils in other schools in the Council area.

The problems associated with CCHS have existed for some time and it is worth noting that members of staff at the school have made significant efforts over the years to improve the situation. Outcomes for young people in all indicators are significantly poorer than those from similar backgrounds in other schools despite significant resources being allocated to CCHS over a period of time.

You can find details about support programmes such as 20:20 Initiative, Instep and other support for school improvement in the Consultation Proposal Paper.

Pupils with Particular Support Needs

There are a number of pupils in CCHS with particular support needs which fall into three main categories: EAL (English as an additional language); ASN (additional support needs), and LAAC (looked after and accommodated children).

All receiving schools provide a range of additional programmes to support those young people with additional needs. All schools have levels of Pupil Support staffing to be able to deliver effective pastoral support and to know all pupils individually.

Additional support, and funding where appropriate, is made available to provide the support required for these pupils and would continue to be the case. The support requirements for individual young people with additional needs will be reviewed before the closure of the school. This would inform an individual support plan for them which would be delivered in their new school. Pupils' progress would be monitored on a regular basis and further support would be provided, if required.

Other Considerations

Community Considerations

Apart from their educational function, schools can provide a focus for the local community and this is a factor when considering any closure proposal. This is particularly relevant for Castlebrae Community High School which is one of eight 'community schools' in the city.

This status means that the school receives additional funding toward the provision of community related services. CCHS currently receives a further budget of £0.188m for costs associated with its community related services on top of its main budget of £2.084m.

Community activities currently in the published programme include:

- Woodwork (one class)
- Instrument making (one class)
- Spanish (one class)
- Cookery (two classes)
- Hairdressing (one class)
- Fighting Fit (one class)
- Art (one class)
- English as a second or other language (provided by Stevenson College to meet local demand)
- Fitness suite available evenings and daytime

All of these classes are supported by a free childcare service in the Family Centre and there is a successful Books for Babies service operating from the former janitor's house in the school grounds.

There are two grass pitches at the school which are free to use but are not in very good condition. There is also a 3G pitch, which does not belong to the school and is run by a local community group who manage the facility and set charges.

Unless a potential alternative use is identified for the existing school buildings, it is proposed that they are demolished once the school is closed. This would bring potential issues in how the 3G pitch, and the grass pitches if they are well used and should be kept, were managed and what access to changing facilities was available. A potential solution could involve the use of the facilities at the adjacent Castlevue

Community Centre which may require some limited capital works to upgrade existing facilities.

It has been concluded on the basis of an initial analysis that current activities could be relocated to other facilities in Craigmillar but the information gathered now needs to be supplemented by more detailed analysis of the community activities and this is now underway, in conjunction with the Head Teacher and the school's Community Programme Manager. This process will include consultation with current participants.

Staffing considerations

It is Council policy to seek suitable alternative employment for those staff that will be affected by the proposals. It has been assumed that all staff affected by the proposal would be re-deployed elsewhere within the school estate. Our intention is that the transfer of staff would be managed in accordance with agreed protocols.

Staff would benefit from being part of a larger professional community in terms of professional development, having increased opportunities for leadership and to develop experience in delivering a range of courses across the range of qualifications up to and including Advanced Higher.

CCHS has achieved good outcomes for young people following vocational courses and has developed the skills of staff in these areas. CCHS staff would also bring their experience of both managing learning and meeting the needs of a wide range of learners together with their experience of delivering specific vocational curriculum. We would seek to maximise this expertise by sharing this practice both within receiving schools and across the city through the delivery of the Senior Phase of Curriculum for Excellence.

Financial Considerations

Please refer to full Consultation Proposal Paper for more detail and assumptions.

The school budget for 2012/13 is £2.084 million. Based on a roll at September 2012 of 196 the cost per pupil is £10,613 and this compares to an average for other secondary schools in the city of £4,757. The school with the next lowest roll is WHEC for which the cost per pupil is £7,503 based on a roll of 301.

We estimate that an £1.352 million of revenue cost savings could be made annually if CCHS closed. This figure takes into account the need to transfer certain budgets such as all non-promoted teaching staff, positive action funding and those relating to pupils with special needs, to receiving schools.

A survey to assess the condition of the building fabric and services in the existing CCHS buildings was carried out in July 2012. Significant repairs, maintenance and renewal costs have been estimated at £8.7million over the next 30 years of which £3.5 million would be required over the next five years. These costs would be avoided if the school closed and the building is demolished.

The extent of capital expenditure that might be necessary to support the proposal needs to be clarified. We will look at this in detail and report back to Council at the end of the consultation and propose sources of funding them. Areas to clarify include:

- any expenditure necessary to re-provide existing extra curricular activities;
- demolition costs for the existing buildings; and
- any investment required for further repairs, maintenance or replacement works thought to be necessary at Portobello High School.

What happens next if the decision is to close?

Any decision to close the school could not be implemented until Scottish Ministers decide whether, or not, to call in any such decision made by the Council. However, if a decision is made to close the school by Council on 14 March 2013 and it is not called in by 26 April 2013 we could very quickly begin working with students and their families to allocate places in other schools and offer any support needed.

We would work with staff, parents and pupils at CCHS and the receiving schools to ensure that the transition and integration process is as smooth as possible and that disruption for pupils and families is kept to a minimum.

Various activities would be run to help prepare pupils for their move to a new school. These could include school visits in class groups, parent meetings, tours of the school, and meetings with the Pupil Support teachers who would be the first point of contact for both the pupil and their parents. Youth workers and the key support staff that the young people in CCHS know well could be involved in this work to help young people build friendships and be confident as they move into their new school.

It is also important that there is effective transition planning to ensure that the curriculum is appropriate for the young person and that all members of staff have knowledge of their learning needs and progress.

In the longer term - a new school in the Craigmillar area

Top quality educational and learning opportunities are the driving force behind creating a sustainable, long-lasting and vibrant local community. It is essential that young people have the opportunity to achieve the best outcomes possible.

We still expect and intend to build a new school for Craigmillar and see it as central to the regeneration of the area. We know that the new school will be needed in the future once a significant part of the anticipated new housing is built and when there is no longer enough space in other local high schools to take all the children living in the area. There should be enough capacity in neighbouring schools until around 2020 but we will regularly review the position to better understand when work to plan and develop the new school must begin.

In looking to the new school it is essential that we aim to create a rich learning environment for pupils to provide excellent educational outcomes. Opportunities may

exist to develop a city-wide resource within the new school, perhaps as a centre of excellence in an area such as science, which may benefit other regeneration activity planned in the area. The scope of the new school and associated community facilities will be carefully considered at the appropriate time when the local community will be consulted. Another statutory consultation process would be carried out under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 if any change is proposed to the previously agreed and approved site for a new school.

How to Make Your Views Known

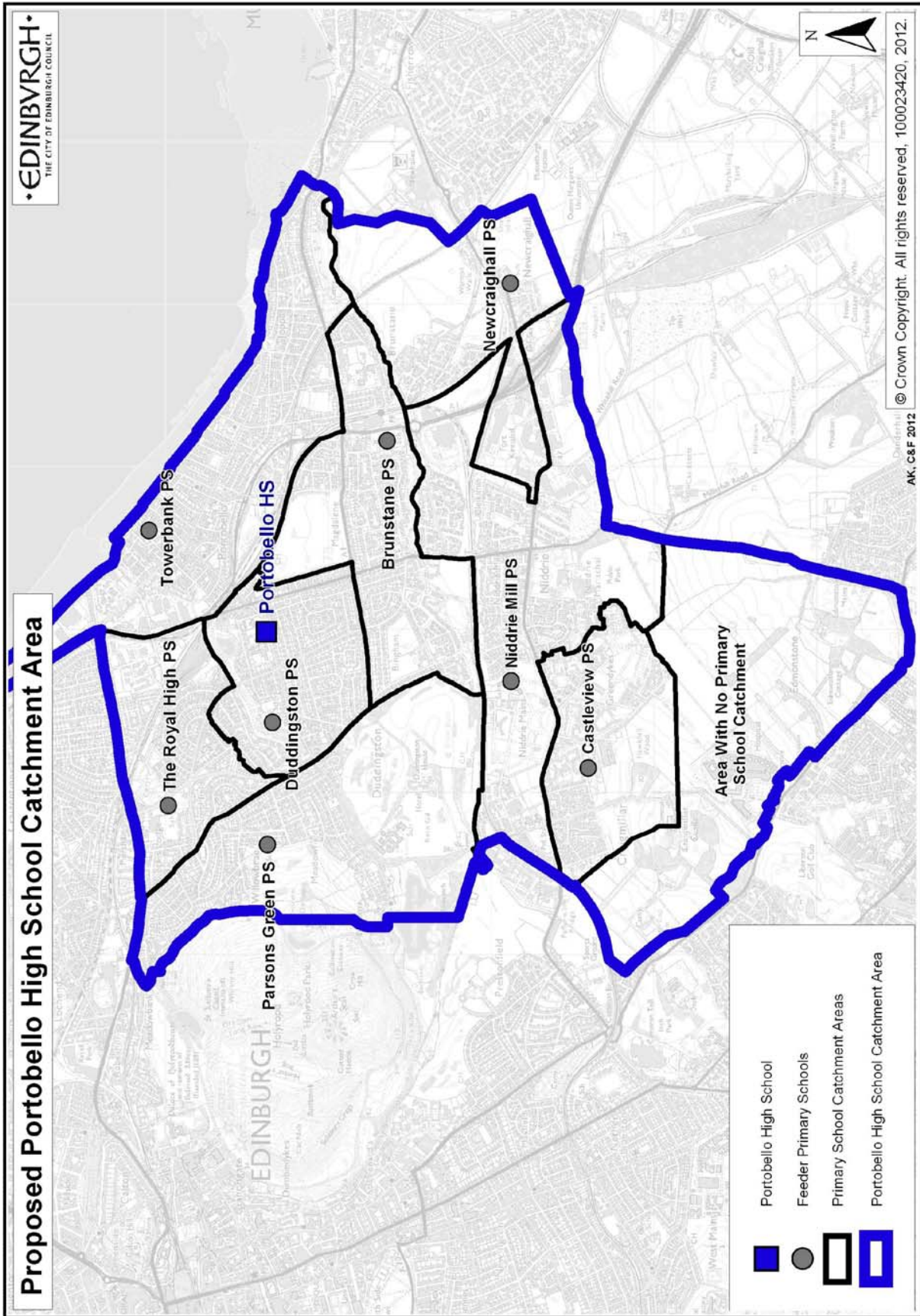
You can view the full Consultation Proposal Paper at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/castlebraehighconsultation

Please send any written comments on the proposals to Gillian Tee, the Director of Children and Families. They may be sent either by e-mail to cf.propertyreview@edinburgh.gov.uk or by post to:

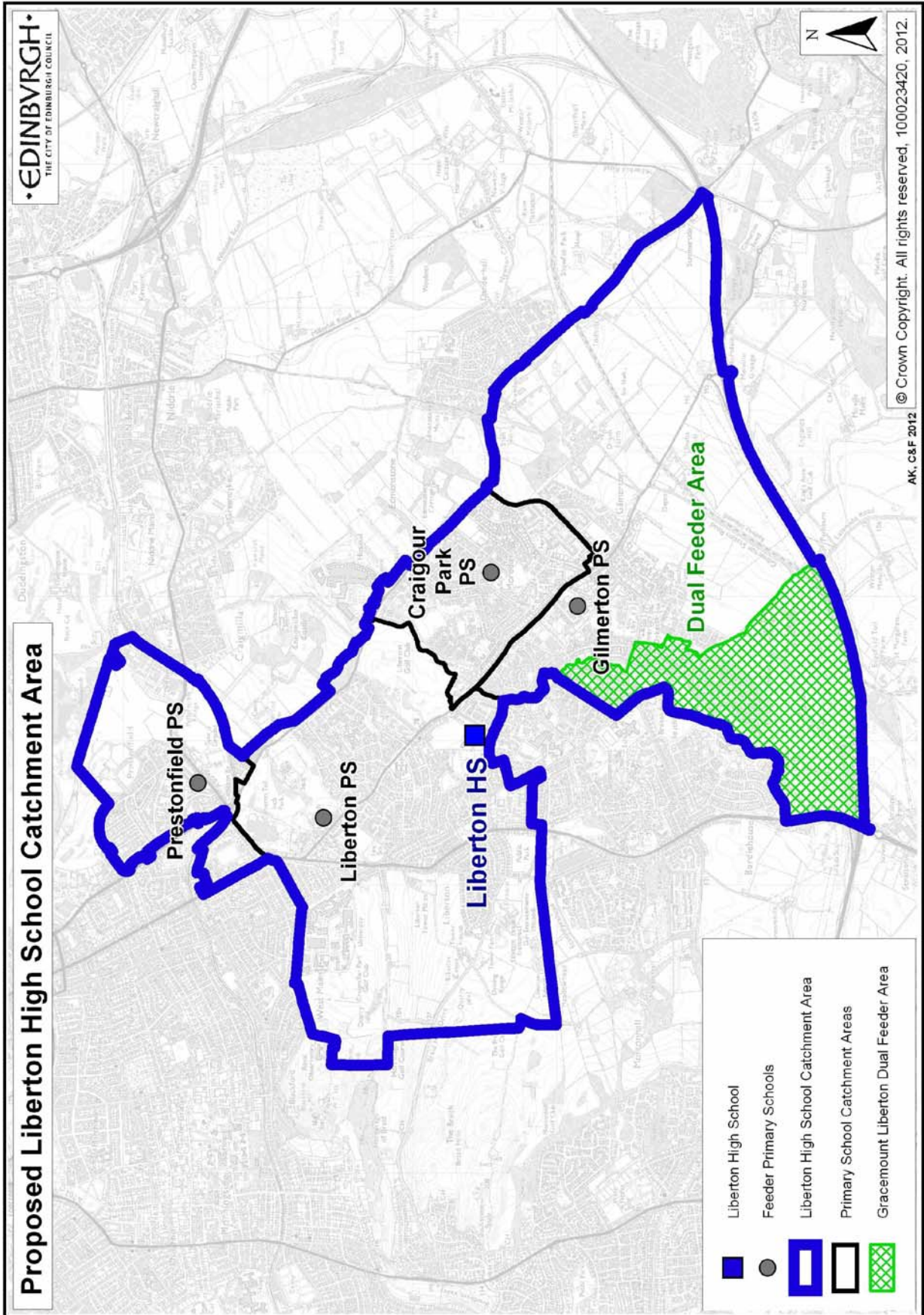
The Director of Children and Families
City of Edinburgh Council
Waverley Court
Level 1:2 (Castlebrae Consultation)
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh EH8 8BG

The Consultation Period closes at the end of the business day on 7 December 2012 and any comments must be submitted before then.

PROPOSED REVISED PORTOBELLO HIGH SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA



PROPOSED REVISED LIBERTON HIGH SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA



Record of Meeting

Castlebrae Community High School - Consultation on Option for Closure and Associated Catchment Changes for Portobello and Liberton High Schools

The meeting was held on 13 November 2012 in Castlebrae Community High School

Present: There were approximately 100 members of the public.

In Attendance: Tom Wood (Independent Chair), Councillor Paul Godzik (Convener, Education, Children and Families Committee), Councillor David Key (Vice-Convener, Education, Children and Families Committee), Gillian Tee (Director of Children and Families), Mike Rosendale (Head of Schools), Lindsay Glasgow (Asset Planning Manager) and Karen Prophet (Senior Education Manager).

Introduction

Tom Wood explained that he had been invited by the Council as an independent person to Chair this consultation meeting. The meeting was the first of four meetings being arranged as part of the consultation process on a proposal to close Castlebrae Community High School. Officers from the Children and Families Department would be asked to give a presentation explaining the proposals in more detail and then to answer any questions. Tom Wood also advised the meeting that the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 required the Council to consult Education Scotland on the proposals and that a representative was also present at this meeting.

Convener's Statement

Councillor Godzik, Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee stated that he recognises that the proposal to close Castlebrae is not an easy one. However, a decision needs to be made about the future of Castlebrae taking into account all aspects of the school. The proposal for closure is the Council officials' recommendation and the final decision will be taken by Elected Members at the full Council meeting on 14 March 2013. The consultation report to be considered at that meeting will include a summary of all written comments received and issues raised and responded to at the public meetings and will be considered along with a report from Education Scotland.

Presentation

Karen Prophet (Senior Education Manager, Children and Families) explained the background to the proposals.

Context

The 2012/13 start of session roll at Castlebrae of 196 pupils was the lowest secondary school roll in the City with only 19 pupils starting in S1. As of today's date, the current school roll in Castlebrae is 184 pupils, 17 of which are in S1. The school roll has fallen significantly over the last 10 years and is expected to drop further to a low of 158 in 2015/16. The school has a capacity of 600 places but with only 184 attending the occupancy rate is the lowest in the City at only 31%. Cost per pupil per head of population in Castlebrae is £10,500, more than double the city average of £4,500. As a result of falling school rolls across the City, spare capacity has opened up at Portobello and Holy Rood High Schools. Between these schools there is sufficient capacity to accommodate the current roll of Castlebrae for a number of years. There is very little new housing being built in the area as a result of the economic downturn which means limited opportunity in the medium term for an increase in the number of people and families living in Craigmillar.

Educational Benefits

Attainment levels at Castlebrae have been measured against and compared with secondary schools with similar economic profiles mainly from the Glasgow area but also including Wester Hailes Education Centre and Craigroyston. Educational outcomes are, and have been, consistently significantly poorer than those of the majority of the comparator schools. The schools to which pupils would transfer demonstrate higher outcomes and offer a broader range of subject choice, elective courses and extra-curricular courses. In Castlebrae, the percentage of young people moving into a positive destination has decreased significantly. However, the school does offer a range of vocational courses including hairdressing, automotive and construction and has achieved good outcomes for young people. There is a commitment to ensure continuity of vocational provision.

Arrangements for transition will ensure that all young people's needs are considered on an individual basis. Resources attached to young people with additional needs will be transferred to receiving schools. Pastoral transition will include school visits prior to August 2013. Other transition activities include work with peers, mentoring and a summer transition programme.

Community Programme Proposals

Castlebrae currently receives additional funding to help with its community programme. It is proposed to maintain the current level of community provision and to relocate all adult/English as a second or other language classes where applicable taking into account user needs and crèche requirements. The 3G pitch will continue to be a community asset and current holiday activities will continue to be provided locally. The

Family Centre service will be moved to other local provisions. The Council will continue to honour their “in kind” commitment to Craigmillar Books for Babies.

New School for Craigmillar

The Council is committed to delivering a new school for Craigmillar and see it as central to the regeneration of the area. The best estimate is that a new school will be required in 2020 once a significant part of the anticipated new housing is built and when there is no longer enough space in other local high schools to take all the young people living in the area.

Consultation Programme

The consultation programme will run up to 7 December 2012 after which the Council will seek Education Scotland’s views on the proposal. All comments which have been received and the points raised at the meeting tonight will be considered and responded to in a report that will go to the full Council. The report will be published on 21 February 2013 and considered at the full Council meeting on 14 March 2013.

Questions and Answers

Tom Wood invited the audience to ask questions of any representatives of the Council or to articulate any concerns they might have about any aspect of the proposal.

The questions and answers were taken in groups of three and, in summary, were as follows:

Group (1)

Question 1 – What provision will be made for transporting pupils from the Craigmillar area to their new schools?

Question 2 – What are the protocols and guidelines for the consultation process?

Question 3 – There are excellent vocational courses offered at Castlebrae. Why do the Council not build a new school in Craigmillar now as the community has been waiting much longer for such a facility than people in the Portobello area?

Answers (1) to (3) (Children and Families)

Children and Families have identified addresses of all pupils who would transfer to Portobello High and the majority are located within 1 mile of the school. Council policy is that free transport is only provided for pupils who are required to make journeys over 3 miles and this is applied across the City. A further audit will be carried out of safer routes to school as part of the consultation process.

There is a statutory legal process the Council has to follow under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The consultation will run between 25

October 2012 and 7 December 2012. Information and full details of the consultation process is available on the Council's website.

Provision of the vocational curriculum is acknowledged as being excellent and it is proposed that the resources and expertise provided at Castlebrae will continue to make a valuable contribution to the area. The total educational experience for young people has to be addressed however and it is felt overall that a fuller educational experience could be provided at other schools. The main issue is that there are not enough pupils enrolled at the school to make it viable and it is really difficult to offer a rich wide curriculum in these circumstances.

Group (2)

Question 4 – You say the majority of pupils are living within a 1 mile radius from Portobello High School but have you looked at each individual's address to confirm this?

Comment from Member of the Public – The comparison figures with other schools always look bad because the reason no-one wants their children to come to Castlebrae is that the Council is always talking about closing it down.

Question 5 – There are many positive stories about achievements of pupils who have attended Castlebrae. Why do the Council not stop pupils going to other schools outwith the Castlebrae catchment area?

Comment from Member of the Public – My house is 2.1 miles from Portobello High and it is going to be hard for my child walking this distance to school in bad weather on a cold day.

Question 6 – What about children with physical disabilities who are unable to use public transport or have difficulties doing so? What arrangements will be made for them as most families will not be able to afford taxis?

Answers (4) to (6) (Children and Families)

Local authorities are governed by Scottish Government guidance on provision of free transport to school. Full details of the transport implications will be included in the final report to Council next March. However, the majority of addresses fall around 1 mile of Portobello High School. Children and Families can offer assistance in some circumstances to pupils with physical disabilities but each case would be looked at individually and on its own merits.

The Council cannot stop parents electing to send their children to schools outwith their own catchment area. If there are places available in schools, and parents make a placing request, the Council are obliged to grant the request.

Group (3)

Question 7 – It is the Council’s fault there is a low intake at Castlebrae. The land is there to build a new school so why don’t the Council get on with building it now?

Question 8 – The people of Craigmillar have been promised a new school for years now as part of the overall development of the area. Why did the Council not have a “Plan B” if the development failed and why can they not get on with laying the foundations of a new school now in readiness for building in 2020 as stated in the presentation?

Question 9 – There are a high number of children in Castlebrae with additional support for learning needs. Will they find a new school as welcoming as Castlebrae? Who will pay for assessments to be undertaken? What guarantees can be made to ensure children are successful in their final exam years? A number of years ago positive destination results were good at Castlebrae but the Council has continued to run down the school and the parents are being blamed for not sending their children to Castlebrae. What are the reasons for this and has anything been done to find out? In a report to the Council in 2002, the community were promised a new school. How much money is in the budget for building a new school?

Answers (7) to (9) (Children and Families and Councillor Godzik)

It is proposed to build a new school in 2020 once a significant part of the anticipated new housing is built. The projected rising school rolls support the view that a new school will be needed. However, the population in the area is not high enough at the moment to justify this. The Council is committed to building a new school in the Craigmillar area and will make sure at the appropriate time that funding is in place. The Council is working with the Scottish Government and PARC on this issue. At present, PARC are not in a position to deliver the previously planned levels of new housing due to current economic circumstances.

In 2002 HMIE reported problems with levels of educational attainment and standards at Castlebrae. The 20:20 project allocated significant additional resources amounting to £0.5m over 3 years to Castlebrae for provision of a broader range of curriculum experiences. Children and Families are delighted to hear about successes at Castlebrae and are continuing to work with the Head Teacher and the school to help young people succeed and improve outcomes.

Additional support and funding where appropriate will continue to be provided for pupils who require this. An individual and comprehensive review of support requirements for those young people with additional needs will be undertaken prior to the closure of the school and this will inform an individual support plan which will be delivered in the receiving school.

Group (4)

Question 10 – What is the reason for there being only 184 pupils at Castlebrae? Could the solution not be to refurbish the existing school maybe by decanting pupils into one half while the other half was being upgraded and vice versa?

Question 11 – In the last HMIE inspection report teaching levels were graded “satisfactory” not “good” or above. Children and Families failed to address this and look to improve the situation. The Council decision to knock down Niddrie Mill had an immediate impact on Castlebrae school roll which contributed to demoralising staff. Why are people taking their children elsewhere?

Question 12 – People have concerns about their children travelling and walking to the new schools. Are there safe walking routes? Is there planning permission for new housing development in the area?

Answers (10) to (12) (Children and Families)

As previously stated £500,000 additional resources were allocated to Castlebrae to provide extra support. Normal funding levels per pupil across the City are £4,500 per head of population whereas at Castlebrae this is £10,500.

Again, the Council cannot prevent parents requesting places at other schools outwith the catchment area and, coupled with falling school rolls generally across the City, this will inevitably have an impact on numbers of pupils attending Castlebrae.

There will be an audit of safer walking routes to receiving schools if Castlebrae closes.

Group (5)

Question 13 – The problems at Castlebrae include the Council withdrawing teachers and not replacing them which means there is less choice of subjects for pupils. How much will it cost to keep Castlebrae open until 2020 and how much to build a new school?

Question 14 – PARC has failed with its promises for regenerating the Craigmillar area and providing a new school. Why have the catchment areas for nursery schools been changed?

Comment by Member of the Public – My two sons attended Castlebrae and have gone on to be successful in their lives. All the teachers went out of their way to help them while they were at school.

Question 15 – Why has the Equalities and Environment sections of the report to Education, Children and Families Committee on 9 October been removed from the version on the website? Portobello High is not fit for purpose at the moment for the pupils in attendance there. If the proposal to change the catchment area goes ahead, 8 primary schools will then feed in to Portobello and the building will not be able to cope with this.

Answers (13) to (15) (Children and Families and Councillor Godzik)

It is important to highlight the worldwide recession as a contributory factor to the slowing down of the economy generally and development opportunities. The Council is responsible for providing sufficient schools for all its pupils. From information in the

projected school rolls the Council has estimated that a new school will be required for the Craigmillar area in 2020.

The proposed closure of Castlebrae is not for financial reasons. With the current school roll, and in particular with only 17 pupils in S1, the school does not offer a viable educational experience for young people and there are real difficulties in offering a wide choice of curriculum.

Irrespective of what happens at Castlebrae, Portobello needs money spent on it to bring it up to a reasonable standard for the 1400 pupils enrolled there. The original report to the Education, Children and Families Committee did recommend Portobello and Liberton High Schools as receiving schools. However, the Council agreed that the better option for this catchment area was Portobello. Prestonfield Primary was now proposed as the sole feeder/catchment school for Liberton and because of statutory requirements this needed to be consulted on.

There are no catchment areas for nursery schools. Catchments are only in place for primary and secondary schools.

Group (6)

Comment from Member of the Public – The consultation on the proposed closure sounds like a *fait accompli* that the school will close. No alternative solutions have been offered by Children and Families this evening. Children and Families should go away from this meeting and consider all the questions raised in the context of trying to keep the school open.

Question 16 – Are there any plans for the land Castlebrae is currently occupying?

Comment from Member of the Public – There has not been one positive comment said by Children and Families at this meeting about Castlebrae school.

Comments and Questions by Councillor Mike Bridgman - There are many positives to be found in Castlebrae Community High School and in the Craigmillar area generally. Council officers are in possession of statistical information on population levels and school rolls across the City. When the decline in the school roll at Castlebrae first became apparent, what action did officers take to address this issue?

In addition, why was the proper report not put in front of Councillors at the Education, Children and Families Committee to allow them to make an informed decision? Information in the report was retrospective in terms of the community learning and development provision.

Comment from Member of the Public – Children and Families have demonstrated a particularly patronising attitude towards those present at the meeting tonight.

Question 17 - The Head Teacher at Castlebrae is willing to fight for the school to remain open and not for closure. How do the Council know they need a new school in 2020?

Comments and Questions by Councillor David Walker – The partnership between the Council, PARC and EDI to develop new housing in Craigmillar has not been wholly successful. There was never going to be enough money to build a new community high school. The Council are trying to save money by closing Castlebrae, relocating the Head Teacher to Council Headquarters and using the money to refurbish Portobello. The Council has allowed Castlebrae to deteriorate. The anger in the community is understandable. What is being done to address the difficulties around the proposal to close the school?

Question 18 – Why do the Council not work with local primary schools and encourage parents to send their children to Castlebrae? How will adult education provision be relocated?

Answers (16) to (18) (Children and Families and Councillor Paul Godzik)

Councillor Godzik recognised local members' commitment to both Castlebrae School and the wider Craigmillar area. He commented that the vocational education programmes offered at the school were extremely positive and noted that pupils from other schools came to Castlebrae to participate in these programmes. A decision needs to be made about the future of Castlebrae taking into account all aspects of the school. It is the responsibility of the Council to ensure that each child in Edinburgh is offered a meaningful and rich learning experience.

Gillian Tee recognised that there had been positive outcomes for individual young people from Castlebrae.

Children and Families confirmed that Council officers are committed to maintaining the provision of community and adult education in the area. If Castlebrae closes, it will be necessary to look at other Centres to continue to provide these services.

As stated in the report to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 9 October 2012, an initial analysis has been undertaken of the use of Castlebrae for the community and adult education programmes, how and where they would be provided were the school to close. In the event of the school closing, a further detailed assessment of the community and adult education programmes will be undertaken.

At present, there is no planning permission for development of the land currently occupied by Castlebrae High. This will need to be looked at as part of the proposals for a new school.

Group (7)

Comment by Member of the Public – The Council are ripping the heart out of the Craigmillar community by proposing to close Castlebrae and discriminating against young people.

Comment by Member of the Public – The Head Teacher at Castlebrae needs to be more proactive and engage more with the pupils.

Comment by Member of the Public – The Council have taken £600,000 out of Instep. Another Community High School has been successful when they had similar projected downturns in the school roll to Craigmillar so why not Castlebrae?

Answers to Comments (Children and Families)

Significant support, financial and otherwise, had been allocated to Castlebrae to provide as wide a choice of curriculum, learning and teaching for young people. The value of the vocational curriculum has already been acknowledged and staff have shown great commitment towards improving lives of young people. As a comparison, Wester Hailes Education Centre has 28% of pupils with additional support needs whereas the figure is 48% at Castlebrae. It is difficult to improve the educational experience of young people when the school roll is projected to fall to 158 in a few years.

Closing Statement by Councillor Godzik

Councillor Godzik thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for the wide ranging questions and comments. There are a further three public consultation meetings to be held and a summary of all points raised will be included in the final report to Council on 14 March 2013.

Tom Wood thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions.

Record of Meeting

Castlebrae Community High School - Consultation on Option for Closure and Associated Catchment Changes for Portobello and Liberton High Schools

The meeting was held on 14 November 2012 in Portobello High School

Present: There were approximately 40 members of the public.

In Attendance: Tom Wood (Independent Chair), Councillor Andrew Burns (Leader, City of Edinburgh Council - substituting for Councillor Godzik), Councillor Sandy Howat, Gillian Tee (Director of Children and Families), Mike Rosendale (Head of Schools), Lindsay Glasgow (Asset Planning Manager) and Karen Prophet (Senior Education Manager).

Introduction

Tom Wood introduced the proceedings, indicating that this was second of four meetings to discuss the proposed closure of Castlebrae High School. He described his role as an independent chair. The Full Council would make a decision on the proposed closure 14 March 2013. He then described the procedure of the meeting. Councillor Burns would make an opening statement and there would be a short presentation by Karen Prophet, followed by questions from members of the public and answers from the panel. Tom Wood advised that a representative from Education Scotland was present as the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act required the Council to consult Education Scotland on the proposals.

Convener's Statement

Councillor Burns thanked Tom Wood for the introduction and for members of the public for coming to the meeting. He explained that he was substituting for Councillor Godzik, who had sent his apologies. He indicated that the Elected Members would consider the comments of the members of the public. The decision would be taken by the Full Council on 14 March 2013 and the members would take account of the minutes from all four meetings and all the comments from members of the public. He was a firm believer in comprehensive education and school children attending their local catchment school, where they should get an all-round education.

The Local Authority had decided to build a new school in part of Portobello Park six years ago. However, this was the subject of an ongoing legal challenge which had culminated in a judgement that concluded that the Council did not have the power to do this. The Council was moving forward and was considering options such as building the new school in the Park, the purchase of Baileyfield, or re-building on the present site. The new High School at Portobello would be built, but in the meantime the present structure would be brought up to the required standard.

Presentation

Karen Prophet (Senior Education Manager, Children and Families) explained the background to the proposals.

Context

The 2012/13 start of session roll at Castlebrae of 196 pupils was the lowest secondary school roll in the City with only 19 pupils starting in S1. As of today's date, the current school roll in Castlebrae is 184 pupils, 17 of which are in S1. The school roll has fallen significantly over the last 10 years and is expected to drop further to a low of 158 in 2015/16. The school has a capacity of 600 places but with only 184 attending the occupancy rate is the lowest in the City at only 31%. Cost per pupil per head of population in Castlebrae is £10,500, more than double the city average of £4,500. As a result of falling school rolls across the City, spare capacity has opened up at Portobello and Holy Rood High Schools. Between these schools there is sufficient capacity to accommodate the current roll of Castlebrae for a number of years. There is very little new housing being built in the area as a result of the economic downturn which means limited opportunity in the medium term for the number of people and families living in Craigmillar to increase.

Educational Benefits

Attainment levels at Castlebrae have been measured against and compared with secondary schools with similar economic profiles mainly from the Glasgow area but also including Wester Hailes Education Centre and Craigroyston. Educational outcomes are, and have been, consistently significantly poorer than those of the majority of the comparator schools. The schools to which pupils would transfer demonstrate higher outcomes and offer a broader range of subject choice, elective courses and extra-curricular courses. In Castlebrae, the percentage of young people moving into a positive destination has decreased significantly. However, the school does offer a range of vocational courses including hairdressing, automotive and construction and has achieved good outcomes for young people. There is a commitment to ensure continuity of vocational provision.) Also add

Arrangements for transition will ensure that all young people's needs are considered on an individual basis. Resources attached to young people with additional needs will be transferred to receiving schools. Pastoral transition will include school visits prior to August 2013. Other transition activities include work with peers, mentoring and a summer transition programme.

Community Programme Proposals

Castlebrae currently receives additional funding associated with its community programme. It is proposed to maintain the current level of community provision and to relocate all adult/English as a second or other language classes where applicable taking into account user needs and crèche requirements. The 3G pitch will continue to be a community asset and current holiday activities will continue to be provided locally. The Family Centre service will be moved to other local provisions. The Council will continue to honour their “in kind” commitment to Craigmillar Books for Babies.

New School for Craigmillar

The Council is committed to delivering a new school for Craigmillar and see it as central to the regeneration of the area. The best estimate is that a new school will be required in 2020 once a significant part of the anticipated new housing is built and when there is no longer enough space in other local high schools to take all the young people living in the area.

The consultation programme will run up to 7 December 2012 after which the Council will seek Education Scotland’s views on the proposal. All comments which have been received and the points raised at the meeting tonight will be considered and responded to in a report that will go to the full Council. The report will be published on 21 February 2013 and considered at the full Council meeting on 14 March 2013.

Questions and Answers

Tom Wood invited the audience to ask questions of any representatives of the Council or to raise any concerns they might have about any aspect of the proposal. It seemed that the presentation on the proposed closure appeared to be overly negative. However, many positive outcomes had come out of Castlebrae and the proposed closure was not in any way a bad reflection on the pupils or the staff at the school.

The questions and answers, in summary, were as follows:

Question 1 – There was only two hours for questions, however, the meeting had now lasted 45 minutes, why then were questions were only being allowed at this stage?

Answer to Question 1 (Tom Wood)

There had been a presentation, which had taken up some of the time. If there were any questions to be asked after the two hours, these could be raised at the subsequent meetings. This was not a device to prevent people from making their views known.

Question 2 - Portobello High School was supposed to be the preferred school to receive the pupils from Castlebrae High School and the three primary schools. However, Portobello had been described as “not fit for purpose”, how then could it accommodate the children from these four schools?

Answers to Question 2 (Children and Families)

Portobello had a capacity for 1400 pupils and this is not expected to be exceeded with the intake from Castlebrae. Portobello could accommodate the combined roll of Portobello and Castlebrae, up to 2019 when the situation would have to be re-visited. Probably, not all children from Castlebrae would go to Portobello as parents might choose other schools. This process was already taking place at Castlebrae.

Regarding the condition of the building, the authority was disappointed with the non-delivery of the new school, however, the authority would make the required investment in the existing school to ensure that it was fit for purpose.

There would be an expected fall in the school rolls until 2015 and many of the schools in the City already had spare capacity. In 2013, it is expected that there would be 1251 pupils at Portobello, which meant that there would be plenty of spare capacity to accommodate the pupils from Castlebrae.

Question 3 – One member of the public stated that they seemed to be reading a different report from the panel. The intake for Portobello was over 200 pupils and there would also be three additional primary schools sending their children to that school. If Castlebrae was to shut, then 800 extra children would be going to Portobello.

Answer to Question 3 (Children and Families)

The forecast roll in the full consultation paper at Appendix 6 outlined the projected roll at Portobello of 1251 pupils, with an S1 intake of 210. The S1 intake at Castlebrae was projected to be 27.

Question 4 – The Authority was going to spend money on Portobello. However, what would happen when it was demolished? Would it not be possible to keep Castlebrae open and move the pupils there?

Question 5 – A member of the public stated that they were a parent of a child at Portobello. They had checked the consultation papers and could not get the figures to add up. As there would be 1300 pupils at Portobello and 200 from Castlebrae going to Portobello, how then did 1300 plus 200 equal 1400? Additionally, 100 pupils came to Portobello from Leith Academy catchment area. When had capacities for the schools been set?

Answers to Questions 4 and 5 (Children and Families)

Castlebrae had a capacity of 600 pupils. Although the school was only one third full, it would not be possible to accommodate the pupils from Portobello. Referring to the consultation paper, Lindsay Glasgow explained that the 2012 rolls were around 1300 and 200 for Portobello and Castlebrae, respectively. But it was expected that there would be lower intakes in future, with a net loss of pupils. It is expected there would be 1250 at Portobello and 174 at Castlebrae. The forecasts were based on taking account

of current patterns of pupil movement, including pupils from the Leith catchment going to Portobello.

With regards to the capacity of high schools in general terms, this had been set mainly in 1980's and 1990's. Portobello had taken more than 1450 as recently as 2002, however, in the past it had accommodated 2000 pupils. The set capacities reflected more recent educational environments and the school would not be expected to accommodate 2000 pupils again.

Question 6 – A pupil stated that larger classes were not good for pupils, therefore why should the school be closed because the classes were too small. The pupil liked their present school and did not want to go to a new school.

Question 7– Was not the falling school rolls the fault of the authority for moving residents out of the area? Additionally, did the threat of closure not cause parents to send their children elsewhere?

Answers to Questions 6 and 7 (Children and Families)

It was understood that going to a larger school could be a daunting prospect for a child, however, pupils did receive a good education at Portobello. Additionally, 70% of pupils from Craigmillar were currently attending other schools and were enjoying the experience.

The adult and child population of Craigmillar had fallen dramatically. However, there was a growing roll in the primary schools and the Council was confident that there would be the need for a new high school built in Craigmillar in 2020, when the population had increased.

Question 8 – A pupil thought that teachers could spend time with pupils in Castlebrae at present, but in Portobello, the teachers would not have the same amount of time.

Question 9 – A member of the public indicated that the children were attending Castlebrae, which was a community school. She referred to the report on the continuing provision of community activities and she indicated that only been allowed to see the report the day before the meeting. Additionally, she thought that the report gave false information.

Answers to Questions 8 and 9 (Children and Families)

Concerns about a larger school were understood. However, there were year groups and houses and the houses were like small families, who would work with young people. There would be pupil support teachers, guidance teachers and subject teachers. All schools had the same core staff ratio to pupils. The authority wanted to ensure that the transition to Portobello was handled properly. Some of the staff from Castlebrae would go to Portobello to ensure a smooth transition and it should be emphasised that Portobello was a very caring school.

With regard to the report on the community use of the school, the detailed report on the relocation of community services was not yet complete it was uncertain what version of the report the member of the public had received. Members of the public could certainly view the report, but it was not yet complete.

Question 10 – A member of the public agreed that Castlebrae could not carry on in its present state, but thought that alternative options should be considered. Would it not be possible to “mothball” the school or invest in it?

Question 11 – The Parent Council chair of Portobello stated that this school would welcome children from other areas. This process added to the richness of the school and the proportion of positive destinations for pupils were amongst the best in the city. From personal experience, he had great praise for the staff at Portobello. The parent council at Portobello had voted to support the preferred option to build a new school at Portobello Park. He described the park location, which had the advantage of being closer to the Craigmillar community than the current location. He was sure that while the existing Portobello building remained standing, it would receive the appropriate level of funding.

Answers to Questions 10 and 11(Children and Families and Councillor Burns)

At present, 70% of the parents in the Castlebrae catchment area sent their children to other schools. It would not be possible for the authority to provide the educational environment that the children needed at Castlebrae. For example, the S1 roll comprised of only 17 pupils, therefore it was not possible to deliver a rich curriculum and an option for all subjects. The authority was determined that the transition worked well. They would provide all the necessary resources and would carry out an assessment of the children’s needs.

With regard to the resource transfer of staff, this would be outlined in the report. The needs of the children would be assessed and there would be discussion with the new school to ensure a good transition. There were well-established practices on transition. All receiving schools would have a key role in ensuring that the needs of all pupils were considered, especially in respect of support for learning.

In respect of capital expenditure, as a result of the delay in constructing the new Portobello school, the further investment required to keep the school running has been identified.

Councillor Burns indicated that there would be report for the Full Council on the proposed closure, which would be published on 21 February 2013 and he wanted to reassure members of the public that alternative options were being considered. He asked for suggestions and indicated that a response would be given to these in the outcome report.

Question 12 –There was a consultation on the closure of Castlebrae, but there would not be a consultation on the alternative options. It seemed therefore that the authority had already made a decision.

Answer to Question 12 (Councillor Burns)

There would be no decision made on the proposed closure until the Full Council meeting of 14 March 2013.

Question 13 – How many full-time guidance teachers were there at Portobello compared with Castlebrae?

Question 14 – A member of the public stated that they had two sons attending Trinity High School. Did the Council have a template that was used every few years to close school in working class areas, when it was short of money? At Bonnington Primary School, the parents were given information about a proposed closure in small doses. This concerned the parents who then sent their children to other schools. The “Save the Brae” campaign had been taking place which indicated that the proposed closure of Castlebrae was a great concern for parents.

Answers to Questions 13 and 14 (Children and Families)

Portobello had five guidance teachers or pupil support teachers and Castlebrae had three. These teachers had a caseload of 200/250 pupils, however, in some schools in deprived areas the authority sometimes increased the number of guidance teachers. In Castlebrae, the proportion was one teacher to sixty pupils and some of these staff would be moved to Portobello.

Details were provided on local authority policy in relation to school closures. There was a right of parental choice and in this situation most of the parents had chosen not to send their children to their catchment school. There was a cycle whereby the school roll fell, then there was a fall in attainment. The decision to close schools was not about financial considerations. In Castlebrae, there was a school roll of 17 pupils in S1 and with these numbers, the school could not deliver a rich curriculum.

Question 15 – Would the additional support places continue with the new arrangements?

Question 16 – Would the learning assistants' hours still be the same and how could Portobello provide the same level of support.

Answers to Questions 15 and 16 (Children and Families)

It was explained that in respect of additional support needs and resources, the authority would ensure that resources would move with the children from Castlebrae.

Regarding the new school in Craigmillar, it was evident that the increasing number of primary children would grow up to secondary school age and would need a new school in 2020.

With regard to learning assistant hours, an evaluation would take place, and then the authority would appoint learning assistants accordingly. The support requirements for the individual young people would be reviewed before the closure of the school.

Question 17 – A member of the public stated that they did not have a problem with Portobello, but they were concerned about the prospect of their children not being permitted to go to Castlebrae, which removed their parental choice. Although the “potential” closure of Castlebrae was referred to, all the official comments were of a negative nature. If Portobello was not fit for purpose, would it not be possible to make Castlebrae an “annex” for first and second years and then move these pupils to Portobello?

Additionally, they were not convinced about the new school in Craigmillar being built in 2020. There might be another administration in that year, with different elected members, but with the same council officials.

Answers to Question 17 (Councillor Burns)

The authority was aware of the positive aspects of the school, for example, the pupils at this school could speak for themselves. However, when all the different factors were combined, the situation was not as good. The number of children was so low, that the authority could not deliver a rich curriculum.

Comments and Questions by Councillor Mike Bridgeman – It was the role of council officials to micro-manage, not the elected members. During the last administration, there were proposals to close Castlebrae and Wester Hailes Education College. After some deliberation the members decided against closure. The authority was wrong to close these schools then and it was equally wrong to close Castlebrae now.

Response by Children and Families

Reference was made to the comparison of Castlebrae with Wester Hailes Education College (WHEC) and the question which asked if WHEC could be turned round, then why not Castlebrae. There were essential differences. Including Castlebrae, there were 21 comparator schools which were determined nationally by the Scottish Government. In the comparator, WHEC was in the same group as Castlebrae, but it was not the closest comparator school. It was the 10th closest school. Improving schools was a complex process based on a range of factors, and it was not simple to replicate school improvement.

Additional Comment from Councillor Bridgeman

Councillor Bridgeman asked that if the schools being compared were not alike, how then could they be compared? Additionally, the situation at Castlebrae had been known to the authority in 2002 and there had been sufficient time to turn the school around.

Response by Children and Families, Councillor Burns and Councillor Howat

Reference was made to Castlebrae and WHEC and it was explained that the comparator came from Education Scotland, not the authority. When the reference was made that WHEC was in the family and were 10th, they were different in some respects. There was a difference in the school size, the stay on rate and improvements. Support

offered to Castlebrae included resources and practical support. At Castlebrae, it cost £10,500 to educate a pupil, there had been three deputies appointed when the staffing profile for deputies was two, additional support, in Pupil Support staffing gave a staff ratio of 1:60 as opposed to 1: 250, which was a generous level of staffing. The school had also benefited from additional resources over a number of years including InStep and 20:20 which had given Castlebrae an additional budget of £0.5m over 3 years. Significant resources had been allocated to the school, but there had been no improvement in outcomes.

From 2002, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) had engaged with Castlebrae to improve outcomes. Karen Prophet explained that she had met with the Head Teacher and there had been additional support in various subjects including Maths and Literacy. This support had come from local authority staff, staff in other schools, HMIE and the national positive behaviour team. Castlebrae was not a viable school, despite the big commitment by the authority to improve it.

Councillor Burns indicated that he understood the point made by Councillor Bridgeman that members would reach a decision based on the advice given by officers. At this stage, the officers had only made a recommendation to close Castlebrae and the members would consider this in March 2013.

Councillor Howat agreed that the elected members would be responsible for the decision. He would consider the recommendations in the report, but would make his own decision, taking into consideration the comments from the public. The welfare of the children was a big concern and it was essential that the schools had a positive atmosphere.

Comment Member of the Public – If the Council was to re-build the housing that had been demolished, then it would be possible to get the residents and pupils back into the area.

Question 18 – A member of the public stated that she was aware of a pupil from Castlebrae, who attended Portobello and who was subjected to name-calling and bullying. As a result, the child then returned to Castlebrae. This individual indicated that they did not want their sons bullied at Portobello, one of whom was small for his age. Moreover, at Portobello, the teachers would not have enough time for children.

Question 19 – A member of the public stated that they were in receipt of tax credits. If Castlebrae were to close, they would lose money on uniforms. How then would they pay for new uniforms and lunches?

Answers to Questions 18 and 19 (Children and Families)

The authority took bullying very seriously and there were anti-bullying strategies in place. It was necessary to define bullying and part of the strategy was to give pupils the skills to deal with it.

Regarding the issue of uniforms, this would be considered on the basis of individual need. The pupils would receive allowances for uniforms and meals, if they were entitled to them.

In respect of the question of school uniforms, there was no official policy to provide financial support to parents, but if the parents were affected by the school closure then the authority would take a sympathetic view.

Supplementary Question – A member of the public asked the officer from Children and Families why they had said “closure” in respect of Castlebrae.

The officer indicated that he had meant “proposed closure”.

Question 20 – A member of the public stated that they had been advised to apply for a place for their child at Fettes or Trinity, but not at Castlebrae.

Answer to Question 20 (Children and Families)

With regard to the placing advice from the school that the parent should apply for Fettes or Trinity but not for Castlebrae, this advice was incorrect. The parent could of course apply to Castlebrae if that was the school of their choice.

Question 21 – A member of the public indicated that they had a child at Castlebrae who had been bullied, was frightened to walk home and was usually unhappy when they came home. It was twice the journey from Portobello, therefore, would twice the bullying not take place?

Question 22 – Additionally, what was the point of having catchment areas if parents were not required to send their children to the local catchment school? Would it not be the case that if all the pupils in the catchment area went to Castlebrae then the school would be full?

Answers to Questions 21 and 22 (Children and Families)

In respect of safe routes to schools, the authority was concerned about transport and was looking at safe routes to school. It should be remembered that other pupils were already travelling to school from the Castlebrae area. The authority had to balance the various factors when arriving at a decision on closure. Transport issues could be discussed after the meeting.

The purpose of the catchment boundaries was to manage school roll places. This came into effect when the schools were oversubscribed and in this situation, pupils from catchment areas were given priority. However, in the event of falling school rolls, there were extra spaces available and the authority was required to grant placing requests.

Comments and Questions by Councillor Child - The proposed new school would be built at Craigmillar, indicating that the parents in the area were committed to the new school. It was widely felt that if Castlebrae was to close, then part of the community would be gone, however, more housing would increase the population in the area. The

new school would be at the heart of Castlebrae, therefore when would it be possible to plan for the new school? There was a commitment to the new school as part of the re-generation of Craigmillar.

Response by Children and Families

With respect to planning for the proposed new school at Craigmillar, it was necessary firstly to reserve a site for the school in the Urban Design Framework, which was currently being reviewed. It took four years to design and build a school, therefore the design would probably start in 2016. This process could not start too early, as building regulations constantly changed and the timing had to be correct.

Question 23 – What was the commitment by the authority for support teachers? There were three of these for 180 pupils at Castlebrae, but only five for Portobello, which had far more pupils. Would the authority make the commitment that the support teachers from Castlebrae would stay on at Portobello?

Question 24 – A new school was designed for Castlebrae at a cost of £1m. It should be possible to use the Annex at Castlebrae in the meantime. It was feasible for pupils to travel one mile to Portobello, they could therefore travel one mile to Castlebrae instead from Portobello. Also would the proposed new school be of the same standard as the one originally planned?

Answers to Questions 23 and 24 (Children and Families)

It was explained that the authority was committed to continuing support for support teachers, if they moved to Portobello and they would remain as long as they were required.

With regard to the proposed new school, the building regulations had changed since the original design and it was necessary to ensure that the new design complied with existing regulations. The original design of the school had been “state of the art” and Lindsay Glasgow expected that the new design would be of the same standard.

Question 25 The travelling community in Castlebrae tended to stay in the area.

It was difficult to keep the children of these communities in school, however, the parents were happy for them to go to Castlebrae, but it was unlikely that they would allow the children to go to Portobello. Would the authority confirm that it was committed to schooling children of the travelling community?

Question 26 A pupil from Castlebrae indicated that they were the youngest of the 17 pupils in the first year. However, they felt that it was easier to learn in smaller classes, but would feel intimidated at Portobello.

Answers to Questions 25 and 26 (Children and Families)

In respect of the concerns about the travelling community and their children continuing to attend school, it was explained that an equality assessment was taking place and consideration would be given to this community.

With regard to concerns about larger classes, it was agreed that this was a valid point and would be one of the issues to consider when ensuring a smooth transition. However, in Castlebrae, two classes had been closed, therefore, the current class at Castlebrae would be the same size as the new class at Portobello.

Closing Statement by Gillian Tee

Gillian Tee explained that there was a need to ensure that there were good transition arrangements if the proposal for the closure of Castlebrae went ahead. The officers and elected members had tried to explain the process. No decision had been made yet, the consultation report would be published in February 2013, which would include the comments from the consultation meetings. This was a public consultation and the Council would listen to the feedback from the members of the public.

Tom Wood thanked everyone for their contributions and brought the meeting to a close.

Record of Meeting

Castlebrae Community High School - Consultation on Option for Closure and Associated Catchment Changes for Portobello and Liberton High Schools

The meeting was held on 26 November 2012 in Liberton High School, Edinburgh

Present: Councillors Norma Austin Hart and Gavin Corbett (members of the Education, Children and Families Committee), Councillor David Walker (Councillor for Portobello/Craigmillar ward), and three members of the public were present.

In Attendance: Tom Wood (Independent Chair), Councillor Paul Godzik (Convener, Education, Children and Families Committee), Gillian Tee (Director of Children and Families), Mike Rosendale (Head of Schools), Lindsay Glasgow (Asset Planning Manager), Karen Prophet (Senior Education Manager), Stephen Kelly (Head Teacher, Liberton High School) and Phil Denning (Observer, Education Scotland).

Introduction

Tom Wood explained that he had been invited by the Council as an independent person to Chair this consultation meeting. The meeting was the first of four meetings being arranged as part of the consultation process on a proposal to close Castlebrae Community High School. Officers from the Children and Families Department would be asked to give a presentation explaining the proposals in more detail and then to answer any questions. Tom Wood also advised the meeting that the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 required the Council to consult Education Scotland on the proposals and that a representative was also present at this meeting.

Convener's Statement

Councillor Godzik, Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee stated that he recognised that the proposal to close Castlebrae was not an easy one. However, a decision needed to be made about the future of Castlebrae taking into account all aspects of the school. The proposal for closure was the Council officials' recommendation and the final decision would be taken by Elected Members at the full Council meeting on 14 March 2013. The consultation report to be considered at that meeting would include a summary of all written comments received and issues raised

and responded to at the public meetings, and would be considered along with a report from Education Scotland.

Presentation

Karen Prophet (Senior Education Manager, Children and Families) explained the background to the proposals.

Context

The 2012/13 start of session roll at Castlebrae of 196 pupils was the lowest secondary school roll in the City with only 19 pupils starting in S1. As of today's date, the current school roll in Castlebrae was 184 pupils, 17 of which were in S1. The school roll had fallen significantly over the last 10 years and was expected to drop further to a low of 158 in 2015/16. The school had a capacity of 600 places but with only 184 attending, the occupancy rate was the lowest in the City at only 31%. Cost per pupil per head of population in Castlebrae was £10,500, more than double the city average of £4,500. As a result of falling school rolls across the City, spare capacity had opened up at Portobello and Holy Rood High Schools. Between these schools there was sufficient capacity to accommodate the current roll of Castlebrae for a number of years. There was very little new housing being built in the area as a result of the economic downturn which meant limited opportunity in the medium term for an increase in the number of people and families living in Craigmillar.

Educational Benefits

Attainment levels at Castlebrae had been measured against and compared with secondary schools with similar economic profiles mainly from the Glasgow area but also including Wester Hailes Education Centre and Craigmoynton. Educational outcomes were, and had been, consistently significantly poorer than those of the majority of the comparator schools. The schools to which pupils would transfer demonstrated higher outcomes and offered a broader range of subject choice, elective courses and extra-curricular courses. In Castlebrae, the percentage of young people moving into a positive destination had decreased significantly. However, the school did offer a range of vocational courses including hairdressing, automotive and construction and had achieved good outcomes for young people. There was a commitment to ensure continuity of vocational provision.

Arrangements for transition would ensure that all young people's needs were considered on an individual basis. Resources attached to young people with additional needs would be transferred to receiving schools. Pastoral transition would include school visits prior to August 2013. Other transition activities included work with peers, mentoring and a summer transition programme.

Community Programme Proposals

Castlebrae currently received additional funding to help with its community programme. It was proposed to maintain the current level of community provision and to relocate all

adult/English as a second or other language class where applicable taking into account user needs and crèche requirements.

The 3G pitch would continue to be a community asset and current holiday activities would continue to be provided locally. The Family Centre service would be moved to other local provisions. The Council would continue to honour their “in kind” commitment to Craigmillar Books for Babies.

New School for Craigmillar

The Council was committed to delivering a new school for Craigmillar and saw it as central to the regeneration of the area. The best estimate was that a new school would be required in 2020 once a significant part of anticipated new housing was built and when there was no longer enough space in other local high schools to take all the young people living in the area.

Consultation Programme

The consultation programme would run up to 7 December 2012 after which the Council would seek Education Scotland’s views on the proposal. All comments which had been received and the points raised at the meeting tonight would be considered and responded to in a report that would go to the full Council. The report would be published on 21 February 2013 and considered at the full Council meeting on 14 March 2013.

Questions/Points of Clarification

Tom Wood invited the audience to ask questions of any representatives of the Council or to articulate any concerns they might have about any aspect of the proposal.

Questions and points raised were in summary, as follows:

Question/Point 1 (Parent)

In respect of costs estimated for repair, maintenance and replacement works at Liberton High School, a commitment was sought that this funding would now not disappear or be diverted?

Answer 1 (Children and Families)

Estate wide surveys were being undertaken to give the Council a priority list for future investment in schools, both to ensure schools were fit for purpose as well as being able to accommodate young people.

Question/Point 2 (Parent)

Approximately half of pupils at Castlebrae High School had additional support needs (ASN). What was being done to ensure continuation of support for ASN?

Answer 2 (Children and Families)

Currently 48% of youngsters needed additional support. The Department had met with the Depute Head Teacher of Portobello High School to discuss this issue and were confident that support needs would be met and the transition managed. It was noted that some staff from Castlebrae would transfer with the young people from Castlebrae. There would be ongoing transition processes for different year groups. Discussions had also been held with some of the children/young people at Castlebrae on the transition.

Question/Point 3 (Parent)

Clarification was sought on the future of community facilities currently provided at Castlebrae High School premises.

Answer 3 (Councillor Godzik)

Councillor Godzik advised that elected members would need to be confident when making a decision that existing community facilities would be provided elsewhere.

(Children and Families) Confirmed there was no proposal to reduce any community facilities.

Question/Point 4 (Parent)

Looking at the projections for school rolls, were there any plans for a new High School in the Craigmillar area and any budget in place for this?

Answer 4 (Children and Families)

The current timescale for the design and construction of a new High School was about four years so currently it would be aimed to start the new High School project in 2016.

(Councillor Godzik) Advised that PARC were committed to funding for part of the school.

Question/Point 5 (Parent)

Clarification was sought on the current position of the site of the new Portobello High School.

Answer 5 (Councillor Godzik)

Councillor Godzik confirmed that commitment for the redevelopment of Portobello High School remained a priority.

(Children and Families) Advised that the current capacity for pupils at Portobello High School was 1400. Any delay in the redevelopment for Portobello would not affect the accommodation of young people from Castlebrae.

Question/Point 6 (Councillor Corbett)

Clarification was sought on evaluation/tracking of transition support.

Answer 6 (Children and Families)

Children and Families confirmed and outlined the measures in place to do this including measures for tracking of improved outcomes in receiving schools, and feedback from pupils and parents.

Question/Point 7 (Councillor Corbett)

Clarification was sought on whether any net savings from the proposals would be passed on to receiving school(s).

Answer 7 (Councillor Godzik)

Councillor Godzik confirmed that a commitment had already been made that some savings would be passed on to receiving schools.

(Children and Families) Outlined the additional support and benefits which would be available to young people (as detailed in the consultation document).

Question/Point 8 (Councillor Walker)

Some parents had expressed their dissatisfaction with consultation prior to the closure consultation report. Consultation had been carried out on a one-to-one basis with some individuals but had not been recorded. It was felt that the closure report had not accurately reflected conversations between the Department and some individuals which had already taken place.

Answer 8 (Children and Families)

This related to a report being developed on the community facilities. A letter had just been received by the Department on this matter. The Department would seek to find out the details for discussion and pick up on the points raised. It was the Department's intention to speak to as many people as possible.

Question/Point 9 (Councillor Walker)

In terms of the cost quoted of around £10k per child at Castlebrae High School, could evidence be provided to back up this figure including an accurate breakdown?

Answer 9 (Children and Families)

The cost per child at Castlebrae High School took into account data published by Scottish Government on pupil costs. This information was in the public domain.

(Councillor Godzik) Suggested that spending of £10k per pupil at Castlebrae High School would be acceptable if there were comparable outcomes with other schools, however currently, there were not.

Question/Point 10 (Councillor Walker)

Clarification was sought on the projects associated with the 20:20 initiative.

Answer 10 (Children and Families)

The projects that 20:20 resources from the Hunter Foundation had been allocated to were outlined.

Question/Point 11 (Councillor Walker)

There seemed to be no sense or logic behind the decision to withdraw Instep money from Castlebrae High School and no reasonable explanation why the funding had been withdrawn.

Answer 11 (Children and Families)

Instep Project money was managed by the Head Teacher at Castlebrae High School. The money was used to improve positive destinations. Outcomes and data would have been looked at resulting in the view that the amount/cost didn't justify the spending at the time the project was closed. An outline was provided of the activities continued by staff following the withdrawal of Instep (as detailed in a report to the Education, Children and Families Committee in 2010).

(Councillor Godzik) Noted that the decision on Instep funding had been made by the previous administration in 2009.

Question/Point 12 (Councillor Walker)

In summary, Councillor Walker confirmed his request as follows:

1. Evidence to back up the decision taken at the time to withdraw Instep funding from Castlebrae High School and information on the use of Hunter Foundation money.
2. A breakdown of the cost per child at Castlebrae High School.

Question/Point 13 (Councillor Austin Hart)

Councillor Austin Hart supported Councillor Walker's request for further information (as detailed above in Point 12).

Question/Point 14 (Councillor Walker)

Is spending on the new design for Castlebrae High School premature in view of there being no planning permission or confirmed money in the budget?

Answer 14 (Children and Families)

Children and Families outlined the commitment to the design of the new school. In light of the economic situation new housing had not been delivered as expected. Changes would require to be incorporated into any new design including new building regulations. The space metrics which the Council applied to its new schools had changed and the construction costs of new buildings had also changed. The scope of the project required to be reconsidered and had already changed with the new local library being situated in the new neighbourhood office.

Closing Statement by Councillor Godzik

Councillor Godzik thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for the wide ranging questions and comments. There was one further public consultation meeting to be held and a summary of all points raised would be included in the final report to Council on 14 March 2013.

Tom Wood thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions. The meeting closed at 8.08pm.

Record of Meeting

Castlebrae Community High School - Consultation on Option for Closure and Associated Catchment Changes for Portobello and Liberton High Schools

The meeting was held on 29 November 2012 in Holy Rood RC High School, Edinburgh

Present: There were approximately 25 members of the public.

In Attendance: Tom Wood (Independent Chair), Councillor David Key (Vice-Convenor, Education, Children and Families Committee), Gillian Tee (Director of Children and Families), Mike Rosendale (Head of Schools & Community Services), Billy MacIntyre (Head of Resources) and Karen Prophet (Senior Education Manager).

Introduction

Tom Wood introduced the proceedings, indicating that this was the last of four public meetings to discuss the proposed closure of Castlebrae High School. He described his role as an independent chair and confirmed that the decision on the proposed closure would be made at a meeting of the full Council on 14 March 2013.

He introduced Councillor David Key, Vice-Convenor of the Education, Children and Families Committee, who welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave an undertaking that any questions would be answered

Tom Wood then described the procedure for the meeting. There would be a short presentation by Karen Prophet, followed by questions from the floor and answers from the panel. Tom Wood advised that a representative from Education Scotland was present as the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act required the Council to consult Education Scotland on the proposals.

He added that the proposal for closure was not an issue to be taken lightly and the final decision would be made only by elected members of the Council.

Presentation

Karen Prophet (Senior Education Manager, Children and Families) explained the background to the proposals.

Context

The 2012/13 start of session roll at Castlebrae of 196 pupils was the lowest secondary school roll in the City with only 19 pupils starting in S1. As of today's date, the current school roll in Castlebrae is 184 pupils, 17 of which are in S1. The school roll has fallen significantly over the last 10 years and is expected to drop further to a low of 158 in 2015/16. The school has a capacity of 600 places but with only 184 attending the occupancy rate is the lowest in the City at only 31%. Cost per pupil in Castlebrae is £10,500, more than double the city average of £4,500. As a result of falling school rolls across the City, spare capacity has opened up at Portobello and Holy Rood High Schools. Between these schools there is sufficient capacity to accommodate the current roll of Castlebrae for a number of years. There is very little new housing being built in the area as a result of the economic downturn which means limited opportunity in the medium term for the number of people and families living in Craigmillar to increase.

Educational Benefits

Attainment levels at Castlebrae have been measured against and compared with secondary schools with similar economic profiles mainly from the Glasgow area but also including Wester Hailes Education Centre and Craigroyston. Educational outcomes are, and have been, consistently significantly poorer than those of the majority of the comparator schools. The schools to which pupils would transfer demonstrate higher outcomes and offer a broader range of subject choice, elective courses and extra-curricular courses. In Castlebrae, the percentage of young people moving into a positive destination has decreased significantly. However, the school does offer a range of vocational courses including hairdressing, automotive and construction and has achieved good outcomes for young people. There is a commitment to ensure continuity of vocational provision.

Arrangements for transition will ensure that the needs of all young people are considered on an individual basis. Resources attached to young people with additional needs will be transferred to receiving schools. Pastoral transition will include school visits prior to August 2013. Other transition activities include work with peers, mentoring and a summer transition programme.

Community Programme Proposals

Castlebrae currently receives additional funding associated with its community programme. It is proposed to maintain the current level of community provision and to relocate all adult/English as a second language or other language classes where applicable taking into account user needs and crèche requirements. The 3G pitch will continue to be a community asset and current holiday activities will continue to be provided locally. The Family Centre service will be moved to other local provisions. The Council will continue to honour their "in kind" commitment to Craigmillar Books for Babies.

New School for Craigmillar

The Council is committed to delivering a new school for Craigmillar and see it as central to the regeneration of the area. The best estimate is that a new school will be required in 2020 once a significant part of the anticipated new housing is built and when there is no longer enough space in other local high schools to take all the young people living in the area.

The consultation programme will run up to 7 December 2012 after which the Council will seek Education Scotland's views on the proposals. All comments which have been received and the points raised at the meeting tonight will be considered and responded to in a report that will go to the full Council. The report will be published on 21 February 2013 and considered at the full Council meeting on 14 March 2013.

Questions and Answers

Tom Wood invited the audience to ask questions of any representatives of the Council or to raise any concerns they might have about any aspect of the proposal.

The questions and answers, in summary, were as follows:

Question 1 (Pupil)

Are you considering the impact of the closure of Castlebrae on local businesses, particularly Greggs and the chip shop, where some pupils buy their lunch? Also, pupils will have to be more dependent on their parents if the school closes because they would not be able to walk to a different school as easily.

I also want to say that the pupils have raised a lot of money in the past for charity, including HIV Aids and Jeans for Genes.

Answer to Question 1 (Billy MacIntyre/Karen Prophet)

As an authority, it would be our preference for pupils to eat a healthy nutritionally balanced meal and we would encourage the use of the schools meals system to do this. This is a question that is also raised often when new schools are planned and our main aim is for pupils to eat a proper meal in school.

The work that the students at Castlebrae do to raise money for charity is recognised and appreciated.

Question 2 (Parent) – 26% of the school roll in Govan High School and nearly half the school roll at Castlebrae (46%) have special needs for learning – surely the cost of educating those pupils at another school will be the same?

Answers to Question 2 (Karen Prophet)

The details of comparator schools are provided by the Scottish Government – I was unaware of the statistics you quoted in relation to Govan High School but I don't

disagree that it is 26%. I can confirm that the city average cost per pupil is £4,500 and the per pupil cost for Castlebrae is £10,500. This figure includes the additional allocation of resources to support young people with additional needs. We will continue to ensure that the needs of these young people are met whichever school they attend.

Comment by Billy MacIntyre

The cost per pupil at Wester Hailes Education Centre where 112 students have particular support needs is £7,503, in comparison to the figure for Castlebrae of £10,631 where 114 students have particular support needs.

Question 3 (Parent)

What gives you the right to tell me what my child can eat – he eats at Greggs because the school dinners are crap and he eats Greggs' tuna salad because he likes it. I pay for them, not you.

Answer to Questions 3 (Billy MacIntyre)

Apologies if I offended you. It is of course your choice; I was simply highlighting the fact that it is Council policy to encourage all school pupils in the city to take a school meal.

Question 4 (Parent)

This is for Karen Prophet – you say that Castlebrae will be demolished and a new school will be built in 2020. What about our toddlers who are at 3 nurseries in the area that are all at capacity now, where will they go? Why not keep Castlebrae open until the new school is ready?

Answer to Question 4 (Karen Prophet and Billy MacIntyre)

2020 is when we think that the capacity of the secondary schools which would remain in the local area would be insufficient to cater for the number of children ready to go to High School. The process for building a new school has to start up to four years before it is actually opened to allow time for the school to be designed and built.

Question 5 (Parent)

It was said 10 years ago that there would be a new school as part of the regeneration programme and I've been decanted to other accommodation for 10 years – why is this?

Answer to Question 5 (Gillian Tee)

The economic recession meant that the housing and the new school we thought PARC would provide did not happen as planned. As a result of this, there were not enough children for a viable school in Craigmillar. It is currently anticipated that a new school will be required in 2020 however this will be reviewed every year. The decision to start the build will be made 3 or 4 years before the school has to open.

Question 6 (Councillor Mike Bridgman)

The Neighbourhood Partnership, at the meeting last night, heard that the budget to run the school is £2.1m – the report to Council stated that a saving of £1.352m is achievable if the decision is made to close Castlebrae. A £1.4m staffing budget is also mentioned. There's a growing concern that you're saying it's not about money but it is. Surely there would be no saving in terms of staffing as those employed at Castlebrae would move to other schools?

Also, the number of employees in the Children and Families Department is 8,000, but of those less than half of that number are teaching staff.

The school is the heartbeat of the community and matters more than statistics.

Answer to Question 6 (Billy MacIntyre)

The savings mentioned include the cost of maintenance of the school, as well as staffing savings. Whilst all staff would transfer to other schools, and that has been assumed in the cost and savings information included in the consultation paper, only teaching staff would not represent a saving. Other staff associated with running a separate school would represent a cost saving in overall terms and would transfer to fill a vacancy in another school in the city. The budgets which it has been assumed will not be saved and would be transferred to other schools also include costs for exams, stationery, etc.

Question 7 (Parent)

What about special needs?

Answer to Question 7 (Billy MacIntyre)

No savings have been assumed relating to the costs of supporting children with additional support needs as that funding would transfer to the relevant receiving school.

Comment (Councillor Mike Bridgman)

So we'll be paying for other schools, then.

Question 8 (Pupil)

This question is for Karen Prophet – are you saying we're dumb and misbehaving when you say attainment at Castlebrae is lower?

Answer to Question 8 (Karen Prophet)

This is a very emotive subject and definitely not what we mean. Many students achieve very well but we have to look at the overall performance of the school. It's acknowledged that there are committed staff, students and parents.

Comment (Parent)

The kids feel demoralised – sometimes by staff. I've spoken to the Head Teacher about it.

Response (Karen Prophet)

There is a question of judgement and balance when getting into dialogue but this is always difficult and tricky to manage.

Question 9 (Member of the Public)

This is a question for all members of the panel and I'd like a "Yes" or "No" answer – would you send your child to a school that has been threatened with closure for 10 years?

Comment (Parent)

I think you want to close Castlebrae to pay for Portobello. Otherwise, why would there be detail of Portobello's maintenance costs in the same report as Castlebrae?

Answer to Question 9 (Gillian Tee)

I would be worried if I knew there were 17 students in S1.

Comment (Parent)

Answer the question!

Gillian Tee

My answer is no.

Comment (Parent)

You're making decisions about our kids with no knowledge of the School.

Answer to Question 9 (Karen Prophet)

In the context of Castlebrae, I would say no. When I worked in Peebles, there was a smaller primary school serving a local community and therefore I may have fought against the closure of the local primary school however the outcomes at Castlebrae are poor and there are many schools of choice in the city.

Question 10 (Councillor Mike Bridgman)

I've sat through these consultation meetings, where you have continually said the schools' roll was too low to provide a workable curriculum, but now you're talking about positive destinations.

Answer to Question 10 (Karen Prophet)

It's difficult with a low school roll to provide breadth and choice for 17 pupils in S1. There are aspects of the curriculum delivered in the school, such as English and Maths, where the outcomes are poor. The quantitative and qualitative outcomes must be assessed.

In November, there may have been a significant increase in positive destinations but it's a fact that last year there was a low number.

Comment (Parent)

We were told there would be improved outcomes if the kids went to bigger schools, but now we're being told different.

Question 11 (Parent)

Why is Portobello mentioned in the report on the proposed closure of Castlebrae? The savings wouldn't be any more.

Answer to Question 11 (Billy MacIntyre)

We have a responsibility to highlight the financial implications in all such reports. Portobello is mentioned in the report as it is the proposed replacement non-denominational school if Castlebrae was to close and the implications for that school also have to be considered.

Question 12 (Parent)

Safer Routes to School (SRTS) - there's concern at the need to cross major roads to Portobello at a time when they'll be busiest. How will SRTS assessments be done – will they be carried out at peak times?

Nursery places – the nurseries in the area are all full and a lot of children in the area don't go, so how are the numbers calculated?

Positive destinations – there is 92-93%.

S2 choices – a lot of pupils want to take vocational skills.

Savings – £3m to get Portobello up to standard whether or not Castlebrae were to close. How do you justify this?

What's the safer of the 2 schools?

Answer to Question 12 (Mike Rosendale/Billy MacIntyre/Karen Prophet)

SRTS – there will be a team of officials who will carry out assessments soon, to provide information for the report. These will be done at peak times.

If the routes are deemed to be unsafe, home to school transport will be provided.

Positive destinations – the comparators used for 2011 - Craigoyston (42%), Drummond (61.5%) and Wester Hailes Education Centre (WHEC) (78.3%) are schools similar to Castlebrae. The detail for Castlebrae in respect of 2012 has not yet been released by the Scottish Government.

We'd expect to see an increase in positive destinations because of the activity agreements.

S2 choices – there are 26 S2 students at Castlebrae and discussions have been held with the S2 Head. WHEC offers a hairdressing course. I have met Portobello's curricular support staff – the only concerns regarding vocational studies are in relation to hairdressing and automotive classes, all other vocational studies would transfer. It can't, however, be guaranteed that all of the other High Schools in the city would be able to provide the breadth of vocational studies offered by Portobello. All schools have to meet the needs of the learners.

Savings – the £3m budget is money we did not want to spend but plans to build on Portobello Park have delayed the project so this has become a factor. The expenditure is necessary to keep the existing school operational until a new school is built and would be incurred regardless of any decision to close Castlebrae Community High School.

Safety – the answer to this lies with the Head Teachers.

Comment (Parent)

The end of the consultation period is 7 December – the assessment should have been done by now.

Pupils using transport could make them a target for bullies.

I'm talking about vocational studies – where will they go for these if Castlebrae closes? WHEC students come to Castlebrae for hairdressing!

Comment (Councillor Maureen Child)

I am one of 4 local elected members and one of the 58 elected members who will make the decision about the future of Castlebrae. There has been a lack of trust in transparency over a number of years, but the least we can promise is an accurate minute that expresses the views of all those who comment. I need to see an accurate record of each consultation meeting as do all those who have spoken at the meetings.

The current catchment for Castlebrae is 700, not all of whom attend the school. It would be unsettling for everyone to wait until other schools were too full before deciding to build.

Response to Comment (Billy MacIntyre)

The draft minutes for all the consultation meetings will be agreed by Tom Wood following which the finalised minutes will be published.

In relation to the decision to build a new school, we currently estimate that the project would be required to be completed by 2020, but would be subject to regular review on an annual basis.

Question 13 (Parent)

Why will you be agreeing the minutes and why have we not seen the minutes of previous meetings?

Answer to Question 13 (Tom Wood)

I'll see the minutes as an impartial participant and chair of the consultation meetings – I haven't seen any of them yet but expect to see them soon.

Comments (Pupils)

I'm in S3 and want to finish my studies at Castlebrae. The smaller classes are better, with more one-to-one time with the teachers.

You've said if we have to move, we'll have better learning. I'm in a class of 17 and if I had to be in a bigger class, it would be even more hellish than it is just now.

Question 14 (Parent)

I understand the law requires the City of Edinburgh Council to publish the equalities impact assessment – can you provide any further information on the proposed closure of Castlebrae since the letter issued by the Director?

Answers to Comments and Question 14 (Gillian Tee)

Comments

We are keen for you to sit your exams. I've spoken to the Chair of Portobello Parent Council and the Head Teacher, who both encourage Castlebrae students to visit the School – they want to provide all the support you need if Castlebrae is to close.

Question 14

The Equalities Impact Assessment will be included in the report to Council next year, together with the feedback from the consultation process and issues raised at these meetings.

Question 15 (Parent)

When did you start the Equalities Impact Assessment – were there forms to fill in? Why haven't we seen it? I received an e-mail from Ron Waddell about the assessment, but only 2 days ago. Is it done during the consultation period?

Answer to Question 15 (GillianTee/Mike Rosendale/Billy MacIntyre)

At the start of the consultation process, following approval of the report to consult, on 9 October. There was a question on the inclusion of travelling people and it was confirmed they would be included.

Question from Chair

Will it include the issues raised here and at the other consultation meetings?

Answer (Mike Rosendale)

If they are relevant to the Equalities Impact Assessment, yes

Question 16 (Parent)

What's the projected Castlebrae school roll in 2020 and how is it intended to mitigate against falling rolls in the future?

Can you confirm that there is a commitment not to sell the site?

Portobello site – the catchment has been changed over the past few years – it's not a viable argument to change the catchment to ensure a particular school location.

Answer to Question 16 (Gillian Tee/Billy MacIntyre)

It's anticipated that by 2020 there will be an increase in the rolls in local secondary schools and that these schools will be full.

In relation to the commitment to the land – PARC intended to acquire the land and deliver a housing development, with a new school in the town centre. Circumstances changed and as a result, PARC will not deliver the full cost of a new school, therefore the cost will now have to be shared between PARC and the City of Edinburgh Council. Clarification has still to be sought on the status of the current site – it's expected that it will be combined with regeneration proposals. The timescale of 2020 will be kept under review.

The City of Edinburgh Council, at its meeting on 22 November, agreed that there will be a consultation on the fall-back site options for Portobello High School should the preferred option of building on Portobello Park not prove to be possible, but this will not be undertaken until after Council had taken the decision regarding the future of Castlebrae in relation to Castlebrae Community High School. If the decision is taken to close Castlebrae, the expanded catchment will include Castlebrae and those affected

would be included in the consultation process regarding the preferred fall-back site for the new Portobello High School, at Baileyfield or the current site.

Comment (Parent)

There's been consultation before on the use of Castlebrae as an annexe school. You're lying, I don't trust you, why have Castlebrae without renovating Portobello. Why renovate Portobello just to demolish it – it's stupid.

You said before that health and safety issues are for the Head Teachers to decide – you're their bosses, shouldn't it be you who decides?

Who's consulting the young people and when will it end?

Response to Comment (Gillian Tee/Mike Rosendale)

Firstly, it's not right for Portobello pupils to come to Castlebrae as there are too many of them.

Consultation with young people will be carried out by Rab Byfield and his team, based as Castlebrae and Portobello and will be concluded by the end of the consultation period. The feeder primary schools will also be included in the process.

Comment (Parent)

Not if it's an annexe school. I'll have to walk my child to school and 2 others to different schools. I've already seen kids pushing others off the pavement onto the road and don't want that to happen to my child.

Response to Comment (Gillian Tee)

We will look at your concerns and the transport issues.

Question 17 (Parent)

If my son has to go to Portobello in 2013, will it be safe? Why not use Castlebrae as an annexe? If you take the "axe" away, people will want to send their children there.

Answer to Question 17 (Gillian Tee/Billy MacIntyre)

Absolutely, there are already 1300 pupils there.

In order to keep Portobello open in the meantime, there is a need to repair the fabric of the building to keep it operational.

Castlebrae is too small, as mentioned before.

It's not about money, it's about the fact that there are only 17 students in S1.

Question 18 (Parent)

Has any funding been allocated in future budgets to Castlebrae?

Answer to Question 18 (Children and Families)

No, as there is currently consultation on proposed closure.

Comments (Parents)

It's already been decided it's closing, it's as plain as the nose on your face – the kitchen staff have now gone.

The upcoming S1 and S2 could be moved from Portobello to Castlebrae, which would lessen pressure on both schools.

Years ago, pupils moved from St Thomas's to the former James Clark School and the Depute Head teacher was based at the annexe so it can work.

You are favouring Portobello, changing catchments when you could use Castlebrae as an annexe. We are providing solutions but are being ignored.

Why is Portobello getting funding when we aren't – is Craigmillar not good enough?

We have waited for 10 years and no-one is listening to us.

Response to Comments (Gillian Tee)

This would only work if the schools were near each other so that staff could move easily between schools.

There are fewer annexes in the city schools as a result of feedback from teaching staff. It is our intention to listen to the issues raised and respond to them in the report that will be submitted to the full Council meeting.

There are 1,300 young people at Portobello and 184 at Castlebrae

I understand your concerns.

Comment (Parent)

No you don't. My son refuses to go to another school.

Conclusion of Meeting

Tom Wood thanked everyone for their contribution and assured those present that their concerns would be recorded and published in due course.

Appendix 3

Summary of Consultation Responses

See out below is a summary of all representations received regarding the proposal to close Castlebrae Community High School. The responses are ordered by the identifying reference (ID) which largely relates to when the submission was made. In some cases further additional submissions were made by groups or individuals and they are shown together. The category of respondent is shown in the second column; nine groupings have been identified as set out below.

1. Elected Representatives
2. Parents Forum/Parent Council
3. Staff Response
4. Organisations
5. Pressure Groups
6. Parents
7. Pupils
8. Community users
9. Other

Where the response is identified as being from the parent of a pupil at a local secondary school the school is identified. Where the response is from a user of the community facilities at the school this is also shown where this can be determined. The third column provides a summary of the representation. A list of abbreviations that have been used is set out below.

ASN	Additional Support Needs
C & F	Children & Families Department
CCHS	Castlebrae Community High School
CLT	Craigmillar Literacy Trust
EAL	English as an Additional Language
ERI	Edinburgh Royal Infirmary
ERIA	Equality Rights Impact Assessment
GIRFEC	Getting it Right for Every Child
HMIE	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (now Education Scotland)
HRRCHS	Holy Rood RC High School
LAC	Looked After Children
LHS	Liberton High School
PHS	Portobello High School
SLT	Senior Leadership Team (at Holy Rood RC High School)
WHEC	Wester Hailes Education Centre
UDF	Urban Design Framework

ID	Respondent	Representation
1	Other Individual - 25 October 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposes proposal • CCHS is at the heart of the community
1a	Other Individual further submission - 7 December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to school time is one of the main reasons CCHS struggles to interest many families in its catchment • As Holy Rood RC High School is a new build and CCHS is a decrepit 60s building it is no surprise that pupils prefer the new school • The low school roll at CCHS has been dictated by geography, bus timetables and a worn-out building – not by quality of education • Falling roll at CCHS is due to refocusing and demolitions in Niddrie & Greendykes over past 5 years • The stalled regeneration programme is also a significant contributor to this issue and recent planning decisions not to build family homes have affected school numbers • The Governments SNS website shows the number of 10-15 year olds in Craigmillar has fallen • The falling roll has very little to do with school's education itself, which is really rather good • For 3 out of last 5 years CCHS had outperformed WHEC in terms of positive destinations • The geography affecting the accessibility of schools is more of a factor in school rolls than league tables • The Craigmillar families who go to the school value Castlebrae • If the Council built a new Craigmillar school (as promised in 2000) to match that of Holy Rood the school roll would recover • I think the real reason for the proposal is to save money – not educational reasons • It was foolish to progress plans to develop on Common Good Land at Portobello Park • The quotes supplied to the press about “educational outcomes” did not reflect 44% ASN pupils at CCHS • Re-picking subjects between 3rd and 4th year will have detrimental impact on children's education • The quality of vocational education, which the Craigmillar cohort rely will not be replicated at any of the receiving schools • There has been a failure to provide an adequate Education Rights Impact Assessment • The consultation paper showed a flagrant disregard for

		<p>children's rights in that it caused great fear and unhappiness amongst school children – culminating in a level of apathy that undermines morale and educational functioning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council makes clear that for moral reasons groups most vulnerable to poverty should be supported • Craigmillar has 46% of the population income-deprived and is the poorest area in the city • As the deputations to the committees on 9th and 25th October were refused the councillors were basing their decisions on the flawed information in the report – and with no idea of the true equalities and rights impact • The school roll is sustainable if small class sizes, (to assist ASN children are encouraged • There is £41 million sitting on council account due to delay in PHS project which could be used to deliver a new Craigmillar High School • I'd like to conclude by establishing what I see as an affront to democracy – the Education Department has acted to without reference to the city's leaders and Officers acted without authority on Castlebrae • It appears that stories have been “fed” to the media to engender a sense of impending closure to support the Council's position on the school • Has Council Communications Team been involved? • Consultation process has been hatchet job on school • The consultation summary paper is quite different from the full paper in that it is biased towards the negative aspects of the school • Over the 5 years to 2012 CCHS has done consistently better than Craigroyston • Why does the Education Dept want to close CCHS – to help meet unexpected running costs for PHS
2	Other Individual - 26 October 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conditional support for proposal to close CCHS • The school roll has fallen to such a level that it is not economical to run • Think the roll should be better divided split as PHS is taking most of the pupils, whereas Liberton is only taking pupils from Prestonfield • The current Portobello HS catchment cannot cope with numbers at present • More of catchment area should come under Liberton
3	Community User Adult Education - 26 October 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked for almost 20 years as an adult education tutor using CCHS as my base • Attend Art class each week and they are excellent and

		<p>well attended with a first class tutor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The classes for adults cannot be replicated locally and would be a huge loss • Children are better served by a small local school rather than a large secondary such as PHS • The community will be much poorer without its secondary school and an attempt should be undertaken to increase pupil numbers
4	Other Individual - 29 October 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposes proposal • CCHS should remain open until a new high school for Craigmillar is built • The catchment of PHS should not be extended until the issue of the school has been resolved • Existing PHS is unsuitable for the current pupils and there is no clarity where a new school will be built or what its capacity would be • Reasonable to maintain the current boundaries for the denominational schools • Reasonable to relocate community facilities to other local venues if local residents can access facilities
5	Other Individual - 1 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposes proposal • The current PHS building is failing and the replacement is uncertain and more than 6 years late in delivery • Putting additional pressure on this situation is insane • The proposed changes would exceed the capacity of the PHS by 2017 or 2018 • A new CCHS would have to be initiated now to be delivered by then • The projections do not take account of the circa 100 non-catchment pupils attending PHS • Taking account of this Portobello HS would be over capacity from 2013 onwards • It is too big a catchment and with a school that is not fit for purpose until some indeterminate time in the future • The travel distances involved are prohibitive and connecting public transport is poor
5a	Other Individual further submission - 4 December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHS does not have a school building that is fit for CCHS children • The future of a replacement PHS is so uncertain that should not be considered as receiving school • Unacceptable to add pressure to already difficult situation • The capacity of PHS would be exceeded in 2013 (proposed year of transfer)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unacceptable that the proposals are based on building assessments conducted in the late 80s and early 90s • There are significant safety and pupil circulation concerns that pupils routinely refer to as “stair crush” • The potential walking routes to PHS are through open-spaces with no over-looking houses • Around half of the CCHS children have additional support needs. Expecting them to walk long distances to school will add to their existing difficulties • The travelling community in Craigmillar will be more marginalised • Urge that CCHS remains open until a replacement school in Craigmillar developed
6	Parent PHS - 1 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposes proposal • Been fighting for years for a new PHS and son and daughter are unlikely to see a new school • PHS is struggling to function and the school should not have to accommodate additional pupils at this time • Recently the assembly hall suffered storm damage when part of the roof was blown off • There is no lighting in the assembly hall • The proposed enlarged catchment would be too large and if becomes larger education of children will suffer • Pupils will have too far to walk in enlarged catchment • PHS needs to be replaced as soon as possible and it cannot accommodate a large increase in numbers • CCHS should remain open until the new PHS is built
7	Other Individual - 5 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Express disagreement with proposal • Craigmillar deserves its own school and merging of catchment into PHS would make too big and unwieldy • Portobello already has a very large roll and the site options for rebuild make it difficult to expand
8	Other Individual - 5 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no decision where the new PHS will be built • Do not know where the new school will be built or when the school will be finished • Disagree with larger catchment until bigger school built • Foresee even more pupils being crammed into school not fit for purpose • Merging of catchments and closure should not take place until there is a new PHS that has sufficient space and facilities
9	Community User Adult Education - 6 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Adult Education Art Classes • Superb class with plenty space, light and materials and first class guidance

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the only class that I enjoyed and learnt so much • Dismayed by proposal to close CCHS • Pupils will lose their security and sense of belonging if the school closes
10	Community User Family Centre - 7 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Centre user • Please don't close the Family Centre
11	Community User Adult Education - 5 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been attending Adult education Classes for a number of years and it is the best class I have been to • It would be a great loss to the community if the school were to close • There is a class for making musical instruments – the only such class in Edinburgh • There is need for a school like Castlebrae for children who need more one to than other schools
12	Pressure Group SavetheBrae - 7 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Consultation Proposal Paper contains factual inaccuracies, sweeping generalisations and assumptions. SavetheBrae has disseminated the consultation paper and debunks these untruths: • Fiction: "Castlebrae had failed" Fact: Craigmillar regeneration has failed – and it needs a Community High School. Research by Save the Children Scotland shows that children brought up in poverty will not perform as well • Fiction: "Educational outcomes for pupils at the school are very poor when compared with similar schools elsewhere in the city and nationally" Fact: Educational outcomes are not the only way to judge a school. Castlebrae has outperformed WHEC and Craigmillar regarding positive destinations. • Fiction: "Castlebrae's drop in numbers in recent years is principally due to increasing numbers of parents opting to send their children to other secondary schools in the area." Fact: The Council has supported parents in sending their children to Portobello or Holy Rood and changing demographics means there is spare capacity at these schools. The Craigmillar demolition programme has reduced numbers of 10-15 year olds in the CCHS catchment and much of the new housing is designed for childless households. • Fiction: "There are schools in the immediate vicinity where the educational outcomes being achieved are higher" Fact: Portobello is not in the 'immediate vicinity' it is 2 miles and a 30 minute walk away from CCHS. If these schools had a fraction of the ASN

		<p>pupils as CCHS their educational outcomes would be reduced proportionately.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiction: “The school roll has fallen significantly over the last ten years and is expected to drop further to a low of 158 in 2015/16” Fact: The completion of the Niddrie Burn restoration project and the public transport link will stimulate housing development. • Fiction: “There is significant surplus capacity in both Portobello High School and Liberton High School at the moment and this is expected to be the position up to around 2020” Fact: The Consultation Paper shows that PHS only has 50 spare S1 places and HRCHS has 34. These schools as well as Liberton and Gracemount are over 2.8 miles away and often require 2 buses to access from CCHS catchment • Fiction: “The outcomes for young people in CCHS are currently significantly poorer than those from similar backgrounds in other schools, both in Edinburgh and across Scotland” Fact: There aren’t any other areas that compare adequately. Major land clearance without replacement homes has not been replicated on this scale elsewhere in the city. CCHS building is widely acknowledged to be beyond its ‘sell-by’ date. • Fiction: “With such low pupil numbers, it is increasingly challenging for CCHS staff to provide an appropriate curriculum at all stages” Fact: A low school roll means small class sizes and more contact time. It’s the best way to tackle educational challenge and ASN pupils. • Fiction: “The receiving schools have the ability to deliver a broad curriculum and offer a broad range of subject choice. This can increase motivation by focusing on the interests of individual pupils.” Fact: The CCHS pupils will end up at the bottom of their new school’s exam results, especially if 44% of them have ASN. They will be at risk of exclusion, truancy and bullying. • Fiction: “All the equipment associated with hairdressing and automotive repairs will be able to be transferred to a receiving school to allow for continuation of courses.” Fact: There’s no space at Portobello High. The full extent of the vocational courses and facilities offered by CCHS cannot be replicated at the receiving schools. • Fiction: “The schools to which pupils would transfer
--	--	---

		<p>demonstrate higher outcomes and in the short term there is a lot of potential to impact positively on attainment” Fact: Some pupils will have a 2 mile commute, twice a day. It is not a realistic proposition that this will have a positive effect on pupil attainment. The parents of pupils’ will not have any involvement in the receiving schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiction: “In session 2011/12, 15% of CCHS catchment pupils were educated at Portobello High School and 34% educated at Holy Rood High School. Attainment results for these pupils are higher than those attending CCHS.” Fact: Parents who let their child attend PHS or HRCHS are putting pressure on their child to study. It is not realistic that increasing commuting times will have a positive effect on pupil attainment. • Fiction: “Outcomes for young people in all indicators are significantly poorer than those from similar backgrounds in other schools despite significant resources being allocated to CCHS over a period of time” Fact: For 3 of the past 5 years Castlebrae has outperformed WHEC and Craigroyston in terms of pupils moving into a positive destination. • Fiction: “All receiving schools provide a range of additional programmes to support those young people with additional needs.” Fact: If a child goes from a school of 200 pupils at CCHS to Portobello High with 1305 pupils they will not receive the same kind of individual attention. • Fiction: “Staff would benefit from being part of a larger professional community in terms of professional development, having increased opportunities for leadership and to develop experience in delivering a range of courses across the range of qualifications up to and including Advanced Higher” Fact: Teachers will have much bigger classes, with more stress, more admin, more box-ticking and more cramming. They enjoy Castlebrae because they are committed to the pastoral aspect of their work. • Fiction: “Significant repairs, maintenance and renewal costs have been estimated at £8.7million over the next 30 years of which £3.5 million would be required over the next five years.” Fact: Lots more could have been saved if the new Craigmillar school had been completed by PARC in 2011. Why has the Council invested £24 million in new public buildings in
--	--	---

		Craigmillar rather than a new High School? The Council has left the responsibility for providing the new school with PARC.
12a	Pressure Group SavetheBrae further submission - 20 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiction: The main reason for closure is a retention rate of only 31% in the CCHS catchment area. Fact: the real reason is to save money. Closure of CCHS is a Council priority so they can subsidise unexpected PHS maintenance costs. • CCHS has a weird catchment area The feeder primaries and neighbourhoods are dispersed widely and the school is relatively inaccessible by bus • Fiction: Significant repairs and maintenance costs are estimated at £8.7 million over the next 30 years of which £3.5 million would be required over the next 5 years. Fact: The sooner a new school for Craigmillar is built the quicker these maintenance costs would be avoided. In any case the Council gave the impression that the reason for closure was about what is best for the pupil's education. • Fiction: Educational outcomes for pupils at the school are very poor when compared with similar schools elsewhere in the city and nationally. Fact: CCHS has 44% ASN pupils which is several times higher than any other school • There is money around to replace CCHS now. If the Council can't get a decision on Portobello High School until February 2014, then £41 million is sitting unused • An affront to democracy: The Education Department have acted without reference to the city's' leaders and officers have acted without authority on CCHS • (see also Ref 1a which covers similar points)
13	Pressure Group SavetheBrae further submission - 14 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned over teacher telling class last year to leave CCHS – why did she say this? • Council should supply new uniforms for pupils if they are forced to move school • Concerned about the future of the Family Centre and their re-provision – would the gym be with the crèche • Concerned about head teacher not expelling pupils for long enough and not dealing with the problem • What provision would be made for children with physical disabilities? • Would like above matters dealt with individually
13a	Pressure Group SavetheBrae further submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ERIA should not be undertaken as retrospective exercise yet seems to be what the Council is doing • The Consultation Paper has spread fear and

	- 28 November 2012	<p>unhappiness amongst the children and is undermining teaching and morale in the school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 16 pupils have departed CCHS since the proposed closure was announced • Council guidance makes clear that for moral reasons groups most vulnerable to poverty should be supported • Craigmillar has 46% of the population income-deprived and is the poorest area in the city • There is no mention of the words “poverty” or “children” in the equalities impact assessment. • As the deputations to the committees on 9th and 25th October were refused the councillors were basing their decisions on the flawed information in the report
13b	Pressure Group SavetheBrae further submission - 7 December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (see Ref 1a and Ref 43 which covers similar points)
13c	Pressure Group SavetheBrae further submission - 5 December 2012	<p>Text script of a musical/play submitted on DVD by Save the Brae. Its main points are summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation Report is inaccurate and misleading • The stalled regeneration, decanting people, demolitions of social housing and planning decisions contrary to recommendations of Craigmillar Urban Design Framework have adversely impacted on the school roll • Closure of INSTEP has had a negative effect on the local community • There is a need for the Council to financially commit to a new Craigmillar High School • Transferring children to the receiving schools will negatively impact on their education • Adult learning is successful as is the vocational aspect to the work carried out by CCHS • It is a Community high school and has to remain local • Remove the threat of closure and the school will thrive
14	Pupil at CCHS - 16 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think your proposal to close my school is taking the easy way out • You should be helping to save my school you should come into my school and see just how hard we work • You told us last night every child has the right to the best education possible - what about my rights? • I feel safe at CCHS • I feel that I will be an outsider at a new school • I have the right to say which school I wish to attend and that school is CCHS

15	Community User Adult Education - 16 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I attend the Community Education Art Class at CCHS • Very concerned to hear of possible closure of CCHS • There are no other community education facilities in the east area so this would be great loss for community • The level of tuition is excellent and there is a crèche which allows young mother and fathers to attend • There seems to be no mention in the Consultation Papers about the students who attend the adult classes and the wider aspect of education for the whole community seems to have been forgotten
16	Pupil at PHS - 13 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am 13 years old and a former CCHS pupil • Some time ago I was advised that CCHS was at risk of closure so I moved to Portobello where I could pick the subjects of my choice • Why were teachers telling us to go to new schools? • If CCHS was saved I would like to move back to the school
17	Other Individual - 15 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended meeting at Portobello Town Hall • The drop in school rolls appear to coincide with the demolition of the housing stock and the decant from Greendykes and Niddrie • It was stated that an Annexe at CCHS was not feasible to take Portobello pupils but it appeared to be acceptable for CCHS to travel to PHS – why? • Officer at public meeting talked of “closure” and not “proposed closure” in response to question • Of the opinion that keeping CCHS open would compromise the rebuilding of PHS as funds raised by closure are needed to pay for planning and legal fees
17a	Other Individual further submission - 30 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What procedures were carried out prior to informing parents by letter on 12 October 2012 of the proposed closure of CCHS? • Particularly interested in the EIRA and when it was carried out. My understanding is that an Impact Assessment is carried out prior to or in conjunction with the investigation to assess the impact on the community/stakeholders
17b	Other Individual further submission - 30 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per response in Ref No 1A
18	Parent CCHS - 14 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My son is bullied at school • I have security in that the school is close to home • Closing CCHS would mean my son making a longer journey to the new school

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bullying will just continue at the new school • Speaking out on behalf of the parents and children who do not have the confidence to do so • Closing the school will not help
18a	Parent CCHS further submission - 25 October 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of save the brae campaign and ex-pupil at CCHS • My 2 year old has grown so much in confidence from being able to attend the Family Centre 5 days a week • The staff at the Family Centre make you feel wanted, they give advice and feedback • My daughter was given support for her dyslexia at CCHS and has turned out a confident person • Poor pass levels are partly due to low numbers • Children need to be provided with the education that they require at CCHS • Lots of pupils past and present at CCHS have done well for themselves • CCHS is a vital part of the community and provides opportunities for local people to participate in lifelong learning
19	Pressure Group SavetheBrae further submission - 6 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will public meetings be impartial and who will chair? • How will these meetings be recorded and what format will the consultation take? • Will the Department's own staff facilitate the meetings and how will you ensure there is no conflict of interest? • As this is a Community School how do you intend to reach the wider community who use the school facilities? • How will you consult the children? • How will you report back on the consultation and in what timescale? • Save the Brae would like access to the records of meetings as soon as possible after each meeting and where possible to access the raw data • Concerned that consultation is being jeopardised by some Council staff acting as if a decision to close the school has already been made
20	Community User Adult Education - 20 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response on behalf of 10 adult art class members (8 were interviewed) to the consultation of users undertaken as part of the consultation process • Feel that comments in draft report of users do not reflect what was said and did not present the outcome of the meeting in a positive way

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also question the relevance and significance of parts of the draft report • We commented on the excellence of the tutor, the welcome of the Community staff and benefits of sharing the art accommodation with school students • Positive and inspirational effect of seeing superb work by the school pupils which could not be reciprocated at the alternative venues that have been suggested • A secondary school is part of any community and Craigmillar no different from any part of Edinburgh
21	Community User - 21 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can see that savings can be made from splitting Castlebrae • It would be detrimental to the local area if football and rugby facilities disappeared • Do not think PHS is fit for an increased capacity • From recent experience the lunch area for school dinners is inadequate • At PHS there is inadequate space in classrooms and the school; increasing the school population at the moment seems illogical • During my time extra accommodation was provided due to inadequate space in classrooms • It would be foolish to accommodate extra pupils in a building that is not fit for purpose • Do trust the Council to provide equal or greater facilities to those already in the Castlebrae area • It would be better to wait until a new PHS is built • I do not have faith in the Council to organise a large scale build of a new school and keep their promises
22	Parent PHS - 21 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent with two children at PHS • Proposal will not pose any problems for PHS if sufficient resources are provided • There should be an increase of resources more than proportionate to number of transferred pupils to support maintenance of facilities at PHS and to cater for Additional Support Needs (ASN) • Council should provide dedicated transport from Craigmillar/Niddrie to receiving schools otherwise pupils could arrive late for lessons or suffer tiredness which will have a negative impact on school community • The Council has made the commitment to a new CCHS when the roll rises and this should be maintained • There may be a temptation to accept the new situation as the status quo and not proceed with the new school

		due to pressure on public funds
23	Community User Family Centre - 21 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Centre Users involved in consultation process • Response signed by 12 Family Centre Users • Concerned that the draft report of consultation with users is inaccurate and misleading • We feel that the questions and answers should have been given in writing rather than verbally • Feel that the report is not a true reflection of the views of the centre users • We believe the integrity of the final draft is questionable and it does not truly represent the users views on the proposed closure of the Family Centre and School
24	Organisation Craigmillar Literacy Trust (CLT) - 2 December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLT has very close relationship with CCHS and school provides a major literacy hub for the neighbourhood • CCHS is the registered office for CLT and provides essential office space for our activities and this would need to be considered as part of the re-provision of community facilities at CCHS • Now working closely with Council on options for the re-location of the Craigmillar Books for Babies and suggest that discussions also take place with those involved on the relocation of the registered office • The Board, members, friends and supporters of CLT greatly value the work and commitment of staff at CCHS in removing barriers to literacy and developing young people's creativity • Praise the strong community focus which is a central part of the school's ethos • During 2012 we have worked closely with CCHS to deliver the annual Craigmillar Book Festival • These and many other partnerships activities contribute significantly to a vibrant community life in Craigmillar • CCHS has been a valuable partner regarding local literacy initiatives • Closure of CCHS would remove a major community asset and facilities and activities would need to be re-provided • The Library and Resource Centre at CCHS is widely acknowledged as a centre of excellence and fosters a love of literature • Welcome the Council commitment to build a new secondary school for Craigmillar development of a new

		<p>High School in the Craigmillar/Niddrie area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council should make the commitment concrete as soon as possible and minimise uncertainty for local families • The confidence from having a plan for CCHS will encourage existing families with young children to stay and attract potential future families
25	Other Resident in Craigmillar area - 4 December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home owner in a PARC development with young child • Dismayed at the proposal for CCHS and PHS and believe that the Council is spending thousands on alternative plans for Portobello and closing Castlebrae • The best alternative is to build a large new campus in Craigmillar, and accommodate PHS catchment there • The main reasons for this are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plenty available brownfield sites ○ No objections to such a use ○ Parc promised a new high school ○ It is close to the Bio-quarter/ERI/New Sick Kids Hospital ○ It will revitalise Craigmillar ○ It will save the tax payer thousands from the ongoing situation at PHS
26	Parent HRRCHS - 4 December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious concerns about the impact on the Craigmillar community and the education of children at several of the local schools • Low catchment numbers and worrying statistics on performance suggests something needs to be done, but closure of CCHS and its replacement being kicked into the long grass is totally inappropriate response • Concerned about the impact on Holy Rood and how the whole denominational aspect is going to work • There are lots of non-catholic children at Holy Rood, but that has been a positive choice on their part • If PHS is full, will parents be forced to send their children to Holy Rood • Holy Rood is a catholic school and it is worrying that you are ignoring the faith factor when Holy Rood is incorporated in the mop up plans • Instability could be caused by Holy Rood roll inflating and then deflating when new school is built • Think it all a bit mad - there are 700 pupils in Craigmillar and 1,100 in Portobello but the Council is determined to build a school for 1,400 pupils • PHS will not cope with the increased demand once CCHS closes

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The temporary fix that is proposed will cause more problems than it will solve • Would be more sensible to accelerate provision of new school for Craigmillar and address reasons for failings, provide new school at Portobello for 1,200 pupils and allow Holy Rood to be true denominational school
27	Other - 7 December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not happy with school closure in general but can see a case for the proposal on the understanding that a new school will be built and subject to the following strings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land should be safeguarded for a new Craigmillar High School ○ No legal pitfalls with use of land ○ Sufficient council funds to build the school ○ Project programming and verifiable trigger points to ensure that new school is completed timeously ○ Ensure that any temporary catchment changes associated with the closure of CCHS does not affect the new PHS ○ Return the catchment areas to their current shape on completion of the new PHS and CCHS
28	Organisation PARC Craigmillar Ltd - 5 December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the business plans of PARC have made a feature out of provision of a new Community High School • The flatter economy of 2012 means that PARC is no longer able to fully fund the construction of a new high school for Craigmillar • The financial responsibility for a new school will now have to fall to the Council • In the future PARC will still generate substantial surpluses and will remit to Council as a contribution • The revised masterplans and business plans reserve a site for new high school • A commitment to a new school would be a major confidence boost to potential retail and residential investors in Craigmillar and it would be important not to lose development momentum • The PARC board requests the Council makes a capital commitment to a replacement Community High School to be commenced as soon as finances permit and in line with the projected catchment requirement for 2020
29	Other Chaplain of CCHS - 7 December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chaplain at CCHS for 15 months and have invested considerable effort supporting school over last 4 years • Strongly oppose closure of CCHS • Can see the effects that the threat of closure has had on the morale of pupils and staff • The Council has failed to offer assurances about the

		<p>school staying open so parents will think twice before sending their children to CCHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never going to sell houses or attract families to the area without a local high school • The consultation summary paper contained many half truths/misleading statistics while underplaying the positive impact the school has on the community • CCHS usually outperforms WHEC and Craigmillar in terms of pupils moving to positive destinations
30	Other - 7 December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to school time is one of the main reasons CCHS struggles to retain many of the families in its catchment • As Holy Rood RC High School is a new build and CCHS is a decrepit 60s building it is no surprise that kids prefer the new school • The low school roll at CCHS has been dictated by geography, bus timetables and a worn-out building – not by quality of education • The falling roll at CCHS is due to re-housing and demolitions over the past 5 years • The stalled regeneration programme is also a significant contributor • Recent decisions not to build family homes have also impacted on school numbers • So it's because of the Council that CCHS roll is failing – between 2005 and 2010 the Council demolished 675 homes in Craigmillar • The falling roll has little to do with school's education, which is really rather good • For 3 out of the last 5 years CCHS had outperformed WHEC in terms of pupils moving into a positive destination • The geography affecting the accessibility of schools is more of a factor in school rolls than league tables • The Craigmillar families who <u>can</u> get to the school value Castlebrae • If the Council built a new Craigmillar school to match that of Holy Rood school roll would recover instantly • Think the real reason for the proposal is to save money rather than the low catchment retention • Consultation Report says £1.35 million could be saved annually if CCHS closed and that money could be used for necessary maintenance works to PHS • In comparing CCHS with 20 other schools it was stated that educational outcomes at CCHS for pupils are poorer than all or the majority of schools but taking a 3

		<p>year average the school ranks 17 out of 21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the comparator schools have 44% pupils with ASN – probably not • Academic qualifications mean little if you can't get a job and none of the neighbouring schools offers the range of vocational training at CCHS • There has been a failure to provide an adequate Education Impact Assessment in report to Committee on 9 October recommending closure • Consultation paper showed a disregard for children's rights in that it caused great fear and unhappiness amongst pupils at CCHS – culminating in apathy • Craigmillar has 46% of the population income-deprived and is the poorest area in the city but there is no mention of "poverty" or "children" in the Equalities Impact assessment • As far as we can tell elected representatives were basing their decisions on flawed information in report • The school roll is sustainable if small class size are encouraged for pupils with ASN • There is £41 million sitting on council account due to delay in PHS project. This could be used to deliver new Craigmillar High School at lower prices than in 2020 • The consultation process has been a hatchet job on the school and the consultation summary paper only picks out the bad bits • The message to parents was to get your children out of CCHS while there are still places at nearby schools • CCHS has the highest free meal registration in the city at 54% which is used to measure deprivation- Craigmillar is 41% and WHEC is 40% • CCHS consistently outperforms Craigmillar on the seven target indicators • Costs per pupil at CCHS are higher but are higher building maintenance costs and more ASN pupils
31	Sheila Gilmore MP (Edinburgh East) - December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCHS sits at the heart of the regeneration area and there has been so much invested in Craigmillar that it would be foolish to put this investment at risk • The commitment to a new High School is vital but in the interim, the retention of a high school is important for the regeneration process • Is an identified site for new school and it would detract from the plans by not starting to build a new school • With land and design in place obtaining planning

		<p>permission would be straightforward and speedy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Autumn Statement made new capital investment available for 'shovel ready' projects • The new high school could be a centre of excellence developing specialisms • It will be harder to sustain the case for a new school if existing pupils are dispersed and existing strengths in vocational skills are lost • Roll at CCHS has fallen due to fall in rolls across the city and delays in renewing demolished housing stock • Repeated threats of closure have been unsettling for parents but the situation could be turned around with a commitment to keep the school open until a replacement is ready • Without seeing demographic projections for Portobello area it is hard to know if there will be sufficient space for additional pupils in forthcoming years • The closure of Instep had a detrimental impact on positive destinations in 2010/11 so too much should not be read from a single year - a new project has since been set up by the Councils Community Learning Department • High level of ASN pupils should be taken into account when considering academic attainment • CCHS is in reasonable condition whereas there are problems with the fabric of PHS and there is uncertainty over plans for a new school • The Council need to interrogate more thoroughly its roll projection data for Portobello, Holy Rood and Castlebrae • Information regarding the success of additional investment in recent years requires clarification • Sports facilities at CCHS substantially better than PHS • Vocational training facilities at CCHS are not fully appreciated • The family centre and gym at CCHS means that facilities are provided all in the one place • The Council should not pre-empt decisions on closure in the budget of February 2013 • Any savings, if proposals are accepted, should be re-invested in the young people and across the wider community of the catchment area of CCHS • There are a number of ways in which savings can be used:
--	--	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Extra support for ASN pupils and to help pupils reach positive destinations ○ Increase in Education Welfare Officers to stop an increase in non-attendance ○ Increased early intervention at primary school level to help educational attainment ○ Re-location/re-provision of the vocational educational facilities ○ Reinvest savings at Castleview Community Centre ○ Commitment to match the existing Family Centre provision locally ○ The 3G pitches must be linked to Castleview Community Centre ○ Maximise opportunities to expand education for all age groups in the area
32	Community User Family Centre and Adult Education - 7 December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Working mum with daughter that use the Family Centre ● User of the family/community facilities at CCHS ● It is a fantastic facility; particularly the outdoor play areas as many users live in flats ● Closing facility would be a great loss to the community ● Facility also assists people with career advice ● Have also attended Adult Education Classes over last 3 years and used the gym ● Appalled a negatively of panel at public meeting to discuss closure proposals ● The consultation meeting should have more time for questions and answers and less on the presentation ● CCHS pupils will be treated as outsiders should they move schools. It is naïve to think they could have a smooth integration to other schools
33	Parent Portobello High School - 7 December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do not agree with closure of CCHS and am unhappy with the process and content of the consultation paper <p><i>Concerns about process</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Only just 6 week consultation period ● Summary consultation sent home in school bags – unreliable form of delivery ● Full Consultation Paper was 52 pages long – complex and inaccessible ● Additional support needs of parents and carers to help understand the proposals ● Non-involvement of Community Groups to assist process ● Over consultation - the Castlebrae process is running

		<p>concurrently with other consultations relating to PHS</p> <p><i>Concerns about the Consultation Paper:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no evidence that closing the school will improve outcomes for the children involved • No comparison of alternative options about turning the school around versus closure • No analysis of whether the current PHS school buildings can still cope with its previous maximum of 1,400 - they have been deemed poor in an independent report • No analysis beyond 2020 - what are the risks if the new Craigmillar High School is not completed before 2020? • Inadequate analysis of the impact of significant additional pupils at PHS with ASN • No consideration of impacts on the regeneration of Craigmillar of having no high school • No fallback position if projected school roll numbers are wrong • Data is not transparent and how figures for the school roll are calculated is opaque • No clarity about the relocation of the hairdressing and motor vehicle equipment • It does not make sense to relocate CCHS pupils to PHS for 5 years then to transfer them back to the new Craigmillar High School • No information about finances in the consultation to judge if saving money is a prime motivation
34	<p>Staff Response Member of CCHS Teaching Staff - 7 December 2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully support the joint response that has been submitted by the staff of the school • I wish to propose an alternative plan to closure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consultation Paper largely ignores the vocational education but this is what sets the school apart from other schools in Edinburgh and Scotland ○ Many pupils that attend CCHS struggle with traditional academic qualifications and benefit from the vocational qualifications offered at CCHS ○ In every secondary school there are likely to be a few pupils whose needs are also not met by academic qualifications ○ I propose that CCHS becomes a specialist junior college catering for pupils from S3 onwards from all over the city ○ Pupils would be taught key academic subjects

		<p>such as English, Maths and vocational subjects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leavers would be much better prepared for workforce training or to go further education ○ The college would be affiliated to the wider Edinburgh College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pupil placements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Secondary and special schools would be able to refer pupils onto the junior college ○ Placements would be decided through a multi-agency assessment ○ Parents and young people would be invited to contribute their own views ○ These reports would then be sent to a Professional Assessment Group (PAG) - this is a process that runs very successfully for other specialist provision in the city
35	<p>Organisation Community Regeneration Forum - 7 December 2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We are umbrella organisation for 11 registered tenant and resident organisations in the Craigmillar area ● We are a recognised consultative body for Craigmillar ● We feel that some, if not all of, the problems are of the Council's making and all the responsibility for the school's failing lies with the Children & Families Department ● The demolition of 2 neighbourhoods has been detrimental to the school roll ● The proposed closure of CCHS has been on a "hit list" since 2002 ● The successful INSTEP project was removed and funding for the Community Programme was cut ● Key staff at CCHS have been lost and it took too long to appoint a permanent Head Teacher ● There are issues around the consultation process and the involvement of users of the community facilities ● The Equalities Impact Assessment appears to be late and appears to have omitted some groups ● The above have contributed to demoralising the staff, resulting in a loss of confidence in the future of the school as a whole
36	<p>Parent Forum Castlebrae Community High School Parents Forum - 7 December 2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As Chair of the Parent Forum at CCHS I feel that I have to comment ● Feels that some kind of notification to the Parents Forum beforehand would have been a courtesy ● Have been waiting for the Children & Families Department to contact Parent Council as a consultee but can say with confidence this will not happen

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think that the Parents Forum should have been involved in the consultation and consultation meetings • Reservations about CLD undertaking consultation and an independent body would have been preferable • The pupil contact sessions were unstructured and were not objective • A CLD official swore in front of school pupils with regard to their Survey Monkey response • Do want to complain in my capacity as chair about the way the consultation gathering process has been handled with the children at CCHS • There are flaws in the way CLD handled the consultation with the Family Centre users • The statements made by the Council about the school are grossly unfair and this year we will have over 90% positive destinations • We blame the Children & Families Department for the falling school roll due to the constant threat of closure • The Digital Media and Automotive course are very effective and attract pupils from other schools • We are a Community High School and you would rip the heart out of the community if CCHS were to close • Should CCHS close, we have grave fears for the safety of our children not only from the journey to and from school but from the potential threat of getting bullied • You propose to change catchments for 7 years then change them back and go through another consultation • You admit that a new school will be needed by 2020 so why not go with award winning plans that already exist for a new school • How can officers make a commitment to a new Craigmillar High School - they cannot predict what a new administration might do • How would you populate a new school if pupils that should be attending are already in schools around the city • There is no guarantee that current classes and vocational subjects at CCHS will be adequately replicated at receiving schools • Our children are in a state of limbo over this and council officers have done nothing to help • Please lift the threat of closure and help our community stay together
--	--	---

36a	Parent CCHS - 7 December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am the parent of two children that attend CCHS • CCHS is the heart of our community and its closure would be a huge loss • My daughter has graduated from University from a school you call failing • My daughters in S2 and S3 are petrified at the prospect of closure. One is doing vocational subjects and there is no guarantee these subjects can be provided at any other school • My other daughters may have to re-pick subjects at their new school • This is not 'getting it right for every child' (GIRFEC) • The Portobello High School building is not fit for purpose and needs £3 million spent on it if legal arguments are not resolved • The community facilities offered at CCHS need to remain local • The loss of 20,000 residents through regeneration had been the cause of low rolls • The threat of closure for the last 10 years is another reason for low rolls • The Council identified a need for a new High School before 2020 - why not just leave CCHS till then, and take the threat of closure away and there would be a huge intake
37	Staff Response CCHS - 7 December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group response from the teaching staff at CCHS and is endorsed by the support and admin staff • Staff informed of proposal only after the news had been given to the press • Shocked by news article which describing the school as failing and a boil to be lanced • This language has enraged parents and dismayed the community and staff at CCHS • Challenge the statement that pupils have "very poor educational outcomes" • The school should not be closed until a planned replacement is being built • If the school closes it will end community education provision in the Craigmillar area <p><i>School Capacity and Roll</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary school rolls are falling across the city • The ongoing threat of closure and the deteriorating fabric of the building discourage parents from choosing CCHS

- The new-build Holy Rood RC High School also is affecting the choice of parents
- Having a temporary Head Teacher for 3 years has impacted on leadership
- The decanting of the population and the stalled regeneration has affected the school roll

Educational Outcomes

- CCHS is not like other comparator schools in Scotland in that most receive the majority of pupils that live in their catchment areas
- There is considerable value added attainment for pupils by the end of S4/5
- It is our understanding that such tracking is not undertaken in the other two high schools in the Council area
- Table 5 of the Consultation Report uses only one “comparator” (S4 NQ graded courses) which does not take into account the large proportion of CCHS pupils who successfully undertake SCQF Levels 4 & 5 Skills for Work and NQGA courses
- The data is selective in that there is only an average for the comparator schools
- Long term illness was a contributor to poorer than usual positive destination outcomes in 2010/11 and this was exacerbated by the closure of INSTEP
- When CLD support was put in place, the figures improved from 42% to over 90%
- The data is skewed towards a negative appraisal
- There is no mention of progress or attainment which led to the sign-off with HMIE in 2006

Other Matters

- The 20-20 initiative was and continues to be very successful in providing opportunities and positive destinations for pupils
- There is a failure to acknowledge the extent to which staff in CCHS has consistently engaged in every aspect of school improvement
- Since the appointment of the school based CLD worker in May 2012 the positive destinations have significantly improved
- Maths, Modern Languages and English classes are set by ability to better meet the needs of all learners
- Question the recommendation to adopt joint

		<p>timetabling across S1-S3 to deliver a broad general education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is currently no joint timetabling across the S4-S6 year stages (as mentioned in the report) • Believe that provision data should stand beside schools of a similar size • In terms of timetabling and teacher provision, the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence would allow more students to opt for SCQF courses at Levels 5 and 6 • Have data to disprove the statement that “Outcomes for young people in all indicators are significantly poorer than those from similar backgrounds” • Figure of 44% for ASN pupils in CCHS, although much higher than other schools, has not been used with more insight and objectivity when comparing attainment and attendance data • There is no evidence that pupils selecting to go to another school are starting at a similar baseline attainment level as those who attend CCHS • We question the ability of the Council to transfer the on-site vocational curriculum to receiving schools • The ‘Red Bistro’ in unique and no other school in the city provides such a facility • On-site family centre allows early education and childcare students to put their new skills into a real situation • CCHS is the only school in the area that offers Retail at Intermediate 2 level • CCHS is the only school in Scotland to offer NC in Computer Games Development and is the only school in Edinburgh (and one of only 8 nationally) to offer NC in Digital Media Computing • The exclusion percentages in Table 1.8 do not reflect the reality of the exclusion rate at CCHS - incidents of exclusion tend to be repeat incidents involving the same pupil • CCHS has been appraised by HMIE as being sector-leading in Art and CDT and yet the evaluation in the Consultation Report has been stated only to be weak • All of the strategies used by the other schools mentioned are embedded practice at CCHS and PHS and HRRCHS have been provided with self and peer assessment booklets by our Maths Department • There is no evidence to support the claim that there will
--	--	---

		<p>be greater educational benefits for the CCHS pupils at the receiving schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The positive aspects highlighted in other schools are equally applicable to CCHS: • Feel the selective nature of the data presents CCHS in a prejudicial and negative light • Paragraphs 5.20 and 5.21 are inaccurate in terms of curriculum provision • CCHS does not combine S5/6 with S4 when timetabling • No evidence to support the assumption that larger classes provide an improved learning experience – it has been the Scottish Government’s aim to reduce the class sizes • For pupils and staff there are advantage and disadvantages working in a smaller school • The educational benefits for CCHS pupils attending the receiving schools are not clear so this can only be considered an assumption • The primary reason for the proposal is one of economics, the Council has focused on the school roll and attainment to justify closure but there is little recognition of what is done well at CCHS • The inconsistent use of statistics is both misleading and selective • There is no data included on vocational qualifications and the worst aspects of the school have been highlighted • Although the fabric of CCHS is in a state of disrepair, PHS is in a worse state of repair • Over the last 5 years staff have felt that it was the Council intention to close the school • Has had an on-going effect on morale and ultimately has led to higher than average absence rates • A substantial number of the local community consider the school to be the heart of their community
38	<p>Organisation Neighbourhood Alliance - 7 December 2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Alliance is based in Craigmillar and works with Community Groups including registered tenants organisations, the Craigmillar Community Council and the Community Regeneration Forum • I would like to respond as Project Manager of Neighbourhood Alliance based on working in the area for 23 years • CCHS has been a cornerstone of the community for many years and it is a sad state of affairs that it is

		<p>under threat when so much has been lost to the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Craigmillar regeneration programme has devastated the fabric of the area with a lot of derelict land • The community make uses of CCHS day in day out and is one of the few opportunities where they can improve their lives • Children attending different schools will have a detrimental impact on long term social cohesion • CCHS has a high truancy level and almost 50% of the school roll have ASN and sending theses children to schools further away will have no benefit • Difficult to understand how larger classes at receiving schools will benefit pupils from CCHS • Assured that proposed closure is not about financial savings but everything we have heard from officers is negative and an information sharing exercise on how bad things are at CCHS • Closure would be a disastrous option for Craigmillar and instead the Council should address the weaknesses in the Children & Families Department
38a	<p>Organisation Neighbourhood Alliance (further response) - 3 December 2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about taking forward the subject of the multicultural group in any meaningful way • Craigmillar children are being denied the right to be educated in their local area • Apparently it is acceptable that Castlebrae pupils should travel to PHS but not the other way • Majority of parents can ill afford bus fares to PHS and there are no plans to financially assist with travel • Craigmillar children will be unable to go home for lunch which could result in further hardship for families • A pupil with ASN is likely to be 'lost' in their receiving school – effectively this child will not achieve and have difficulty finding employment and become benefit-dependent as a result
39	<p>Staff Response HRRCHS Senior Leadership Team (SLT) - 7 December 2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response from Holy Rood RC High School Leadership Team (SLT) focuses on the impact closure would have on Holy Rood • The submission should be seen in the context of Holy Rood as a Catholic school which prides itself on being inclusive and respecting the dignity and belief of every individual • With the large number of non-catchment pupils the school currently attracts, it is reasonable to assume

		<p>that parents are making a considered choice in sending their children to our school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The closure proposals do not directly impact on Holy Rood but it is recognised that a significant number of Castlebrae parents may decide that Holy Rood, with its denominational status, is an appropriate school for their children • The denominational schools have a distinct ethos which can ease the transition process • It is important to ensure there is no negative impact on the current Holy Rood pupil and staff population • To assist transition planning and delivery it is important those adequate resources (including funding) are put in place timeously to allow forward planning • It is anticipated that Holy Rood will receive additional resources to cater for the extra number and needs of pupils • There will be a need to support pupils who have never previously attended a denominational school • Part of the transition process will involve a familiarisation with denominational practices and what to expect in terms of the faith dimension at Holy Rood • Additional resources would be required to maintain standards should there be a marked increase in the number of pupils with significant additional needs • Holy Rood is a truly inclusive Catholic comprehensive school that succeeds in meeting the needs of all its pupils • An inspection by the HMIE in May 2011 highlighted several strengths of the school and there is evidence to suggest that the current position is even stronger • Success is based on the quality of teachers, the partnership of our parents, the strength of leadership and balancing resources • The needs of CCHS pupils can be met but in such a way that the needs of Holy Rood pupils (present and future) are not compromised
40	<p>Organisation Brid O'Brien Director of Religious Education Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh - 7 December 2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Roman Catholic Church regrets the proposal to close CCHS • Craigmillar would lose a valuable focus for education and community activity • This submission expresses the views of the Roman Catholic Church where it feels it has a locus in terms of the proposals and this is mainly on the impact the proposed closure would have on Holy Rood RC High

		<p>School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the closure of CCHS was rumoured, Holy Rood, as the nearest high school has received pupils through parental request, whose catchment area school is Castlebrae • We would like to assume that is the distinctive nature and ethos of the Roman Catholic schools which have attracted so many placing requests but the reasons are more complex and provide distinct challenges for the school • Holy Rood is a school with a distinctive ethos and traditions and we would expect that this be made explicit to those making placing requests so they are fully aware of the school community they are joining • It is hoped that the Council understands the concerns of the Catholic Church about how much extra pressure is placed upon the Holy Rood community when pupils have no background in its traditions and values • Pupil support staff will need considerable practical support in the lead up and beyond if closure is approved • Extra pupil funding will be required not just for one session but for subsequent sessions until there is a new Craigmillar High School and it is expected that there will be more specific details and discussion on how funding will be allocated • Extra resources should be made available to cater for any increase in the level of ASN, EAL and LAC needs in keeping with the inclusive nature of RC schools and their focus on social justice • There will need to be special transition arrangements made for those who will choose Holy Rood as their child's 'receiving school' • This support will need to be resourced to assist Pupil Support Staff • There is concern that Quality Improvement Officers may have difficulty providing the necessary practical support unless special arrangements are put in place • The Consultation Paper makes it clear that Holy Rood is extremely successful in achieving the best educational outcomes for its pupils • The opinion formed in the Consultation Paper that "it is therefore reasonable to conclude that there would be no negative impact of the remaining CCHS catchment pupils transferring to Portobello or Holy Rood" is open
--	--	--

		to challenge – it is reasonable to conclude that there is probably an optimum point at which excellent results can be maintained
41	Community User Adult Learning - Woodwork Class - 7 December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about the potential loss of really well-equipped wood and metal working equipment from the local community • Think that there is a large unmet need for re-skilling in practical basic skills • The facilities at CCHS are not provided elsewhere • The Council should be encouraging these facilities with the social, health and economic benefits they provide
41a	Community User Adult Learning - Woodwork Class (further response) - 7 December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maximise community benefits it's important that a number and variety of activities are able to take place at a community hub – so people are able to mix and learn from other areas and activities • The idea that a crèche facility is not needed for woodwork classes will limit future participation
42	Community User - 7 December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school is near and easy to access • We can drop children at school and then attend classes in the community wing • The gym is a big advantage for the community • The community will be deprived of a major facility if the community school closes
43	Other - 7 December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am an ex pupil who greatly values the education received at CCHS and concerned at proposed closure • Travel to school time is one of main reasons CCHS struggles to interest many of families in its catchment • As Holy Rood RC High School is a new build and CCHS is a decrepit 60's building it is no surprise that pupils prefer the new school • The low school roll at CCHS has been dictated by geography, bus timetables and a worn-out building – not by quality of education • Falling roll at CCHS is due to refocusing and demolitions in Niddrie and Greendykes over past 5 years • The stalled regeneration programme is also significant contributor to this issue and recent planning decisions not to build family homes affected school numbers • The Governments SNS website shows the number of 10-15 year olds in Craigmillar has fallen • The falling roll has very little to do with school's education itself, which is really rather good • For 3 out of the last 5 years CCHS had outperformed

		<p>WHEC in terms of positive destinations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The geography affecting the accessibility of schools is more of a factor in school rolls than league tables • The Craigmillar families who go to the school value Castlebrae • If the Council built a new Craigmillar school (as promised in 2000) to match that of Holy Rood the school roll would recover • I think the real reason for the proposal is to save money – not educational reasons • It was foolish to progress plans to develop on Common Good Land at Portobello Park • The quotes supplied to the press about “educational outcomes” did not reflect 44% ASN pupils at CCHS • Re-picking subjects between 3rd and 4th year will have detrimental impact on children’s education • The quality of vocational education, which the Craigmillar cohort rely will not be replicated at any of the receiving schools • There has been a failure to provide an adequate Education Rights Impact Assessment • The consultation paper showed a flagrant disregard for children’s rights in that it caused great fear and unhappiness amongst school children – culminating in a level of apathy that undermines morale and educational functioning • The Council makes clear that for moral reasons groups most vulnerable to poverty should be supported • Craigmillar has 46% of the population income-deprived and is the poorest area in the city • As the deputations to the committees on 9th and 25th October were refused the councillors were basing their decisions on the flawed information in the report – and with no idea of the true equalities and rights impact • The school roll is sustainable if small class sizes to assist ASN children are encouraged • There is £41 million sitting on council account due to delay in PHS project which could be used to deliver a new Craigmillar High School • I’d like to conclude by establishing what I see as an affront to democracy – the Education Department has acted without reference to the city’s leaders and Officers acted without authority on Castlebrae • It appears that stories have been “fed” to the media to engender a sense of impending closure to support the
--	--	--

		<p>Council's position on the school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the Council Communications Team been involved in providing the media with stories? • The 'consultation process' has been a hatchet job on the school. The consultation summary paper is quite different from the full paper in that it is biased towards the negative aspects of the school • Over the 5 years to 2012 CCHS has done consistently better than Craigroyston • Why does the Education Dept want to close CCHS – to help meet unexpected running costs for PHS?
44	Other North Cairntow Gypsy/Traveller Community - 29 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary findings of consultation with North Cairntow Gypsy/Traveller Community held on 29 November 2012 • Each member of the community expressed concern that CCHS is proposed for closure • Late primary age to late teen and young people on site make use of the school for its sports facilities and gym • Children and young people said it was unlikely that they would access other provision in Craigmillar • Some parents are concerned about vocational provision being stopped and wanted to know if this would transfer to a new school • Parents who had previously attended CCHS spoke highly of the schools 1:1 literacy and numeracy support

APPENDIX 4

CONSULTATION WITH PUPILS

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Pupils were consulted as part of the overall consultation on the proposals to close Castlebrae Community High School. The consultation started on 22 October 2012 and concluded on 7 December 2012.
- 1.2 In preparation for the consultation with pupils, key questions on the principles underpinning the consultation from 'Participants, not pawns' (the guidance from Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People on consulting children and young people on proposed school closures) were used to help develop and shape the approach taken.
- 1.3 The aim of the consultation was to give every pupil currently attending Castlebrae Community High School (CCHS) the opportunity to discuss and express their views, as well as enabling pupils at other affected secondary schools to consider what the potential impacts would be on them and their schools. Pupils in P6 and 7 of the feeder primaries were to be consulted as appropriate in agreement with the respective Head Teachers'.
- 1.4 Children and young people who took part were informed that their views would be an important part of the consultation and, while there could be no guarantee that any collective view would prevail in terms of the eventual decision, they were provided with an assurance their views would be reported on, heard and responded to by those making the decision.

2 Methodology

- 2.1 A range of methods was used to gather and explore pupils' views:

Focus groups

- 2.2 Each year group in CCHS was consulted in focus groups on key questions covering what pupils think of the school, their worries and hopes for the future if the school closes or stays open and the preparations other schools might make if CCHS did close.
- 2.3 Focus group discussions were held with pupil council members at both Portobello High School and Holy Rood High School on key questions relating to how welcoming their respective schools are, on whether they thought that if CCHS closed it would have an impact on their school, and on what their school could do to prepare for the arrival of new pupils. An additional focus group of S6 pupils was also held at Portobello High School. A further focus group was held with pupil council members at Liberton High School where pupils were again

asked about any potential impacts on their school as well as an additional question about proposed catchment changes.

- 2.4 P6 and 7 pupils at the four feeder primary schools – Castleview, Niddrie Mill, Newcraighall and Prestonfield – were consulted in interactive focus groups which were held at each school. The primary school focus groups were on which secondary schools pupils thought they would be most likely to go to, whether pupils had heard of the proposal to close CCHS and what difference they thought it might make if it does close. The focus group for Prestonfield Primary School was slightly altered to include a question on proposed catchment changes.
- 2.5 A focus group was also held with pupils who currently attend Portobello High School but who live in the CCHS catchment area. The questions focussed on pupils' experience of Portobello High School, the welcome they received when they first started, how pupils travel to the school and whether they had experienced issues as a result of being from the CCHS catchment area but attending Portobello High School.
- 2.6 Focus groups were run on an interactive and informal basis. Every effort was made to handle the consultation sensitively and local Community Learning and Development staff, many of whom already had a trusted relationship with pupils, took part in the groups, as did teachers where appropriate e.g. in the primary school sessions.
- 2.7 A 'You said, we heard' approach was taken in that young people's views were recorded, summarised, re-presented and checked out for accuracy with focus groups.

Online surveys

- 2.8 In addition to the focus groups, pupils were given the opportunity to participate in online surveys using Survey Monkey. Separate surveys were created for:
- CCHS pupils
 - Portobello and Holy Rood pupils
 - Primary school pupils
- 2.9 The surveys consisted of similar questions to the focus groups as set out above.

3 Response

- 3.1 More than 400 pupils took part in face to face sessions and almost 1,100 pupils took part in the online surveys. The table below shows the numbers of pupils participating in focus groups and the numbers completing online surveys:

School	Focus Groups	Online surveys
Castlebrae Community High School	160	119
Portobello High School	25	507
Portobello High School pupils from Castlebrae catchment area	13	-
Holy Rood High School	12	221
School not identified	-	76
Liberton High School	17	-
Castleview Primary School	46	27
Niddrie Mill Primary School	57	58
Newcraighall Primary School	46	31
Prestonfield Primary School	26	45
Total	402	1,084

4 Views of Castlebrae Community High School Pupils - Online Survey

4.1 119 pupils completed the survey. Pupils were very positive about their experiences at the school. Pupils were asked if they agreed or disagreed with a number of statements, many of which are based on Education Scotland pre-inspection questionnaires. Their views are set out in the table below:

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Castlebrae helps me to become more confident	87%*	5%	8%
I enjoy learning at Castlebrae	88%	5%	7%
I am getting along well with my school work	91%	8%	2%
Castlebrae currently provides a good range of subjects	92%	7%	2%
Castlebrae currently provides a good range of work-related subjects such as hairdressing, automotive skills and cake-decorating	97%	2%	1%
Castlebrae currently provides a good range of out of class activities and school clubs	84%	8%	8%

* all percentages are rounded into whole numbers – as a result totals may not add up to 100

4.2 Pupils were then asked about the closure proposals. Their answers are set out below:

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
I feel I have enough information on the proposals to close Castlebrae to say what I think	56%	32%	13%
I agree with the proposal to close Castlebrae in 2013	5%	88%	7%
I will have a better choice of subjects in a school with more pupils	13%	72%	16%
I think I will do better in a school with more pupils	13%	74%	13%

- 4.3 Pupils were asked what their worries or concerns would be if the school does close. The most frequently expressed concerns were:
- Losing touch with school friends and having to make new friends in a new school environment.
 - Having to travel to a new school, including the cost of travel and having to get up earlier.
 - That their education would be disrupted, including having to catch up with other pupils, not getting the same choice of subjects, their preparation for exams being affected.
 - That they might be bullied, badly treated or branded in a negative way at a new school.
 - Concerns about losing their own teachers - and the support they provide - and about how teachers in other schools will treat them.
 - That their new schools will be overcrowded with very big classes.
 - That they will no longer be able to take vocational subjects like hairdressing and retail.
- 4.4 Pupils were asked if they could think of any positive opportunities or benefits which closing Castlebrae might provide. Very few suggested any and about 70 pupils said 'none', 'no' or 'nothing'. Some recorded their anger at the closure proposal and blamed the Council for the situation. Of those who did suggest potential benefits, the most frequently expressed were:
- Opportunity to make new friends/meet new people.
 - Possibility of more subjects or a better education.
- 4.5 Pupils were asked what their hopes would be if the school stays open. The most frequently expressed hopes were:
- That the existing school is re-furbished and re-decorated.
 - That pupils are able to stay on at Castlebrae, continue with their chosen subjects and pass exams.
 - That new pupils are attracted to the school.
 - That a completely new school is built.
 - That the recurring threat of closure is removed.
- 4.6 Finally pupils were asked what preparations they would expect other schools to make for their arrival if Castlebrae does close. The most frequently expressed ideas were:
- Organise tours of the school, induction visits (including suggestions of 3 day visits), get a chance to get to know the school and meet teachers and pupils before they move.

- Continuing access to the same range of choices, especially the vocational choices as at Castlebrae (including childcare, hospitality, hairdressing, creative industries).
- Transport provided or help with travel costs.
- That their current teachers are able to go to the new schools with them.

4.7 A number of pupils said throughout the survey that they had no intention of moving to a new school – they would either try to get a place at college to continue their learning or leave school altogether.

5 Castlebrae Community High School Focus Groups – Key themes

5.1 One or two of the focus groups were asked some of the questions with slightly different wordings. This was in response to the particular group's needs, dynamics and understanding. Generally this hasn't appeared to make a difference to the responses but it has been noted below where it is felt it may have made a difference.

5.2 Question 1. What are the good things about Castlebrae?

- The teachers
- The smaller classes
- More attention, more 1-2-1
- Construction, Auto-motive, Hairdressing,
- Good vocational courses and training
- External Support Agencies e.g. family centre, Health Opportunities Team, CAPRO
- Location – near home
- After School Clubs
- Astro Turf
- Reward system/Merit points
- CDT Department
- Sports & Physical Activities

5.3 Question 2. What are the not so good things about Castlebrae?

- The building – lack of repairs run down/falling apart
- The threat of closure for so many years
- Reputation and people pre-judging
- Not very good resources and equipment
- Toilets

5.4 Question 3. What would you be worried about if Castlebrae closed?

- Travelling further
- Getting bullied at new school
- Impact on exams

- Not fitting/settling into new school
- Not having the same relationships with teachers
- Splitting up classes/friends
- Might not be same subject choices on offer
- Not having as much support in bigger classes

5.5 Question 4. If Castlebrae did close, what would your hopes be, what would you expect to happen or like?

- Most pupils said if Castlebrae closed they would like a new school built.
- Nothing positive about it closing – we will lose family/community history.
- When 12 3rd years were asked this question slightly differently – Is there anything positive if Castlebrae closes? They responded with you could get a fresh start, better education and meet new people.

5.6 Question 5. What would your hopes be if Castlebrae stayed open, what would you expect/like to happen to the school?

- A new school being built
- More people to attend
- The ones that have moved to come back
- More subjects
- More teachers
- Upgrade of building, furnishings and equipments
- Better reputation – improved behaviour and attendance

5.7 Question 6. If Castlebrae closes, what would you expect other schools to do for you, what preparations should they make for you?

- The new uniform should be paid for
- Travel should be organised and paid for
- Take some of our teachers with us
- Be able to do same subjects,
- Be able to continue with vocational subjects in particular
- Some pupils felt pupils at new school might judge them
- One or two pupils said they wouldn't attend a new school
- Have people from Castlebrae in our class
- Make us welcome and don't pick on us

A group of 6 S3s were asked two additional questions

5.8 Question 7. One main issue from the discussion?

- Travel time
- Getting bullied – new school
- Choice of subjects

- Meeting new people

5.9 Question 8. What we feel.

- Ragin' about school closing
- Annoyed
- Angry
- Makes a difference what years you're in – sitting exams, etc.

6 Views of Primary School Pupils – Online Survey

6.1 164 P6 and P7 pupils completed the survey with the number of respondents at each school shown below:

Primary School	Number of pupils responding* (with percentage in brackets**)
Castleview	27 (17%)
Newcraighall	31 (19%)
Niddrie Mill	58 (36%)
Prestonfield	45 (28%)

* 3 pupils did not indicate a school

** all percentages are rounded into whole numbers – as a result totals may not add up to 100

6.2 Pupils at Castleview and Niddrie Mill were more likely to agree that if Castlebrae Community High School closed it would make a difference to them, whilst those at Newcraighall and Prestonfield were more likely to disagree. In answering the question 'I think if Castlebrae closes it will make a difference to me'; the response across all the primaries and by each primary is shown below:

Primary School	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
All	33%	48%	19%
Castleview	35%	19%	46%
Newcraighall	13%	77%	10%
Niddrie Mill	54%	38%	9%
Prestonfield	18%	59%	23%

6.3 For those who thought that it would make a difference, the most common issues cited were:

- travel, including travel costs, having to go further to school and having to get up earlier and go to school in the dark
- the impact on families and the wider community of losing its community high school

6.4 For those who thought it wouldn't make a difference, the most commonly cited reason was that they hadn't planned or expected to go to Castlebrae anyway.

- 6.5 48% of pupils felt they knew enough about the issue to express a view on it, with 29% disagreeing and 22% don't know.
- 6.6 Pupils were asked which school they expected to go to when they leave primary. The response is shown below:

Secondary school	Number of pupils expecting to go (with percentage in brackets)
Castlebrae	15 (9%)
Portobello	24 (15%)
Liberton	8 (5%)
Holy Rood	60 (38%)
Other high school	26 (16%)
Don't know	27 (17%)

- 6.7 Other schools that pupils mentioned included St. Thomas of Aquin's (9 pupils), James Gillespie's (6) and Broughton (3).
- 6.8 Pupils were asked if they had anything else they would like to say about the proposal to close Castlebrae Community High School and how it might affect them. In addition to the comments above, some pupils:
- expressed concern for pupils (including relatives) and staff at Castlebrae
 - said that they would have to go to different schools if Castlebrae closes
 - said that the school should stay open
 - said that the school should close.

7 Primary School Focus Groups

- 7.1 Meetings were held with 175 P6 & P7 pupils from the affected primary schools. The same approach/method was used for three of the primary schools and an additional question was added for Prestonfield Primary School which was specific to the issue of change of catchment from Liberton and Castlebrae to just Liberton.
- 7.2 Question 1. When I leave primary school I will be going to?
- Castlebrae - 7 pupils
 - Holyrood - 72 pupils
 - Portobello - 28 pupils
 - Not Sure - 27 pupils
 - Other 41 pupils (George Watson, Edinburgh Academy, St Thomas of Aquin, Broughton, Boroughmuir, James Gillespies, Ross High School in Tranent, Preston Lodge, etc.)
- 7.3 Question 2. I've heard about the proposal to close Castlebrae (before today)

- 159 pupils had heard about the proposal. The majority stated that they had received a letter from school, teachers had told them, family members or friends and a few were aware of the television and newspaper coverage received by 'Save the brae'.
- 5 pupils had not heard of the proposal and 11 were not sure.

7.4 Question 3. I think if Castlebrae closes it will make a difference to me?

- 48 pupils thought that if Castlebrae closed it would make a difference to them. 42 of the pupils were from Castleview/Niddriemill Primary Schools.
- The reasons stated were increase in travelling time, less choice of schools, won't have a local school, some felt they might not get a place in the school of their choice if Castlebrae closed and the pupils went to other schools.
- 112 pupils felt if the school closed it would make no difference to them. The primary reasons given was that they were not going there, going to another high school or not in the catchment area.
- 15 pupils were not sure/didn't know what difference it would make. The key reason was that it was hard to know how something might affect you if it hadn't happened yet.

7.5 Question 4. I think if Castlebrae closes it will make a difference to this area (Craigmillar)

- 90 pupils felt that if Castlebrae closed it would make a difference to the area, of these 71 were from Castleview/Niddrie Mill Primary Schools.
- Travelling further was the key difference given however other concerns were raised i.e. people will lose their jobs, it will affect the community's history, pupils would lose the cooking classes they go to, the football pitches will be shut and there will be less choice of schools for people.
- 26 pupils felt it would make no difference. The key reasons were that they didn't live in the area, not many people went to the school and it wasn't in their community.
- 59 didn't know what difference it would make. Reasons given were that they couldn't know what the effect might be because it hadn't happened, some pupils mentioned that different areas were closer to different schools and that apart from losing a choice they weren't sure about any other effect.

7.6 Additional Question for Prestonfield Primary School only. If the catchment high school was changed from Castlebrae and Liberton to just Liberton it will make a difference to me?

- All the pupils answered no to this question. The 26 pupils felt changing the choice from Castlebrae and Liberton to just Liberton would make no difference to them.
- The reasons given were that none were going to Castlebrae, some were worried that they might have to go to Castlebrae and wanted it to close, there

were lots of choices of schools already and some didn't live in the catchment area.

7.7 It should be noted that the majority of the pupils from Newcraighall and Prestonfield Primary Schools, although not affected by the proposals, said they were sad for the pupils at Castlebrae High School because they might lose their school.

8 Views of Portobello and Holy Rood Pupils – Online Survey

8.1 804 pupils completed the survey; 507 from Portobello High School and 221 from Holy Rood High School. 76 pupils completed the survey but did not indicate which school they were from.

8.2 Pupils were asked about the welcome new pupils would receive if they joined the school and whether or not they would be happy if new pupils joined the school if Castlebrae closed. Their views are set out for all pupils and then for Portobello and Holy Rood pupils respectively in the table below:

Statement – all respondents	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Castlebrae pupils would get a warm welcome from staff and pupils if they joined our school	52%*	30%	18%
If Castlebrae closed, I would be happy about more pupils coming here	34%	45%	22%
Portobello pupils			
Castlebrae pupils would get a warm welcome from staff and pupils if they joined our school	48%	30%	22%
If Castlebrae closed, I would be happy about more pupils coming here	35%	43%	23%
Holy Rood pupils			
Castlebrae pupils would get a warm welcome from staff and pupils if they joined our school	60%	30%	10%
If Castlebrae closed, I would be happy about more pupils coming here	30%	50%	20%

* all percentages are rounded into whole numbers – as a result totals may not add up to 100

8.3 Pupils were asked what effect they thought it might have on them and their school if Castlebrae closed. Pupils at both schools expressed many similar views, with recurring concerns around:

- Overcrowding – pupils at both schools commented repeatedly on how overcrowded they perceive their schools to be at present and on how taking in new pupils would make this worse. Pupils at both schools had concerns about class sizes having to rise with a negative impact on learning. Pupils also expressed concerns about overcrowding in communal areas, especially in terms of 'stair crushes' at Portobello and queues at lunch and break times at Holy Rood. Many pupils believed that these issues would be exacerbated

by the arrival of new pupils, that this would have negative impact and possibly lead to conflict.

- Potential divisions and rivalries between current pupils and ex-Castlebrae pupils. Some pupils fear an increase in bullying – either of or by former Castlebrae pupils – and in fighting, although some thought this would quickly settle down.
- Worries that new pupils might need additional support, for example if they were joining in the middle of a school year, and that with no new resources this might have a detrimental effect on existing pupils' learning.
- The behaviour of Castlebrae pupils and how this might disrupt classes or have an effect on the school's reputation. Some pupils expressed negative views of Castlebrae pupils' attitudes and behaviour.
- Alternatively, some pupils were positive about the possibilities of meeting new people and making new friends.
- Several pupils did not think that there would be much of an impact at all.

8.4 Pupils were asked what their school should do to prepare for the arrival of new pupils if Castlebrae does close. The most common themes were:

- The need to deal with space issues, particularly at Portobello. Pupils said there would need to be more classes or bigger classes and that access to communal/social areas might have to be changed.
- At both schools pupils had a range of suggestions for welcoming new pupils, from inviting new pupils to visit before they start, providing tours of the school and information such as maps and posters to holding welcoming assemblies, team-building days and involving pupils in showing new pupils around and as buddies. Many pupils commented on the need to treat new pupils with respect, to be nice and to be friendly.
- Some pupils thought there might be a need for more teachers and for more resources and equipment.

8.5 Pupils were asked how they or other pupils could be involved in helping to prepare for the arrival of new people. Although many pupils said that they didn't know, a number of suggestions were made (many of which were similar to those above):

- Pupils made a number of practical suggestions like involving senior pupils/prefects in showing new pupils around the school, participating in activity and team-building days, and in inductions and assemblies.
- In addition to the specific suggestions above, many pupils commented on the need to be friendly and welcoming, to speak to new pupils, show them around and generally make an effort to get to know them.

8.6 Finally pupils were asked if they had anything else they would like to say about the possible closure of Castlebrae and the effects it might have. Concerns around overcrowding and a possible increase in fighting and bullying were

reiterated, as were some negative attitudes towards Castlebrae pupils. Some pupils also expressed views on:

- The possibility of their own learning being disrupted.
- A potential increase in traffic in and around the schools.
- Their wish for Castlebrae to stay open.

9 Portobello High School Focus Groups

9.1 Question 1. How welcoming is your school to new pupils?

- The Base can be a place to go for support and this is offered to all new pupils.
- Friendly pupils/staff.
- The building can be intimidating big and black - would be better done up.

9.2 Question 2. If Castlebrae does close, what effects do you think it might have on you or your school?

- Younger pupils had more concerns than senior pupils in relation to space and classrooms that are already overcrowded and the pressure this might put on a building already run down and the use of the stairs.
- Pupils' common positive comments about the effects included
 - It could be a good chance/opportunity for Castlebrae pupils; they might be more motivated to attend and achieve coming to Portobello.
 - They thought more pupils might mean more curricular activities.
 - They might get more subject choices e.g. psychology.
 - It could be good for pupils' relations and be good to get to know new people.
 - It might educate us on different ways of doing things.
- Pupils' common negative comments about the effects included:
 - Concerns for Castlebrae pupils making the transition, e.g. it might hinder their education and/or affect their exam results as they may have difficulty adapting to the new routine and way of doing things. This may result in some pupils not completing their education.
 - Some social/conflict concerns around potential divides between the two groups both psychologically and actual.

9.3 Question 3. What could you do to prepare for the arrival of the new pupils?

- Two day visit or longer as currently happens for Primary 7 pupils.
- Buddy System.
- There were a wide range of suggestions for activities that created opportunities for supporting and integrating with new pupils.

10 Holy Rood High School Focus Group

10.1 Holyrood pupils scored an 8.5 out of 10 average score for 'How welcoming is your school to new pupils'?

- Pupils had a range of responses from some finding it a bit scary starting in S1 and feeling it could be more welcoming in the morning through to some saying it was easy to get used to and make new friends.
- Pupils felt that most teachers and pupils were welcoming and that the induction days and support from older pupils were helpful. Some said teachers could be more helpful in corridors.
- They had some ideas about what could help new pupils, for example the pupil council meeting new pupils, year group meetings and showing the same year groups around and preparing the new pupils in terms of uniform.

10.2 Pupils were asked if Castlebrae did close, what effects did they think it might have on them or their school?

- There were a few comments about space and resources being pressured by more numbers.
- There were quite a few concerns about behaviour from the pupils coming from CCHS but also two or three more positive comments about hidden potential and not pre-judging people.
- Several people felt that Castlebrae closing wouldn't have much effect on them or the school.

10.3 The pupils had a range of ideas when asked 'If Castlebrae does close, what should your school do to prepare for the arrival of new pupils?' These included visits and tours, lots of opportunities for Holy Rood pupils to talk to and spend time with the new pupils to prepare them. Pupils also suggested some activity sessions to get to know them, for example, sports and team events.

11 Liberton High School Focus Group

11.1 Question 1. 'If the catchment high schools are changed from Liberton and Castlebrae to just Liberton it would have made a difference to me':

- Several pupils said, 'they were always coming to Liberton so it would have made no difference'.
- No difference, friends were coming here (Liberton).
- No one in my P7 class went to Castlebrae (this was a common theme across the years).
- If it changes from two choices to one will parents send their kids to Gracemount instead of Liberton?
- People weren't going to Castlebrae anyway because of the reputation of the school and the area.

11.2 Question 2. If Castlebrae does close, what effects do you think it might have on you or your school?

- No real effect – possibly a few more pupils.
- If pupils come here after a while they'll just blend in.
- It'll have more effect on Castlebrae pupils – it's a bit unfair that they will lose their school.
- None – they could do the JET programme if they came.
- We don't have all the vocational classes here so it might be good if they came here.
- They'll make new friends.

11.3 Pupil Questions/statements

- If they had got a new school earlier it would have been better for them.
- Council has known about this for a while and haven't done anything so the Council has let them down.
- Can you not just send the S4-S6 at Castlebrae to college if the school shuts?
- If they decide to shut Castlebrae would it not be better to move them to their new schools the last 2 weeks in June when everyone moves into their next year?
- Would the stigma of the old Castlebrae not just pass on to a new school in that area?
- Moving from a high school to a high school is hard.
- Is Castlebrae a LEAP school?
- Will Castlebrae pupils bring down other schools' attainment?
- 'Save the brae' - should they not want what's best for their kids?

12 Focus group with Portobello pupils who live in the Castlebrae catchment area

12.1 Pupils reported lots of positives about Portobello High School when asked what's good about the school. They felt that due to the size there was a good mix of people, extra-curricular activities and good subject choice. In particular there were a lot of positive comments about the Learning Support and services pupils receive in Portobello. They also said the school was good at dealing with bullying. The negative comments were about the building being too old, too tall, the canteen, equipment and the worry about stair crushes.

12.2 Pupils were asked, 'How welcome did you feel when you first came here?'

Pupils responded that they were nervous at first and worried about stair crushes. They said they didn't feel nervous for long because of the support they got from teachers, the Base, S6 pupils (including the visits to the Primary Schools) and the two day visits and sports day. The availability of guidance staff and the guidance interviews were mentioned as being helpful as well.

- 12.3 Pupils were asked if there were any issues with travel. Most of the pupils walked to school with one or two travelling by car or bus. Generally there weren't too many issues with travelling but due to road works at Duddingston Crossroads and the unreliability of the number 42 bus travelling from West Craigmillar was more problematic than East.
- 12.4 Pupils were asked what it was that made them go to Portobello in the first place. Some said that where they were in the catchment area, Portobello was actually nearer. Some pupils felt there would be more opportunities and chances to achieve and/or they had friends and siblings already going to Portobello. Again the Learning Support Services were given as a reason to go to Portobello.
- 12.5 Pupils were asked 'You live in the Castlebrae catchment area but go to Portobello – are there ever any issues with this for you in the school?' Pupils didn't identify any issues with this but talked about their own personal circumstances about coming, for example, having to appeal to get into Portobello High.

13 Equalities Analysis

- 13.1 Where possible, survey responses have been analysed by gender, ethnicity and disability to see if there were any significant differences in the responses of different groups.

Castlebrae pupil survey

- 13.2 Of the 119 responses, 8 pupils said they had a disability and 7 identified themselves as in a bme group. These responses are too small a sample to draw any reliable conclusions from.
- 13.3 There were 51 male and 66 female respondents (2 skipped this question).
- 13.4 Most responses were similar between male and female pupils (within 5% of each other) however two did have different responses:
- Males were more likely (96%) to agree with the statement, 'I am getting along well with my school work' than females (88%).
 - Males were more likely (18%) to agree with the statement, 'I will have a better choice of subjects in a school with more pupils' than females (9%).

Primary school pupil survey

- 13.5 Of the 164 responses, 10 pupils said they had a disability and 14 identified themselves as in a bme group. Again, these responses are too small to draw any reliable conclusions from.
- 13.6 There were 79 male respondents and 74 females (the others didn't say).

- 13.7 Females were more likely (56%) to agree with the statement, 'I know enough about the suggestion to close Castlebrae to say what I think about it' than males (43%)

Other schools survey

- 13.8 Of the 804 responses, 28 pupils said they had a disability. This is a very small sample to draw any conclusions from. Responses therefore need to be interpreted with caution as they may be unreliable. The answers to the statement 'If Castlebrae closed, I would be happy about more pupils coming here' show a marked difference in the responses of disabled pupils (with 18% agreeing and 52% disagreeing) and all pupils (with 34% agreeing and 45% disagreeing).
- 13.9 80 pupils identified themselves as in a bme group. These pupils were less likely (43%) to agree with the statement 'Castlebrae pupils would get a warm welcome from staff and pupils if they joined our school' than all respondents (52%). They were also less likely (30%) to agree with the statement 'If Castlebrae closed, I would be happy about more pupils coming here' than all respondents (34%).
- 13.10 There were 352 male respondents and 390 females (the others didn't say). Females were more likely (59%) to agree with the statement 'Castlebrae pupils would get a warm welcome from staff and pupils if they joined our school' than males (46%). Females were more likely (35%) to agree with the statement 'If Castlebrae closed, I would be happy about more pupils coming here' than males (32%).

REPORT BY EDUCATION SCOTLAND**Consultation proposal by The City of Edinburgh Council**

Report by Education Scotland, addressing educational aspects of the proposal by The City of Edinburgh Council to close Castlebrae Community High School in July 2013 and split the catchment area between Liberton High School and Portobello High School to which the majority of the catchment will be assigned. The council also proposes that the current Prestonfield Primary School catchment be changed from dual-feeder status with Liberton High School and Castlebrae Community High School to having Liberton High School as its sole non-denominational catchment secondary school. The community facilities currently provided within Castlebrae Community High School will be relocated to alternative locations in the area.

1. Introduction

1.1 The City of Edinburgh Council proposes to close Castlebrae Community High School at the end of session 2012/13 and offer young people places at Portobello High School as their new non-denominational catchment secondary school. The community facilities currently provided within Castlebrae Community High School will be relocated in the area.

1.2 The City of Edinburgh Council also proposes to split the Castlebrae Community High School catchment area between Liberton High School and Portobello High School. The majority of the catchment will be assigned to Portobello High School as the non-denominational catchment secondary school. It is proposed that the current Prestonfield Primary School catchment be changed to have Liberton High School as its sole non-denominational catchment secondary school. Existing denominational catchment arrangements will remain unaffected.

1.3 The report from Education Scotland is required under the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*. It has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the Act.

1.4 HM Inspectors undertook the following activities in considering the educational aspects of the proposal:

- attendance at all of the public meetings held in November 2012 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;

- consideration of further representations made directly to Education Scotland on relevant educational aspects of the proposal;
- consideration of further information on all schools affected;
- visits to the site of Castlebrae Community High School, Holy Rood RC High School, Portobello High School, Liberton High School, Castleview Primary School, Prestonfield Primary School, Niddrie Mill Primary School, and Newcraighall Primary School including discussion with relevant consultees. In visiting the sites of Castlebrae Community High School and Portobello High School, HM inspectors considered the travel routes for young people.
- visits to a range of community facilities, providers and groups within the Castlebrae Community High School catchment area, including discussions with relevant consultees from the 'Save the Brae' community group, Castlebrae CHS Community Education staff, Craigmillar Community Council and the Family Centre based within Castlebrae Community High School.

1.5 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the schools affected ; 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
- benefits which the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

2. Consultation process

2.1 The City of Edinburgh Council undertook the consultation on its proposals in accordance with to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010*. The consultation included an invitation for written submissions and public meetings held at Castlebrae Community High School, Portobello High School, Liberton High School, and Holy Rood RC High School on the 13, 14, 26 and 29 November 2012 respectively.

2.2 Statutory consultees for the proposals include the parent council of any affected school, the parents of the pupils at the affected school and of any children expected to attend the affected school. The Chair of the Castlebrae Community High School Parent Forum had attended meetings with the council and community groups. Headteachers within a number of the affected schools had briefed their Parent Councils on the proposal.

2.3 The council sought the views of children and young people affected by the proposal at each of the affected schools. A range of methods was used to gather and explore their views including focus group meetings and an online survey.

2.4 The council conducted an audit of the community programme and additional provision based in or delivered from Castlebrae Community High School. This audit included consultation with the Headteacher of Castlebrae Community High School, the Community Programme Manager, discussions with community programme staff and users and parents/carers within the Family Centre.

2.5 At the public meetings and in the significant number of responses received by the council as part of the consultation process, there was opposition to, and concerns rose about the proposal. Parents and staff at Castlebrae Community High School identified perceived inaccuracies in the information contained within the consultation documentation. Other concerns related to the manner in which the consultation process was conducted. Further concerns related to the timescale for the proposal, transition issues particularly for children and young people with identified additional needs, the uncertainty pertaining to the future site of Portobello High School's new building, the safety of young people walking to Portobello High School, and the educational benefits set out by the council. In addition, concerns were expressed about the impact of closing Castlebrae Community High School on the local community and users of the community facilities.

2.6 Parents of young people currently attending Castlebrae Community High School had significant concerns about the proposal. They expressed concerns about the short timescale for implementing the proposal and the possible impact this would have on their children's education. Parents were very concerned about the lack of time for their children and staff to prepare to work together, particularly in relation to the level of transition activity required to support those with additional learning needs. In their opinion, those in S4 and S5 would not move to another school and would exit education before achieving their potential. In meetings with Education Scotland staff, parents were unclear about the educational benefits of the proposal for their children, including curriculum provision at Portobello High School. They had significant concerns about continuity in learning in relation to current subject choice and qualifications. Parents also expressed concern about the availability and delivery of vocational courses at Portobello High School. They highlighted this aspect of the curriculum as a particular strength within Castlebrae Community High School in that it was delivered on site by staff who knew their children well. They were concerned that vocational courses in other schools may involve travel to college which may not be appropriate given the range of needs of young people currently within the school. Parents were also concerned about the route young people would have to take when walking to Portobello High School. In their view, this route was unsafe for young people as it involved busy main roads and poorly lit pathways. They perceived the planned renovation of Portobello High School and uncertainty over the site of the new build as factors which could impact negatively on their children's education at some point in the future.

2.7 Young people who currently attend Castlebrae Community High School were not in favour of the proposal. They were particularly worried about the disruption to their education, including having to catch up with other pupils, not receiving the same choice of subjects and the current impact on their preparation for national examinations and qualifications. Those in S4, who are too young to leave school at the end of the

2012/13 session, expressed no desire to attend a new school for a period of five months and were concerned about their future. Young people currently in S4 and S5 stated that they had no intention of moving to a new school, a view expressed by a number of young people within the online survey responses. Young people at S1 to S3 expressed their concern about having to re-select subjects if current choices were not available or classes full in Portobello High School. They cited German as an example of a subject currently studied which is not available at Portobello High School. Young people were also worried about the difference in the size of classes within Portobello High School and the likelihood that this would mean less one-to-one support than they currently receive from their teachers. Further concerns related to bullying, losing friends, others poor perception of young people from the Castlebrae Community High School area and losing their community identity. Young people also expressed significant concerns about the lack of a safe route to Portobello High School and the impact of travel costs on their participation in out-of-class learning activities.

2.8 Staff from Castlebrae Community High School were not in favour of the proposal. In their view, the consultation meetings with the council were inadequate and the change in council personnel attending each meeting resulted in a lack of continuity in addressing their concerns. At a personal level, they felt that the content of the proposal had seriously damaged their own professional standing and reputation within the education community. They expressed significant concerns about the tone, content, and accuracy of the council's proposal documentation and comments reported within the local media. Staff felt that this had also had a significant impact on young people's motivation and self-esteem. They expressed particular concern for those in S4 to S6 whom they perceived would exit the education system without achieving their full potential. Staff were extremely concerned at the timescales involved and how they could ensure the effective transition for all young people whilst maintaining young people's focus on their learning, particularly for those studying for examinations and qualifications. In their view, the educational benefits for young people were unclear as they felt that not all of the statements contained within the proposal were accurate.

2.9 Users of the community facilities within Castlebrae Community High School were opposed to the proposal. They were concerned that the relocation of provision such as the Family Centre would lead to a reduction in, and accessibility to, the same level of service. They felt that their views had been misrepresented within the audit of community provision collated by the council. The Community Programme Manager and users of the community facilities were concerned about perceived inaccuracies within the council's Audit of the Community Programme and Additional Provision. Parents were worried about the loss of crèche facilities which enabled them to access learning opportunities or fitness activities within the school. Community users expressed concern about the loss of the free gym facilities and the impact this would have on their health and wellbeing. Adult learners were concerned that the level of provision provided within Castlebrae Community High School could not be replicated elsewhere, particularly the art classes where the integration of adults and pupils builds a positive community ethos. Community programme staff were worried about their future and did not feel that they had been consulted about the implications of the proposal. Activities

such as gymnastics and dance had enabled children to audition successfully for the Dance Academy at Broughton High School. Staff expressed concern about the future provision of activities such as these and the loss of opportunity for children if the school was to close.

2.10 Parents of children attending Niddrie Mill Primary School expressed significant concerns about the proposal. They recognised that Castlebrae Community High School in its current form is neither structurally nor financially viable. They were concerned about the lack of consultation regarding where they would choose to send their child and information about the receiving schools. Parents were worried about the tight timescales for transition given the range of needs of the children within the area. They were also worried about the longer distance and safety of the route their children would travel to Portobello High School. Parents indicated that their child may not access out-of-class learning activities as a result. Children expressed concern over their safety with regard to the route to school and making friends within a larger establishment. They felt that they would get a better education in another secondary school and that it was likely that they would choose another school closer to home even if Castlebrae Community High School did not close. Children were concerned about the impact on families and the local community. Staff expressed significant concerns about the proposal. They felt that the council had not supported the community in its efforts to maintain a viable secondary school and that the threat of closure over the past few years had led to parents choosing alternative provision. Staff were concerned about the timescales in terms of transition activities, particularly for those children with additional learning needs. There was recognition that educational outcomes have not been high enough and potential benefits to P7 children include the comprehensive and inclusive context of Portobello High School. Staff expressed the view that it is likely that parents will continue to opt to send their child to Holy Rood RC High School due to the close proximity to their homes.

2.11 In the meeting with Education Scotland, parents of children attending Castlevie Primary School expressed the view that they had not been consulted fully on the proposal or on which school they would choose to send their child. They were unclear about the educational benefits of the proposal, particularly in relation to the curriculum. They felt that Portobello High School was not a viable option based on the condition of the school building and the longer distance and safety of the route their children would have to travel to school. Parents also expressed concern about the cost of travel to Portobello High School. They were worried about the safety of their children in terms of bringing together different community groups. Parents expressed the view that they would not be sending their children to Portobello High School but to another city school. A few parents raised the issue of community provision such as children's dance, gym facilities and the Family Centre. Children's responses were mixed in terms of the impact the proposal would have on them at an individual level and on which school they would attend if the school was to close. They cited the condition of the Castlebrae Community High School as an issue but had enjoyed attending transition activities and working with secondary specialist staff at the school. Children were worried that out-of-class activities such as dance would not be offered close to home if the school was to

close. A few P7 children had auditioned for the Dance Academy at Broughton High School as a result of their participation and were worried this opportunity would not be available to others. Staff were concerned about the lack of time to ensure effective and meaningful transition. They were unclear about the level of resource which would be made available to support transition. Staff expressed the view that children would benefit from higher academic standards at the receiving schools although they were concerned about the impact on attendance at school given Portobello High School is outwith the community.

2.12 In the meeting with Education Scotland, parents of children at Newcraighall Primary School were not concerned about the proposal. They felt that children and young people would benefit from higher academic standards at Holy Rood RC High School and Portobello High School. They perceived the educational benefits to be savings for the council and better outcomes for young people provided the existing resources were transferred and at the same level. Children at P7 expressed the view that they would either attend Holy Rood RC High School or Portobello High School. Staff did not express any significant concerns about the proposal. Given the trend in parental choice the school no longer had meaningful transitions with Castlebrae Community High School. Staff were concerned about the capacity at Portobello High School.

2.13 In the meeting with Education Scotland staff, parents of children attending Holy Rood RC High School expressed the view that they were not particularly well informed about the proposal. They were not clear about the educational gain for the pupils currently at Holy Rood RC High School or the steps the council planned to take to minimise any adverse affects arising from the closure. Young people were concerned about overcrowding in corridors, classes and recreational areas. Staff were confident that Castlebrae Community High School pupils would be integrated well into their school and would do well as a result. They were worried about the pressure on the school roll at particular stages within the school. Staff were concerned about the level of resources available to them in order to ensure effective transitions and continuing support for those young people who require it. The Roman Catholic Church and the school would want to be reassured that prospective parents, children and young people, as part of the transition process, are made aware of the Catholic ethos and values which underpin the life and work of the school.

2.14 Parents, staff and pupils at Liberton High School and Prestonfield Primary School were not opposed to the proposal. In the meeting with Education Scotland, parents of children attending Prestonfield Primary School were not clear about the educational benefits of the proposed new catchment arrangements but were well informed about the proposal by the Headteacher. Staff and parents at Prestonfield Primary School were of the view that children would not attend the secondary non-denominational catchment school. Parents expressed concern about the current attainment profile at Liberton High School. They indicated that they would wish to continue to exercise their rights under the placing request legislation to select a secondary school of their choice from within the city. Children across the stages at Prestonfield primary did not feel that the proposed changes to the catchment area, or

the school closure would impact on their education. Young people at Liberton High School held a similar view.

2.15 Parents, staff and young people at Portobello High School were not opposed to the proposal. Parents expressed concerns about the overall condition of the secondary school estate in the east of the city. They had concerns about the pressure on the capacity of the school and the inability to deliver the range of vocational courses currently available to Castlebrae Community High School pupils. Staff are concerned about the pressures on capacity and the tight timescales for transition, particularly for those young people with additional support needs. They expressed the desire to ensure all young people received a welcoming and effective transition in to the school. Staff are also concerned about the ability to accommodate subject choices and levels of those transferring from Castlebrae Community High School.

3. Educational aspects of the proposal

3.1 Castlebrae Community High School is operating at 33% occupancy and is therefore underutilised. Increasing number of parents opt to send their children to other secondary schools in the area. As a result, the majority of young people from within the Castlebrae Community High School catchment area do not attend their non-denominational secondary catchment school. The council sets out in its proposal current and expected costs associated with the school and that closure would achieve savings in some areas.

3.2 The council proposes a range of educational benefits relating to the quality of learning and teaching and the curriculum. The council sets out in its proposal that Portobello High School, Liberton High School and Holy Rood RC High School provide learning experiences which are of a consistently high standard and include opportunities for young people to be actively involved in their learning. In the inspection report published in March 2011, HM Inspectors evaluated learners' experiences and the curriculum as satisfactory. HM Inspectors evaluated improvements in performance, meeting learners' needs and self-evaluation all as weak. In the follow up report published on 24 April 2012, HM Inspectors found that the school continued to perform less well than schools which serve young people with similar needs and backgrounds. HM Inspectors found that in almost all measures, young people's attainment was weaker in 2011 than in previous years. HM Inspectors concluded that the school had taken some promising steps to improve the quality of its work. The school had correctly focused on improving young people's learning, achievement and attainment. HM Inspectors noted that it was too soon to evaluate the impact of its work in these key areas. HM Inspectors will make a further visit to the school to assess progress in 2013.

3.3 Castlebrae Community High School serves a small pupil population in an area of significant disadvantage. Young people would benefit from being part of a larger more comprehensive learning community. The proposal states that the small number of young people currently attending Castlebrae Community High School inhibits opportunities to set classes by ability and joint timetabling of the S4 to S6 stages remains a challenge in terms of providing a senior phase as outlined in Curriculum for

Excellence. Currently, the school does set classes by ability in English, mathematics and modern languages and it is only S5 and S6, not S4 to S6, who are jointly timetabled. A number of small schools in Scotland offer a curriculum which meets young people's entitlements in line with Curriculum for Excellence. The council's proposal states that the size of the receiving schools will provide young people with a greater range of subject choices, including academic options across a wider range of qualification levels. Young people would benefit from an increase in available subject choices, particularly at the senior stages. Currently, young people at Castlebrae Community High School study German within the broad general education. None of the receiving schools presently offer German as a modern language within their curriculum provision. At present, young people benefit from a wide range of vocational and work related courses delivered by staff and partners to meet their varying needs. The council's proposal indicates that aspects of this provision will be transferred to receiving schools. The proposal does not take account of the contribution of the range of partners and specialist staff who currently enhance the delivery of the curriculum. Overall, the council's proposal is not sufficiently clear about how the curriculum in the receiving schools will directly benefit those learners currently attending Castlebrae Community High School. This includes young people from the travelling community.

3.4 The council's proposal sets out the particular benefits for young people in relation to educational attainment and achievement. In both attendance and exclusions, Castlebrae Community High School performs notably less well than its comparator schools. Attainment across all key performance measures in Portobello High School, Holy Rood RC High School, Liberton High School and comparator schools is higher than in Castlebrae Community High School. The range of extra-curricular activities is wider in each of the receiving schools. Young people currently attending Portobello High School and Holy Rood RC High School from the Castlebrae catchment area are attaining well. Young people would benefit from improved academic and achievement outcomes. The proposal states that academic outcomes for young people who attend Portobello High School and Holy Rood RC High School from the Castlebrae Community High School catchment area are in line with the overall performance of the school. The proposal also states that there would be no negative impact of the remaining Castlebrae Community High School pupils transferring to Portobello High School and Holy Rood RC High School. Given that just under half of the young people at Castlebrae Community High School have additional support needs the council now needs to consider how best to address this. The proposal does not make sufficiently clear the educational benefits, in relation to attainment and achievement, for those young people with identified additional needs.

3.5 The timescale outlined in the council's proposal raises a number of important issues that require further consideration. In particular, young people, parents, and staff will have a short period of time to prepare for the closure of Castlebrae Community High School and the transfer of young people and staff to the receiving schools. Whilst the council's proposal sets out current transition practices it is not sufficiently clear about the arrangements and plans to ensure effective transition for all children and young people affected by the proposal. In particular, effective transition planning to ensure

that the curriculum is appropriate, meets the needs of current learners and that young people's entitlement to a broad general education at S1 to S3 is met. Given that young people in S2 at Portobello High School will be making curricular choices in February 2013 careful consideration will require to be given to how this will impact on those transferring from Castlebrae Community High School. Young people with identified additional support needs require careful planning which takes account of advice from partner agencies to prepare them for changes to their educational environment. Given the time remaining, staff and parents are anxious that they do not have sufficient time or the resources to prepare young people for this change. Staff are also concerned that they do not have sufficient time or the resources to prepare the children moving from primary to S1 within the revised catchment area. The council needs to address these concerns and ensure the proposal does not have a detrimental impact on these children and young people.

3.6 The council's proposal involves the Portobello High School catchment being extended to include pupils from the Niddrie Mill, Newcraighall and Castlevew Primary School catchment areas. The projected capacity of Portobello High School set out in the proposal is based on the projected position which would arise were all of the projected roll from Castlebrae Community High School to seek places at Portobello High School and existing trends of parental placement requests in the area to continue. Projected combined rolls for 2013/14 indicate that Portobello High School might slightly exceed its 1400 capacity if all Castlebrae pupils were to transfer to Portobello High School. The council sets out in its proposal the prioritisation process which would be followed to allocate places at Portobello High School. It is recognised that the prioritisation process will only be required if Portobello High School exceeds its capacity. However, in the meetings with HM Inspectors, parents expressed a lack of understanding and clarity surrounding the prioritisation criteria. In taking this proposal forward, the council may wish to provide further assurance and clarification on this aspect with families and children within the Castlebrae Community High School and Portobello High School catchment areas. In addition, they also need to take account of the possible effects on Holy Rood RC High School, particularly given the number of children and young people who have indicated that this would become their school of choice.

3.7 Young people who would attend Portobello High School from the Castlebrae Community High School catchment area will have a distance of around two miles to travel to school. There are a number of routes available which involve busy main roads and other short-cuts through poorly lit areas with an underpass. The council makes brief mention of safer routes to school within the proposal. It will need to consider carefully young people's safety when travelling to and from school and provide greater assurances to parents and young people about how it will ensure young people's safety. Given that one of the educational benefits proposed is the increase in the range of extra curricular activities available at the receiving schools it will be important that young people's access is not restricted by the lack of a safe route home.

3.8 Scottish Ministers have the right to call-in decisions to close schools. The current timeline for this proposal is challenging and the council will need to give due

consideration to the possible impact of this process on the council's plans and on the young people concerned, were the call-in process to take place. In taking forward the proposal, the council needs to ensure that it provides sufficient time for effective communication with parents, staff and children to alleviate some of their concerns and ensure effective transitions for young people who currently attend Castlebrae Community High School.

3.9 Castlebrae Community High School is currently used for a range of community programmes and facilities. The council needs to give further consideration and clear reassurance to users as to how it will re-provide the community programme and facilities within the local community. Further consideration needs to be given to the impact of the loss of, for example, the free gym and crèche facilities on children and adults well-being, particularly within an area of significant deprivation.

4. Summary

4.1 HM Inspectors found that the proposal from The City of Edinburgh Council to close Castlebrae Community High School and transfer young people to Portobello High School sets out some educational benefits to those children and young people currently attending Castlebrae catchment area schools. These benefits relate mainly to the potential provision of a broader range of subjects for young people and improved attainment and achievement outcomes. However, the proposal may have a detrimental impact on the education of young people if the council does not address aspects of transition relating to the curriculum, meetings learners' needs and positive destinations. In particular, ensuring young people in S3 receive their entitlement to a broad general education, those in S4/5 who may exit education rather than start a new school, and those with particular additional support needs who currently receive extensive one to one support. The council needs to set out more clearly how it intends to deliver the vocational opportunities, at the same level of provision currently available to young people at Castlebrae Community High School, within the receiving schools. This includes consultation with the range of partners who currently support such opportunities. The council needs to provide greater clarity about how it intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from this proposal.

4.2 The council acknowledges publicly that Portobello High School requires renovation work to keep it operational and fit for purpose. In taking forward the proposal, the council should seek to assure families of those children and young people currently attending Castlebrae catchment area schools that future planned work at Portobello High School, including the move to a new build school, will not disrupt their children's education.

4.3 The proposal is opposed by a significant number of stakeholders including children and young people, parents, staff and the local community. The concerns raised by young people and parents about the travel routes to Portobello High School require further consideration. The council now needs to provide young people and their parents with information on how it will ensure young people's safety. In doing so, they

should consider carrying out a full risk assessment of the walking routes and possible alternatives.

4.4 The council now needs to set out sufficiently clearly the arrangements for supporting young people at Castlebrae Community High School to make a positive transition to Portobello High School. Given the overall opposition to the proposal by those most directly affected by it, the council needs to ensure that the necessary transitional arrangements are clearly planned and implemented in good time for young people to be well supported in their learning and wellbeing during the time of transition. In taking forward the proposal, the council needs to ensure that it provides sufficient time for clear communication with parents, staff and young people to alleviate some of their concerns and ensure effective transitions for young people to Portobello High School. Whatever course of action the council chooses to take, it needs to continue to consult with parents, staff and children and young people at the schools directly affected by this proposal. The council also needs to continue to engage with the wider community with regard to the re-provision of the community programme and facilities.

4.5 HM Inspectors found that the proposal from the City of Edinburgh Council to close Castlebrae Community High School and transfer young people to Portobello High School sets out some educational benefits to those children and young people currently attending the Castlebrae catchment area schools. HM Inspectors specifically note that the council has set a challenging timeline to take forward the proposal for the closure, particularly in relation to transitions. Given the issues raised in this report, the council now needs to provide further assurances and clarification in relation to these issues in order to be fully confident that the educational benefits outlined in the proposal will be realised.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
February 2013**

COMMUNITY PROGRAMME AND OTHER SERVICES**Audit of Community Programme and Additional Provision Based in or Delivered from Castlebrae Community High School (CCHS)****1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The audit of the community programme was carried out from 23 October to 5 November 2012 with a revisit between 3 and 7 December 2012. This included:
- Meeting with Head Teacher;
 - Meeting and discussions with Community Programme Manager;
 - Reviewing all statistical data and programme information supplied;
 - Visit to all classes and discussion with participants;
 - Meeting and discussions with other community programme staff (Family Centre staff, Active Schools Coordinator, Temp Service Support Officer and class tutors); and
 - Visits to the Family Centre and discussion with parents/carers.
- 1.2 Pro forma documents were used to gather relevant information and the thoughts/views of participants. Participants interviewed had their comments recorded on the pro forma, answers were fed back to confirm accuracy and they were asked if they wished to make further comment. On one occasion the class tutor completed this process for the audit team.
- 1.3 The audit was carried out during Eid and this had an impact on the use of the fitness suite by BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) adults.
- 1.4 Of the 143 Adults enrolled for this term 73 were consulted. Few of the participants interviewed access any other provision locally. They attend the class they like at CCHS then leave. Some access other adult classes and courses citywide.
- 1.5 The majority of adults attending the classes do so because of the tutors and the friendly welcome they get from Community Programme staff. Some participants registered for the classes based on existing participants recommendations. They enjoy the atmosphere, learning and the social element that all classes have. This is demonstrated by the length of time that most have been attending the classes.
- 1.6 All participants interviewed would move to another venue providing it was the same tutor, the venue was fit for purpose, there was free car parking, their journey time was not dramatically increased, the new venue was on a major bus route and their class mates came.

- 1.7 For some participants a venue local to Castlebrae CHS or in Craigmillar is not a requirement.
- 1.8 Some classes have no local residents enrolled on them (Instrument Making, Cooking and Woodwork). The art class has one local resident enrolled.
- 1.9 The Community Programme budget is £188,000. Since 2010/11 the community programme budget has been reduced by 1 FTE post and approx £39,000 from the Community Operations budget.

2 Community Programme

2.1 The CCHS community programme provides the following:

- Adult Classes (9 classes + open access to Fitness Suite).
- English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) - (7 classes, 3 beginners + 4 intermediate (mixed ability)).
- Family Centre.
- 3G Pitch Hire (Monday –Thursday evenings).
- Gym Hall (2 lets/week).
- Free access to School's Fitness Suite (Mon-Fri day time, Mon-Thurs 6pm-8pm, a register is kept in the community office reception). It is difficult to ascertain the level of use of this facility in the evening as there is inconsistent use of the register provided by the Community Programme Staff.
- Holiday provision including family trips and activities run by Family Centre Staff.

Adult Classes

- 2.2 From September 2011 to October 2012, 651 Adults enrolled on the community programme (Adult Classes, ESOL, Fitness suite and Family Centre). Table 1 at paragraph 3.2 illustrates the number for each term and provision as well as the number of participants that are 'local' (352). The percentage of local participants has gradually reduced from 56% in September 2011 to 50% in October 2012. There are 9 Adult classes each term and unsupervised access to the Fitness Suite.
- 2.3 Attendance at the Community Programme could not be confirmed for terms prior to the current term; course registers are not kept from one academic year to the next. The majority of participants sign up for the same class each term time.

English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

- 2.4 The ESOL provision is delivered by Stevenson College and hosted in the school. The Community Programme Manager supports the ESOL programme by providing access to the Family Centre for children of participants, free room space and access to other resources. The ESOL students progress from

beginners to intermediate. The participants attend 3 to 4 classes each week dependant on learning level (3 classes for beginners, 4 classes for intermediate).

Family Centre

- 2.5 The Family Centre can accommodate approximately 11 adults and 11 children at any one time, this number will vary depending on ages, etc. of children.
- 2.6 The Family Centre staff work within the National Care Standards and refer to National Guidance and Frameworks such as the Pre-birth-Three, Early Years Framework and the National Parenting Strategy. The practitioners support children's learning through play activities and activities around health and well being. Partnerships with parents and carers are formed, positive behaviour is promoted and secure attachments are encouraged.
- 2.7 The Family Centre provides crèche support to some aspects of the Community Programme; however a large part of the Family Centre's role is to offer family support to families through informal drop-in sessions. The Family Centre is staffed by a full time Senior Early Years Officer, a part time Early Years Practitioner and a part time crèche worker.
- 2.8 The Family Centre is currently used by local families, day and respite carers and adults accessing the Adult Education programme from across the city. The Centre receives referrals from local organisations such as the Child and Family Centres and Health Visitors. It also supports the school curriculum by providing pupil/student placement opportunities for pupils at Castlebrae CHS, other schools in Edinburgh and Jewel & Esk College.
- 2.9 A consultation was undertaken with Family Centre users, the results of which are included in Annex 1.

3G Pitch

- 2.10 The 3G Pitch is well used there being in excess of 450 users per year and brings in an average income of £11,000 annually. The aspiration of the Community Programme Manager would be to increase the access to the pitch; however current janitorial arrangements are a barrier to this.

Gym Hall

- 2.11 The introduction of the 3G pitch has impacted on the use of the gym hall. There are only two lets each week this term.

Fitness Suite

- 2.12 This is a non supervised provision. Participants must attend an induction session and complete a medical form prior to use. Access times vary and the school has priority. It is difficult to ascertain the level of use of this facility in the evening as

there is inconsistent use of the register provided by the Community Programme Staff.

3 Community Use Information

3.1 To assist in understanding the community use of the school the relevant information has been collated in table form.

3.2 Table 1 - Enrolled/Local Participants 2011/2012

Term	Provision	Enrolled	Local Participants
Sept/Dec 2011	Adult Classes	89 (includes 23 Fitness Suite users)	45
	ESOL	37	23
	Family Centre	42	27
	Total	168	95 (56%)
Jan/March 2012	Adult Classes	91 (includes 26 Fitness Suite users)	48
	ESOL	39	19
	Family Centre	42	28
	Total	172	95 (55%)
April/June 2012	Adult Classes	85 (includes 18 Fitness Suite users)	40
	ESOL	34	16
	Family Centre	49	35
	Total	168	91 (54%)
Sept/Dec 2012	Adult Classes	96 (includes 16 Fitness Suite users)	51
	ESOL	23	7
	Family Centre	24	13
	Total	143	71 (50%)

Note: Local participants are defined as those residing in CCHS catchment and Portobello/Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership area. Statistical information provided by Community Programme Manager.

3.3 Table 2 - Holiday Provision Family Centre

Holiday Period	Service delivered	No. of children attending	No. of parent/carers attending
October 2011	No provision offered	-	-
December 2011	Centre closed	-	-

February 2012	No provision offered	-	-
Easter 2012	Family trips and activities in the centre	12	6-12 Adults
Summer 2012 (Provision offered for three weeks only).	Family trips and activities within the centre.	20	12
October 2012	No provision offered	-	-

3.4 Table 3 - Equalities Information

Term	Provision	Enrolled	BME	Additional Support
Sept/Dec 2011	Adult Classes	89 (includes 23 Fitness Suite users)	20	
	ESOL	37	37	
	Family Centre	42	33	
	Total	168	90	11
Jan/March 2012	Adult Classes	91 (includes 26 Fitness Suite users)	14	
	ESOL	39	39	
	Family Centre	42	32	
	Total	172	85	12
April/June 2012	Adult Classes	85 (includes 18 Fitness Suite users)	12	
	ESOL	34	34	
	Family Centre	49	33	
	Total	168	79	12
Sept/Dec 2012	Adult Classes	96 (includes 16 Fitness Suite users)	30	
	ESOL	23	23	
	Family Centre	24	10	
	Total	143	63	12

BME use of the community programme has gradually decreased each term from 54% in Sept/Dec 2011 to 44% in Sept/Dec 2012. The numbers of individual participants with additional support needs has remained constant. Statistical information provided by Community Programme Manager.

3.5 Table 4 - Activities Offered this term

Description	Day/Time	Crèche	No. of Enrolments
ESOL Beginners	Mon/Tues/Weds 9.30-11.30am	Yes	9
ESOL Intermediate	Mon/Tues/Weds/Thurs 12.30-2.30pm	Yes	13
Hairdressing Int 2	Monday 12.30-2.30pm	No (none of the current participants use crèche)	7
Cooking	Wednesday 10-12noon	No	8
Cooking	Wednesday 4-6pm	No	7
Spanish	Thursday 9.30-11.30am	Yes	7
Computing	Friday 9.30-11.30am	Yes	3
Fighting Fit	Friday 10-11am	Yes	18
Art	Friday 9-12noon	No	12 (Register confirms 11 attendees)
Instrument Making	Friday 12-3pm	No	14 (Register confirms 13 attendees)
Woodwork	Friday 12.30-2.30pm	No	6 (Register confirms 3 attendees)
Family Centre	Mon-Fri 9.15-11.30 Mon-Thurs 12.15-2.30pm	Provide crèche	30 Adults 37 children
3G Pitch	Mon-Thurs 6-9.45pm	No	450+
Fitness Suite	Mon 12.15-2.55pm and 6-8pm Tues 10.20-3.40pm and 6-8pm Weds 9.30-3.40pm and 6-8pm Thurs 8.30-1.15pm, 2.05-3.40pm and 6-8pm Friday 8.30-10.35am and 12.15-2pm Times vary each term.	Crèche available 9.30-11.30am and 12.30-2.30pm Mon-Thurs and 9.30-11.30am Fri.	16 registered this term. Fitness suite used on individual, non supervised basis.

4 Additional Provision Based in or Delivered From CCHS

Craigmillar Books for Babies

- 4.1 Craigmillar Books for Babies project is based within the school campus. The project is not managed by the School or Community Programme Manager.

Active School Coordinator

- 4.2 This initiative is part of a city wide programme. All primary and secondary schools have an Active Schools Coordinator. In Castlebrae Community High School the day to day management of the Active School Coordinator is carried out by the Community Programme Manager. The community programme contributes circa 80% of the Active School Coordinator salary costs.

4.3 The Active School Coordinator delivers an extra-curricular sports programme during term times and six weeks of holiday provision throughout the year. They also support the Community Programme by delivering Fighting Fit class and induction sessions for new fitness suite users.

5 Recommendations Castlebrae Community Programme and Other Services

5.1 The audit team revisited the Community Programme users between 3 and 7 December 2012 to discuss the draft Community Programme Report. The recommendations made regarding re-provision in the draft report were consulted on and changed to reflect the most up to date views of the participants.

5.2 The majority of adults attending the classes do so because of the tutors and the friendly welcome they get from Community Programme staff. Some participants registered for the classes based on the recommendations of existing participants. They enjoy the atmosphere, learning and the social element that all classes have. This is demonstrated by the length of time that most have been attending the classes.

5.3 All participants interviewed would move to another venue providing it was the same tutor, the venue was fit for purpose, there was free car parking, their journey time was not dramatically increased, the new venue was on a major bus route and their class mates came.

5.4 If the decision was taken to close CCHS the subsequent recommendations regarding re-provision of existing facilities and services are based on some or all of the factors listed below:

- Tutor/Participant Views (Consultation Report)
- Accessibility
- Crèche Support Requirement
- Geographical Location (Tutor/Participant Led)
- Fit for Purpose
- Programme development opportunity for local organisations
- Current Local Provision
- Tutors provided the same service e.g. buy the ingredients for the cooking class (participants reimburse tutor at class) or provide the wood for the Woodwork class.
- Where ever possible current participants will receive a similar service/class
- Negotiations with potential local hosts, participants, tutors commence April – July 2013.

5.5 It would be the intention to relocate several classes into each venue to provide an atmosphere of 'learning' and to try and emulate 'community' for participants.

Family Centre

- 5.6 The preferred option of users of the Family Centre would be the relocation of the complete service provided and the adult classes supported by this service. This would include drop-in and crèche support to ESOL, Spanish, Computing, Fighting Fit and the Fitness Suite.
- 5.7 To assist with the transition to a new location the staff currently employed should in the first instance move with the participants to provide as much continuity as possible.
- 5.8 The Family Centre provides a service for children 0-3 only. It operates for 39 weeks during term times and an additional 4 weeks during holiday periods. The holiday provision is delivered by the Senior Early Years Officer and the programme includes drop-in and activities for children/parents as well as some trips.
- 5.9 Drop-in (as an open facility for five days a week) is not offered in any of the other centres in Craigmillar or across the city. This service supports a number of families, including some who have health issues. The parents reported that they find staff to be consistent figures in providing support, information, advice, and guidance. Some of the families attend other universal services within the geographical area, however none of the parent/carers consulted use the more targeted services available. Parent and carers report positive outcomes for the children but there is no further evidence of impact as needs are not assessed at the point of entry.
- 5.10 In the Craigmillar area there are two Child and Family Centres, an Early Years Campus and a Nursery School with a Family Centre attached. These services offer universal and targeted support to families and, through discussion, could offer additional support to the families currently using the CCHS Family Centre.
- 5.11 It is recommended to relocate the Family Centre and supported classes into one local venue.
- 5.12 The venue best suited to hosting the Family Centre and supported classes is Castlevue Community Centre and the Management Committee has agreed in principle to accommodate the provision. The Family Centre would become part of the wider Early Years establishment which will provide clear progression routes into existing early year's provision and line management for the staff.

Adult Classes

- 5.13 Hairdressing Intermediate Level 2
- That this class be accommodated in any plans for relocation of vocational provision at CCHS.

- The current participants will have finished the course by June 2013. Should the decision be taken to close there would be no impact on current participants.
- Access for adults to this course should continue to be available.
- Any income generated from the activity through fees is reinvested in the host organisation.
- One participant is local.

5.14 Cooking Classes

- That Cooking Classes are relocated to Holy Rood or Portobello High Schools. This may result in the morning class having to change its time of operation.
- That the current income generated from the activity through fees is reinvested in the host organisation.
- That the current arrangements regarding ingredients continue.
- There are no local participants in the morning or afternoon class.

5.15 Spanish

- That this class and crèche provision is relocated to Castlevue Community Centre.
- That the current fee structure remains.
- One participant is local.

5.16 Computing

- That the computing class and crèche is relocated to Castlevue Community Centre.
- That the current income generated from the activity through fees is reinvested in the host organisation.
- This class has three participants; all local, one uses a motorised wheelchair and one uses the crèche.

5.17 Fighting Fit

- That both the class and crèche are relocated in one of the following venues; Early Years Centre/Castlevue Community Centre/Whitehouse.
- That the class remains free to participants.
- 18 participants are registered for this class. A core group of approximately nine local parents regularly attend Fighting Fit which is currently delivered in the gym hall on a Friday morning. Instruction is provided by the Active Schools Co-ordinator at Castlebrae.
- Locally fitness classes are provided by Jack Kane Leisure Centre, Thistle Foundation and Greengables Nursery. Greengables Nursery offer fitness classes with a crèche facility twice weekly. No crèche is currently offered at the other venues.
- Castlevue Community Centre has a boxing fitness studio, gym hall and a room which would be suitable for offering childcare.

- Thistle Foundation has informed us they would put on a crèche if the cost could be met externally.

5.18 Fitness Suite Open Sessions

- All fitness suite sessions are free.
- It is recommended that the current regular users of the Fitness Suite receive 1yrs free membership of the Thistle Foundation (£25/yr membership) to a maximum of 30 participants. This would cost £750.
- Consideration should be given to promoting the use of the Thistle Foundation and establishing a crèche for 2 sessions per week throughout the school term time.
- The Thistle Foundation has informed us they would put on a crèche if the cost could be met externally.

5.19 Instrument Making

- This class is unique. It is the only Lutheran Community (makers of stringed instruments) in Edinburgh. They make bass/acoustic/electric guitars, cellos, violas, violins, lever harps, mandolins and mandolas. The instruments are made to a high standard and are used by musicians throughout Edinburgh. The participants have held exhibitions of their work within the local community. One member of this community made their first instrument when they were 65 years old, it was a violin and they then went on to learn how to play it – they play several stringed instruments now.
- Participants share their knowledge with each other and the tutor is extremely skilled in this field of expertise.
- Requirement for access to specialist equipment would make this difficult to relocate in a local venue.
- That specialist equipment required for the class is relocated to agreed venue.
- That the venue of choice has permanent storage space for the class instrument moulds and musical instruments.
- That the current income generated from the activity through fees is reinvested in the host organisation.
- No crèche required.
- There are no local adults taking part in the class. The participants see themselves as a Lutheran Community based in CCHS. The Community would move to a venue out with the current geographical area.
- It is recommended that the class be relocated to Broughton High School.

5.20 ESOL

- This provision is provided by Stevenson College and is space intensive. It has 7 sessions each week.
- Has crèche support for every session.

- It is recommended that this provision is relocated to Castleview Community Centre.

5.21 Woodwork

- That we explore options regarding relocating to Portobello or Holy Rood RC High schools or Duncan Place Resource Centre.
- That specialist equipment required for the class is relocated to agreed venue.
- That the current income generated from the activity through fees is reinvested in the host organisation.
- That the current arrangement re supply of wood for the class continue.
- No crèche is required.
- There are no local participants in this class.

5.22 Art

- This class is unique in that it supports all the individual participants to improve and become more skilled in whatever art medium they use. Participants have attended other art classes and feel that this class is the only one that supports their individual learning needs in this way. The Art class participants would prefer that the school didn't close and their class remained as is.
- This class should be relocated to a local venue that has rooms with non carpeted floors.
- The following venues may be suitable other High School, Castleview Community Centre, Whitehouse, Thistle Foundation or Craigmillar Art Centre. If possible the participants would like to keep the atmosphere created within the current location; surrounded by pupils art work and pupils.
- That the current income generated from the activity through fees is reinvested in the host organisation.
- No crèche is required.
- One participant is local and one has a motorised wheelchair.

5.23 3G Pitch

- That this provision remains open and available within the community.
- That the current power supply is relocated to Castleview Community Centre and that the Centre is asked to manage the use of the 3G Pitch.
- Castleview Community Centre already manages a grass pitch, has home and away dressing rooms and showers. The changing facilities and showers may require some minor upgrading.
- That costs associated with the new proposed management of the 3G Pitch are met centrally (relocation of power supply, fencing and minor works to shower facilities).
- That the current income generated from the activity through fees is reinvested in the host organisation.

5.24 Craigmillar Books for Babies

- That the Councils commitment to 'in kind' contribution continues.
- That the project is relocated in either New East Neighbourhood Office or CLD Office in Castleview Primary School.

5.25 Active School Coordinator Programmes

- There is no requirement to relocate this programme; all schools have an Active School Coordinator.
- The pupils will be able to access a similar extra-curricular and holiday programme in their receiving school should CCHS close.

Annex 1

Castlebrae Community High School Consultation with Family Centre and Family Centre Users

Consultations were carried out with parent/carers using the Family Centre on an individual and group basis in an adjoining room to the Family Centre. The audit team revisited the Community Programme users between 3 and 7 December 2012 to discuss the draft Community Programme Report.

From statistics provided by the Senior Early Years Officer, 30 parent/carers (37 children) have enrolled or re-enrolled at the Family Centre since August 2012. For the purposes of the consultation eleven families were available for discussion. According to trends the staff would expect this figure to increase as the year progresses. This increase is supported by statistics supplied from previous years. Extrapolating from the figures provided, we would expect figures of families attending to increase by approximately 50%.

The staff work within the National Care Standards, refer to National Guidance and Frameworks such as the Pre-birth - Three, Early Years Framework and the National Parenting Strategy. The Practitioners support children's learning through play activities and activities around health and well being. Partnerships with parents and carers are formed, positive behaviour is promoted and secure attachments are encouraged.

Access to the Family Centre is currently distributed over nine sessions throughout the week Monday to Friday, during term time and certain days during the Easter and Summer holiday period.

Table 1 - Term time availability of Family Centre

Family Centre access to drop in and Crèche	Morning Session	Afternoon session
Mon - Thursday	9.15 – 11.30 am	12.15 – 2. 30pm
Friday	9.15 – 11.30am	-

Table 2 - Holiday Provision

Holiday Period	Service delivered	No. of children attending	No. of parent/carers attending
October 2011	No provision offered	-	-
December 2011	Centre closed	-	-
February 2012	No provision offered	-	-
Easter 2012	Family trips and activities in the centre	12	6-12
Summer 2012	Provision offered for three weeks only.	20	12
October 2012	No provision offered	-	-

*Holiday Provision is staffed by the Senior Early Years Officer only. The Early Years Practitioner and crèche worker are not employed during the Holiday period.

Senior Early Years Officer: 'Some of the holiday periods are used for development time or annual leave'. The Family Centre offers a service to parent/carers of children 0-3 years of age. They offer:

- Crèche provision to adult learners accessing the adult education programme in the school and adults attending the gym. Although crèche places are available to support all classes on the programme, they are used mainly by adults attending ESOL (BME), Fighting Fit and the gym facility.
- A large part of the Family Centre's role is to offer family support to families through informal Drop-in sessions. The Family Centre is staffed by a full time Senior Early Years Officer, part time Early Years Practitioner and a part time crèche worker.

The Centre is currently used by local families, Day and Respite Carers and adult learners accessing the Adult Education programme from across the city.

All parents/carers spoke very positively of their and their child's experience of the Family Centre and of the consistent support, advice and encouragement provided by the staff. The Family Centre receives referrals from local organisations such as the Child and Family Centres and Health Visitors. The Family Centre also supports the school curriculum by providing pupil/student placement opportunities for pupils at CCHS, other schools in Edinburgh and Jewel & Esk Valley College.

When asked the question 'What are the benefits for you and your family in attending the Family Centre'?

Parents said:

- 'To help my child's development, it's built up their confidence, learned how to play, share, co-operate with other children',
- 'Helped develop their speech'
- 'Varied play activities'

- ‘Helped establish routines that will help him settle when he moves on to nursery’,
- ‘The children can play safely and I can keep my eye on them while I chat to other parents’,
- ‘My child’s hyperactive, she burns off energy here’.
- ‘The children have freedom in here’.
- ‘My child used to be really shy, she’s an only child it’s brought her on and she’s learned a lot . . . like sharing’.
- ‘It’s friendly and local, if you’re at a loose end you can drop in without having to attend a class’,
- ‘I get good advice on addressing behaviour issues – I was struggling with this’,
- ‘I can meet other parents, coming here helps me de-stress. I was quite isolated but I’ve met other parents now’.
- ‘It gets me out the house to meet others’.
- ‘I can use the gym with child care free – I have a mortgage and other expenses so couldn’t afford to pay to attend a gym, my English and my child’s English has improved’.
- ‘People are friendly’,
- ‘It’s important for me that the service is free’.

Carers – (Foster care, day care, child minder) said:

- ‘Staff are great, activities are well planned, we get play ideas that we can use at home’,
- ‘The children have the opportunity to play, make new friends learn to share, go on trips over the holiday periods’.
- ‘The staff are hands on, they’ve helped support me on personal issues too like bereavement/separation, this is the best provision I attend’.
- ‘I meet other adults and for the wee ones it’s like a mini nursery, gets them into a routine’
- ‘I come here as a carer, I’ve learned stuff from the parents too, we have conversations around drug issues – I’ve learned a lot.’

When asked the question ‘if Castlebrae was subject to closure would you continue to attend if the provision was delivered in another local venue’

Seven of the participants said yes; one said no and the remaining three were undecided.

Some participants interviewed would only move to another venue providing it was the same staff, the venue was fit for purpose and the same group of parents attended.

Revisit Community Programme users 3 - 7 December 2012

The recommendations in a draft report were consulted on and changed to reflect the most up to date views of the participants.

A letter was received from Family Centre participants who had been consulted between 23 October and 5 November questioning the audit process in particular the following statement on page 1 of an early draft of the report circulated without prior agreement 'Pro forma were used to gather relevant information and the thoughts/views of participants. Participants interviewed had their comments recorded on the pro forma, answers were fed back to confirm accuracy and they were asked if they wished to make further comment.'

At the time of the initial audit those members of the Family Centre consulted were happy with the process.

The audit team attended a meeting with CCHS Head Teacher and Community Programme Manager on 3 December 2012 to seek agreement to make the draft report available to Community Programme users. This was agreed. It was also agreed that the audit team would meet with Family Centre users on 5 December 2012 to discuss their concerns about the audit process.

The meeting was attended by the Audit Team, Community Programme Manager at the request of Family Centre users, Chairperson of CCHS Parent Council and a Family Centre user and their partner. The Family Centre user informed those present that they were representing all Family Centre users. At the meeting 30 questionnaires were made available for all Family Centre users to be completed by the consultation closing date of 7 December, it was requested that the audit team, if possible would provide copies of the original completed questionnaires to those consulted. Copies of the original questionnaires were made available on 11 December 2012.

No Family Centre participants completed and returned any of the questionnaires made available at the meeting on 5 December 2012.

At the meeting held on the 5 December 2012 to discuss the audit process the view was expressed by the Family Centre representative that participants felt that if the Family Centre Provision was dispersed across the community this would have a negative impact on the use of this community facility and social cohesion.



City of Edinburgh Council

Record of Equality and Rights Impact Assessment

Part 1: Background and Information

(a) **Background Details** - Please list ERIA background details:

ERIA Title and Summary Description	Consultation on Options for Closure of Castlebrae High School		
Service Area	Division	Head of Service	Service Area Reference No.
Children and Families	Schools and Community Services	Mike Rosendale	CF7

(b) **What is being impact assessed?** Describe the different policies or services (i.e. decisions, projects, programmes, policies, services, reviews, plans, functions or practices that relate to the Corporate ERIA Title):

Policies and Services	Date ERIA commenced
1. The consultation on the options for closure of Castlebrae High School	1 October 2012

(c) **ERIA Team** - Please list all ERIA Team Members:

Name	Organisation/Service Area
1. Ron Waddell	CEC: CF: DSM and schools support officer
2. Diana Dodd	CEC: CF: Principal Officer Equalities
3. Sharon Muir	CEC: Quality Improvement Officer

Part 2: Evidence and Impact Assessment

(a) **Evidence Base** – Please record the evidence used to support the ERIA. Any identified evidence gaps can be recorded at section 3(a). Please allocate an abbreviation for each piece of evidence.

Evidence

1. Local and projected school rolls by gender, ethnicity and additional support needs.
2. Attainment data at Castlebrae and comparator schools
3. Attendance rates at Castlebrae and Portobello
4. Assessments of safest routes to schools in area
5. Breakdown of denominational school by faith (i.e. 42% RC: 32% none: 16% other Christian: 8% other, 2% not known or not disclosed)
6. Consultation reports (pupils, adult community users, Gypsy Travellers, Neighbourhood Alliance)
7. Responses to request for comments via Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council
8. Profile of community programme users and classes at Castlebrae
9. City-wide analysis of BME pupils' experiences of school

(b) Rights Impact Assessment – Summary - Please describe all the identified enhancements and infringements of rights against the following ten areas of rights. Please also consider issues of poverty and health inequality within each area of rights:

Life	Health	Physical Security	Legal Security	Education and Learning	Standard of Living	Productive and Valued Activities	Individual, Family and Social Life	Identity, Expression and Respect	Participation, Influence and Voice
------	--------	-------------------	----------------	------------------------	--------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------------------

Please indicate alongside each identified enhancement or infringement the relevant policy or service (see Section 1 b) and relevant evidence (see Section 2 a).

<p>Summary of Enhancements of Rights</p> <p>In relation to education and productive and valued activities, there is an enhanced right to a wider range of opportunities and outcomes at Portobello and Holy Rood RC High schools.</p> <p>In relation to the right to life, road safety considerations have influenced the proposals.</p> <p>In relation to education and learning, improved attendance and reduced exclusions is anticipated for pupils in the more comprehensive learning environment of Portobello and Holy Rood RC High schools.</p> <p>In relation to participation, influence and voice, the consultation process was extensive including four public meetings and 41 additional meetings. All Castlebrae pupils were consulted about the proposals as well as all Portobello pupils who live in Craigmillar. In addition, focus groups of young people were held at Holy Rood High and Liberton High. Adults who use the schools' facilities were also consulted (these include a women's group, elderly, parents of under 5s, BME groups including Gypsy Travellers and people with a disability). A questionnaire was sent to a large number of organisations by the Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council.</p> <p>Each of the issues raised through the consultation process will be responded to in the</p>

Council report.

In relation to standard of living, parents expressed concern about the cost of transport and school uniforms if children moved to a new school.

In relation to the right to life, issues were expressed regarding the safety of walking routes to Portobello High School.

Summary of Infringement of Rights

This is not an infringement of human rights but the closure proposal reduces the choices available to parents and carers. It is felt that the benefits to young people will mitigate against this impact.

(c) Equality Impact Assessment – Summary - Please consider all the protected characteristics when answering questions 1, 2 and 3 below. Please also consider the issues of poverty and health inequality within each protected characteristic:

Age	Disability	Gender Identity	Marriage/Civil partnership	Pregnancy/ Maternity	Race	Religion/Belief	Sex	Sexual Orientation
-----	------------	-----------------	----------------------------	----------------------	------	-----------------	-----	--------------------

1. Please describe all the positive and negative impacts on the duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation. Please indicate alongside each identified impact the relevant policy or service (see Section 1 b) and relevant evidence (see Section 2 a).

Positive Impacts

Due regard has been given throughout the consultation to ensure that there is no unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

Negative Impacts

Pupils at Castlebrae and receiving schools have been surveyed regarding their views on the proposed closure.

Pupils at Castlebrae expressed concern that they might be bullied.

44% of children currently at Castlebrae have additional support needs and care will need to be taken to ensure that the move to a new school does not have a negative impact on these children.

See recommendations for mitigating action.

2. Please describe all the positive and negative impacts on the duty to advance equality of opportunity (i.e. by removing or minimising disadvantage, meeting the needs of particular groups that are different from the needs of others and encouraging participation in public life)? Please indicate alongside each identified impact the relevant policy or service (see Section 1 b) and relevant evidence (see Section 2 a).

Positive Impacts

There are very poor educational outcomes at Castlebrae and better educational outcomes could be achieved at neighbouring schools.

The voices of stakeholders in different equalities groups have been heard and recommendations made to address concerns. See also Summary of Enhancement of Rights set out above as well as well as recommendations 1, 2 and 4.

Negative Impacts

There could be a negative impact on the poorest families as a result of the increased costs, including bus fares.

Gypsy Travellers in the Duddingston area felt that there would be negative impacts on children, young people and adults who use the community programme at Castlebrae.

There could be a negative impact for other BME adults who attend ESOL and other community programme classes.

Mothers, fathers and children who use the Family Centre may be negatively affected by a closure.

These negative impacts could largely be mitigated by the re-provision of the community facilities to alternative locations in the area (see the Audit of Community Programme and Additional Provision Based in or Delivered from Castlebrae Community High School).

There is public concern that pupils with additional support needs might experience less support should Castlebrae close. This will be addressed through individual needs assessments for every child to ensure that the provision of additional support is maintained.

3. Please describe all the positive and negative impacts on the duty to foster good relations (i.e. by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding)? Please indicate alongside each identified impact the relevant policy or service (see Section 1 b) and relevant evidence (see Section 2 a).

Positive Impacts

The consultation activities will foster good relations by preparing to explore and challenge any discriminatory or stereotypical views that arise during the process.

There were some challenges made in respect of this ERIA process, including a Freedom of Information request. These received prompt and full responses which may have helped to publicly clarify the ERIA process.

There is a commitment to consideration of enhanced provision in primary schools and in voluntary sector youth work provision, should the decision be taken to close Castlebrae.

Negative Impacts

One consultee commented that there is a risk to social cohesion in Craigmillar by splitting schools. This would be mitigated by enhanced provision at primary schools, re-provision of community facilities and voluntary sector youth work.

Staff at Holy Rood were concerned that the ethos of the school might be adversely affected if parents chose to send their children without being fully aware of the denominational nature of the school. Information will be given to parents who intend choosing Holy Rood to help them understand what it means to be educated in a denominational school. We will also work with the Head Teacher to ensure that those pupils when they start at Holy Rood continue to be supported in this aspect.

Part 3. Evidence Gaps, Recommendations, Justifications and Sign Off

(i) Evidence Gaps - Please list all relevant evidence gaps and action to address identified gaps.

Evidence Gaps	Action to address gaps
None	

(ii) Recommendations - Please record SMART recommendations to (i) eliminate unlawful practice or infringements of absolute rights, (ii) justify identified infringements of rights or (iii) mitigate identified negative equality impacts.

Recommendation	Responsibility of (name required)	Timescale
1. The consultation responses to be taken fully into account, including the equalities analysis. This includes creating an equally accessible community programme, mostly in the Craigmillar area.	Head of Schools and Community Services	By January 2013
2. If a decision is taken to close Castlebrae, additional support needs will be fully assessed and met, in particular for those most affected by change, e.g. a child on the autistic spectrum.	Head of Support to Children and Young People and Head of Schools and Community Services	When needed
3. If a decision is taken to close Castlebrae make arrangements for the smooth and effective transition of all pupils, including preparation to ensure that Castlebrae pupils and made welcome and that all necessary	Head of Schools and Community Services	Prior to any closure

resources are in place for pupils with additional support needs.		
4. Consideration be given to paying bus fares, uniforms and other associated costs of all existing Castlebrae pupils who transfer if Castlebrae closes.	Head of Resources and Head of Schools and Community Services	When needed

(iii) Sign Off - I, the undersigned, am content that: (i) the ERIA record represents a thorough and proportionate ERIA analysis based on a sound evidence base, (ii) the ERIA analysis gives no indication of unlawful practice or violation of absolute rights, (iii) the ERIA recommendations are proportionate and will be delivered, (iv) the results of the ERIA process have informed officer or member decision making, (v) that the record of ERIA has been published on the Council's website / intranet or (vi) that the ERIA record has been reviewed and re-published.

Date	Sign Off (print name and position)	Reason for Sign Off (please indicate which reason/s from list (i) to (vi) above)
	Mike Rosendale; Head of Schools and Community Services	(i) – (iv)

POSITIVE DESTINATIONS 2011/12

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) supplies information about the destinations of school leavers from publicly funded Secondary Schools and other schools, at an individual level, to the Scottish Government's Education Analytical Services Division. The return is based on a follow up of young people who left school between 1 August 2011 and 31 July 2012. The exercise was undertaken during September/October 2012 and produced a snapshot of destinations as at Monday, 15 October 2012.

This data has undergone a matching process between SDS and the Scottish Government to reach agreement about the leavers who are within the scope of the Scottish Government's Initial School Leaver Destination Return. Only leavers from publicly funded mainstream secondary schools are included in the SLDR, therefore, leavers from specialist provision are not within the scope of the tables below.

This year the Scottish Government will not be publishing the results of the initial return until June 2013 therefore SDS agreed to share the results with local authorities prior to this publication.

City of Edinburgh Council SLDR 2011/12 (Initial Destination Percentages)

School	Total Leavers	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employ't	Voluntary Work	Activity Agree'ts	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed Not Seeking	Not Known	% Pos	% Other
Balerno Community High School	125	52.0%	24.8%	0.8%	11.2%	2.4%	0.0%	7.2%	1.6%	0.0%	91.2%	8.8%
Boroughmuir High School	188	68.6%	16.0%	3.2%	9.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	96.8%	3.2%
Broughton High School	181	35.9%	35.9%	1.7%	12.7%	2.8%	0.0%	10.5%	0.6%	0.0%	89.0%	11.0%
Castlebrae Community High School	52	1.9%	26.9%	19.2%	21.2%	3.8%	19.2%	5.8%	1.9%	0.0%	92.3%	7.7%
Craigmount High School	221	44.8%	20.8%	3.6%	17.6%	0.5%	0.5%	10.4%	1.8%	0.0%	87.8%	12.2%
Craigroyston Community High School	63	3.2%	33.3%	11.1%	12.7%	3.2%	6.3%	27.0%	1.6%	1.6%	69.8%	30.2%
Currie Community High School	139	54.0%	20.9%	2.2%	14.4%	1.4%	0.0%	5.8%	1.4%	0.0%	92.8%	7.2%
Drummond Community High School	77	23.4%	35.1%	9.1%	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	15.6%	2.6%	0.0%	81.8%	18.2%
Firrhill High School	176	54.0%	13.6%	3.4%	19.3%	0.6%	0.6%	7.4%	1.1%	0.0%	91.5%	8.5%
Forrester High School	107	17.8%	35.5%	1.9%	16.8%	0.0%	1.9%	26.2%	0.0%	0.0%	73.8%	26.2%
Gracemount High School	103	30.1%	22.3%	6.8%	15.5%	1.0%	3.9%	18.4%	0.0%	1.9%	79.6%	20.4%
Holy Rood RC High School	151	37.7%	21.2%	2.6%	21.2%	1.3%	0.7%	13.2%	2.0%	0.0%	84.8%	15.2%
James Gillespie's High School	196	49.5%	18.9%	2.0%	14.8%	1.0%	0.5%	12.8%	0.5%	0.0%	86.7%	13.3%
Leith Academy	161	30.4%	33.5%	4.3%	21.1%	0.0%	0.0%	9.3%	1.2%	0.0%	89.4%	10.6%
Liberton High School	110	16.4%	30.9%	4.5%	25.5%	0.9%	4.5%	13.6%	3.6%	0.0%	82.7%	17.3%
Portobello High School	251	36.7%	21.1%	6.4%	22.3%	2.4%	1.2%	9.2%	0.8%	0.0%	90.0%	10.0%
Queensferry Community High School	138	47.1%	24.6%	1.4%	19.6%	2.2%	0.0%	5.1%	0.0%	0.0%	94.9%	5.1%
St Augustine's High School	130	33.8%	33.1%	1.5%	13.8%	0.0%	1.5%	12.3%	2.3%	1.5%	83.8%	16.2%
St Thomas Of Aquin's High School	121	51.2%	23.1%	3.3%	15.7%	1.7%	0.8%	3.3%	0.8%	0.0%	95.9%	4.1%
The Royal High School	202	50.0%	23.3%	2.5%	17.3%	1.5%	0.0%	4.0%	1.0%	0.5%	94.6%	5.4%
Trinity Academy	159	37.1%	20.8%	5.7%	24.5%	1.9%	0.0%	8.2%	1.9%	0.0%	89.9%	10.1%
Tynecastle High School	114	16.7%	31.6%	7.0%	26.3%	0.0%	3.5%	14.9%	0.0%	0.0%	85.1%	14.9%
Wester Hailes Education Centre	75	5.3%	29.3%	16.0%	18.7%	0.0%	6.7%	18.7%	5.3%	0.0%	76.0%	24.0%
City of Edinburgh Council	3,240	39.1%	24.7%	4.3%	17.7%	1.2%	1.4%	10.3%	1.2%	0.2%	88.3%	11.7%

City of Edinburgh Council SLDR 2011/12 (Initial Destination Figures)

School	Total Leavers	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employ't	Voluntary Work	Activity Agree'ts	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed Not Seeking	Not Known	Positive	Other
Balerno Community High School	125	65	31	1	14	3		9	2		114	11
Boroughmuir High School	188	129	30	6	17			6			182	6
Broughton High School	181	65	65	3	23	5		19	1		161	20
Castlebrae Community High School	52	1	14	10	11	2	10	3	1		48	4
Craigmount High School	221	99	46	8	39	1	1	23	4		194	27
Craigroyston Community High School	63	2	21	7	8	2	4	17	1	1	44	19
Currie Community High School	139	75	29	3	20	2		8	2		129	10
Drummond Community High School	77	18	27	7	11			12	2		63	14
Firrhill High School	176	95	24	6	34	1	1	13	2		161	15
Forrester High School	107	19	38	2	18		2	28			79	28
Gracemount High School	103	31	23	7	16	1	4	19		2	82	21
Holy Rood RC High School	151	57	32	4	32	2	1	20	3		128	23
James Gillespie's High School	196	97	37	4	29	2	1	25	1		170	26
Leith Academy	161	49	54	7	34			15	2		144	17
Liberton High School	110	18	34	5	28	1	5	15	4		91	19
Portobello High School	251	92	53	16	56	6	3	23	2		226	25
Queensferry Community High School	138	65	34	2	27	3		7			131	7
St Augustine's High School	130	44	43	2	18		2	16	3	2	109	21
St Thomas Of Aquin's High School	121	62	28	4	19	2	1	4	1		116	5
The Royal High School	202	101	47	5	35	3		8	2	1	191	11
Trinity Academy	159	59	33	9	39	3		13	3		143	16
Tynecastle High School	114	19	36	8	30		4	17			97	17
Wester Hailes Education Centre	75	4	22	12	14		5	14	4		57	18
City of Edinburgh Council	3,240	1,266	801	138	572	39	44	334	40	6	2,860	380

ARRANGEMENTS FOR EFFECTIVE TRANSITION

1 Context

- 1.1 This paper describes the arrangements for the effective transition of pupils from Castlebrae Community High School to Portobello High School and Holy Rood RC High School. It should be noted that Portobello High School is the proposed receiving school while Holy Rood RC High School is the current denominational school.
- 1.2 While pastoral and curricular transition arrangements have been considered for both Portobello High School and Holy Rood RC High School, the re-provisioning of the vocational curriculum would be provided at Portobello High School.
- 1.3 This paper has been fully discussed and agreed with the Head Teachers from Castlebrae Community High School, Portobello High School and Holy Rood RC High School.

2 Planning for Effective Transition

- 2.1 Planning for effective transition involves senior leadership from each of the three schools; Castlebrae Community High School, Portobello High School and Holy Rood RC High School together with officers from the Children & Families department.

Head Teacher Planning Group

Head Teachers from each of the three schools together with Karen Prophet, Senior Education Manger (Quality & Curriculum)

Pastoral Transition Planning Group

Depute Head Teachers of Pupil Support from each of the three schools together with Maria Lloyd, Quality Improvement Officer Pupil Support.

Curricular Transition Planning Group

Depute Head Teachers of Curriculum from each of the three schools together with Sharon Muir, Quality Improvement Officer.

- 2.2 Transition planning is in two phases; December 2012 – March 2013 and April 2013 – June 2013 recognising that it is not possible to proceed with individual transition planning until any decision to close the school has been made by Council on 14 March 2013 and until parents decide the school in which they wish their child to be educated.

- The first phase December 2012 – March 2013, focuses on **strategic** issues regarding curricular provision, pupil support provision and planning of activities for transition involving all young people.
- The second phase April 2013 – June 2013, focuses on **individual** transition planning with regard to effective pastoral transition and ensuring effective curriculum planning including individual coursing S3-S6.

3 Strategic Transition Planning

3.1 Head Teacher Transition Group December 2012 – March 2013

- Ensure effective arrangements are in place for pastoral and curricular transition in terms of activities and curriculum options
- Agree engagement with parents
- Agree timescales for transition activities and move date
- Agree any additional resources required to support effective transition.

3.2 Head Teacher Transition Group April 2013 – June 2013

- Liaise with Pupil Support Depute Head Teacher in each school to ensure individual pastoral transition activities are effective including attendance of key staff at Young Person's Planning Meeting for those young people with additional needs.
- Plan for class organisations
- Ensure the agreed transition activities planned are effectively implemented
- Liaise with the Curriculum Depute Head Teacher in each school to ensure effective curricular transition including for those young people continuing study towards qualifications.
- Provide opportunities for parents to visit the school and to meet with key staff.

4 Pastoral Transition Planning

4.1 Pastoral transition sub-group- December 2012 - March 2013.

- Planning of potential transition activities including visits to schools, involvement of parents, activities involving Castlebrae young people in receiving schools, summer transition programme for vulnerable youngsters who may find transition difficult
- Identification of the range of additional needs by year group.
- Analysis of current additional support arrangements for Castlebrae pupils (i.e. additional to audit hours) to ensure that this support would be able to be continued at either Portobello or Holy Rood.

- Planning for pupil to start the new timetable in June

4.2 Pastoral Transition sub-group April 2013 – June 2013

- Following decisions from parents with regard to which school their child would be educated in, ensure that there is effective analysis of need for **each** child, ensuring close liaison between Pupil Support staff in Castlebrae and receiving schools. This should include:
 - Academic profile of the pupils
 - Identification of any additional support for learning needs
 - Identification of any social, emotional and behavioural needs
 - Identification of young people who are involved with partner agencies e.g. Health, Social Work.
 - Sharing of pupils' plans for those young people with additional needs
 - Profiling of pupils detailing any additional support needs and literacy and numeracy progress shared with receiving staff
 - Identification of friendship groups
 - Careful placing into classes based on creating mixed ability classes for the purposes of registration, social education and core curriculum of Physical Education and Religious and Moral Education
 - Decisions about any setting arrangements by ability groups within specific subject areas.
- Ensure that the allocation of learning assistant hours follows young people
- Ensure that for young people with additional needs, Young Person's Planning Meeting involve staff from the receiving school and that paperwork outlines how the young person would be supported in the receiving school.
- Ensure the effective implementation of planned transition activities for all young people.

5 Curriculum Transition Planning

5.1 Curriculum transition sub-group December 2012 - March 2013

- Analysis of the curriculum experience by year group and identification of the similarities and differences including any potential issues which require to be resolved at HT/Local authority level.
- Consideration specifically of the current S3 cohort – looking in detail at their likely course choices and how this can be provided for in any receiving school
- Discussion on vocational curriculum offer at Castlebrae and how this can be effectively delivered at Portobello.

- Location of the Hairdressing salon, automotive and construction

5.2 Curriculum Transition sub-group April 2013 – June 2013

- Following decisions from parents with regard to which school their child would be educated in, ensure that there is effective analysis of curriculum by cohort in S1 and S2 (current P7 and S1) and for **each young person S3-S6** (current S2-5), ensuring close liaison between curriculum staff in Castlebrae and receiving schools. This should include:
 - Evidence of progress through evaluations against Curriculum for Excellence levels, (S1-S3), use of the P7 and S3 Profiles, Standardised Assessments in Literacy and Numeracy (S1 and S2), SQA qualifications (S4-S6).
 - Ensuring Learner Pathway Reviews for S2, S4 and S5 pupils
 - Specific course choices which current S3 pupils are following and proposed course choices for current S4 and S5 ensuring progression.
 - Decisions about any setting by ability within specific subject areas.
 - The range of additional personal and social development courses currently timetabled and accessed by targeted groups of young people and the continuation of this support should it be required.
 - Consideration of the needs of specific S4 and S5 pupils who may not wish to attend a new school.

6 Pastoral Transition Activities

6.1 The following pastoral transition activities have been agreed:

- When parental choice of school is established, Pupil Support staff from Portobello High School and Holy Rood RC High School would visit Castlebrae, together with pupils from their schools, to undertake normal transition school visits. These visits would provide pupils who have chosen either Portobello or Holyrood to hear more about their new school from staff and pupils.
- Opportunities for parents and young people to visit Portobello High School and Holy Rood RC High School would take place between 25 March and 8 April 2013. Head Teachers and pupil support staff would be available to meet with parents and young people, there would an opportunity to have a tour of the school and there would be opportunities for parents to ask questions and to discuss any concerns. Specific dates would be communicated to parents in the letter sent week beginning 18 March 2013.
- During May 2013, Castlebrae pupils would visit their new school. Arrangements would be in place for transition activities to focus on getting to

know young people in the receiving schools. A whole day transition visit has been agreed in each school for pupils from P7-S4.

- Castlebrae young people would be allocated a buddy/friend.
- The timescale for a move to a new school would be change of timetable which is week beginning 10 June 2013 for both Portobello and Holy Rood.
- Summer school activities are planned aimed at targeted young people. These are planned for a three day programme in week five of the summer period for two specific groups of vulnerable pupils – P7/S1 and S2-S4 and would be located in and around both Portobello High School and Holy Rood RC High School. These programmes would be delivered by Community Learning and Development staff, staff from Arts and Learning and Sports and Outdoor Unit.
- Pupil Support staff from receiving schools would meet with Pupil Support staff at Castlebrae with regard to all young people with additional needs, attending review meetings as appropriate. It is hoped to have Pupil Support staff continuity through transfer of these staff to either Portobello High School or Holy Rood RC High School.

7 Curriculum Transition

7.1 Work completed:

- Analysis of current curriculum provision in each school S1 – S6
- Agreement on delivery of German at Portobello for those S1 and S3 Castlebrae pupils who currently study German
- Analysis of current S3/S4 and S5/S6 vocational provision by numbers and detailing provision provided at Portobello and/or College
- Analysis of range of partner delivered provision supporting personal and social development and ensuring continuation of these inputs.
- Agreement with timetablers regarding coursing arrangements for new pupils
- Agreement that for S4 and S5 pupils who do not wish to attend a new school, individual meetings for each young person would take place to secure an appropriate positive destination/package of learning. This would involve Pupil Support staff, Activity agreement staff and Community Learning and Development staff.

Vocational Curriculum

7.2 Castlebrae Vocational Provision S3/S4

The following table shows the current provision at Castlebrae by course, detailing numbers, and with an indication of whether this can be offered at Portobello or college and any additional comments.

	S3 (no.)	S4 (no.)	Portobello	College	Comments
Computer Games Design	15	-	Yes		
Digital Media	5	13	Yes		
Creative Industries	7	8	Yes		
Hairdressing	14	9	Yes		
Retail	14	8	Yes		
Construction	8	16	No	Yes	Agreed with College Principal – Portobello pupils currently study construction at College
Automotive	7	17	No	Yes	Agreed with College Principal
Childcare	16	7	Yes		
Hospitality	15	8	Yes		

7.3 Castlebrae Vocational Provision S5/6

The following table shows both S5 **and** S6. S6 would be leaving and there are currently 15 S5 pupils at Castlebrae who would have considerable course choice at both Portobello and Holy Rood

	S5/S6 (no.)	Portobello	College	Comments
Creative Cakes	10	Yes	Yes	
Woodworking	1	Yes	Yes	
Hospitality	12	Yes	Yes	
Computer Games Design	4	Yes	Yes	
Digital Media	8	Yes	Yes	

8 Partner inputs

- 8.1 In line with all schools, the learning experience is enhanced through delivery by partner organisations which provide specific opportunities to enhance learning, provide personal development and develop employability skills.

- 8.2 At Castlebrae, in line with other schools, a range of business partners support the school through links with the curriculum but there is no direct delivery of the curriculum by business partners. Community Connections support placements in retail at Fort Kinnaird for young people following courses in retail and this support is also currently offered to Portobello who similarly have young people following a course in retail. This support would continue to be offered at Portobello.
- 8.3 At Castlebrae, there are a range of inputs by partner organisations to support targeted groups of young people in areas of personal and social development and to develop employability skills. There has been a full audit carried out of the range of support currently in place at Castlebrae and almost all of these activities are currently in place and able to be accessed by pupils at Portobello and Holy Rood. If they are not currently in place in either Portobello or Holy Rood, then this provision would be transferred to these schools. These include:
- **JET** programme - this programme seeks to develop employability skills. **All** schools are offered 20 places for S4 and S5 pupils.
 - **Skillforce** – a number of schools offer this input from the Armed Services including Portobello and Holy Rood.
 - **RUTS** – this personal and social development course is offered in a number of schools including Portobello and Holy Rood.
- 8.4 The following inputs are delivered by Voluntary Sector organisations and this provision would be re-provided following pupils.
- **Street League** – a fitness programme run by the Scottish Football Association and this currently takes place in a number of schools.
 - **Dancebase** – a fitness programme focusing on physical and mental health, developing confidence and self-esteem. Holy Rood pupils currently access Dance at Liberton.
 - **Volunteer Centre Accelerate** – this programme is in its infancy within Castlebrae and focuses on volunteering building citizenship skills and personal development. A range of volunteering opportunities is offered to pupils at both Portobello and Holy Rood.
 - **Action for Children/Inspiring Scotland Community Challenge** – a six week full-time placement for Christmas leavers. Offers a construction based community challenge. Funded at Castlebrae by Children & Families and able to be re-provisioned at Portobello and Holy Rood.
 - **CAPRO** – outdoor education. This delivers Duke of Edinburgh and Youth Achievement award and opportunities for further accreditation in aspects of outdoor learning e.g. John Muir Award. Portobello and Holy Rood both currently offer Duke of Edinburgh Award and Holy Rood offer the Junior Award Duke of Edinburgh (JASS) for S1/S2 pupils and are able to access the support offered by CAPRO.

8.5 Portobello and Holy Rood also offer additional opportunities for pupils such as Career Academies, Aspire, PX2 training delivered by Community Learning and Development, Cyrenians project and Rathbone. All schools access a range of additional services including:

- Community Campus Policeman/woman
- HOTS (Hospital and Outreach Teaching Service) – for those young people who are unable to attend school for medical reasons or because they are excluded.
- EAL (English as an Additional Language)
- CAMHS (Community and Adult Mental Health Services)
- Fairbridge
- ENABLE

9 Communication and engagement with parents

9.1 Planned communications with parents and opportunities for further engagement are detailed below.

Week beginning 18 March 2013	Should the decision be taken by Council on 14 March 2013 to close Castlebrae in July 2013, letters would be sent to parents in the week beginning 18 March 2013 prior to the Easter break. The potential Scottish Government call-in period would be acknowledged.
March/April 2013	Head Teachers of Portobello and Holy Rood would offer parents and Castlebrae pupils the opportunity to visit their schools and to meet with key staff, supporting an informed decision on which school they wish their child to attend. Dates of these opportunities, which would take place between 25 March and 8 April 2013, would be communicated to parents within the letter regarding choice of school.
12 April 2013	Responses from parents received with regard to choice of school.
April/May 2013	Pupil Support staff from Portobello and Holy Rood would visit Castlebrae at the same time and would meet with pupils regarding transition arrangements for their new school. Young people from both Portobello and Holy Rood would be involved in these visits in line with normal primary-secondary transition practice. This would be communicated to parents within the

	letter regarding choice of school.
April/May 2013	Communication with parents from their new school to confirm Learner Reviews for S2-S3, S4-S5 and S5-S6 related to curriculum choices.
May 2013	Castlebrae pupils S1-S4 and P7 pupils would visit their new school and take part in a whole day transition programme. This would be communicated directly to parents when choice of school is known.
10 June 2013	Pupils transfer to their new school for start of new timetable. The change of timetable date and therefore the transfer to a new school date would be communicated to parents both within the initial letter in late March and also in a communication from the new school with further details in late May/June.
June 2013	Summer School Transition activity – a communication would be sent to parents of those identified young people who would benefit from additional support in transition offered through the summer school transition programme.