

10am, Thursday, 22 October 2015

Outcome of the Statutory Consultation Process on Options for Proposed Changes to the Catchment Area of Towerbank Primary School

[Affecting Towerbank Primary School, Craigentinny Primary School, The Royal High Primary School, Duddingston Primary School, Brunstane Primary School, Portobello High School and Leith Academy]

Item number	8.1
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	13 - Leith; 14 - Craigentinny/Duddingston; 17 - Portobello/Craigmillar

Executive summary

On [3 March 2015](#) the Education, Children and Families Committee approved that a statutory consultation should be undertaken regarding proposals to alter catchment boundaries between Towerbank Primary School and the neighbouring primary schools together with any associated changes required to secondary school catchment boundaries.

A [statutory consultation](#) was undertaken between 8 May 2015 and 22 June 2015 regarding four options for changes to the Towerbank Primary School catchment area which would be expected to achieve the necessary reduction in catchment pupil numbers in the longer term. The purpose of this report is to advise on the outcome of the consultation and make recommendations regarding what option for catchment change should be progressed.

Links

Coalition pledges	P4
Council outcomes	CO1 and CO2
Single Outcome Agreement	SO3

Outcome of the Statutory Consultation Process on Options for Proposed Changes to the Catchment Area of Towerbank Primary School

[Affecting Towerbank Primary School, Craigentenny Primary School, The Royal High Primary School, Duddingston Primary School, Brunstane Primary School, Portobello High School and Leith Academy]

Recommendations

- 1.1 Approve that the catchment boundaries of Towerbank Primary School, Craigentenny Primary School, The Royal High Primary School, Duddingston Primary School, Brunstane Primary School, Portobello High School and Leith Academy are amended with immediate effect in accordance with option 4 as set out in the statutory consultation paper on *Options for Proposed Changes to the Catchment Area of Towerbank Primary School* affecting the addresses and areas in Appendices 7, 8 and 9 and that the sibling guarantee associated with option 4 is applied.
- 1.2 Approve that, in support of option 4, the recommendations outlined in Appendix 6 of this report to improve the routes to schools affected by the proposals are progressed and fully implemented where possible.

Background

- 2.1 In August 2013 a new eight classroom extension at Towerbank Primary School was opened which extended the capacity of the school at that time to 21 classes. However, to cater for a high catchment intake in 2014/15 Towerbank Primary School operated a 22 class organisation, including five classes at P1. In October 2014 the Scottish Government released new *Capacity Guidance for Primary Schools* which reduced the number of general purpose spaces required at the school and officially increased the capacity of the school to 22 classes.
- 2.2 In January 2015 registrations for P1 in August 2015 stood at 100 pupils with further registrations being expected. Accordingly, allowing for a drop between January and August 2015, an intake of 99 P1 pupils for 2015/16 was proposed. This level of intake could still be accommodated within the 22 class capacity however the school has chosen to use 23 classrooms as this did not require any additional teaching staff to be provided and they were prepared to lose some GP space. The current number of P1 pupils at the school as of early September

2015 is 95. This information is subject to change until the final census information becomes available in early October.

- 2.3 Projections produced as part of the annual rising rolls assessment in March 2015 suggested that Towerbank Primary School will experience a spike in its intake for August 2016 with a P1 intake of 114 pupils. This intake could still be accommodated within 23 classes but this would require two P1 team teaching classes of 32 pupils.
- 2.4 Beyond 2016/17, the school roll/catchment projections for Towerbank Primary School indicate that school roll numbers will rise to over 660 by 2019 and increase to 700 by 2026 based on a regular P1 catchment intake exceeding 100 pupils. The increase in roll would be further exacerbated by the additional pupils generated from the housing in the Baileyfield development. In creating school class organisations to cater for catchment intakes of over 100 pupils, any extra places created beyond catchment requirements would likely be taken up via placing requests so further adding to pressure on the school.
- 2.5 Catering for over 700 pupils at Towerbank Primary School would require an additional three classes to be provided through a further extension to the school which, if this were to be undertaken, would make this the largest primary school in the city and take the school capacity beyond three streams.
- 2.6 On [3 March 2015](#) the Education, Children and Families Committee approved that a statutory consultation should be undertaken regarding proposals to alter catchment boundaries between Towerbank Primary School and the neighbouring primary schools together with any associated changes required to secondary school catchment boundaries. In arriving at this decision Committee acknowledged the reasons why further extension was not considered to be appropriate and that the only reasonable solution to the future accommodation pressure at Towerbank Primary School was a change to the existing catchment boundary.
- 2.7 The report to Committee on 3 March 2015 included details of one option for catchment area changes between Towerbank Primary School and the neighbouring primary schools which was included as Option 1 in the statutory consultation. However Committee noted that initial informal consultation would be undertaken with the affected schools to establish if there were any other feasible and more preferable alternative options for alterations to catchment boundaries which would still achieve the required outcome. Committee delegated authority to the Director of Children and Families to develop a detailed statutory consultation paper taking into consideration any alterations to the proposed changes arising as a result of the informal consultation.
- 2.8 The purpose of this report is to advise on the outcome of the consultation and make recommendations regarding what option for catchment change should be progressed.

Main report

- 3.1 In advance of the formal statutory consultation process being progressed an informal consultation was undertaken with the local community to establish if there were any other options for alterations to catchment boundaries which would still achieve the required outcome.
- 3.2 The report to Committee on 3 March 2015 acknowledged that one such feasible option would be to expand the area to the south of the current Towerbank Primary School catchment area that is proposed for transfer to Brunstane Primary School and to remove the area proposed for transfer to Duddingston Primary School. Initial feedback identified this was an alternative option which was worthy of detailed consideration during the informal consultation therefore it was fully developed as a second option and a short paper was produced to outline how this could potentially be achieved. Affected parent and guardians, Parent Councils and local community groups were notified of this additional option which was included as Option 2 in the statutory consultation.
- 3.3 As part of the informal consultation, workshops were held at each of the four directly affected primary schools. At each workshop the Parent Council and a cross section of parents (identified by the school) were invited to discuss Options 1 and 2 and identify any possible alternative options. In addition to views expressed at the workshops, 48 representations were received mainly from parents/guardians/residents. A summary of the issues raised in the informal consultation process is included in Appendix 1 of the full consultation paper.
- 3.4 As a result of the informal consultation process two further catchment area change options were identified for consideration. The final statutory consultation paper therefore included four potential options for changes to the Towerbank Primary School catchment area which would be expected to achieve the necessary reduction in catchment pupil numbers in the longer term.
- 3.5 The statutory consultation period ran from 8 May 2015 to 22 June 2015. A full statutory consultation paper was produced which set out the details of each of the four options together with the associated educational benefits. Hard copies of the full consultation paper were provided to each school, nursery and the local library. An email was sent to all other statutory consultees, including the school Parent Councils and the local Community Councils, advising them of the consultation and providing the link to the full consultation paper. All parents/guardians at the affected schools were sent a letter notifying them of the statutory consultation and a copy of the summary provided in Appendix 1.
- 3.6 The full consultation paper extends to 52 pages and therefore has not been included within this report however it is available online on the [Council website](#); a summary is provided in Appendix 1. A copy of the full statutory consultation paper is also available in the Elected Members lounge for reference.
- 3.7 Four public meetings were held between 21 May 2015 and 3 June 2015. At each public meeting, all of which were independently chaired, Council officials

outlined the options and answered questions. Records of each meeting are included in Appendix 2.

- 3.8 Representations were invited by letter, email or through a specifically designed online consultation response questionnaire. A total of 428 responses were received during the statutory consultation period comprising 406 questionnaire returns (317 of which included specific comments) and 22 by either email or letter. In some instances multiple email/letter representations were made by the same respondent and in such cases these have been grouped together and treated as one response. The representations received are detailed in Appendix 3 together with a summary of the key issues raised in each response. Due to the volume involved the detailed responses have not been included within this report however the full submissions are available in the Elected Members lounge for reference.
- 3.9 The following table provides an analysis of the responses received during the consultation showing the category of respondent and the preferred option (if one was expressed).

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	No Preference	Totals	Proportion
Parent/carer of school pupil(s)	7	16	10	48	6	87	20.3%
Parent/carer of school pupil(s) with younger sibling(s)	1	9	0	82	2	94	22%
Parent/carer of pre-school child or children	11	20	8	25	3	67	15.7%
Staff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Pupil	3	1	0	1	2	7	1.6%
Local resident	8	22	12	53	4	99	23.1%
Local organisation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	2	0	69	3	74	17.3%
Totals	30	70	30	278	20	428	
Proportion of Total	7.0%	16.3%	7.0%	65.0%	4.7%		

- 3.10 Of the 428 responses received, a clear majority of 65% expressed a preference for Option 4. Of the 408 responses in which a preference for any of the options was expressed, 68.1% expressed a preference for Option 4.
- 3.11 A consultation exercise with pupils was also carried out by Quality Improvement Officers at the schools directly affected by the proposals and the Head Teacher in each school discussed the proposals with staff and provided feedback. A summary of the issues raised by pupils and staff is provided in Appendix 4.

None of the pupils favoured Options 1 or 2, 6.7% were in favour of Option 3, 86.7% were in favour of Option 4 and 6.7% were unsure.

- 3.12 As required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 all of the responses received during the public consultation were made available to Education Scotland for consideration. During August 2015 Education Scotland visited all of the schools affected by the proposals following which they submitted a report addressing the educational aspects of the proposals. This report is included in Appendix 5.
- 3.13 Responses to all of the major issues raised during the consultation process are considered in the following *'Key Themes and Issues and Council Responses'* section. The Council's response to the Education Scotland report is then considered in the following section.

Key Themes and Issues and Council Responses

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

Consultation process and alternative options

Issue Raised	This consultation focuses on current families rather than the whole community and future users of the primary school are therefore excluded. Many people have children in city centre nurseries due to work and were unaware of the proposed changes. A letter notifying residents about the consultation should be sent to every residential property in the area prior to the commencement of the public consultation period.
Council Response	The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires the Council to consult with relevant consultees which includes the Parent Council and parents of pupils attending any affected school as well as the pupils themselves, parents of pupils likely to attend an affected school within two years, trade unions and local Community Councils. As part of this consultation every nursery within the catchment areas of the affected schools was notified and asked to share the details with parents. Details of the statutory consultation were also advertised in the press and made available at local libraries. In response to requests made at the first public meeting posters were produced and displayed across the community. It is not considered an effective use of Council resources to send letters to every household in the affected areas or to notify every nursery in the city centre area.

Issue Raised	The informal consultation leading up to the statutory consultation period was very useful. The Council have responded to points raised, offered further options, and done so in a very clear manner.
Council Response	This was the first time the Council has carried out such a detailed informal consultation process in advance of the statutory consultation period. In future where the issues being addressed by the proposed statutory consultation are considered to be significantly contentious then the informal consultation process will be repeated.
Issue Raised	This exercise has been rushed and, given its potentially serious long term implications, should have been subject to much more consideration and gathering of pertinent data before it commenced. The expectation that there isn't enough capacity in Towerbank Primary School to cater for the expected roll in 2016 should have been identified earlier. Clarification on the decision making process is required.
Council Response	The requirement for the statutory consultation process was only identified in March 2015 as part of the annual rising rolls assessment based on the latest primary school roll projections. This predicted that Towerbank Primary School would be under pressure in terms of accommodating its catchment pupil population in August 2016. As the registration process for the 2016/17 session commences in November 2015 the statutory consultation had to be carried out immediately. All comments made during the statutory consultation period have been assessed in arriving at the recommendations made in this report. As required by legislation this report has been published three weeks in advance of the Council meeting, being available by 1 October 2015.
Issue Raised	A fairer solution could be proposed, whilst still allowing the sibling guarantee, to perhaps have a moratorium of registrations for new residents for a number of years until the school intake numbers stabilise. This would ensure local children already resident in the area are given the opportunity to attend Towerbank without the need to split up the Portobello community.
Council Response	It is Council policy that any pupil who is resident within a school's catchment area and registers for a place at their catchment school before the end of February in the year they are due to start at the school will be guaranteed a place at that school. It would therefore not be possible to introduce a moratorium on registrations for new residents.
Issue Raised	Why were those residents already in the areas of the Towerbank catchment proposed for realignment when the informal consultation commenced not given an option to remain in the catchment for Towerbank?
Council	Any pupil already attending Towerbank Primary School will be able to continue to attend the school in the future. The legislation governing

Response	statutory consultations requires the Council to undertake a period of public consultation before arriving at any final decision. The date of the Council meeting is therefore the most appropriate from which any agreed changes should be implemented.
Issue Raised	The bigger picture should be looked at and the possibility of a brand new primary school in the area should be seriously considered and consulted upon.
Council Response	A new primary school in the area is not required as there is capacity in the proposed neighbouring receiving schools to accommodate the number of pupils estimated to be generated by the proposed catchment boundary changes in any of the options.
Issue Raised	If there is a desire to give a sibling guarantee (and those numbers have to be absorbed by other primary schools) then a new option based on Option 2 should be considered but with larger transfers to Brunstane (i.e. Areas D and E should be enlarged) to compensate for the extra numbers.
Council Response	Option 4 includes all the areas affected in every other option and offers a sibling guarantee. It was considered this was a fair approach as all of the affected areas had been involved in the informal consultation process. To include new areas in the statutory consultation which had not previously been part of the informal consultation process in order to provide a sibling guarantee for the areas which had been included in the informal consultation was not considered an equitable approach in order to establish an option which would provide a sibling guarantee.
Issue Raised	The transfer of Area C also has a disproportionate impact on Duddingston Primary School compared to the transfers to the other schools. Brunstane clearly has the capacity so it should absorb all of the catchment changes to Towerbank and any guarantees that are given as part of that package.
Council Response	Duddingston Primary School has the capacity to accommodate the pupil numbers expected to be generated by the proposed catchment boundary changes in the options which include Area C due to the large percentage (more than 40%) of its current school roll which is made up of out of catchment placement requests. Many of these placements come from the Brunstane Primary School catchment area so if Duddingston starts to cater for a greater percentage of catchment pupils one implication will be that Brunstane will also retain more of its catchment population. Brunstane has the spare capacity to cater for the expected increase in its own catchment area and any increase created by any of the options in this statutory consultation which affect the school. The areas proposed in the statutory consultation paper for transfer to Brunstane Primary School have been included based on an assessment

	of the numbers affected and suitable geography. An option which solved the issues at Towerbank Primary School by transferring a single larger area to Brunstane would not be considered to be a suitable option due to the distance that the furthest properties would be from the school under such a scenario.
Issue Raised	Exclude Eastfield (Musselburgh Road 1-55) from Area E.
Council Response	Option 1 does not include Area E and 7% of respondents expressed this as a preference. To exclude this area from any of the other options would mean adding a new area to those options in order to make up the pupil numbers required to be removed from the Towerbank Primary School catchment area. To include new areas in any final recommendations which have not previously been part of the consultation process would create additional options regarding which an entirely new statutory consultation would require to be undertaken. The informal consultation was progressed in order to capture the potential for other options and this suggestion was also made during that process. This issue was therefore addressed in the statutory consultation paper as option 1 does not include Eastfield and in option 4, any Eastfield residents with younger siblings not yet at school would be provided with a guaranteed place at Towerbank Primary School for these children.
Issue Raised	Keep Brunstane Road area in Towerbank catchment
Council Response	In option 3 the Brunstane Road area remains within the Towerbank Primary School catchment area. Option 3 was added following the informal consultation as a result of concerns raised about the road crossings between Brunstane Road and Brunstane Primary School. Further details are provided in the Travel, Safety and Active Lifestyles theme below and also in Appendix 6.
Issue Raised	Retain as much of the area to the north of Milton Road East (odd numbered side) as possible within the Towerbank catchment as this offers a significantly safer route to school.
Council Response	All of the routes to school proposed in every option are considered safe. Further detail is provided in the Travel, Safety and Active Lifestyles theme below and also in Appendix 6.
Issue Raised	Possible Fifth option. This option would echo option 1, but would enlarge area C (north side of Portobello High would be the new boundary line), with sibling priority only in order to allow area B to have a sibling guarantee due to the potential for area B having to take a more dangerous route to school (the Milton link) if attending Brunstane Primary School.
Council	Enlarging area C would take an area out of the existing Towerbank

Response	Primary School catchment area which would be closer to the school than any of the other areas included in any of the proposed options. The route to Brunstane Primary School from Brunstane Road is considered safe; an alternative safe route (still considerably shorter than the route to Towerbank) is also available by using the pedestrian crossing opposite the hotel. Further improvements are recommended should any option including this area be progressed as detailed in Appendix 6.
Issue Raised	Why was the decision taken to sell the old annexe and move the nursery on site when that space could easily have been used for more classrooms? The nursery should now be moved to another location to create space for more classrooms.
Council Response	The Council's policy is to have schools on one campus wherever possible and the removal of the former annexe was in direct response to this policy. In the case of the former Towerbank annexe, the new extension at the school not only re-provided the accommodation that was previously available but extended it (by eight classes rather than six) to allow for some growth. The nursery was provided on site as a direct response to requests from the local community and it would affect the delivery of the curriculum for excellence if it were now to be moved. Towerbank's catchment numbers have increased more rapidly than had been predicted due, we believe, to greater than expected inward migration therefore a catchment review is now required.
Issue Raised	Towerbank Primary School should be extended further rather than bringing forward changes to its catchment area. In particular the use of the Council owned playground and Toddler Hut site adjacent to the school should have been considered.
Council Response	<p>The size of site for any new (or replacement) school is prescribed in the School Premises (General Requirements and Standards) (Scotland) Regulations 1967 and the 1973 and 1979 amendments to those regulations. For a new school with a primary school capacity of 451 or more and capacity for a further 40 pupils in the nursery the total site the total site size should be 1.9 hectares comprising two elements for which the appropriate sizes are defined separately: A main school site on which the actual school buildings are located of not less than 1.3 hectares; and an area for playing fields of not less than 0.6 hectares.</p> <p>The regulations do not actually require that playing fields (or pitches) are adjacent to the actual school building but that they are <i>available</i> to the school i.e. could be elsewhere and off-site. In Edinburgh there are many schools where the maximum areas for playing fields are not met however the Council complies with the regulations by virtue of the extensive alternative pitch provision which is available to schools throughout the city.</p> <p>In considering what would be an appropriate site area for any new or</p>

	<p>replacement double-stream primary school with a 40/40 nursery, an overall site area of 1.3 hectares has been identified as being capable of providing an appropriate environment for a primary school and nursery of this size and also incorporate provision for a small pitch adjacent to the school buildings. At just under 0.76 hectares, the size of the current site at Towerbank Primary School is already well below this optimum size when the school is already larger at three-stream; any further increase in capacity would further exacerbate the issue.</p> <p>It is considered that providing additional capacity by further extending the school would reduce the available play area to an unacceptable level. The school playground is also overlooked by houses and tenements and there may be difficulties in securing planning consent for any further development on the site even if it were to be proposed.</p> <p>The size of the playground site adjacent to the school is approximately 0.07 hectares and it is adjacent to the site occupied by the Toddler Hut which is approximately 0.03 hectares. The Toddler Hut lease their property from the Council and a new 80 year lease was agreed by the Council in June 2013. This lease would be a significant barrier to the use of this site by the school as alternative premises for the Toddler Hut would have to be secured. Even if this combined site could be acquired, the necessary road-stopping order secured to create a safe access and any new build accommodation constructed in time the addition of this area would only increase the current site size to around 0.86 hectares (or slighter larger if additional area was gained through closing part of the road). This would still be substantially below the optimum size for a two stream primary school, without taking account of the fact that the school would be operating as more than a three stream organisation with around 700 pupils being accommodated. Providing additional classrooms and associated ancillary accommodation would have a large 'building footprint' and result in an additional 100 children using the site. As a result the remaining area would be under significantly increased pressure both in terms of play and outdoor learning opportunities and would be of overall disbenefit to the pupils' educational experience.</p>
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Siblings (including logistical, social and emotional implications of no sibling guarantee)

Issue Raised	At what date will the catchment change become effective and how will the sibling guarantee work?
Council Response	<p>Any catchment change approved by the Council on 22 October 2015 would be effective immediately. The details of the sibling guarantee as stated in the statutory consultation paper are as follows:</p> <p>In future, younger siblings of pupils at Towerbank Primary School (not including Towerbank Primary School nursery) who attended the school at the time of the decision on catchment change and were, at that time, resident in the parts of the Towerbank Primary School catchment</p>

	<p>proposed for transfer would be guaranteed a place at Towerbank Primary School. This policy would only apply if, when the younger sibling was entering P1, he/she continued to be resident in the parts of the Towerbank Primary School catchment from which transfer had previously been approved and an elder sibling is still a pupil at Towerbank Primary School. This guarantee would only apply to younger siblings who were born before the date of the Council decision regarding catchment change.</p>
Issue Raised	<p>The families currently attending Towerbank Primary School have a range of after school pickup/care arrangements in place (e.g. nurseries, after school clubs, grandparent or friends pick up) and care for younger siblings not at the school is often integrated with these arrangements or chosen due to the location of the elder siblings' school. Having siblings, or the children from the families of friends and neighbours who are involved in any care arrangements, attending different schools would complicate these arrangements.</p>
Council Response	<p>As was stated at all of the statutory consultation meetings it is recognised that catchment change is not an easy option; however, it is considered that all other options to address the ongoing accommodation problems at Towerbank Primary School have already been taken. Option 4 was added to the consultation process as a direct result of the strong feeling about the impact on siblings expressed during the statutory consultation. Irrespective of the option ultimately progressed, Children and Families senior management including the Portobello cluster primary school Head Teachers will ensure the implications of change are monitored and any transition where required is made as smooth as possible for the families involved.</p>
Issue Raised	<p>If siblings are attending different schools and nurseries which are further apart than current arrangements then it will encourage greater use of the car and discourage walking, cycling and scooting to school.</p>
Council Response	<p>The main aim of all the proposed options is to ensure the long term provision of sufficient catchment places for pupils attending Towerbank and neighbouring primary schools and the Council is confident that this can be achieved through every option. It is accepted that some of the proposed options could result in an increase in the adoption of less sustainable modes of transport and this is one of the reasons why option 4 was included to address the implications for families with younger siblings.</p>
Issue Raised	<p>There are potentially significant social, emotional, psychological and academic issues affecting children's confidence, performance, well being and behaviour associated with siblings being in different schools or elder siblings having to move school to be with younger children. To separate siblings runs counter to the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child and the Health and Wellbeing indicators. There are also</p>

	<p>practical complications having to attend parents nights, assemblies and sports days at more than one school and there could be an increased requirement for childcare which could have financial and therefore indirectly wellbeing implications for families. The Council promotes that children should be sent to their catchment schools and under options 1, 2 and 3 those families with younger siblings who have followed this advice will be affected.</p>
Council Response	<p>The wide range of potential implications for siblings if they have to attend different schools are recognised and this is why a sibling priority was included in the initial catchment change option which was developed before the informal consultation with school communities in March 2015. As part of the informal consultation the issue of providing a sibling guarantee for those families with elder siblings already at Towerbank Primary school was one of the issues discussed and option 4 was developed to respond to the request for a sibling guarantee.</p> <p>Irrespective of the option ultimately progressed, Children and Families senior management including the Portobello cluster Primary School Head Teachers will ensure that the implications of change are monitored and any transition where required is made as smooth as possible for the families involved. If the recommendation to progress with option 4 is approved then assistance with transition will be particularly important for families with children already attending the Towerbank Primary School nursery who live in one of the transfer areas and in which there are no elder siblings currently attending the school.</p>
Issue Raised	<p>Families with children due to start school in 2016 are unable to properly discuss this with their children as they don't know which school they will attend. This means that we are unable to prepare them fully for the transition between nursery and school.</p>
Council Response	<p>The timing of the statutory consultation was determined to ensure that a Council decision is made before the registration process for school places for 2016/17 which commences in November 2015. Families will therefore be aware of their primary school catchment area at least eight full months in advance of their children starting school.</p>
Issue Raised	<p>Having children at different schools would increase the necessity for car sharing, walking to school or back home alone or being unsupervised in the playground before and after school all which present increased risk to child safety.</p>
Council Response	<p>Irrespective of the option progressed at the end of the statutory consultation process child safety outside school hours remains a parent/guardian responsibility.</p>
Issue Raised	<p>The logistical issues with multiple school and childcare drop offs are insurmountable. At no point in this consultation document is there any explanation of how the Council suggests parents drop off and pick up</p>

	children at two different schools at the same time.
Council Response	The affected primary schools would work together to mitigate the impact for any affected family. This would include considering the schools having different official start times to account for the time required by parents to travel between the different locations. While it would remain the choice of the individual whether to use them or not, after school clubs and breakfast clubs are available.
Issue Raised	The Council has said families with siblings at different schools would be allowed to drop children off at school up to half an hour late. This is not an acceptable solution. This adds up to 2.5 hours of school a week missed, a total of 95 hours across an academic year. In addition, all schools have literacy hour first thing in the morning, meaning our children would be missing out on a vital part of their education, not to mention the disruption this would cause other children. Another suggested solution is the creation of a walking bus, where parents could take turns taking several children to school.
Council Response	The suggestion of arriving late at school has not been made as part of this statutory consultation process and may perhaps have been confused with the suggestion noted in the answer above that cluster schools could have different official start times to overcome the logistical challenges faced by families affected by change. The use of a walking bus is something that would be organised on an individual school basis and has not been suggested as a solution to any of the logistical implications of catchment change.
Issue Raised	Younger siblings have already familiarised themselves with the school environment of their older siblings and developed relationships with peers who they expect to begin school with at the same time. It would be very unsettling for them to have to attend an alternative school.
Council Response	As was stated at all of the statutory consultation meetings it is recognised that catchment change is not an easy option; however, it is considered that all other options to address the ongoing accommodation problems at Towerbank Primary School have already been taken. Option 4 was added to the consultation process as a direct result of the strong feeling about the impact on siblings expressed during the statutory consultation.
Issue Raised	Families living outwith the current catchment with siblings hoping to attend the school in future years should not be guaranteed a place, as out of catchment placements have never been guaranteed.
Council Response	None of the four options include any guarantees for siblings within families living outwith the current Towerbank Primary School catchment area.
Issue	Based on the data provided during the consultation only 27 future pupils

Raised	of Towerbank would benefit from a sibling guarantee. Why, for a mere five - six pupils on average per annum, could a sibling guarantee not be provided with all options being considered?
Council Response	<p>For options 1, 2 and 3 the proposed catchment areas have been created based on establishing a revised, reduced catchment population which would achieve the standard intake for a three stream school. Even a small number of additional pupils would almost certainly require additional staff and would likely require additional classroom space. This is why in option 4 a sibling guarantee can only be provided by including a larger area for catchment change in the proposals.</p> <p>It was also recognised in the statutory consultation paper that the sibling data is likely to be incomplete as there may be families with younger siblings currently either attending a private nursery, or not attending a nursery who will have an older sibling in the school at the time of any relevant Council decision. If any of these families have recently moved into the area then they would not have been identified from the cross check with birth data.</p>
Issue Raised	A sibling guarantee for out of catchment children in the receiving schools should also be considered.
Council Response	Any family with out of catchment children currently attending Brunstane, Duddingston or The Royal High Primary School who have younger siblings knew at the time of placing their elder sibling/s in that school there was no guarantee for younger siblings to also be accepted into that school. The provision of a sibling guarantee for out of catchment families at these schools is therefore not considered appropriate.
Issue Raised	The point of having guaranteed places for siblings is both a bad precedent to set, and also it has not been required in the past to have siblings in the same school. If siblings at Towerbank Primary School are given a guaranteed place as in option 4, this would open the way for parents at other schools to argue for the same.
Council Response	It is considered for the reasons explained in the statutory consultation paper that a sibling guarantee within option 4 is suitable in this instance. This does not set a precedent for any proposed future catchment change as any future proposals in other areas are likely to be brought about due to a different set of circumstances. Future statutory consultation processes would only consider any suitable option/s to address the situation of the specific circumstances being addressed.
Issue Raised	The provision of guaranteed places for siblings in Option 4 is not the right course of action. The decision should be made with longer term foresight than the seven years needed to appease parents with children currently at Towerbank.
Council	There is no provision of a sibling guarantee in options 1, 2 or 3 and each

Response	of these options would create the required long term reduction in catchment pupil numbers at Towerbank Primary School. Option 4, with a sibling guarantee, will also be sustainable in the long term and over time also has the potential to lead to suitability improvements (e.g. removal of the temporary units and the creation of more playground space) at Towerbank Primary School.
Issue Raised	The parents of those children who have a sibling currently attending Towerbank Primary have been very vociferous and public in their campaigning, which I feel clouds the results of the consultation.
Council Response	The aim of the statutory consultation is to gather the views of as many stakeholders as possible particularly the families directly affected by the proposals. A variety of options have been proposed and varying levels of support has been received for each option. All responses received have been considered by the Council in arriving at the recommendations contained within this report and each full responses has been made available to Elected Members as part of the decision making process.

Travel, Safety and Active Lifestyles

Issue Raised	What are the main criteria considered when determining if a route to school is safe and how up to date is the information used when the routes are assessed?
Council Response	All of the routes proposed in the statutory consultation are considered by the Council to be safe for children travelling to school in the company of an adult. The factors which are taken into account in assessing safety include the nature of route, the width of carriageway, the presence of footpaths, the presence of lighting, the presence of crossing facilities, the existence of public bus service, wooded areas, subways and the extent of any crimes committed at school times. The database is hosted on a Geographical Information System (GIS) system using the latest ordinance survey mapping.
Issue Raised	The route along A199 (Milton Road East) is unsuitable for children to cycle and scoot and contravenes the safe routes to school policy due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40mph limit • fast traffic, no cycle lane and steep incline • significant number of side street junctions to cross • number and speed of HGVs on the route • busy entrance ways to Kings Manor Hotel and Edinburgh College • road used by two bus routes A potential alternative route is the Brunstane Burn walkway.
Council Response	This route already meets the safe routes to school criteria and is a route which can be used by catchment pupils to get to Brunstane Primary

	<p>School, St John's RC Primary School or Portobello High School. As a consequence of feedback at some of the public meetings held during the statutory consultation process, Council officials agreed to walk this route with parents and children during the school run/rush hour period to record any opportunities to improve the route along Milton Road East to Brunstane Primary School. This walk was carried out on Friday, 19 June 2015 and several possible issues were recorded as requiring further investigation. During a subsequent site visit a Children and Families representative discussed all the improvement opportunities identified with an officer from the Council Roads Team and agreed potential improvement actions. Further details of the potential improvements are provided in Appendix 6 of this report.</p> <p>There is no lighting on the Brunstane Burn walkway so this would not be considered a safe route to school.</p>
Issue Raised	<p>The junction between Milton Road East/A1/Sir Harry Lauder Road is extremely busy at rush hour and not suitable for families with small children and buggies. There is a lack of good crossings from the Brunstane Road area across to the underpass. As a result, Option 3 gives the least disruption to the danger of crossing main, dangerous roads (namely Milton Road East).</p>
Council Response	<p>The provision of a new pedestrian and cycle crossing adjacent to where Brunstane Road meets Milton Road East is one of the potential improvements recommended to be implemented should the Council decide to approve an option which includes area D becoming part of Brunstane Primary School's catchment area. Further details are provided in Appendix 6.</p>
Issue Raised	<p>Crossing patrols should be put in place at different points along Milton Road East - would also benefit pupils going to the new high school.</p>
Council Response	<p>The requirement for crossing patrols is assessed by the Council's Road Safety Team and Children and Families will request that assessments are carried out for any new routes required as a result of the Council's final decision in relation to this statutory consultation.</p>
Issue Raised	<p>The underpass at the Milton Road East/A1/Sir Harry Lauder Road junction is poorly lit and dirty and can be a rather frightening/threatening place.</p>
Council Response	<p>The maintenance and repair of the underpass is carried out on a regular basis by the appropriate teams within the Council's Services for Communities directorate.</p>
Issue Raised	<p>There are only two or three buses along Milton Road East to Brunstane Primary School and there would still be a considerable walk through the underpass to get to school. Will there be any transport assistance put in place to help those families who may have children at different schools?</p>

Council Response	As all the proposed routes are less than two miles there would be no home to school transport assistance provided for any of the properties affected by any of the options in the statutory consultation paper.
Issue Raised	The Council must ensure there's something put in place to ensure safety, whichever option is chosen.
Council Response	A description of all the proposed routes to school is available on the Council website and details of improvement measures suggested by Roads colleagues are provided in Appendix 6.
Issue Raised	In option 1, 2 and 3 could the priority for siblings be offered first to those in areas where the route to the proposed new school is considered to be the least safe?
Council Response	As is stated in the statutory consultation paper all of the proposed routes in every option have been checked and meet the criteria to be considered a safe route to school therefore there would be no need to prioritise places on this basis.
Issue Raised	Traffic is likely to increase even further with all the new houses at Brunstane Farm and in East Lothian and with the new high school. The Local Development Plan proposes an exit from new housing onto Milton Road East, next to cemetery.
Council Response	As part of the planning process for any new major housing site included in the Local Development Plan, a detailed Transportation Assessment would require to be completed. This assessment would analyse the impact of development traffic and propose appropriate mitigation measures for any detrimental impacts identified, including any which would impact on safe routes to existing schools.
Issue Raised	Disagree that there's too many busy roads on the way to Brunstane, as there are subways and crossings to use, and there are busy roads to cross on the way to Towerbank too - many parents accompany or even drive their kids to school at present so could drive to Brunstane too. There are already areas within Brunstane Primary catchment that do have similar routes, streets such as Stanley Street, Christian Crescent, Brand Drive and surroundings already have to cross Milton Road to get to Brunstane Primary School. Daiches Brae, Brunstane Road South, Brunstane Banks and neighbouring streets also have to cross Milton Links in their route to school.
Council Response	As is stated in the statutory consultation paper all of the proposed routes in every option have been checked and meet the criteria to be considered a safe route to school.
Issue Raised	The walking distances to Duddingston Primary School are greatly increased. It is a 15 minute walk along very busy, heavily trafficked

	streets to reach Duddingston PS – this is not acceptable. This route is used by drivers as a local ‘rat run’ and there will be two major crossings to negotiate. It is not a 'safe route to school' because of the traffic speeds and volumes.
Council Response	The proposed route is considered a safe route to school.
Issue Raised	Older children won't be able to travel independently or with a group of friends.
Council Response	It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure their children travel safely to school and this includes determining at what age they are able to make the journey by themselves or with friends.
Issue Raised	Car use will increase and add to parking and congestion problems around Duddingston Primary School.
Council Response	A pilot scheme to address congestion at six schools across the city of which Duddingston Primary School is one began on 22 September 2015 and residents of the streets affected will now need a permit if they want to drive in or out of the street while the restrictions are in place. Permits are free to residents. Further details are available on the Council website .
Issue Raised	The route to Duddingston Primary is already traffic calmed and much safer or pupils could walk through the Figgate Park.
Council Response	There is no lighting in Figgate Park so the proposed safe route to Duddingston does not include this as an option.
Issue Raised	Planned building works (demolition of Portobello High and new St John's RC Primary) will introduce potential safety risks for children walking to school.
Council Response	Any of the works to be carried out in relation to the demolition of Portobello High School or the construction of the new St John's RC Primary School will be undertaken in accordance with all the necessary Health and Safety requirements. The Council has significant experience of delivering projects in live school environments and there will be no safety risks for pupils either walking to or from school or when attending school.
Issue Raised	Towerbank Primary School is close to area C and children can walk and cycle to school on their own or with friends - great for independence and the environment. Traffic controls around Portobello High Street adjacent to Portobello Town Hall and the cross roads are very good and very pedestrian friendly.
Council	The routes from area C to both Duddingston Primary School and

Response	Towerbank Primary School are considered safe routes to school.
Issue Raised	The promenade is a very safe route for kids and offers a great opportunity cycle or scooter to school. It is a well used, friendly and safe environment and encourages children to travel independently to school.
Council Response	The Council accepts that the promenade is one of the most segregated traffic free routes available throughout the city in terms of travel to school. However, all of the routes included in the options are considered to be safe routes to school and the accommodation pressure at Towerbank Primary School requires that proposals for catchment change have to be considered.
Issue Raised	A lot of the traffic at Portobello comes from people travelling the long distance from Joppa, if they went to Brunstane it would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce car pollution and congestion along Portobello High Street • Reduce parking congestion around the centre of Portobello • Make Towerbank School pupils safer by reducing traffic around the school.
Council Response	A reduction in the size of Towerbank's catchment area should reduce the number of children being driven to school and improve congestion in the town centre and beside the school. For all of the addresses proposed for transfer to Brunstane Primary School the new route to school is the same length or considerably shorter than the route to Towerbank Primary School.
Issue Raised	Traffic around Brunstane Primary School can already be very congested and this is likely to become a bigger problem.
Council Response	Brunstane Primary School will continue to promote its travel plan to all children and parents/guardians to ensure that, where possible and when practical, options other than the car are used for travel to school.
Issue Raised	Why change the existing policy of ensuring that children do not have to cross major roads to go to school?
Council Response	The Council does not have a policy of ensuring that children do not have to cross major roads to go to school and there are several examples across the city where children have to cross major routes and junctions to attend their catchment school.
Issue Raised	I understood that walking to school was a key objective in travel to school policies. The proposals will encourage more car use because the trip to school would be so much longer.
Council Response	The primary purpose of this statutory consultation is to ensure that sufficient accommodation is available in the long term for pupils in the primary schools within the Portobello High School Cluster area. Each of

	the schools has a travel plan and one of the aims of the travel plans is to encourage walking to school. All routes proposed within this statutory consultation are considered suitable for walking to school and are less than two miles, the distance beyond which pupils would qualify for free home to school transport.
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Distance to School and Natural Communities

Issue Raised	<p>The areas described as D and E are significantly further away from Towerbank School than area C.</p> <p>The distance to the proposed receiving school for those living in Area C is greater than current arrangements unlike areas D and E which are either the same distance or closer to the new school.</p>
Council Response	<p>All the proposed routes vary in length with some being longer and others being shorter than the current routes to Towerbank Primary School. The important aspects are that all of the routes are considered to be safe routes to school and are less than two miles, the distance beyond which pupils would qualify for free home to school transport.</p>
Issues Raised	<p>Joppa will now be divided with some streets going to Brunstane and some going to Towerbank, this will have a direct impact on the community environment and also affect property prices.</p> <p>Eastfield residents live on the seafront the terrace is an extension of the promenade and is viewed as such by residents, walkers and tourists alike.</p> <p>Area C is right in the heart of Portobello and the children there have a right to attend their local primary school as this gives a sense of belonging in their local community.</p> <p>Pupils living in Brunstane Road should be split by the railway with the bottom half going to Towerbank and children living in the top half of the street moving to Brunstane.</p>
Council Response	<p>As is demonstrated by the range of opinions expressed above it is accepted that all of the options to a greater or lesser extent will transfer areas considered part of a distinct community to a different school catchment. However, the overarching aim of this statutory consultation is to alleviate the ongoing accommodation pressures being experienced at Towerbank Primary School and, while catchment review is never an easy option to undertake, it is considered in this situation to be the only viable solution. Consideration will also be given to how best to support families in transfer areas with younger children who will potentially be attending different schools from neighbours with children already attending Towerbank Primary School.</p>
Issue	<p>As Towerbank Primary school uses Brighton Park for their Sports Day,</p>

Raised	Brighton Place should stay in Towerbank Primary catchment area
Council Response	Many schools across the city use facilities outside their catchment area for sports activity and as such this is not a reason why a specific area should remain within the Towerbank Primary School catchment area.

Socio-economic and Educational issues

Issue Raised	<p>Brunstane Primary School has poor catchment retention and is at an early stage in a change process. It is reasonable that parents express their concerns on these issues. The fact that only 50% of the Brunstane catchment chooses to go to its own school only highlights the need for improvements to the teaching methods and conditions. Money should be invested in Brunstane to improve its reputation so that it does not seem such a poor option for many parents. It would be better to make more use of schools, such as Duddingston, that parents do have confidence in and do chose to send their children to, schools that are hitting or improving attainment levels and have spaces for the children being displaced from Towerbank.</p>
Council Response	<p>If the school roll increases at Brunstane there will be a greater socio economic mix which will have a positive impact on attainment and achievement. The greater mix and larger number of children will also allow for more opportunities for active learning. There will also be a more diverse parent forum which will have a positive impact on the wider school community.</p> <p>The curriculum in all schools is designed to meet the needs of individual pupils through the commitment to Getting it Right for Every Child. Core programmes are similar in all schools and these are adapted to the appropriate level for each child and stage. For example, there are citywide maths and literacy programmes and with an increased roll at Brunstane the school will have better opportunities to group children with others at a similar level where they can benefit from peer support.</p> <p>All schools are challenged to constantly review and improve. Brunstane has recently become a pilot school for RAFA (Raising Attainment for All). Building on a base of personal learning plans, Brunstane has committed to developing more effective learning profiles for each of their children. The school is currently rolling out an iPads project which will see the current P6s trained to use iPads and all will have them in P7. The Council is confident that attainment levels will rise at Brunstane.</p> <p>Brunstane receives Positive Action Money due to the number of pupils who qualify for free school meals. Currently the school uses some of the money employing an acting Principal Teacher to lead on support for learning. The school is currently just below the level where funding becomes available for a Depute Head. If the catchment is changed and pupil numbers increase, a depute would be employed from the Devolved School Management budget which would allow more Positive Action</p>

	<p>Money available for resources for support for learning; this would also include support for more able pupils.</p> <p>Brunstane has also established a nurture group and benefits from having an identified nurture room. The school is very close to Edinburgh College and is developing project links with Edinburgh Young Workers who can gain experience in the school. The new Portobello High School will open in 2016 and its proximity to Brunstane will create new opportunities such as access to specialised facilities for the primary school which we would expect to inspire and challenge the primary pupils.</p> <p>Brunstane is also involved in a new Parent/School Partnership Project in addition to one other primary school and secondary school in the city.</p> <p>All of the options would increase the number of catchment pupils attending The Royal High Primary School and options 1, 3 and 4 would increase the number of catchment pupils attending Duddingston Primary School. This would have a consequential affect of more catchment pupils attending both Craigentenny Primary School and Brunstane Primary School.</p>
Issue Raised	<p>An up-to date report/assessment for Brunstane Primary School needs to be completed by Education Scotland (the last one was in 2007, eight yrs ago) and proper procedures put in place (not just the change of a Head Teacher) to give the students the support they need so it can be seen that the attainment levels are increasing before new children attend the school.</p>
Council Response	<p>The Council has no control over when Education Scotland will carry out an inspection at any specific school. However, as detailed in the statutory consultation paper the Children and Families Quality Improvement Officers carried out a follow up assessment of the school in 2009 which concluded: <i>“With support from the education authority, Brunstane Primary School provided a good standard of education for its pupils. The school had progressed very well since the inspection and had made the necessary improvements in light of the inspection findings. The current improvement plan had had a positive impact on the work of the school. The teamwork in the school provided a very good basis for continued improvement.”</i></p>
Issue Raised	<p>The Council should defer this change until attainment levels at Brunstane are comparable to Towerbank. Without bringing attainment level up first Brunstane will continue to be poorly attended.</p>
Council Response	<p>The timing of the statutory consultation is aligned to a Council decision being required in October 2015 before the pupil registration process for 2016/17 commences in November 2015. The steps being taken to improve attainment have been detailed in the answer above.</p>

Fairness and residential property issues

Issue Raised	Many families have moved into the existing catchment area so that their children could attend Towerbank and to now have this option taken away from them is unfair. Unless the attainment levels for Brunstane are raised to match those of Towerbank it also seems unfair for families who have bought property in the area especially to be within the Towerbank catchment to be forced to go to another school with lower attainment levels.
Council Response	The issues raised during the consultation process about attainment levels at Brunstane Primary School have been fully addressed in the response provided in the previous section. It is appreciated that for some families the school catchment area is a significant consideration when buying property and, as was stated at all of the statutory consultation meetings, this is one of the reasons why it is recognised that catchment change is not an easy option for all involved. However, it is considered that all other options to address the ongoing accommodation problems at Towerbank Primary School have already been taken and that the options put forward in the consultation paper are the only feasible solutions to the current situation.
Issue Raised	Residential property value is deemed to be higher in the Towerbank Primary School catchment, any move out of catchment will have a major impact on house prices.
Council Response	The catchment changes are for educational reasons and (potential) variations in house prices are not a factor which the Council takes into consideration when assessing options for change.

Future pupil numbers (including non-catchment pupils)

Issue Raised	What is the official capacity of Towerbank Primary School and what supporting accommodation is required for a school of its size?
Council Response	The Scottish Government published guidance on Determining Primary School Capacity in October 2014 and the Council is in the process of assessing and, where appropriate, revising the capacity of each primary school in the Council estate in accordance with this guidance. The primary schools affected by the proposed catchment changes have been re-assessed according to the required classrooms and general purpose (GP) spaces specified in this guidance. For Towerbank the application of this guidance reduces the number of required GP spaces from five to four, thereby increasing the official capacity of the school to 22 classes. As well as the requirement for four GP spaces, a school of this size would ideally have a standard gym hall of 180m ² or larger and a separate dining area.

Issue Raised	What will happen to those children in Towerbank Nursery who in future will not be in the school's catchment area?
Council Response	Those children will be expected to attend their catchment school unless a sibling guarantee is applicable. If the recommendation to progress with option 4 is approved then assistance with transition will be particularly important for families with children already attending Towerbank Primary School nursery who live in one of the transfer areas and where there are no elder siblings currently attending the school.
Issue Raised	Why are there no catchment areas for nurseries?
Council Response	There is no absolute requirement for children to attend nursery and the Council recognises that parents/guardians require flexibility in terms of the nursery options they are able to provide for their families. For these reasons it would be impracticable to set catchment areas for nursery provision.
Issue Raised	Duddingston Primary is full and the children would suffer if there were extra children from Towerbank. The school would have to remove a general purpose space to provide for an additional class and it already has a temporary unit providing two class spaces, which suggests it would not benefit from having an increased pupil intake. It is likely that the school's catchment area is experiencing the same demographic changes as those that have created the capacity problem for Towerbank, i.e. many families with young children moving into the area. This could render Options 1, 3 and 4 a short term fix, leading to further catchment changes and disruption to children and families in the near future.
Council Response	Currently Duddingston Primary School has a large number of children from outside its catchment area attending the school. If there were more catchment pupils, fewer placing requests would be granted and therefore numbers at the school would not change significantly. The latest projections suggest the school's capacity is sufficient to deal with any increased catchment numbers arising from any of the options within this statutory consultation or as a result of inward migration of families with young children into the area. Based on these projections the number of classes within the school will not need to increase and no GP space will be lost.
Issue Raised	It is questionable how many school places moving area C into the Duddingston catchment area would actually create at Towerbank.
Council Response	The statutory consultation paper estimates that over a full school cycle (seven years) 48 additional catchment pupils would be generated for Duddingston Primary School. This estimate is based on the number of pupils (no matter which school they attend) currently residing within the

	area. This is considered to be the best way of estimating the pupil generation as part of a catchment review and has been the method used in all recent catchment reviews undertaken by the Council.
Issue Raised	The Council cannot continue to approve planning applications for extra flats and houses in every part of Portobello without ensuring there are sufficient school places.
Council Response	Children and Families are consulted on any planning application which will potentially have an impact on education infrastructure across the city. If for any application it was considered that there was no feasible way of accommodating the pupils generated by a development then this would be stated in the consultation response. If appropriate a recommendation that the application should be refused on this basis would be made to the Planning Case Officer.
Issue Raised	Looking beyond the next few years, the Council needs to make a decision with long term sustainability that will optimally utilise all the schools in this area - giving them all an optimal number of pupils, and where possible giving them all enough leeway to accommodate fluctuations in pupil intake.
Council Response	Children and Families believe, based on all the latest data available, that all of the options in the statutory consultation paper are sustainable in the long term.
Issue Raised	Children who are currently at Towerbank Primary School and not in the catchment should be moved to their associated school, thus making room for kids who actually live in Portobello.
Council Response	Once a child, whether catchment or out of catchment, has been given a place within any particular school it is not established practice to remove the child from the school to alleviate capacity pressure at the school.
Issue Raised	The Authority should deal more robustly with fraudulent attempts to get children a place in popular schools.
Council Response	<p>The Children and Families Grant Awards and Placement Team have been working with the Council's Corporate Fraud since February 2015 to identify any such issues. This includes a check of the council tax records to see if the parent details match; if they do not then a home visit is arranged.</p> <p>To date across the city 192 checks have been carried out, there have been approximately 40 home visits and five places have been withdrawn as a result of these investigations.</p>
Issue Raised	The Royal High Primary School and Duddingston Primary School have high numbers of out of catchment pupils. The catchment areas for these schools should be reviewed.

Council Response	There is no need to review the catchment area as both schools have the capacity to accommodate their entire catchment populations even if these increase as a result of this statutory consultation.
Issue Raised	Even if there is capacity in the receiving schools there is currently a shortage of teachers and it will be difficult to recruit the required staff, either full time or on supply, required for the increase in pupils.
Council Response	The supply of teaching staff has been an issue in recent years across all of Scotland. The Council is currently proactively addressing this situation. In time the roll at Towerbank Primary School is expected to reduce and voluntary staff transfer to the other schools may be required.

Education Scotland

Legislative Context

- 3.15 The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 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 full in Appendix 5, Education Scotland considered the options set out in the statutory consultation paper as well as all of the full responses received during the public consultation period. Education Scotland also visited all the schools affected by the proposals and discussed the educational aspects with staff and pupils before producing their final report.
- 3.16 The conclusion of Education Scotland is that there is overall educational benefit to the proposal to reduce the size of the catchment area of Towerbank Primary School. It was noted in the report that parents, staff, children and young people at all the schools recognised the importance of addressing the over capacity at Towerbank Primary School and that Option 4 with the sibling guarantee had the most support.

Response to Education Scotland

- 3.17 The Act requires that the Council's consultation report include 'a statement of the authority's response to Education Scotland's report'. The Education Scotland report identified two key issues for the Council to consider which are set out in the following table together with the Council's response.

Issue Raised	To ensure the benefit of the proposals are realised it will be important for senior managers and staff to continue to discuss possible arrangements with children and their parents as plans for the reduction of the catchment are developed.
Council Response	Following the decision by Council, Children and Families will ensure the decision taken is communicated to all parents/guardians at the affected schools. Children and Families will also ensure that, in the following

	years as any changes are implemented and take effect, every effort will be made to support pupils, parents/guardians and staff with the transition process. If the recommendation to progress with option 4 is approved then assistance with transition will be particularly important for families with children already attending Towerbank Primary School nursery who live in one of the transfer areas and where there are no elder siblings currently attending the school. Consideration will also be given to how best to support families in transfer areas with younger children who will potentially be attending different schools from neighbours with children already attending Towerbank Primary School.
Issue Raised	In its final consultation report the Council should ensure that concerns relating to safe routes to school are fully explored and addressed.
Council Response	The response to the issues raised about safe routes to school during the statutory consultation process are fully considered in Appendix 6 and improvements to routes to school form a key part of the recommendations of this report which will be implemented as required based on the Council's final decision.

Conclusions

- 3.18 The two most frequently recurring issues put forward during the statutory consultation period by stakeholders were the implications for siblings if, as a result of catchment change, they had to attend different schools and the safety of the routes to schools involved in the proposed options.
- 3.19 In relation to the sibling issue the majority of responses received were in favour of option 4 which provides the sibling guarantee. Perhaps unsurprisingly a significant majority of respondents with children already at Towerbank and with younger siblings favoured this option. However, it was also the favoured option of those respondents with no younger siblings, those who only have pre-school aged children and residents with no children. As such, it is concluded there is considerable support within the wider community to proceed with option 4 and it is recommended this option should be progressed.
- 3.20 Option 4 involves the transfer of all the areas considered in the statutory consultation paper to the receiving schools and therefore all of the routes to schools identified in the consultation report will be utilised in the future. Whilst all these routes are considered to be safe routes to school, due to the strength of opinion expressed during the consultation period, further assessment has been carried out to identify further improvements that could be made. The outcome of this assessment is detailed in Appendix 6 and some specific improvements have been identified. It is recommended that if option 4 is approved then these improvements should be implemented wherever possible.
- 3.21 For ease of reference the details from the full consultation paper regarding the catchment implications of option 4 have been set out in appendices to this report as follows:

- (i) The parts of the existing Towerbank Primary School catchment which, under option 4, would transfer to different primary school catchment areas are shown in the map in Appendix 7.
- (ii) A list of addresses/properties (including all flats and subdivisions) which would be affected under option 4 is included in Appendix 8.
- (iii) Apart from Craigentenny Primary School the surrounding primary schools are all feeders for Portobello High School. The area proposed for change to the Craigentenny catchment under option 4 would also require to be changed from the Portobello High School catchment to the Leith Academy catchment but no pupils would be affected as the change is to simply rationalise the boundaries. The map in Appendix 9 shows the proposed secondary school catchment changes.

Measures of success

- 4.1 The reduction of catchment pupils numbers at Towerbank Primary School to a level where the school can operate efficiently within its available capacity.

Financial impact

- 5.1 The cost of implementing the proposed safe routes to school improvements is estimated to be £70,000. Opportunities for funding (e.g. Sustrans, safe routes to school or through the Neighbourhood Partnership) will be explored and any gap in funding would be met from existing Children and Families budgets.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The recommendations in this report do not impact on an existing policy of the Council and there are no health and safety, governance, compliance or regulatory implications that elected members need to take into account when reaching their decision.
- 6.2 The most significant risk associated with the recommendations made in this paper is that the measure of success is not achieved due to the expected reduction in catchment numbers for Towerbank Primary School not materialising. One of the main reasons why this would occur would be continued growth in the rate of migration into the area and/or new residential development within the remaining Towerbank catchment area which would generate additional pupils.
- 6.3 It has recently been brought to the attention of Children and Families that a Council owned site to the north of the catchment area (known locally as The Pitz) is to be marketed for sale. Should this site, or any other significant site within the remaining Towerbank Primary School catchment area, be brought forward for residential development in the future then Children and Families would be consulted as part of the planning process and would carry out an

assessment of the implications for education infrastructure based on the latest projections and other information available at that time.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 There are no negative equality or human rights impacts arising from this report.
- 7.2 The Council will continue to ensure that the needs of pupils who have a disability are met by the accommodation available at the schools affected by these proposals or, where catchment changes are proposed, appropriate alternative accommodation. The provision of facilities offered to school users with learning and behavioural support needs will be unaffected.
- 7.3 Accordingly, these proposals have no significant impact on any equalities groups and provide greater opportunities for catchment pupils to attend their catchment school. For these reasons, the overall equalities relevance score is 1 (out of a possible 9) and a full Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 The recommendations in this report may result in some social, environmental and economic implications. However, it is considered that the mitigation and transition support measures identified in this report will address concerns raised during the statutory consultation related to siblings and safe travel to school.
- 8.2 The main economic implication would be not providing sufficient places in schools to allow for the delivery of a quality education and the consequential affect this could have on attracting investment into the city. As the primary purpose of the consultation is to address accommodation issues this helps to ensure education infrastructure is sufficient to support the economic growth of the city.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 This statutory consultation process has been undertaken according to the procedures set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Background reading/external references

Report to the Education, Children and Families Committee on [3 March 2015](#).

Gillian Tee

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Links

Coalition pledges	P04 - Draw up a long-term strategic plan to tackle both over-crowding and under use in schools
Council outcomes	CO1- Our children have the best start in life, are able to make and sustain relationships and are ready to succeed. CO2 - Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities.
Single Outcome Agreement	SO3 - Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential
Appendices	1- Summary of the Statutory Consultation Paper 2 - Records of the Statutory Consultation Public Meetings 3 - Summary of Consultation Responses Received 4 - Pupil and Staff Consultation 5 - Education Scotland Report 6 - Safe Routes to Schools 7 - Proposed School Catchments under Option 4 8 - List of Affected Addresses Under Option 4 9 - Existing and Proposed Secondary School Catchment Areas

Appendix 1 – Summary of the Statutory Consultation Paper

Consultation on Options for Proposed Changes to the Catchment Area of Towerbank Primary School - Summary Paper

Why do we need to change these catchment areas?

The number of school age children living in Portobello and Joppa has increased significantly over the last ten years. As a result, in the longer term it is expected that the local primary school, Towerbank, will not be able to accommodate all the pupils in its catchment area. Therefore, this statutory consultation considers options to make the Towerbank Primary School catchment area smaller so that fewer children live in it.

If we reduce the number of children starting Primary 1 at Towerbank by around 14 every year, we can:

- bring the school back towards an annual P1 intake of 90 pupils
- reduce the school roll by nearly 100 pupils over seven years
- run the school as a three stream (21 class) primary in the long term

What options are being considered?

There are four options being considered as part of this consultation and the areas proposed for transfer in each option are outlined in the attached maps. A list of addresses affected by each option is also attached.

How would the changes affect other local schools?

Brunstane, Duddingston and The Royal High Primary Schools would have larger catchment areas with more families living in them. While the overall size of the Portobello catchment area would reduce, pupil numbers would stay the same as the receiving primary schools are all feeder schools in its cluster.

The catchment areas of Craigentenny Primary School and Leith Academy would be bigger if the stretch of industrial land (Area A on the attached option maps) next to Seafield Road (where the bus garage and car showrooms are) is moved as shown. The change will simplify local catchment boundaries for the long term. It is a good time to make the change as there are no pupils living here, so no families are affected.

What about younger brothers and sisters of current Towerbank pupils?

Options 1, 2 and 3: Priority placing would apply for 7 years, until start of term 2022.

Siblings will have priority on any spare places that are available in Towerbank Primary School (once catchment needs are met) if the family can show that they:

- lived at an affected address when the change was approved
- had a child in P1 to P7 on the day that the new catchment area took effect
- continue to live at an affected address when the younger child starts P1

- have a child in P2 to P7 at Towerbank on the day the younger child starts P1

Option 4: a guaranteed place will be available in Towerbank Primary School for any younger siblings born on or before the date of a decision to change the catchment area is taken by the Council, if the family can show that they:

- lived at an affected address when the change was approved
- had a child in P1 to P7 on the day that the new catchment area took effect
- continue to live at an affected address when the younger child starts P1
- have a child in P2 to P7 at Towerbank on the day the younger child starts P1

This special provision would place siblings who meet the criteria ahead of requests from children living outside the realigned areas. Once sibling priority/guarantee places have been applied, then normal Council policy would apply for out of catchment placing requests.

Why do more houses have to transfer in option 4?

This is to provide the scope for the sibling guarantee and ensure there are places available for the extra pupils to be retained in the Towerbank catchment in this option. A larger area of the existing Towerbank catchment requires to be transferred to the receiving schools so that space is created for the siblings at Towerbank.

When would the changes come into effect?

If any catchment changes are approved by the Council it is proposed that the changes would take immediate effect. This means that the placing procedures for Primary 1 pupils for the start of the 2016/17 school session would be conducted on the basis of the new catchment areas. The Council are expected to take their decision on Thursday 22 October 2015 before the Primary 1 registration process starts in November 2015.

The consultation process

All comments made during the statutory consultation period will be recorded and represented in a final Outcomes of the Consultation report that we expect to be considered by Council on Thursday 22 October 2015. This report must be published three weeks in advance of the Council meeting so will be available by 1 October 2015.

Why are we consulting?

The different options put forward will have different impacts on families. We want to hear the views of anyone affected by the proposals. There is also a legal obligation to carry out a statutory consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Why are Craigentiny Primary and Leith Academy being consulted when no Towerbank or Portobello High School pupils will actually move there?

Even though no current pupils are affected this could change in the future. The Council is legally obliged to tell both schools and parents or carers about the possible changes. They need to have the opportunity to find out more and give us their views.

How can I find out more about the proposals or make my views heard?

This paper outlines the different options. If you want more information you can find the full consultation paper, along with background reports, maps, address lists and other supporting information, on our website at

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/towerbankconsultation.

We have also organised four public meetings, as below.

Date	Venue	Time
Thursday, 21 May	Towerbank Primary School	6.30 – 8.30pm
Monday, 25 May	Brunstane Primary School	6.00 – 8.00pm
Monday, 1 June	Duddingston Primary School	6.30 – 8.30pm
Wednesday, 3 June	The Royal High Primary School	6.30 – 8.30pm

Each meeting will open with a short presentation about the proposed options for catchment change, followed by a question and answer session. Council Officers will take a note of each meeting and all of the points raised will be captured in the final Outcomes of the Consultation report. You can attend any meeting that suits you. Please telephone (0131) 469 3161 by Friday 15 May if you need translation services or childcare at a meeting.

Tell us your views: public consultation period closes 22 June 2015

It would be helpful if you could take time to complete our short survey – you can find it easily online at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/towerbankconsultation. If you don't have internet access then you can pick up a copy at your school or in Portobello Library.

You can also email comments to us directly at cf.propertyreview@edinburgh.gov.uk or if you prefer they can be posted to:

Gillian Tee
Director of Children and Families
City of Edinburgh Council
Council Headquarters
Waverley Court (Level 1:2)
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
EH8 8BG.

All comments require to be received by 22 June 2015.

Record of Meeting

Options for the Proposed Changes to the Catchment Area of Towerbank Primary School

Public Consultation Meeting held at 6.30 pm, Thursday, 21 May 2015, Towerbank Primary School, Edinburgh

Present: Approximately 40 members of the public

In Attendance: Tom Wood (Independent Chair), Councillor Paul Godzik (Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee), Billy MacIntyre (Head of Resources, Children and Families), Crawford McGhie (Asset Planning Manager, Children and Families), Janice MacInnes (Quality Improvement Officer, Children and Families) Therese Laing (Quality Improvement Officer, Children and Families), Joyce Gilmour (Head Teacher, Towerbank Primary School), Kevin Brack (Head Teacher, Brunstane Primary School), Karen Morris (Head Teacher, Duddingston Primary School) and Laura Millar (Committee Services)

1. Introduction

Tom Wood introduced himself and advised that he had been invited by the City of Edinburgh Council as an independent person to chair the public consultation meeting. The consultation was based on the options for proposed changes to the catchment area of Towerbank Primary School.

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 required the Council to conduct a public consultation ahead of a report on the proposals being submitted to Education Scotland for consideration in September 2015. The public consultation would provide an opportunity for people to express their views and feed directly into the process..

Reassurance was given that no decision had been made in terms of proposed changes to the catchment area of Towerbank Primary School, and the consultation process would encompass the views of parents and the public to ensure that the final report to Council would reflect these views. A final decision would be taken by elected members at the meeting of the full Council on 22 October 2015, when a report, including the results of the consultation, would be considered.

Billy MacIntyre (Head of Resources, Children and Families) also provided reassurance that no decision had yet been made and, although officers were presenting four options, all views and suggestions were welcomed. All questions and statements would be listened to and included in the report to be considered by elected members when making the final decision about the catchment area of Towerbank Primary School.

2. Presentation

Crawford McGhie (Asset Planning Manager, Children and Families) delivered a presentation that provided background information on the reasons behind the

requirement to change the catchment area, the informal public consultation process, the four proposed options and the overall benefits offered to the area through changing the catchment area.

Requirement for Change

There had been a significant increase in the number of school age children living in the area over the past decade. As a result of these rising rolls, Towerbank Primary had been extended to create a 22 class organisation with any further development on the constrained 0.8 hectare site considered to be detrimental. As pupil numbers were expected to keep increasing, the school was no longer able to accommodate all the children living in the catchment area.

It was considered that high catchment numbers would be best addressed by altering the catchment area to reduce the number of catchment pupils attending the school in future years. The Education, Children and Families Committee considered a report on *Primary School Rising Estate Rolls* on 3 March 2015. The Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Children and Families to develop a statutory consultation paper on the proposed changes to catchment area boundaries, and also undertake, in advance of the Statutory Consultation, an informal consultation process to identify any alternative options.

Informal Consultation

The informal consultation process involved information being circulated to all parents and stakeholders with an invitation to comment and workshops were held at all of the affected schools. There was a general acceptance at the workshops that change was required to the current catchment area boundaries.

As a result of alternative options identified in the informal consultation process, two further catchment change options were included.

Benefits

The benefits of a change in the catchment area were explained. Each of the four options would result in a more even distribution of pupils across the schools in the area. The receiving schools had the capacity and facilities to ensure that there would be no detrimental effect on the quality of education provided.

All the receiving schools were in line with or above the city average for attainment levels aside from Brunstane which was currently slightly below. The movement of pupils from the Towerbank catchment area would allow a more diverse socio-economic mix in receiving schools presenting the opportunity to raise attainment levels for all.

None of the options presented affected the catchment area for secondary education as all the schools affected were feeder schools for Portobello High School.

3. The Proposal

Crawford McGhie explained the four options identified by Children and Families. He outlined the differences within each option and provided estimates of how many catchment pupils would be affected within each different area. Option 4 was highlighted

as the only option which offered a sibling guarantee where any younger siblings of those already attending Towerbank Primary, born before the time of any Council decision on catchment area change, would be guaranteed a place in Towerbank Primary.

4. Questions and Comments

Routes to School

Question 1 – The routes to receiving schools being categorised as safe, amiable and appealing is offensive. Councillors and Council Officials are invited to walk the routes categorised as safe with young children in rush hour. What is deemed as safe and by whom?

Answer – (Crawford McGhie) Children and Families staff would be happy to walk the routes and have partially done so already. Children and Families hold a database of all the routes to school across the city. They are categorised by criteria including surfaces, junctions, traffic lights, lighting etc.

(Billy MacIntyre) The database is also used when calculating if children are entitled to free home to school transport. It plots the safest route from home to school and determines if this is safe and under the 2 mile limit for primary school children.

Statement – There are currently no roads to cross between home and school allowing my child to cycle in safely every day. A change in the catchment area would mean this is no longer possible and will discourage cycling.

Question 2 – I look at databases as part of my job and believe the Council need to be more pragmatic about this. No other school has as many busy roads and junctions in the area i.e. A1, City Bypass and road to Musselburgh.

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) The Department believe the routes to school are safe in terms of surfaces, crossings etc. The question of whether any other schools have as many busy junctions and major roads in the immediate area will be examined and an answer provided in the final report.

Statement – The junctions surrounding Brunstane Road are extremely busy. My family have relocated from one end of the street to the other to get into catchment area for Towerbank Primary, any change will result in the children having to attend another school. I strongly support option four as the sibling guarantee is the only right thing to do.

Question 3 – How old is the safe routes to school database and the 2 mile radius measurement?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) Scottish Government legislation determines that a primary school child who lives further than two miles from their catchment school is entitled to free transport. This becomes a three mile radius for children over the age of eight, however, the City of Edinburgh Council policy has maintained the radius limit at 2 miles for all primary pupils.

The question on how up to date the safe routes to school data is will be examined and an answer provided in the final report.

Question 4 – Will there be any investment in the route to Brunstane Primary and surrounding area i.e. crossings or the underpass?

Answer – (Crawford McGhie) The underpass is classified as safe with children currently using it as a safe route to school.

Question 5 – Will there be any transport assistance put in place to help those who have to get children to different schools if option four is not chosen?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) No transport assistance will be provided, however various options can be examined to assist parents transporting children to different schools such as breakfast clubs, staggered start and finish times etc. An off-site annex was created for South Morningside Primary and transport assistance was not provided for affected parents.

Question 6 – If option four is not chosen, could siblings attending receiving schools with the most dangerous routes to school be prioritised?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) The Council do not consider any of the routes to the receiving schools to be dangerous. The option to prioritise siblings on less safe routes will be examined and included in the final report.

Question 7 – It was previously agreed that Council officials would walk the routes deemed safe by the database; can you take a young child on this walk to see the difficulties and dangers this will cause?

Answer – (Crawford McGhie) Officials will walk the routes deemed safe by the database and identify any additional safety measures required but will not be able to bring a young child.

Question 8 – The volume of traffic will increase in the area if the Brunstane farmland is developed into housing, has this been taken into consideration?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) This would be a matter for the planning section to negotiate with any potential developer to put in mitigating measures to reduce the impact on transport.

Receiving Schools

Question 1 – How will Brunstane be made suitable for more children?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) Brunstane Primary School has the capacity for 420 children with a roll of 190. It also benefits from good playgrounds and community programmes. From an asset management point of view; there is no work necessary at Brunstane Primary.

(Kevin Brack, Head Teacher, Brunstane Primary School) Parents are welcome to take a tour of the school and ask any questions they wish. Brunstane Primary is very fortunate in that they have spare classrooms with a roll well under the actual capacity.

It is also important to keep in mind that, while the grounds and outskirts are of importance, it is the learning that takes place within which takes precedence. The school is entitled to additional funding due to a high number of children receiving free school meals; this money is used for teachers and ICT equipment.

Question 2 – Why are only 52% of the catchment area children attending Brunstane Primary School?

Answer – (Crawford McGhie) There has been a large number of children opting to go to Duddingston Primary rather than Brunstane Primary which accounts for the lower school roll.

(Councillor Godzik) It is important to remember that parents have the biggest impact on the education of their child.

Sibling Guarantee – Option 4

Question 1 – When is the cut off date for catchment change and what is the sibling guarantee?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) The sibling guarantee was added to the suite of options as a result of strong feeling during the informal consultation. There is no preferred option or recommendation from the Council; the Children and Families Department wish to do what is most beneficial for Towerbank. The timeline for the sibling guarantee is siblings born before 22 October 2015; living in the area, with siblings currently in the school would get a guaranteed place. Under options 1, 2 and 3, there is no sibling guarantee, they would be entitled to sibling priority on the schools waiting list, however, this is not a guarantee of a place.

Statement – I'm pleased at the addition of option 4 in the suite of options as this proves the Council are listening to the wishes of parents. Many have purchased property in the area specifically based on catchment area. The sibling guarantee is the right thing to do logistically and emotionally.

Question 2 – My family have moved house specifically to get into the catchment area with one child already attending Towerbank and another due to start in August 2016. The elder child had stated that they would move school to remain with their sibling. I'm pleased at the addition of option 4 as it is fair, however I am concerned that a guarantee was not previously considered. How many out of catchment places will there be and what is the number of siblings that will be seeking a place?

Answer – (Crawford McGhie) The number of out of catchment area appeals change annually so I can't predict how many there will be in the future.

Question 3 – I am living in Brunstane Road with children already attending Towerbank and can only agree that option 4 is the best solution. The Children and Families objectives include giving children the best start in life, options one to three do not take into account the impact of splitting families. What are Ms Gilmour's thoughts on the sibling guarantee?

Answer – (Joyce Gilmour, Head Teacher, Towerbank Primary School) In agreement that option four which includes the sibling guarantee is the only fair option.

Question 4 – How many out of catchment children are in the school currently?

Answer – (Crawford McGhie) Children that are out of catchment before any changes are put into place will not be entitled to the sibling guarantee. There are currently 68 out of catchment children in Towerbank which equates to approximately 10% of the school.

Question 5 – I am supportive of option four as it is the fairest. How does waiting list prioritisation work?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) Waiting list prioritisation is based on distance from home to school, those living further away will have a lower priority level.

Statement – I am strongly in favour of option four with separating siblings putting the children's mental health at risk.

Question 6 – How many children would be granted a place at Towerbank with the sibling guarantee?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) There are 27 children that would be granted a place in Towerbank that the Department are aware of. This number does not include children who have recently moved into the catchment area or those who attend private nurseries.

Other Options

Question 1 – Catchment area review is the easy option, not the last resort. What documentation do you have to prove that building extension etc is not a viable option?

Answer – (Councillor Godzik) The Department have the available funding so would extend if it were a viable option; catchment change is the last resort.

(Billy MacIntyre) The Scottish Government recommend a site of 1.9 hectares for a single stream school. Towerbank is bursting at the seams, building extra classes would be detrimental to the general purpose space, playground etc. It is not recommended to spilt a school over various sites as this would be detrimental to pupils.

Question 2 – At the informal consultation workshops, no other options were presented. Where is the report which proves that catchment area review is the only option?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) The report went to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 3 March 2015. If there are any alternatives to catchment review, please include these in the consultation response.

(Councillor Godzik) Towerbank has already had two extensions, allowing more children places on the constrained site would be detrimental to the education of the whole school.

Question 3 – Changing the catchment area seems to be rubber-stamped without full consideration to other options?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) The report presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee did include options which were discounted for good reason.

According to Scottish Government recommendations, a double stream school and nursery should be on a site of 1.9 hectares. Towerbank Primary is already a triple stream school and a 40/40 nursery on a 0.8 hectare site. More children cannot be placed in Towerbank Primary on this constrained site.

Question 4 – Is catchment change a last resort?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) Changing the catchment area of a school is a last resort and the decision to do so is not taken lightly. After analysis of the area, changing the catchment emerged as the logical option.

(Councillor Godzik) The Department are not forcing a specific option, there is an opportunity to amend or have additional alternatives considered.

(Billy MacIntyre) Without the consultation process, there would be only one option. This allows the community to feedback to elected members so they can make an informed choice.

Question 5 – When did consultation on catchment change begin?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) Projections for school rolls are updated annually in January. These figures went to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 3 March 2015 where it was identified that Towerbank Primary could not cope with the volume of catchment area children. The Committee therefore agreed to begin consultation on proposed catchment area changes for Towerbank Primary.

Statement – There has not been enough forward planning, the Department should have known in advance that the catchment roll would rise out with the schools capacity.

Towerbank Nursery

Question 1 – Can the nursery be moved to another location?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) The Department do not encourage splitting the nursery from the parent school but you are welcome to express this idea as part of the consultation. A catchment area review was viewed as the only option and was the focus of the informal consultation.

Question 2– The nursery was moved onto the Towerbank Primary site a number of years ago, why was this allowed on a constrained and already busy site?

Answer – (Joyce Gilmour) The school pushed to move the nursery on site. It is better for both teachers and children to be integrated with the primary school in terms of learning and organisational logistics. The extension of eight rooms has made an excellent difference to the school but has only provided classroom space with no additional general purpose areas. Currently, the school has one hall used as both a dining hall and gym which requires strict organisation.

Question 3 – What will happen to those children in Towerbank Nursery who now cannot get a place in the primary school?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) As there is no catchment area limits on nurseries, there will be no impact on provision.

Question 4 – It was stated previously that the nursery was integrated with the school for educational reasons – why are there no catchment areas for nurseries?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) There is no direct correlation between nursery and primary in terms of catchment area.

Decision Making

Question 1 – Clarification was sought on the decision making process that the catchment area review will follow and what the final report would contain? Pleased with the addition of option 4 with the sibling guarantee as separating siblings would be heart-breaking.

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) The sibling guarantee was considered but was not in the original paper; it was added as a result of strong feeling during the informal consultation stage.

The process to be followed will be:

- 1) Comments will be collected through the consultation process. Feedback both positive and negative is requested for all options.
- 2) Consultation responses will be collated and sent to Education Scotland for analysis.
- 3) The final report will be drafted containing: responses to all the issues and questions raised by parents, an analysis report from Education Scotland, consultation feedback and an officers recommendation of a suitable option. Other options may be added following consultation feedback.
- 4) The final decision sits with elected members of the Council on 22 October 2015. They may go against the officer recommendation

As this report involves Education Scotland, it will be published on 1 October 2015, 3 weeks in advance of the meeting of the Council instead of the standard 6 days.

Question 2 – How will the elected members make the decision?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) Officers are happy with all four options as they all achieve the desired outcome. After statutory consultation, all responses will be assimilated into a report which officers will use to gain a better depth of understanding. A recommendation will be put forward based on community and professional opinion along with all other options. Councillors will then debate this and come to a decision.

(Councillor Godzik) The report will be made available 3 weeks prior to the full Council meeting, the individual political groups will discuss this and decide to either accept the recommendation in the report or make an alternative suggestion.

Towerbank Primary School Site

Question 1 – What is the size of the playground at Towerbank and how does this compare with other schools in Edinburgh? It would be a fairer comparison to measure against other Edinburgh schools rather than the whole of Scotland.

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) The playground size is calculated by head count of pupils. Towerbank is high in the list for little space compared with pupil numbers.

Question 2 – The temporary unit on site should have another extension, is there any possibility to build upwards? Why are temporary units not counted as capacity? What is the size of the Council owned land next to the School?

Answer – (Councillor Godzik) The Department cannot simply keep adding to the school on the constrained site without impacting on education.

The question on the Council owned site next to the school will be examined and an answer provided in the final report.

Statement – Towerbank is the second largest school in Edinburgh with an average sized playground. Nine years ago, this was a double stream school but now is triple stream with more families moving into the area.

The Parent Council fought for the nursery to be brought on site and for the extension of the current building. The school is now at capacity as a triple stream school, co-ordinating a shared dining and gym hall is difficult.

It was thought the roll would peak but it has continued to rise therefore the question of catchment area change can no longer wait. As a member of the Parent Council and as someone who worked in the education sector as an architect, separation of the school and nursery is not viable; catchment review is the only option.

Question 3 – Being a large school isn't a bad thing so long as it is managed correctly. Why can't temporary units be made permanent or built upwards?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) Large schools are not a bad thing, however, large rolls on small sites are problematic.

(Crawford McGhie) Schools are entitled to general purpose space; Towerbank cannot take any more pupils and maintain this with 23 classrooms required in 2014/15.

Question 4 – What are the educational benefits of general purpose space?

Answer – (Janice McInnes) General purpose space is important space with no desks used for IT, drama, and music.

(Joyce Gilmour) The school used to have a library which was lost to classroom space and the IT suite will be lost to classroom space this year. The temporary units are used for breakfast and after-school clubs, music and timetabled for classes as well as for storage and additional support groups.

Question 5 – Why could several classes not be created by building a second floor on top of the current dining/gym hall?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) More accommodation would be the easy option for the school, however, taking the roll up to 700 children in a constrained site such as Towerbank would be detrimental for the education of pupils.

5. Conclusion

Tom Wood thanked everyone for their contributions and summarised the evening discussions into the following main points:

- 1) Routes to school - Are they really safe and is the Council's database to determine the safety of a route accurate and up to date?
- 2) Have other options been fully examined?
- 3) Overwhelming support for option four and the inclusion of a sibling guarantee allowing family unity.

Billy MacIntyre, in concluding the meeting, thanked the audience for the questions and points made this evening. These would be recorded and addressed in the final report to be submitted to Council in October 2015 for a final decision. It was appreciated that this was not a pleasant situation but the Children and Families Department believed that changing that catchment area was the best option.

Councillor Godzik added that the scale of this issue is recognised and all issues raised were heard and would be examined. If development had been a viable option, it would have been identified for consideration.

Record of Meeting

Options for the Proposed Changes to the Catchment Area of Towerbank Primary School

Public Consultation Meeting held at 6.00 pm, Monday, 25 May 2015, Brunstane Primary School, Edinburgh

Present: Approximately 40 members of the public

In Attendance: Tom Wood (Independent Chair), Billy MacIntyre (Head of Resources, Children and Families), Crawford McGhie (Asset Planning Manager, Children and Families), Therese Laing (Quality Improvement Officer, Children and Families), Stuart Mclean (Committee Services) and Alison Clyne (Committee Services).

1. Introduction

Mr Tom Wood introduced himself and advised that he had been invited by the City of Edinburgh Council as an independent person to chair the public consultation meeting. The consultation was based on the options for proposed changes to the catchment area of Towerbank Primary School.

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 required the Council to conduct a public consultation ahead of a report on the proposals being submitted to Education Scotland for consideration in September 2015. The public consultation would provide an opportunity for people to express their views and feed directly into the consultation process.

Reassurance was given that no decision had been made in terms of proposed changes to the catchment area of Towerbank Primary School, and the consultation process would encompass the views of parents and the public to ensure that the final report to Council would reflect these views. A final decision would be taken by elected members at the meeting of the full Council on 22 October 2015 when a report including the results of the consultation would be considered.

Billy MacIntyre (Head of Resources) also provided reassurance that no decision had yet been made and, although officers were presenting four options, all views and suggestions were welcomed. All questions and statements would be listened to and included in the report to be considered by elected members when making the final decision about the catchment area of Towerbank Primary School.

2. Presentation

Crawford McGhie (Asset Planning Manager, Children and Families) delivered a presentation that provided background information on the reasons behind the requirement to change the catchment area, the informal public consultation process, the four proposed options and the overall benefits offered to the area through changing the catchment area.

Requirement for Change

There had been a significant increase in the number of school age children living in the area over the past decade. As a result of these rising rolls, Towerbank Primary had been extended to create a 22 class organisation with any further development on the constrained 0.8 hectare site considered to be detrimental. As pupil numbers were expected to keep increasing, the school was no longer able to accommodate all the children living in the catchment area.

It was considered that high catchment numbers would be best addressed by altering the catchment area to reduce the number of catchment pupils attending the school in future years. The Education, Children and Families Committee considered a report *Primary School Estate Rising Rolls* on 3 March 2015. The Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Children and Families to develop a statutory consultation paper on proposed changes to catchment area boundaries, and also undertake, in advance of the Statutory Consultation, an informal consultation process to identify any alternative options for the school.

Informal Consultation

The informal consultation process involved information being circulated to all parents and stakeholders with an invitation to comment and workshops were held at all of the affected schools. There was a general acceptance at the workshops that change was required to the current catchment area boundaries.

As a result of alternative options identified in the informal consultation process, two further catchment change options were included.

Benefits

The benefits of a change in the catchment area were explained. Each of the four options would result in a more even distribution of pupils across the schools in the area. The receiving schools had the capacity and facilities to ensure that there would be no detrimental effect on the quality of education provided.

All the receiving schools were in line with or above the city average for attainment levels aside from Brunstane which was currently slightly below. The movement of pupils from the Towerbank catchment area would allow a more diverse socio-economic mix in receiving schools presenting the opportunity to raise attainment levels for all.

None of the options presented affected the catchment area for secondary education; as all the schools affected were feeder schools for Portobello High School.

3. The Proposal

Crawford McGhie explained the four options identified by Children and Families. He outlined the differences within each option and provided estimates of how many catchment pupils would be affected within each different area. Option 4 was highlighted as the only option which offered a sibling guarantee where younger siblings of those already attending Towerbank Primary, born before the time of any Council decision on catchment area change, would be guaranteed a place in Towerbank Primary.

4. Questions and Comments

Future developments

Question 1 – It has been suggested that a development at Brunstane Farm could lead to over two thousand additional houses being built. What impact would this have on congestion, pollution and the City of Edinburgh policy on safe routes to school?

Answer 1 – (Crawford McGhie) I understand that the proposed site is contained within the Local Development Plan (LDP). The LDP is expected to be approved in April 2016, although this in itself does not guarantee a development on the site. Any development would be considered on its merits with full assessments, including transport, being undertaken. There would also be significant mitigating factors that would have to be implemented to cope with the rise in traffic.

Question 2 – If the development at Brunstane Farm is approved will there be a further catchment review, to deal with the inevitable influx of families?

Answer 2 – (Crawford McGhie) The educational infrastructural appraisal associated with the LDP suggests that the entire area proposed for development would generate enough pupils for an entirely new double stream school, therefore the housing development would become the catchment for that new school. Any new school would require a statutory consultation to determine its catchment.

(Billy MacIntyre) Part of the statutory consultation regarding any new school at Brunstane Farm would include consideration of safe routes to that school.

Question 3 – I would like to thank you for Option 4 (sibling guarantee), is it possible you will have to consider the catchment boundaries should the migration into Portobello continue?

Answer 3 – (Billy MacIntyre) We don't think so. We have been cautious in over estimating the numbers involved but we also have to ensure that we leave some flexibility. There is no restriction on any other good ideas, if you can identify any further options please feed these back to us.

Question 4 – The population of Edinburgh has increased considerably over a significant period of time, what has the Council done to address the impact of an increasing population?

Answer 4 – (Billy MacIntyre) There has been an increase in birth rates and a definite change in demographics within Edinburgh over recent years, we review this annually to try and identify where there may be some catchment/capacity pressures. Last year we felt that it could maybe happen but the numbers didn't suggest at that point that it was necessary but we are now at that crunch point. The situation regarding Towerbank is unique.

It is a complex issue, drawing out the likely numbers involved. The fact of the matter is that intra catchment movement in Edinburgh is higher than most other Local Authorities and this is a further challenge. There is also a higher number of private nurseries in Edinburgh which makes it difficult to establish a projected number of school places

required as we don't know the number of children involved. The methodologies involved in pulling together the likely school roll are not exact and are averaged out over 3 years.

On a level of complexity the challenge we are faced with at Towerbank is probably the most complex.

Question 5 – The development at Milton Road East has passed through stage 1 of the planning process. Do you not think it is silly to rush this decision should you not wait until the planning process has been completed?

Answer 5 – (Billy MacIntyre) Education infrastructure is being taken into consideration during the planning process. Children and Families are a statutory consultee during the planning process and if we feel the capacity is not there to meet the demands of the development then we will report this to the Planning Committee. It is never a foregone conclusion that this or any other planning application will be granted. Any concerns we had about this development would be reported to the relevant authority.

(Safe) Routes to School

Question 1 – At a previous meeting concerns were raised regarding children walking to and from school. Walking to school should be encouraged, however the policy is not practical due to the threat posed by traffic.

Answer 1 – (Billy MacIntyre) The City of Edinburgh Council Officers have made a commitment to walk the proposed route, considered to be safe, which would be used by children to travel to and from school.

Question 2 – I appreciate that officers have committed to walking the route to school. Can I ask that in doing so that they do it with a buggy, a toddler, a child, shopping and they should also walk it during rush hour and in poor weather conditions? You must also take into consideration that parents share the responsibility for ensuring each other's children reach school safely, this is the reality that we are facing.

Answer 2 – (Billy MacIntyre) Officers are committed to walking the route. The Council has a repository/database of safe routes to schools and takes into consideration various elements, including lighting and surfaces. We do consider the routes to be safe, however if during the walk any further safety measures are felt to be necessary we will look at the possibility of introducing them.

Statement – Thank you for agreeing to walk that route, but I would say that looking at it on paper to actually walking it is very different.

Question 3 – What cognisance is given to people who run red lights, particular in rush hour?

Answer 3 – (Crawford McGhie) Officers will take this into consideration. The Children and Families safe routes are based on the presence of certain physical attributes. We will walk the route at a time when children could be walking to school.

Question 4 – If you add any level of volume to a safe route to school you add risk. Does your data reflect buses and other vehicles that use the area? Does the Council have a back up for those families that will be forced to move school?

Answer 4 – (Billy MacIntyre) We have established a model of safe routes that is mindful of traffic. If any measures that would be sensible to introduce are identified we will consider introducing them.

Question 5 – My child will simply refuse to cross the Milton link due to the level of traffic?

Answer 5 – (Billy MacIntyre) Depending on what option is adopted you could consider submitting a Placing in School request.

Statement (Tom Wood) The issue around safety echoes feelings at Towerbank, as does the impact on siblings and educational standards. The concerns raised around road safety were that it looks good on paper but what does it look like on the ground. Officers have agreed to walk the routes to ensure that they were safe, not just in theory but in practice.

Question 6 – Safe routes to school, I appreciate it is a hard job but how do you strike a balance between safety and the impact any changes to the catchment will have on families. How do you make that choice?

Answer 6 – (Billy MacIntyre) We are not basing the decision on safety as all options are considered safe. Four options have been developed but none are deemed preferred at this time. The purpose of this consultation is to determine what the community thinks is best for them. We as officers have no idea what that option might be.

We appreciate that once the consultation finishes it will be a challenge to identify a preferred option. We will draw the positives and negatives from each option and put forward what we think is the best solution for the community also factoring in educational considerations and what the majority view was.

Statement (Tom Wood) – The feelings at these public meetings weighs heavily on Councillors.

Question 7 – We will need to agree to differ on safety, but it doesn't seem as if you are listening to our concerns regarding safety?

Answer 7 – (Billy MacIntyre) We believe that the routes to and from all schools are safe. We have pledged to walk the routes. The experts have made the judgment they are safe. Any comments that are received regarding safety we have an obligation to report to the Councillors who will make the final decision.

The report outlining the responses received during the consultation will be published 3 weeks in advance of the Council meeting. You will then have an opportunity to make a deputation to Councillors at that meeting before they make the final decision.

Statement (Parent) I would like to reassure those parents that may bring their children to Brunstane in future that there is a group of parents that travel via Milton Road East

and that this is considered to be a very safe route. As a parent it is easy to say but please don't worry. My son cycles on Milton Road East and he is in Primary 2, my son does not walk.

Statement (Tom Wood) We have talked a lot about Option 4, but Option 3 was developed to address concerns people had about crossing the junction.

Question 8 – I have concerns about road safety, if the catchment areas were redrawn my street is not specifically in the Brunstane Primary School catchment area, consequently my child would be expected to cross a busy road.

Answer 8 – (Billy MacIntyre) Catchment change is the last resort. Catchment review is not good for any of the parties involved, including the Council and children. The routes to Towerbank and other schools within the locality use similar routes which we consider to be safe.

Logistical Arrangements

Question 1 – How do you propose parents manage the logistics of ensuring their children reach school on time, should they be separated? There has been some suggestions regarding a walking school bus, somebody suggested bringing our youngest into school 30 minutes late every day and breakfast clubs.

Statement (Tom Wood) In terms of the question could we maybe expand upon what the sibling guarantee is?

Answer 1 – (Billy MacIntyre) Under Option 4, if a family live within an area proposed for transfer and the younger child has an elder sibling still at Towerbank yet they were considered under the new catchment rules, meaning they should go to an alternative school, they would not need to go to the alternative school and could go to Towerbank. Under the other 3 options this guarantee would not apply and it would be a sibling priority scheme.

We recognise that this is an emotive process and as such we introduced Option 4. On the back of the information gathered, during the informal consultation process, we believe that we are responding to what the community has said by introducing option 4.

Statement (Tom Wood) I am led to believe that this is the first time that the City of Edinburgh Council has offered a sibling guarantee.

(Crawford McGhie) In terms of the logistics, the sibling priority does cover some of the concerns raised, option 4 ensures that siblings won't be split up and this has never happened before.

Clearly there is no guarantee as to which option will go forward. School transport may help, but I appreciate that travel distance may not permit this; I also understand that all schools under review have breakfast clubs.

The summary papers do address some of the logistical concerns raised. The sibling guarantee in Option 4 would mean parents would be under no further pressure to transport siblings to 2 separate sites.

(Billy MacIntyre) Depending on what option is to be adopted, whether it involves sibling guarantee or sibling priority we will work with the school communities and parents to try and mitigate as far as possible the concerns regarding drop off and pick up times.

(Therese Laing) There are options open to schools to mitigate some of these concerns, for example they could work together, in clusters, to ensure that start times are sufficiently varied to allow parents to get each of their children in on time.

The City of Edinburgh Council is committed to working with each school affected to try and mitigate any logistical problems that may arise.

Statement (Tom Wood) Should option 4 be accepted the issue of travel logistics is a moot point. At previous meetings concerns were raised around the practicalities associated with Options 1, 2 and 3.

Attainment & Transition

Question 1 – How does increasing the population of a class room impact on the quality of teaching and attainment levels? Will extra resources be available to meet the increase in class sizes?

Answer 1 – (Therese Laing) Attainment is not based on tests but on individual attainment. It is important to recognise that attainment at Brunstane Primary School is better than comparator schools.

Attainment is often based on socio-economic factors rather than class sizes, while attainment at P1-4 is within national levels.

We will be putting measures into place at Brunstane Primary School at P1-4 that will feed into the senior year.

As a consequence of an increase in enrolment numbers Brunstane Primary School would also be able to access positive action money. There is also potential that should the school roll increase the school will likely be allocated a Deputy Head post.

Statement (Head Teacher) It is the school's responsibility to ensure that children reach their full potential. Regarding attainment levels we were very pleased to have been included in a national programme of raising attainment.

Question 2 – I am very supportive of Option 4 and am concerned for my child's welfare if it is not adopted. What conversations have you had with colleagues regarding Curriculum for Excellence and child welfare. The separation of siblings could impact on their welfare and flies in the face of 'Getting it Right for Every Child'?

Answer 2 – (Therese Laing) We recognise how important siblings are and are confident that all staff are trained in 'Getting it Right for Every Child'. All four Head Teachers involved will work together to ensure smooth progression/transition.

As part of the consultation we are dedicated to speaking to children to allow us to tease out some of the issues they are likely to face including those that have younger siblings. The outcome of these discussions will be fed back to Councillors to allow them to make an informed decision.

Statement - The sibling guarantee would make the transition so much easier.

Question 3 - Have changes to catchment in the past had any impact on siblings?

Answer 3 – (Billy MacIntyre) I don't have this information to hand. The school estate is being stretched; we don't have the flexibility to meet the increasing demand. There has also been an increase in the number of catchment requests over the last few years which has further exacerbated the situation, the scope for such requests to be accommodated will be reduced in future.

Statement – Dividing families is not the answer.

Answer 3 – (Therese Laing) We agree which is why Option 4 has been included. Transition is important, which is evidenced by the time we spend addressing it within schools. We have full confidence that all four Head Teachers that this catchment review will impact upon will work together to ensure a smooth transition for all pupils.

A lot of work regarding transition is taken forward beginning at the transition from nursery to P1. There is a great deal of collaborative working between the various nurseries, due in part to the fact that nurseries are not tied to a catchment area.

Question 4 – Having a child go to a different nursery than their sibling(s) is not the same as saying they are not going to the same school. They may have the perception that they are being rejected. What is the psychological impact on a 5 year old facing this scenario? Has this been discussed with an educational psychologist?

Statement – I am strongly in favour of Option four, as I feel that separating siblings puts the children's mental health at risk. Children want to go to school with people that they have grown up with; changing this could create a lot of issues.

Answer 4 – (Billy MacIntyre) This hasn't been looked at specifically and I am not sure what previous research has been done regarding this. But this will be included in the final report to Council.

(Therese Laing) Part of Curriculum for Excellence is taking into consideration the health and well being of the child, this will be taken into consideration when the child is at school but parents have to take the responsibility for this when the child is at home.

We will examine how best to ensure the emotional and psychological impacts any of the changes may have on the children are mitigated.

Developing the 4 Options

Question 1 – Do you fully understand the impact those coming into the school will have?

Answer 1 – (Crawford McGhie) The number we have estimated is based on birth rates, and those leaving the area and those coming into the area.

Statement – These are important figures, you should know for sure.

Answer 1 – (Billy MacIntyre) We don't have a complete source for that data. Nothing is that specific.

Statement – Your job is to know these figures.

Answer 1 – (Billy MacIntyre) We need to future proof any decision that is made which is why the figures we have used are conservative.

Question 2 – Would the Council consider applying the sibling guarantee to all children?

Answer 2 – (Billy MacIntyre) No, Option 4 already includes a significant increase in the catchment and is not something we would consider. If the sibling guarantee could have been incorporated into Options 1-3 there would have been no need for Option 4.

Question 3 – Did you have 27 spaces when you increased the streets for Option 4?

Answer 3 – (Billy MacIntyre) Yes, there are potentially other siblings that we don't know about. As part of the statutory consultation we will be speaking to nurseries to get a better handle on the likely number of siblings. This could be considered being overly cautious but we don't want to be back here in 2 years.

We anticipate that if families move out of the catchment area they are likely to be replaced by families of a similar size and demographic, leaving the status-quo.

Other Questions

Question 1 – Is it too late to have a further option added that would redraw the boundaries further?

Answer 1 – (Billy MacIntyre) The 4 Options that have been developed have been developed by a team that have taken numerous variables into consideration and on the back of the informal consultation.

To ensure you get the correct numbers within each of the options is a challenging and complex task. This does not mean that further options would not be considered. We would encourage anybody with any ideas to submit it in writing and/or electronically.

(Crawford McGhie) Any revision to the 4 Options or further options would also involve having to examine the capacity at the receiving schools. We are happy to take any feedback.

Question 2 – Cllr Godzik has told parents they should accept their catchment school and not put in out of catchment requests. As I parent I took that advice. I am now being told that my youngest child may not be offered a place at their catchment school. Consequently I have lost confidence in the Council. What should we say to families going to their catchment school?

Answer 2 – (Billy MacIntyre) We would always encourage parents to go to their catchment school. The position we find ourselves in is exceptional. The population has increased within the area and we have been forced to look at the catchment area.

There have been 25 schools up to August 2015 that we have had to look at regarding pressures of rising school rolls. At the 25 we have been able to deliver additional accommodation or adapted the existing school buildings to make sure we didn't have to change the catchment boundaries.

Regrettably at Towerbank the constraints on the site mean that it is not physically possible to increase the capacity to meet the anticipated catchment numbers; the growth at Towerbank has exceeded expectations.

The catchment, for all schools, must be sustainable, with this in mind we don't want to have to go through this process every few years. By undertaking this process in the manner in which we are we are giving you and future parents security over the school your children will attend.

Question 3 – Towerbank is not the only school to find themselves in this situation. Various Parent Councils have warned the Council that this very situation would arise years ago, but the Council has done nothing, until now.

Answer 3 – (Crawford McGhie) – We appreciate the sentiment. We have been proactive in trying to identify as soon as possible when problems such as this will arise.

Question 4 – My older child is at Brunstane Primary School, just outside the catchment. If people were to move into the area would they get that place?

Answer 4 – (Crawford McGhie) Normal placement rules would then apply.

Question 5 – What about those parents that are happy to go with the flow?

Answer 5 – (Crawford McGhie) We have assessed the number of pupils with siblings, we have estimated 27 but there are likely to be more whom we have not identified.

5. Conclusion

Tom Wood thanked everyone for their contributions and summarised the evening discussions into the following main points:

- 1) Routes to school - Are they really safe and is the Council's database to determine the safety of a route accurate and up to date?
- 2) The health and psychological well being of the children must be taken into consideration.
- 3) Overwhelming support for Option 4 and the inclusion of a sibling guarantee.

Billy MacIntyre, in concluding the meeting, thanked the audience for the questions and points made this evening. These would be recorded and addressed in the final report to be submitted to Council in October 2015 for a final decision. It was appreciated that this was not a pleasant situation but the Children and Families Department believed that changing the catchment area was the best option.

Billy added that the scale of this issue is recognised and all issues raised were heard and would be examined. If development had been a viable option, it would have been identified.

Record of Meeting

Options for the Proposed Changes to the Catchment Area of Towerbank Primary School

Public Consultation Meeting held at 6.30 pm, Monday, 1 June 2015, Duddingston Primary School, Edinburgh

Present: Approximately 30 members of the public

In Attendance: Tom Wood (Independent Chair), Councillor Cathy Fullerton (Vice Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee), Billy MacIntyre (Head of Resources, Children and Families), Crawford McGhie (Asset Planning Manager, Children and Families), Therese Laing (Quality Improvement Officer, Children and Families), Aileen Mclean (Senior Education Manager, Early Years, Children and Families), Kevin Brack (Head Teacher, Brunstane Primary School), Karen Morris (Head Teacher, Duddingston Primary School) and Blair Ritchie (Committee Services).

1. Introduction

Mr Tom Wood introduced himself and advised that he had been invited by the City of Edinburgh Council as an independent person to chair the public consultation meeting. The consultation was based on the options for proposed changes to the catchment area of Towerbank Primary School. Mr Wood would ensure that everyone present would be allowed to ask questions and get responses. This was the third of four consultation meetings.

The Schools (Consultation Scotland) Act 2010 required the Council to conduct a public consultation ahead of a report on the proposals going to Education Scotland for consideration in September 2015. The public consultation would provide people with the opportunity to express their views and feed directly into the consultation process.

Mr Tom Wood welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained the procedure for the meeting, whereby there would be a short presentation after which the parents would have the opportunity to ask questions. There were four options regarding which the Council had expressed no preference. The consultation process would encompass the views of parents and the public to ensure that the final decision would reflect these views. A decision would be taken by elected members at the meeting of the full Council on 22 October 2015. The decision would be based on a report that incorporated all the views expressed by parents and the public.

Billy MacIntyre (Head of Resources) indicated that this was a catchment review. This was a difficult process, rising rolls was a significant issue which the Council had already identified and will need to address. There were no opportunities for further accommodation; therefore to have a catchment review was the only option. For this, a consultation was required. All questions and statements would be considered and included in the report to be considered by elected members when making the final decision about the catchment area of Towerbank Primary School.

2. Presentation

Crawford McGhie (Asset Planning Manager) delivered a presentation that provided some background information on the reasons behind the requirement to change the catchment area, the informal public consultation process, detailing the four proposed options and the overall benefits offered to the area through changing the catchment area.

Requirement for Change

There was significant increase in the number of school age children living in the area over the past decade. As a result of these rising rolls, Towerbank Primary was extended to create a 22 class organisation with any further development on the constrained 0.8 hectare site considered to be detrimental. As pupil numbers were expected to keep increasing, the school was no longer able to accommodate all the children living in the catchment area.

It was considered that high catchment numbers would be best addressed by altering the catchment area to reduce the number of catchment pupils registering to attend the school in future years. The Education, Children and Families Committee considered the report *Primary School Rising Rolls* on 3 March 2015. The Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Children and Families to develop a statutory consultation paper on the proposed changes to the catchment area boundaries and also undertake, in advance of the Statutory Consultation, an informal consultation process to identify any alternative options.

Informal Consultation

The informal consultation process involved information being circulated to all parents and stakeholders with an invitation for comment and workshops held at all of the affected schools. There was a general acceptance at the workshops that change was required to the current catchment area boundaries.

As a result of alternatives identified in the informal consultation process, a further two catchment change options were included.

Benefits

Crawford explained some of the benefits a change in the catchment area would allow. Each of the four options would result in a more even distribution of pupils across the schools in the area. The receiving schools have the capacity and the facilities to ensure that there would be no detrimental effect on the quality of education provided.

All the receiving schools were in line with or above the city average for attainment levels aside from Brunstane which was currently slightly below. The movement of pupils from the Towerbank catchment area would allow a more diverse socio-economic mix in receiving schools presenting the opportunity to raise attainment levels for all.

None of the options presented affect the catchment area for secondary education; all the schools discussed were feeder schools for Portobello High.

3. The Proposal

Crawford McGhie explained the four options identified by Children and Families. He outlined the differences within each and provided estimates of how many pupils would be affected within each different area. Option 4 was highlighted as the only option which offered the sibling guarantee where younger siblings of those already attending Towerbank Primary, born before the time of any Council decision on catchment area change, would be guaranteed a place in Towerbank Primary.

4. Questions and Comments

Sibling Guarantee

Question 1 – A parent indicated that they had two children in Towerbank Primary School, however one of their daughters would not be able to go there. The Authority had stated that there would be priority for siblings, but there seemed to be no guarantee of places. It was proposed to change the catchment and split this between two schools, however there was no precedent for providing sibling guarantee. The Authority should ensure the well being of families and take steps to ensure that they were kept together. This should be taken forward into the review.

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) The Authority does not want to break up families, but wants what is best for all communities. Guaranteed places for younger siblings does not in one situation create a precedent and each case would be examined according to individual circumstances.

Question 2 – Some of the options for the proposed school catchments were an unusual mix of boundaries as they seem to set geography against value. Therefore, option 4 was the best choice.

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) The Authority was considering different areas and trying to provide choices. They were also factoring in safe routes to schools and trying to maximise choice for the community.

Question 3 – A parent indicated that they lived in Brunstane Road and had a child attending Towerbank, therefore, option 4 was best for them. But why was there no sibling guarantee given at the beginning of the process and why had a guarantee not been included in options 1, 2 and 3? They had also been told that the Authority did not know how many families would be affected.

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) Option 4 was based on taking a far larger part of the area out of the existing catchment, which made it different from the other options. To provide sibling guarantee, it was necessary to take more children out of the catchment, therefore, it was not possible to provide sibling guarantee for each option as the area to be moved would have had to be considerably larger.

(Crawford McGhie) There were priority places for siblings in Options 1, 2 and 3. The Authority had worked with the schools and had carried out a survey to establish the numbers and this had been cross-referenced with birth data. However, this left a gap

with people who had moved into the area, where there were no children at the school nursery or children attended private nurseries.

Question 4 – A parent challenged the figure given by the Authority of 27 sibling children going to Towerbank. The intake for this school had been raised by 18 and figures had been minimised. The Authority should be more concerned with providing safe routes to schools. It seemed that the sibling guarantee was blackmailing the parents to choose option 4. They did not want children travelling up this road in future as this would be putting them at risk.

Supplementary Question – A parent indicated that they had looked at the figures. The Authority was asking them to send their son to Duddingston, which was a considerable distance. Had the Authority reflected on this?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) This was not blackmail, but more a case of creating a balance. Options 1, 2 and 3 had their merits, but only option 4 provided sibling guarantee, which was not blackmail. The Authority had provided other options and invited those in the local community to state their preference. It is necessary to find a way forward for the proposed changes of the catchment area at Towerbank. At the end of the process the Authority would consider the feedback and the elected members would make a decision.

(Crawford McGhie) Regarding the distances for school routes, Area C had been measured from its midpoint as shown in the statutory consultation paper. The area was included by looking at the geography and deciding how this related to the catchment area and school routes.

(Billy MacIntyre) - In respect of the four options, there had been alternative options suggested at the other meetings. The Authority would be happy to consider these, but they would still have to achieve the same objectives.

Question 5 – A parent stated that their house was at the top of Brunstane Road. Their son was going to Towerbank and they had an infant daughter who they also wanted to go there. They would support option 3, but did not think that it was fair for everyone, therefore, they supported option 4.

Why was option 4 not included from the start of the public consultation? It was difficult to believe that this is not an option in other parts of the City.

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) This was a good question, which the Authority had considered. There were factors which had to be considered for option 4 and sibling guarantee has some risk attached to it. There was informal consultation before the formal process began. As a result of the alternatives identified in the informal consultation, a further two catchment change options were identified.

Question 6 – A parent thought that, in respect of the informal consultation process, their views were being considered. They believed that Towerbank Primary School was different from Duddingston Primary School. However, it was difficult to understand why there was not strong feeling at Towerbank.

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) The Authority had received feedback through the neighbourhood consultation process, and further consultation was being carried out, Crawford McGhie being involved with working groups. This was a time consuming process, but it was beneficial and would be repeated if necessary in any future process which may be required elsewhere in the city.

Road Safety

Question 1 – The Authority had advised that all routes were safe, but what were their criteria for this assessment? Was this based on the number of cars or were they factoring in more houses?

Answer - (Crawford McGhie) For any proposed development, the developers have to go through the planning process. The developer would have to have figures for the number of potential cars. If housing development were to take place which would impact on schools, then road safety would have to be considered.

The Department of Children and Families was an official consultee and if they thought that the development had implications for the local schools this would be factored into the planning process. The Authority took its responsibilities seriously.

Question 2 – A parent from Eastfield indicated that in Portobello and Joppa, there was strong support in the community for option 4. In fact, people who are not directly affected by the catchment review, supported option 4.

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) He would encourage people to respond directly and provide feedback, using methods such as questionnaires.

Question 3 – A retired Head Teacher indicated that he approved of option 4. He understood that the officials needed to give a response and that the elected members had political considerations. No one here seemed to be against option 4, therefore, had there been any opposition to this option? At Eastfield, his grandchildren attended the nursery and it seemed that one of the proposals might mean that they will have to cross nine roads. It was difficult to justify that crossing nine roads was safer than four roads.

Answer – (Councillor Fullerton) No-one was opposing option 4.

(Billy MacIntyre) There had been no messages expressing opposition to option 4 which had been submitted at this point in the consultation process. He then explained the process for analysing information received from the community.

Question 4 – A parent stated that they did not oppose option 4, but wanted to comment on how the Authority engaged with people. Most people did not know about the consultation and there was a lack of communication. To resolve this, the Authority should put information through every householder's door.

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) The Authority had not carried out a leaflet drop as it was expensive and was not guaranteed to reach every household. They had written to community councils and other groups in the community and had put notices in libraries

and supermarkets. They had also produced additional posters and would circulate them in private nurseries. As previously stated, they were happy to accept new ideas.

Comment – A parent advised that their daughter attended P1 and they had a child who would also be attending the school. Option 4 was advantageous for her own children, but not for everyone. There were no safe routes to school and an increase in the amount of pedestrians would mean an increase in risk. There had been a fatal accident in this area. As Council officials made the decisions, they should strongly consider if it was not a bad idea for children to be running onto busy roads. The route for Option 4 was not safe for the other families.

Question 5 – The Authority should clamp down on families who were out of catchment and were trying to get into the school, using dubious methods.

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) If parents with non-catchment children were abusing the system, the Council had robust procedures to counter this.

A parent indicated that they agreed with this to an extent, however, the school roll was rising as the population was increasing.

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) The projected intake of pupils was in excess of the accommodation that was available.

(Aileen MacLean) Parents had a legal right to apply for out of catchment places however, parents who moved into an area had to provide evidence of address.

(Billy MacIntyre) The Authority is aware that any proposals should have safe routes. There was an established process and criteria which would be applied, however other factors had to be considered, such as the quality of surface crossing. Officers would walk the route to Brunstane and if added safety measures were required, these would be considered.

Question 7 – Regarding out of catchment requests, a parent indicated that they would not want their children to walk from their homes to Brunstane. After the officials had carried out their walk, they should think carefully about safety implications.

Question 8 – A parent stated that they were nearly hit by a car, near the junction at the top of Brunstane Road, which illustrated that this was not a safe route. The officials should stand at the top of Brunstane at peak times to observe the busy traffic.

Speed limits of 20 mph could be implemented and extra crossings could be installed. What safety measures and what ideas did the Authority have?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) Officials would walk the route and consider any suggested improvements and the roads Authority would then need to consider these. The Authority would welcome suggestions from members of the public, they could then make recommendations, and these would be put to the elected members for consideration if appropriate.

Question 9 – What was the extent of the 20 mph limits?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) There were proposals to change speed limits on parts of Milton Road at certain times, however I don't have that detail to hand.

(Councillor Fullerton) – Once the roads authority checked out the roads and if they were found to be unsafe, then they would be changed. There were many roads being considered for 20 mph speed limits.

Question 10 – Officials should also walk to Duddingston to compare the two routes.

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) Officials would do this.

Siblings at Different Schools

Question 1 – Siblings being at different schools made it difficult for families to be involved in the activities of schools.

Answer – (Theresa Laing) The school would hope to make it easy for the transition and the Head Teachers would work with the parents. Many parents liked to be involved with schools, however it was understood that it was difficult to be fully involved if their children were in two different schools.

(Karen Morris) She had a vision for the school. The schools had to be thoughtful and plan carefully for events and parents' evenings and ensure that they did not clash. Additionally, there were health and wellbeing aspects to consider and how this would affect children.

(Kevin Brack) The schools would engage with parents. Additionally, the schools also had a responsibility to educate children about road safety.

(Billy MacIntyre) This was a good point. Edinburgh was unique in terms of the very high level of intra catchment movement. There was the impact of rising rolls and siblings were displaced from catchment schools, because their older siblings were sent to non-catchment schools.

Question 2 – Was the Authority not forcing families to split up?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) This was a different issue and would be addressed.

Question 3 – At a previous meeting, they had asked about the logistics of taking children to different schools. What then was the view of the Head Teachers on having children arriving at different times?

Answer – (Crawford McGhie) South Morningside Primary School had staggered starting times, but this was in two different buildings. At previous meetings it was suggested a possibility would be different schools having different starting times.

(Billy MacIntyre) Circumstances were different in South Morningside as there were different buildings. The Authority would try to mitigate any difficulties.

Question 4 – If option 4 was not chosen, how could the Authority choose which children should be prioritised?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) Priority would be given to children who fell within the category. Regarding options 1-3, there was the removal of catchment population, so that the intake was regularised. If spaces were to become available, then those closest to the school would have priority. For example, if there were two spaces available in P1 and three children, the two spaces would be given to those closest to the school.

Allocation of Spaces

Question 1 – What information was there on siblings and was this cross referenced with different areas?

Answer – (Crawford McGhie) The Authority had addresses and postcodes available, which allowed them to compile the information.

(Billy MacIntyre) The process of allocation was not a precise science. The Authority was building in flexibility to allow sibling guarantee.

Question 2 – A parent indicated that they had built a house 300 yards from their old house, within the catchment area. If people purchased properties within the catchment, to get access to a school, was this acceptable?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) He himself had bought a house to be in a catchment area and would not like to be in the position of being the subject of a catchment review. The catchment population had grown extensively and it was necessary to identify the solution and get the best decision. The Authority was committed to this.

Question 3 – Did your answer support option 4 and being the best and fairest option?

Answer – (Crawford McGhie) There were four options in the Consultation and the Council has no preferred option. Although the City of Edinburgh Council's catchment placement policy was perhaps not perfect, it was more comprehensive than that of other local authorities.

Question 3 – A parent indicated that this was their first house. Considering that there was substantial building work taking place, would this consultation process not be repeated in a few years time?

Answer – (Crawford McGhie) During the planning stage of development, the projected number of pupils would be taken into account.

(Billy MacIntyre) The proposed development at Gilmerton Dykes Road would only generate 13 pupils. Additionally, the Development Management Sub-Committee had rejected this application. For proposed developments, the Education Authority would put forward their views and point out the implications.

Question 4 – What would happen once a school was at capacity?

Answer – (Billy MacIntyre) This would only affect the new intake of pupils. The Authority would not remove any current children from the school who were out of catchment.

Comment – A parent invited the panel and Head Teachers to an exhibition in the Tide Cafe at 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm on Friday 5 June. This showed photographs of families which highlighted the bonds between children.

Question 5 – How many extra children could be accommodated at Duddingston Primary School?

Answer – (Crawford McGhie) The current catchment population was 283, the school roll was 384 and of this, 226 were catchment and 158 were out of catchment children.

The biggest out of catchment number came from Brunstane. The school capacity is 427 so a greater number of catchment pupils could be accommodated.

Question 6 – There was a fifth option, which was to take Brunstane area out of the equation altogether.

Answer – (Crawford McGhie) This could be considered by the Authority.

Towerbank

Comment – A parent said that they understood why parents with children at Towerbank would not support option 4, if there was no absolute guarantee of places for younger siblings at Towerbank. Therefore, Option 4 was divisive for communities. Many people have had to move to other schools.

Comment – A parent indicated that they did support the guarantee for siblings in Option 4, however, this option was not beneficial for the entire community.

Comment – They had a child, with a younger sibling and would like them to go to Towerbank. Option 1 was more advantageous for them, but they supported option 4 because they thought that sibling guarantee was important.

Comment – The Authority should consider road safety very seriously. Families were greatly affected by young people being killed. Officers should take several trips to these busy roads and observe the traffic.

5. Conclusion

Councillor Fullerton thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and emphasised that their comments would be noted and considered.

Billy MacIntyre agreed with Councillor Fullerton. He indicated that this was not an easy process, however, he provided reassurance that the Authority was listening to parents. The Authority was happy to consider all suggestions, especially in respect of road safety, and all other comments and suggestions for the review, which would be included in the report.

Tom Wood thanked everyone for their contributions, the school for their hospitality, and summarised the evening's discussions into the following main points:

- 1) Safety was a big issue for parents. The Authority had taken this into account and officers would walk the school routes which had been highlighted, to see if there were any further improvements which could be made.
- 2) There was strong feeling that it was important to keep families together.
- 3) There was strong support for option four which allowed younger siblings guaranteed places

Members of the public had until 22 June 2015 to send their contributions.

Record of Meeting

Options for the Proposed Changes to the Catchment Area of Towerbank Primary School

Public Consultation Meeting held at 6.30 pm, Wednesday, 3 June 2015, The Royal High Primary School, Edinburgh

Present: Approximately 20 members of the public

In Attendance: Tom Wood (Independent Chair), Councillor Paul Godzik (Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee), Billy MacIntyre (Head of Resources, Children and Families), Crawford McGhie (Asset Planning Manager, Children and Families), Therese Laing (Quality Improvement Officer, Children and Families), Willie French (Head Teacher, The Royal High Primary School), Kevin Brack (Head Teacher, Brunstane Primary School), Karen Morris (Head Teacher, Duddingston Primary School) and Alison Clyne (Committee Services)

1. Introduction

Tom Wood introduced himself and advised that he had been invited by the City of Edinburgh Council as an independent person to chair the public consultation meeting. The consultation was based on options for the proposed changes to the catchment area of Towerbank Primary School.

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 required the Council to conduct a public consultation ahead of a report on the proposals being submitted to Education Scotland for consideration in September 2015. The public consultation provided an opportunity for people to express their views and feed directly into the process, ensuring that the views of the community would be fully considered in the decision making process.

Tom Wood noted that this was the fourth and final public meeting and that there had been a high quality of input and debate at the previous meetings. Reassurance was given that no decision had been made in terms of proposed changes to the catchment area of Towerbank Primary School and the consultation process would encompass the views of parents and the public to ensure that the final decision would reflect these views. A decision would be taken by elected members at the meeting of the full Council on 22 October 2015. The decision would be based on a report that incorporated all the views expressed by parents and the public.

Councillor Godzik highlighted that catchment change was not the preferred route and that all other options had been fully explored. It was recognised this situation was difficult for everyone involved. There had been an informal consultation with parents before commencing the formal consultation in order to ensure that everyone had a say throughout the process.

Billy MacIntyre (Head of Resources, Children and Families) provided reassurance that no decision had yet been made and that although officers were presenting four options, all views and suggestions were welcomed. All questions and statements would be

listened to and included in the report to be considered by elected members when making the final decision about the catchment area for Towerbank Primary School.

2. Presentation

Crawford McGhie (Asset Planning Manager, Children and Families) delivered a presentation that provided background information on the reasons behind the requirement to change the catchment area, the informal public consultation process, detail on the four proposed options and the overall benefits offered to the area through changing the catchment area.

Requirement for Change

There had been a significant increase in the number of school age children living in the area over the past decade. As a result of rising rolls, Towerbank Primary had been extended to create a 22 class organisation with any further development on the constrained 0.8 hectare site considered to be detrimental. As pupil numbers were expected to keep increasing, the school was no longer able to accommodate all the children living in the catchment area.

It was considered that high catchment numbers would be best addressed by altering the catchment area to reduce the number of catchment pupils attending the school in future years. The Education, Children and Families Committee considered a report *Primary School Estate Rising Rolls* on 3 March 2015. The Committee had agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Children and Families to develop a statutory consultation paper on proposed changes to catchment area boundaries and to also undertake, in advance of the Statutory Consultation, an informal consultation process to identify any alternative options.

Informal Consultation

The informal consultation process involved information being circulated to all parents and stakeholders with an invitation to comment and workshops were held at all of the affected schools. There was a general acceptance at the workshops that change would be required to the current catchment area boundaries.

As a result of alternatives identified in the informal consultation process, a further two options for catchment change were included.

Benefits

The benefits a change in the catchment area would allow for were explained. Each of the four options would result in a more even distribution of pupils across the schools in the area. The receiving schools currently had the capacity and facilities to ensure that there would be no detrimental effect on the quality of education provided.

All the receiving schools were in line with or above the city average for attainment levels aside from Brunstane which was currently slightly below. The movement of pupils from the Towerbank catchment area would allow a more diverse socio-economic mix in receiving schools presenting the opportunity to raise attainment levels for all.

None of the options presented would affect the catchment area for secondary education as all of the schools affected were feeder schools for Portobello High School.

3. The Proposal

Crawford McGhie explained the four options identified by Children and Families. He outlined the differences within each and provided estimates of how many catchment pupils would be affected within each different area. Option 4 was highlighted as the only option which offered a sibling guarantee where younger siblings of those already attending Towerbank Primary, born before the time of any Council decision on catchment area change, would be guaranteed a place in Towerbank Primary.

4. Questions and Comments

Routes to School

Question 1 - I am here as a parent and as a Consultant in Accident and Emergency. Are you aware of a report released this week by the Child Accident Prevention Trust on road safety? The study shows that most road accidents involving children are linked with the rush hour. I currently live in Eastfield and would have to cross nine roads to get to Brunstane Primary. This is a real risk to children, not just a theoretical one.

I also feel strongly that splitting up siblings is wrong.

Answer 1 - (Billy MacIntyre) We have not seen the report but welcome it being brought to our attention. The Authority takes its responsibility in relation to safe routes very seriously but would also note that it is the responsibility of parents and guardians to take their children to school safely. The Council believes the routes identified are safe, but have taken on board comments and undertaken to walk the routes to school. Unfortunately it is inevitable in a city like Edinburgh that children will have to cross busy roads. We welcome suggestions on how road safety could be improved and take this issue very seriously.

Question 2 - The changes would mean that I would go from not crossing any roads to crossing several.

Answer 2 - (Billy MacIntyre) We accept this and will reflect this in the report to Council. Unfortunately this is one of the possible impacts of a catchment review.

Question 3 - When the Baileyfield site was considered there was an outcry that the route was not appropriate even for secondary school pupils. Harry Lauder Road and Fishwives Causeway are very busy roads. This is an example of the Council changing its position.

In addition, although you will be walking the route, many of the accidents on Milton Road West and East involve cars coming off the road. Will railings be put up?

Answer 3 - (Billy MacIntyre) We consider the routes to be safe but welcome comments and suggestions on how safety could be further improved. It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to get their children to school safely but it is the Council's

responsibility to ensure there are safe routes available. We will walk the routes and take on board the comments from parents.

(Councillor Godzik) I appreciate that this is a concern, particularly in the Eastfield area. Alternative options can be considered. The location you have now is probably one of the safest in the city as there are no cars on your route to school. Any change to this will mean the addition of cars and make the route less safe. We will do what we can to ensure the route is as safe as possible.

Comment 4 - At a previous public meeting at Brunstane Primary, another parent noted that she walks her children to school and it was safe, however she has noted since that she didn't realise the route was as far for other families.

Question 5 - What types of measures could make the routes safer? As children get older, they want to walk themselves to school. Some of these roads (such as Harry Lauder Road) are not appropriate for even older children to walk themselves. This will add to traffic and frustration.

Answer 5 - (Billy MacIntyre) In terms of Harry Lauder Road, we can look at additional or improved crossings or railings (although these can also be a potential hazard). Any specific ideas would be welcomed and if considered appropriate included in the report to Council.

Question 6 - What are the criteria for having a crossing guard? I'm concerned about the danger of traffic at school drop off points.

Answer 6 - (Billy MacIntyre) This can be discussed with the Council department which employs crossing guards. In terms of drop off concerns, each school has a travel plan and this could be considered by these schools as a cluster.

(Councillor Godzik) Drop off concerns can be looked at by Committee. For example, there might be options for closing off the area around the schools at certain times of the day.

Question 7 - What is considered as a safe route? Is the volume of cars considered? I agree that the safety of children is the responsibility of parents but the level of danger along Milton Road is different from other roads.

Answer 7 - (Crawford McGhie) The physical aspects of the route are considered but the volume of cars is not something we have control over. We assess the quality of the route on its physical attributes.

Question 8 - I live on Brunstane Road and the suggested route for me is along Milton Road East, which is a worry. The crossing there is on a junction (where Milton Road East meets Sir Harry Lauder Road) with a traffic island, which is difficult to manage. This might be a particular area to consider for adding a crossing guard.

Answer 8 - (Crawford McGhie) Mitigating actions will be discussed with colleagues in the Transport Department and considered as part of walking the routes.

Impact on communities

Question 1 - Has the impact on communities been considered? Splitting up the children on one street to go to different schools has an impact on the community.

Option 4 is my preferred option – I have two boys at Towerbank Primary and am worried about the impact on my daughter if she has to go to a different school. I see a strong case for the sibling guarantee and the value of families. You are in the Children and Families Department – if families are separated, this undermines the family.

Answer 1 - (Councillor Godzik) We recognise the impact of this on your personal circumstances and your families. Please reflect this in your written feedback too, as well as your preferred options.

(Billy MacIntyre) We haven't identified a preferred option. There are pros and cons for each option and all comments are important and will be reflected in the report to Council. Ultimately, the decision is for Elected Members to make.

Comment 2 - In the Brunstane Road area, Option 1 would mean a small number of houses moving catchment area. All options will have similar pros and cons for communities.

Impact on other schools

Question 1 - I understand the issues at Towerbank, but what about the impact of this on other schools? Class sizes at The Royal High Primary School are rising – how can the school accommodate increased numbers? Could a new school not be built?

Answer 1 - (Billy MacIntyre) There is legislation on maximum class sizes (P1 – 25, P2/3 – 30 and P4 – 33). There are a significant number of out of catchment requests for this school, which the authority has to accept if there is space. The Appeals process is also a factor – it is not unusual to have class size capacity breached if the Appeal Committee consider there is an exceptional case. The change in catchment areas would mean there would be fewer out of catchment space at this school and at Duddingston Primary. There are no plans to build an additional school.

(Councillor Godzik) Rising Rolls is an issue across the city and we are dealing with this in a number of ways, including increasing the budget to build extra classrooms. It is not possible to build additional classrooms at Towerbank Primary – catchment review is the only option. We accept that this is a difficult proposal and not everyone will agree.

(Willie French, Head Teacher, The Royal High Primary School) The Royal High Primary School classes have a mixture of capacities. One P1 class has 31 and there is one composite with 25. There is only capacity for one more classroom which would create 14 classes.

(Crawford McGhie) There are 340 on the school roll and 157 are non-catchment children, which is very high. A 14 class school would have capacity for 420, which is as high as it could go. Out of catchment requests would be considered less and less.

(Karen Morris, Head Teacher, Duddingston Primary School) At Duddingston Primary, we are aware of the regulations on class size. At our school, around 40% of children

are out of catchment. We are very aware of this issue and the capacity of the building is regularly discussed.

(Kevin Brack, Head Teacher, Brunstane Primary School) At Brunstane Primary there is plenty of space. We have six or seven spare classrooms. There is also space in the grounds. No matter how big the classes, there are creative ways to deal with this. For example, children might work in groups. There are lots of ways to learn within a big class.

Question 2 - Does the Council ever consider tackling the issues and perceptions with some schools and the reasons for out of catchment requests? We might lose facilities from The Royal High Primary School and that is very worrying. There are perceived failings at other schools which mean out of catchment requests are made.

Answer 2 - (Councillor Godzik) The Council has been very clear over the years that parents should choose their catchment school, but the Education Act (1980) means that parents have the right to choose. If there is space at a school, we are under the obligation to give them a place. This has been discussed with colleagues at Holyrood but ultimately it is not our decision.

(Therese Laing) We have had difficult times at Brunstane Primary. There were Head Teacher issues and Acting Head Teachers for a long time, but a Head Teacher has now been appointed. We are confident that this will improve attainment at the school. Attainment is not the only consideration – the school has excellent HMI ratings and this is actually better than at other schools. Results are already improving due to recent interventions. This is a small school and that can reflect badly on results.

Question 3 - Out of catchment places are high currently at The Royal High Primary School. Would changes mean this would stop?

Answer 3 - (Councillor Godzik) There will still be the right for parents to choose a school. We have always been very clear that there is no guarantee that siblings will get in to the same out of catchment school. Catchment schools bring communities together.

Question 4 - If a school is full because of non-catchment pupils, what happens if more pupils move into the catchment area?

Answer 4 - (Billy MacIntyre) The out of catchment pupils would not be removed – the catchment pupils would go onto a waiting list or capacity would be created within the school.

Sibling Guarantee – Option 4

Question 1 - I have concerns on a practical level. Are you saying there would be a 12 year guarantee under option 4?

Answer 1 - (Billy MacIntyre) No – this would only apply for children who have been born and already have a sibling at that school by the time the decision is made.

Question 2 - I feel like the line is moving. We did what we were told to do and chose our catchment school. Now, out of our own control, you are changing the rules. This isn't fair – you need to honour the catchment for the sake of families.

Answer 2 - (Councillor Godzik) We accept your point. This is the reason for having Option 4. We would rather not be in this scenario but we need to address the issues.

Comment 3 - I am an out of catchment parent. It would be heartbreaking to split up siblings – I would like to see a sibling guarantee at this school.

Comment 4 - I would vote for Option 1. I sympathise with the siblings issue, but communities are wider than inside one house and are also important.

Question 5 - I would urge you to consider a sibling guarantee for all options. What are the sibling figures and when is the spike for Towerbank?

Answer 5 - (Crawford McGhie) I would be happy to make the sibling figures available online at the earliest opportunity. It should be noted that there will be more siblings whom we do not know about. We want to ensure that if we say there will be a sibling guarantee, this really is a guarantee.

Question 6 - Is there a general principle that an individual appeal can make a class number exceed the statutory limit?

Answer 6 - (Billy MacIntyre) Yes, this is the case.

Question 7 - In terms of capacity – it is one thing saying on paper that there is capacity at The Royal High Primary School, but what about the supply teacher crisis? There have not been enough teachers for years – how will this be addressed?

Answer 7 - (Therese Laing) This is an issue across all of Scotland and efforts are being made to tackle this in Edinburgh. We are trying to attract as many supply teachers as possible and interviews are underway at the moment.

(Councillor Godzik) We accept this is an issue, although part of a national issue.

Question 8 - My son is in Primary 1. If there is no sibling guarantee, I would have to make two runs or move my child. I put my son into his catchment school and now the goal posts have moved for the second sibling. A sibling guarantee is the only fair thing to do.

Answer 8 - (Billy MacIntyre) This is why Option 4 has been included. It reflects the strength of feeling around this issue. Please reflect this in your written responses.

(Councillor Godzik) Catchment review is always the last option. This is not something I want or that officers want to do.

Other Options

Question 1 - If Duddingston Primary has 40% out of catchment pupils, would it not be better to increase the size of zone C in Option 1? There are a lot of out catchment children – would it not make more sense to fill the school up with more catchment children? Option 1 is my preferred option but with a sibling guarantee by including an expanded zone C and taking out the Milton Road area.

Answer 1 - (Karen Morris, Head Teacher, Duddingston Primary) There is the possibility of more families moving into the area so that could be a potential issue.

(Crawford McGhie) We will look into your suggestions and provide feedback to Councillors in the Outcomes of the Consultation report.

Question 2 - I am in favour of the sibling guarantee with Eastfield being kept in. Is there a way to make formal suggestions?

Answer 2 - (Billy MacIntyre) Please submit these in writing or by email to the address provided in the consultation document.

(Councillor Godzik) Councillors will need to be satisfied that Option 4 has a sibling guarantee that works. We are happy to receive your suggestion in writing.

Question 3 - I think that you should look at existing catchment areas – people are unhappy with their catchment schools and the reasons need to be looked at. It is not only the perceived standards; we might not feel part of the community that the catchment school is serving.

Answer 3 - (Councillor Godzik) I accept that catchment is a line on a map, but if people invest their time in their catchment school, this creates a strong body of pupils and community. I understand the reasons for applying for out of catchment schools are varied and complex.

(Billy MacIntyre) We have not looked at options for moving the catchment areas between Duddingston Primary and Brunstane Primary etc, this would involve wider difficulties and issues.

Comment 4 - Option 4 might not be the only option – Milton Road East is unsafe, so there could be an increase in numbers of catchment pupils at Duddingston Primary.

Decision Making

Question 1 - Will you be speaking to lower school children, who are actually affected, to get their views? A book has been produced by children on their views for the consultation.

Answer 1 - (Billy MacIntyre) We would be delighted to hear responses from children of all ages and all of these will be considered. We will work with Head Teachers to consult with children as appropriate. Past experiences show that this can be difficult for younger children but we will work with Head Teachers to decide.

5. Conclusion

Therese Laing noted that there were four excellent Head Teachers in the Portobello cluster and that there was full confidence in them whichever option was chosen.

Tom Wood thanked everyone for their contributions and summarised the evening's discussions into the following main topics:

- Safety of routes to school and how this could be improved.
- Potential for alternative options and tweaks to existing options.

- The impact on families and communities caused by changing catchment areas.
- Catchment areas and out of catchment placements; and
- Adequate provision of teachers and supply teachers.

Billy MacIntyre thanked everyone for attending and for their high quality contributions and questions. He noted that the Council were listening to the community and all views would be reflected in the report to Full Council, which would be considered in October 2015. This had been a valuable process and provided the Department with a clear sense of the views of the community. Written submissions were also encouraged on the options presented and alternative options.

Appendix 3 – Summary of Consultation Responses Received

Responses by Online Questionnaire

In total there were 406 responses to the online questionnaire. There were 317 responses where additional comments were made and every comment has been separately assessed. The categories of the issues raised in each comment is shown in the table below alongside the unique reference number generated for each response (this reference number would have been sent to those who supplied an email address). In section 3 of the main report the categories of issues raised are grouped into appropriate themes and a Council response is provided for each unique issue raised. The remaining 89 responses only expressed a preference for an option and did not provide any additional comments.

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
ANON-MK2E-W842-4	Travel and Safety
	Social and Emotional
	Siblings Together
	Property
	Natural Community
	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Educational
ANON-MK2E-W844-6	Active Lifestyle
	Social and Emotional
	Siblings Together
	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W845-7	Fairness
	Travel and Safety
	Social and Emotional
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W846-8	Logistics
	Property
	Natural Community
ANON-MK2E-W847-9	Distance to school
	Siblings Together
	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W849-B	Future Numbers
	Travel and Safety
	Social and Emotional

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
	Siblings Together
	Natural Community
	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Fairness
	Active Lifestyle
ANON-MK2E-W84A-K	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W84B-M	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Future Numbers
ANON-MK2E-W84C-N	Travel and Safety
	Social and Emotional
	Siblings Together
	Future Numbers
ANON-MK2E-W84F-R	Travel and Safety
	Property
	Natural Community
ANON-MK2E-W84H-T	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W84K-W	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W84M-Y	Future Numbers
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W84N-Z	Property
ANON-MK2E-W84P-2	Property
	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
	Distance to school
ANON-MK2E-W84Q-3	Future Numbers
	Distance to school
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W84T-6	Social and Emotional
	Siblings Together
	Out of Catchment
	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Fairness
	Educational

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W84U-7	Logistics
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W84V-8	Siblings Together
	Natural Community
	Distance to school
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W84W-9	Siblings Together
	Out of Catchment
	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W84Y-B	Fairness
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W84Z-C	Logistics
	Other
ANON-MK2E-W851-4	Distance to school
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W852-5	Logistics
	Educational
	Distance to school
	Consultation Process
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W853-6	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W854-7	Socio-economic
	Social and Emotional
	Property
	Out of Catchment
	Natural Community
	Educational
	Distance to school
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W856-9	Future Numbers
	Consultation Process

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
	Active Lifestyle
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W857-A	Logistics
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W858-B	Natural Community
	Fairness
	Educational
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W85A-M	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Distance to school
	Active Lifestyle
ANON-MK2E-W85C-P	Siblings Together
	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W85E-R	Distance to school
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W85G-T	Social and Emotional
	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Educational
	Active Lifestyle
	Socio-economic
ANON-MK2E-W85J-W	Social and Emotional
	Property
	No Sibling Guarantee
	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
	Distance to school
	Consultation Process
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W85K-X	Property
	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
	Consultation Process
	Active Lifestyle
	Social and Emotional

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
ANON-MK2E-W85M-Z	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Educational
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W85N-1	Travel and Safety
	Distance to school
	Active Lifestyle
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W85P-3	Socio-economic
	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
	Distance to school
	Consultation Process
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W85R-5	Future Numbers
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W85U-8	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W85W-A	Out of Catchment
	Natural Community
	Distance to school
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W85X-B	Siblings Together
	Educational
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W85Y-C	Property
	Out of Catchment
	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
	Distance to school
	Consultation Process
	Active Lifestyle
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W85Z-D	Social and Emotional
	Natural Community
	Logistics
	Future Numbers

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
	Educational
	Active Lifestyle
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W881-7	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W882-8	Social and Emotional
	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Fairness
	Educational
ANON-MK2E-W883-9	Travel and Safety
	Property
	Fairness
ANON-MK2E-W884-A	Travel and Safety
	Natural Community
ANON-MK2E-W885-B	No Sibling Guarantee
	Distance to school
	Consultation Process
ANON-MK2E-W886-C	Travel and Safety
	Social and Emotional
	Natural Community
ANON-MK2E-W887-D	Travel and Safety
	Natural Community
	Active Lifestyle
ANON-MK2E-W88A-Q	Travel and Safety
	Siblings Together
	Out of Catchment
	Natural Community
	Educational
	Distance to school
	Consultation Process
Socio-economic	
ANON-MK2E-W88B-R	Social and Emotional
	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Future Numbers

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
	Educational
ANON-MK2E-W88C-S	Educational
	Natural Community
ANON-MK2E-W88E-U	Distance to school
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W88F-V	Socio-economic
	Property
	Natural Community
	Fairness
	Distance to school
	Other
ANON-MK2E-W88H-X	Travel and Safety
	Out of Catchment
	Natural Community
	Distance to school
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W88J-Z	Logistics
	Distance to school
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W88K-1	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Consultation Process
ANON-MK2E-W88M-3	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W88Q-7	Future Numbers
	Fairness
ANON-MK2E-W88S-9	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W88U-B	Siblings Together
	Future Numbers
	Fairness
	Distance to school
	Consultation Process
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W88W-D	Siblings Together
	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
	Distance to school

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
	Consultation Process
	Active Lifestyle
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W88Z-G	Property
	Future Numbers
	Consultation Process
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W891-8	Siblings Together
	Property
	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Fairness
	Other
ANON-MK2E-W892-9	Travel and Safety
	Property
	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
ANON-MK2E-W893-A	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W896-D	Consultation Process
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W89B-S	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Fairness
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W89C-T	Logistics
	Fairness
	Out of Catchment
ANON-MK2E-W89D-U	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
	Distance to school
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W89E-V	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Future Numbers
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W89F-W	Siblings Together

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
	Logistics
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W89G-X	Natural Community
	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Consultation Process
	Property
ANON-MK2E-W89H-Y	Natural Community
	Logistics
	Distance to school
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W89J-1	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
	Educational
	Distance to school
	Other
ANON-MK2E-W89K-2	Travel and Safety
	Social and Emotional
	Future Numbers
	Consultation Process
	Active Lifestyle
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W89Q-8	Active Lifestyle
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W89R-9	Social and Emotional
	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Fairness
	Educational
	Consultation Process
	Consultation Process
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W89S-A	Natural Community
	Distance to school
	Consultation Process

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W89W-E	Natural Community
	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
	Distance to school
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W89Z-H	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Consultation Process
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8A1-G	Natural Community
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8A2-H	Siblings Together
	Property
	Socio-economic
ANON-MK2E-W8A3-J	Out of Catchment
	Natural Community
	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Fairness
	Educational
	Distance to school
	Consultation Process
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8A4-K	Fairness
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8A6-N	Siblings Together
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8A7-P	Consultation Process
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8A9-R	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8AA-Z	Siblings Together
	Future Numbers

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
	Consultation Process
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8AB-1	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Educational
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8AD-3	Siblings Together
	Educational
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8AE-4	Distance to school
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8AF-5	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W8AG-6	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8AH-7	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8AJ-9	Consultation Process
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8AK-A	Socio-economic
	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
	Educational
	Distance to school
	Consultation Process
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8AM-C	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8AP-F	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8AT-K	Future Numbers
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8AV-N	No Sibling Guarantee
	Natural Community
	Distance to school
	Consultation Process

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8AY-R	Other
ANON-MK2E-W8B1-H	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8B4-M	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8B5-N	Property
	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
	Educational
	Consultation Process
ANON-MK2E-W8B6-P	Travel and Safety
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8B7-Q	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Out of Catchment
ANON-MK2E-W8BA-1	No Sibling Guarantee
	Distance to school
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8BB-2	Socio-economic
ANON-MK2E-W8BF-6	Out of Catchment
	Educational
	Other
ANON-MK2E-W8BH-8	Distance to school
	Natural Community
ANON-MK2E-W8BJ-A	Distance to school
	Other
ANON-MK2E-W8BN-E	Social and Emotional
	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Property
ANON-MK2E-W8BT-M	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8BV-P	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8C1-J	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Fairness

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
	Educational
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8C4-N	Social and Emotional
	Siblings Together
	Out of Catchment
	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Fairness
	Educational
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8C5-P	Social and Emotional
	Siblings Together
	Property
	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Fairness
	Educational
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8C6-Q	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Fairness
	Educational
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8C7-R	Logistics
	Fairness
	Property
ANON-MK2E-W8C8-S	Natural Community
	Educational
	Distance to school
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8CB-3	Fairness
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8CE-6	Natural Community
ANON-MK2E-W8CF-7	Distance to school
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8CG-8	Social and Emotional

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
ANON-MK2E-W8CK-C	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Natural Community
ANON-MK2E-W8CM-E	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8CR-K	Travel and Safety
	Property
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8CS-M	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8CU-P	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8CV-Q	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Educational
	Future Numbers
ANON-MK2E-W8CW-R	Distance to school
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8CY-T	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8E2-N	Fairness
	Consultation Process
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8E3-P	Siblings Together
	Fairness
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8E5-R	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8E6-S	Siblings Together
	Out of Catchment
ANON-MK2E-W8E9-V	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
	Fairness
	Educational
	Distance to school
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8EA-4	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8ED-7	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8EF-9	Siblings Together

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
	Logistics
	Educational
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8EG-A	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Fairness
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8EK-E	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8EN-H	Property
	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
	Distance to school
	Consultation Process
	Active Lifestyle
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8EP-K	Siblings Together
	Natural Community
ANON-MK2E-W8EQ-M	Future Numbers
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8ET-Q	Social and Emotional
	Siblings Together
	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W8EU-R	Siblings Together
	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W8EX-U	Consultation Process
	Other
ANON-MK2E-W8H3-S	Travel and Safety
	Property
	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
	Educational
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8H5-U	Out of Catchment
ANON-MK2E-W8H6-V	No Sibling Guarantee
	Future Numbers
	Logistics

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
ANON-MK2E-W8H7-W	Educational
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8H9-Y	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8HB-8	Out of Catchment
	Natural Community
	Distance to school
ANON-MK2E-W8HC-9	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8HD-A	Fairness
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8HE-B	Siblings Together
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8HJ-G	Siblings Together
	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W8HM-K	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8HQ-Q	Fairness
ANON-MK2E-W8HR-R	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8HS-S	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Fairness
ANON-MK2E-W8HU-U	Educational
	Property
	Fairness
ANON-MK2E-W8HY-Y	Socio-economic
	Future Numbers
	Educational
ANON-MK2E-W8K3-V	Social and Emotional
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8K4-W	Logistics
	Consultation Process
ANON-MK2E-W8K5-X	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8K6-Y	Educational
	Other
ANON-MK2E-W8KC-C	Travel and Safety
	Active Lifestyle
	Siblings Together

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
ANON-MK2E-W8KE-E	Property
	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8KJ-K	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8KK-M	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8KM-P	Siblings Together
	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W8KN-Q	Logistics
	Fairness
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8KQ-T	Siblings Together
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8KR-U	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8KS-V	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8KT-W	Logistics
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8KU-X	Siblings Together
	Future Numbers
ANON-MK2E-W8KW-Z	Consultation Process
	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W8KX-1	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8KY-2	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8KZ-3	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Other
ANON-MK2E-W8N1-W	Property
	Future Numbers
	Fairness
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8N2-X	Logistics
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8N3-Y	Out of Catchment

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8N4-Z	Out of Catchment
	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W8N9-5	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8NA-D	Siblings Together
	Out of Catchment
	Future Numbers
	Consultation Process
ANON-MK2E-W8NC-F	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8NE-H	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Fairness
	Educational
	Consultation Process
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8NG-K	Distance to school
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8NH-M	Logistics
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8NJ-P	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8NQ-W	Siblings Together
	Out of Catchment
	Logistics
	Educational
	Future Numbers
ANON-MK2E-W8NS-Y	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8NU-1	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8NX-4	Siblings Together
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8Q3-2	Social and Emotional
	Siblings Together
	Future Numbers
	Fairness
	Other
ANON-MK2E-W8QK-T	Property

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
ANON-MK2E-W8QP-Y	Fairness
	Educational
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8QZ-9	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8R2-2	Siblings Together
	Natural Community
	Logistics
	Fairness
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8R3-3	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Educational
	Consultation Process
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8R7-7	Future Numbers
	Consultation Process
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8R8-8	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8RA-H	Logistics
	Educational
	No Sibling Guarantee
ANON-MK2E-W8RC-K	Future Numbers
	Distance to school
ANON-MK2E-W8RD-M	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8RF-P	Fairness
	Distance to school
ANON-MK2E-W8RJ-T	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8RM-W	Fairness
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8RQ-1	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8RU-5	Future Numbers
	Educational
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8RV-6	Logistics
	Distance to school

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8RW-7	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8RX-8	Fairness
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8RY-9	Other
ANON-MK2E-W8S1-2	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W8SY-A	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8T1-3	Other
ANON-MK2E-W8T5-7	Property
	Fairness
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8T6-8	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8T9-B	Natural Community
ANON-MK2E-W8TA-K	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8TB-M	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8TE-Q	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
	Fairness
	Active Lifestyle
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8TJ-V	Logistics
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8TK-W	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8TM-Y	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8TN-Z	Siblings Together
	Out of Catchment
	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Fairness
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8TP-2	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8TQ-3	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W8TS-5	Natural Community
ANON-MK2E-W8TT-6	Property
ANON-MK2E-W8TW-9	Natural Community
	Distance to school

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8TY-B	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
	Fairness
	Active Lifestyle
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8TZ-C	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8U3-6	Fairness
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8U4-7	Socio-economic
	Social and Emotional
	Siblings Together
	Property
	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Fairness
	Educational
Consultation Process	
ANON-MK2E-W8U8-B	Distance to school
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8UA-M	Socio-economic
	Natural Community
	Logistics
	Distance to school
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8UC-P	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8UE-R	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8UF-S	Logistics
	Consultation Process
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8UG-T	Educational
	Active Lifestyle
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8UH-U	Distance to school
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8UK-X	Siblings Together

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
ANON-MK2E-W8UM-Z	Future Numbers
	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W8UN-1	Future Numbers
	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W8UP-3	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W8UQ-4	Fairness
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8UR-5	Active Lifestyle
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8US-6	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W8UT-7	Educational
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8UV-9	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8UX-B	Social and Emotional
	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Fairness
	Educational
ANON-MK2E-W8UZ-D	Travel and Safety
	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W8V2-6	Fairness
	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W8V5-9	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8V6-A	Logistics
	Fairness
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8V7-B	Active Lifestyle
	Property
ANON-MK2E-W8V8-C	Educational
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8V9-D	Logistics
	Future Numbers
	Distance to school
	Siblings Together

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
ANON-MK2E-W8VC-Q	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W8VF-T	Fairness
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8VK-Y	Property
	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8VM-1	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8VN-2	Property
	Natural Community
	Educational
	Consultation Process
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8VP-4	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8VR-6	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8VV-A	Property
	Natural Community
	Educational
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8VW-B	Siblings Together
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8VX-C	Property
	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
	Educational
	Consultation Process
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8VY-D	Siblings Together
	Future Numbers
	Educational
	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8VZ-E	Logistics
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8W1-6	Fairness
	Distance to school
	Active Lifestyle

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8W3-8	Social and Emotional
	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Fairness
ANON-MK2E-W8W4-9	Socio-economic
ANON-MK2E-W8W5-A	Fairness
	Distance to school
	Property
ANON-MK2E-W8W7-C	Out of Catchment
ANON-MK2E-W8W8-D	No Sibling Guarantee
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8W9-E	Logistics
	No Sibling Guarantee
ANON-MK2E-W8WD-S	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
	Distance to school
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8WE-T	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W8WF-U	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8WG-V	Travel and Safety
ANON-MK2E-W8WJ-Y	Siblings Together
	Future Numbers
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8WN-3	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8WQ-6	Logistics
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8WR-7	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8WS-8	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8WT-9	Siblings Together
	Logistics
	Future Numbers
ANON-MK2E-W8WU-A	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8WW-C	Logistics
	Active Lifestyle
	Social and Emotional

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
ANON-MK2E-W8WX-D	Siblings Together
	Property
	Logistics
	Fairness
	Social and Emotional
ANON-MK2E-W8WY-E	Siblings Together
	Logistics
ANON-MK2E-W8NF-J	Consultation Process
ANON-MK2E-W8HT-T	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8H1-Q	Siblings Together
ANON-MK2E-W8A8-Q	Consultation Process
ANON-MK2E-W894-B	Distance to School
ANON-MK2E-W84X-A	Siblings Together
BHLF-MK2E-W8CP-H	Logistics
	Property
BHLF-MK2E-W8F2-P	No Sibling Guarantee
	Natural Community
	Future Numbers
	Distance to school
	Consultation Process
	Travel and Safety
BHLF-MK2E-W8F9-W	Property
	Siblings Together
BHLF-MK2E-W8FA-5	Travel and Safety
BHLF-MK2E-W8FD-8	Property
	Active Lifestyle
	Siblings Together
BHLF-MK2E-W8FJ-E	Logistics
	Fairness
	Siblings Together
BHLF-MK2E-W8FN-J	Property
	Fairness
	Consultation Process
	Active Lifestyle
	Siblings Together
BHLF-MK2E-W8FT-R	Siblings Together

Online Questionnaire Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
BHLF-MK2E-W8FU-S	Siblings Together
	Logistics
BHLF-MK2E-W8FX-V	Natural Community
BHLF-MK2E-W8HF-C	Distance to school
	Consultation Process

Responses by Email or Letter

All responses which were submitted by email or letter were also assigned a unique reference number which is shown in the table below. The category of the issues raised in each response is also shown in the table. Those responses grouped together in the table below are multiple responses from the same individual (e.g. 1,1a & 1b). As with the responses submitted using the online questionnaire, in section 3 of the main report the categories of issues raised are grouped into appropriate themes and a Council response is provided for each unique issue raised.

Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
1, 1a & 1b	Consultation Process
	Educational
	Fairness
	Future numbers
	Logistics
	Natural Communities
	Siblings Together
	Social and Emotional
	Travel and Safety
2	Distance to School
	Travel and Safety
3, 3a & 3b	Consultation Process
	Future Numbers
	Travel and Safety
	Active Lifestyles
	Social and Emotional
	other
4	Travel and Safety
	Logistics
	Natural Communities
	Educational

Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
	Siblings Together
	Social and Emotional
5	Active Lifestyles
	Travel and Safety
	Natural Communities
	Social and Emotional
6	Consultation Process
	Educational
	Future Numbers
	Logistics
	Siblings Together
	Social and Emotional
	Travel and Safety
Fairness	
7 & 7a	Future Numbers
	Siblings Together
	Property
	Travel and Safety
	Natural Communities
	other
8	Consultation Process
	Educational
	Future Numbers
	Logistics
	Siblings Together
	Social and Emotional
	Travel and Safety
Fairness	
9 & 9a	Consultation Process
	Future Numbers
	Siblings Together
	Social and Emotional
	other
10	Consultation Process
	Educational
	Future Numbers

Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
	Logistics
	Siblings Together
	Social and Emotional
	Travel and Safety
	Fairness
11 & 11a	Consultation Process
	Educational
	Siblings Together
	travel and safety
	Future Numbers
	other
12	Consultation Process
	Educational
	Future Numbers
	Logistics
	Siblings Together
	Social and Emotional
	Travel and Safety
	Fairness
13	Consultation Process
	Distance to School
	Fairness
	Future numbers
	Logistics
	Natural Communities
	No Sibling Guarantee
	other
14	Active Lifestyles
	Fairness
	Future Numbers
	Logistics
	Natural Communities
	Siblings Together
	Travel and Safety
	Social and Emotional
	other

Reference Number	Category of Issues Raised
15	Distance to School
	Educational
	Logistics
	Natural Communities
	Social and Emotional
	Out of Catchment
	Siblings Together
	other
16	other
17	Distance to School
	Educational
	Natural Communities
	Social and Emotional
	Travel and Safety
18 & 18a	Educational
	Future Numbers
	Property
	Siblings Together
	other
19	Consultation Process
	Future Numbers
	Logistics
	Natural Communities
	Travel and Safety
20	Consultation Process
	Future Numbers
	Travel and Safety
	other
21	Consultation Process
	Future Numbers
	Siblings Together
	Travel and Safety
22	Active Lifestyles
	Distance to School
	Travel and Safety

Appendix 4 – Pupil and Staff Consultation

At each the four schools significantly affected by the options in the statutory consultation a Quality Improvement Officer from Children and Families using large maps which showed the options to carry out sessions with a range of children from different year groups throughout the school to gather their opinions about the different options. A summary of the discussion at each school and the feedback from staff is provided below.

Brunstane Primary School

1. *What are the most important features about belonging to Brunstane Primary School?*
 - Feel safe at Brunstane, nice place to run about and play.
 - iPads for each P6 and P7, can take them home.
 - Special teachers - nice, look after us.
 - Play with friends in the park or playground.
 - We can learn on the computer.
2. *From what you have heard about the options, what worries would you have?*
 - Worries about P1 coming across the busy road.
 - In case brothers or sisters were split up and couldn't see each other till they go home.
3. *What opportunities do you see with the options?*
 - They can make friends that stay close to them.
 - If there's not enough classes at Towerbank, at Brunstane there's more room.
 - Opportunities to run about and play with friends - football, basketball, rugby, street dance and lots of opportunities and sports on offer.
4. *Which option do you prefer and why?*
 - All six children expressed a preference for Option 4.

Duddingston Primary School

1. *What are the most important features about belonging to Duddingston Primary School?*
 - A lot of clubs to sign up for.
 - A lot of people let you join in and be their friend.
 - Really good facilities and equipment - lots of playground toys.
 - A big space to play and have sports day on.

- Very nice teachers and LAs - lots of pencils etc, guitars.
 - A small car park but can fit a lot of cars.
 - Get a chance to play lots instruments, flute etc.
2. *From what you have heard about the options, what worries would you have?*
- Children from nursery - not in catchment might not get into school.
 - Possible parking issues “exacerbated”.
3. *What opportunities do you see with the options?*
- Meet new people and make them feel welcome - include them.
 - Make more friends - play with lots more people.
 - Introduce new people to class.
 - Make new friends - a new club.
 - New children could feel more confident through reading buddies.
4. *Which option do you prefer and why?*
- Of the eight children, one expressed a preference for option 3, five for option 4 and two did not express a preference.

The Royal High Primary School

1. *What are the most important features about belonging to The Royal High Primary School?*
- The Wildlife and Nature garden.
 - Traditional Song - Vivas Schola Regia.
 - Three choices of school dinners.
 - Golden Rules for everyone to follow - shared ideas.
 - Lunchtime - eat lunchtime in Quad.
 - Having two halls is great - we don't eat where people are sweaty.
2. *From what you have heard about the options, what worries would you have?*
- Option 2 - loads going to Brunstane. More to Duddingston, would this become too full as well?
 - Option 1, 2 and 3 don't have sibling guarantee.
3. *What opportunities do you see with the options?*
- It might be better if Option 4 because shared amongst all four schools and sibling guarantee.
 - Reading Buddy - more P1s will mean a reading buddy for all P5 children.

- In Option 4 - more children out of Towerbank which would help them more.

4. *Which option do you prefer and why?*

- All eight children expressed a preference for Option 4.

Towerbank Primary School

1. *What are the most important features about belonging to Towerbank Primary School?*

- Being a big family;
- A friendly school; near the sea;
- The teachers and pupils are really kind;
- When they made the extension they made quiet spots (the children had asked for this, they were listened to).
- Reps for Committees; the Fairtrade; Eco; take care of outdoors.

2. *From what you have heard about the options, what worries would you have?*

- That younger sibling would not be in school and you wouldn't see them.
- Siblings wouldn't be in the same playgrounds - it would be sad.
- Would we all go to the same high school? Yes (explained).

3. *What opportunities do you see with the options?*

- It's a bit too small.
- Option 4 - sibling guarantee is a very good idea - (a pupil who was separated from sibling previously) was late for school frequently.
- With smaller numbers we could go on more trips or have a better playground because there wouldn't be so many pupils to consider.
- Other schools would get very nice pupils.

4. *Which option do you prefer and why?*

- Of the eight children, one expressed a preference for option 3 and seven for option 4.

5. *Any other comments?*

- Would the numbers drop rapidly if the P1s go elsewhere?
- If a parent sends a child into P1 and there's no guarantee would this put you off?

Views of Staff

The Head Teachers at each school discussed the proposals with staff and a summary of the main opportunities and concerns raised is as follows:

1. *What opportunities do you see with the options?*

- More balanced catchments.
- More staff.
- Raising aspirations.
- More parental involvement.
- The Royal High Primary School - We view that this might enable the school to return to a 14 class organisation. A 14 class organisation ensures that planning and organisation is neat. It may also bring more balance to the catchment/non-catchment issue. We have a high percentage of non-catchment pupils and the revised Towerbank catchment would place these children in The Royal High catchment.
- The opportunity to work even more collegiately as a cluster particularly if children are spread across 2 schools. Schools would have to plan their parent appointments/open days/curriculum events/sports days very carefully together to make sure parents felt they were experiencing 'equity' in terms of being able to attend events in both school environments.

2. *From what you have heard about the options what concerns would you have?*

- Non-catchment children currently in school missing out on a place.
- Negative views about joining our school.
- That families may end up being spread across 2 schools and that school staff could potentially have to constantly deal with the negativity of feeling from parents who just want their "kids at Towerbank."
- Positive Action funding being lost.
- Road safety issues.

Appendix 5 – Education Scotland Report

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by The City of Edinburgh Council to change the catchment area of Towerbank Primary School.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments contained in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of The City of Edinburgh Council's proposal to change the catchment area of Towerbank Primary School. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include a copy of this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision. Where a council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all legislative obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

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

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

- attendance at public meetings held on 21 May 2015 and 1 June 2015 in connection with the council's proposals;

- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- visits to the sites of Towerbank Primary School, Brunstane Primary School, Craigentenny Primary School, Duddingston Primary School, The Royal High Primary School, Leith Academy and Portobello High School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation Process

2.1 The City of Edinburgh Council undertook the consultation on its proposals with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*.

2.2 This proposal arises from the significant projected increase in the number of school age children living in the catchment area of Towerbank Primary School. In the immediate future, the school will not be able to accommodate all of these children. The consultation considers four options to make the school's catchment area smaller so that fewer children live in it.

2.3 In March 2015, the council ran informal consultations at each of the four directly affected primary schools (Towerbank, Brunstane, Duddingston and The Royal High). In addition to the views expressed at these sessions, 48 representations were received from parents, guardians, carers and residents. Options 3 and 4 were developed as a result of this informal consultation process.

2.4 The council proposes four options for reducing the size of the catchment area of Towerbank Primary School. Options 1, 2 and 3 transfer varying parts of the current catchment area to neighbouring primary schools. These options offer current catchment area families within the proposed transfer areas priority places for younger brothers and sisters in any year, up to 2022, if there are still P1 places available after catchment needs are met. This would only apply if, when entering P1, they continued to be resident in the parts of the Towerbank Primary School catchment from which transfer had previously been approved and an elder sibling remains at the school. Option 4 transfers a larger proportion of the current catchment area to neighbouring primary schools. It offers a guaranteed place at Towerbank Primary School to the younger siblings of current pupils as long as they are born by the time of any final council decision and, by the time they enter P1, continue to be resident in the parts of the Towerbank Primary School catchment from which transfer had previously been approved and an elder sibling remains at the school. This has been generally referred to as the 'sibling guarantee'.

2.5 If catchment changes are approved by the council, it is proposed that the changes would take immediate effect and the placing procedures for P1 pupils for the start of the 2016/17 school session would be conducted on the basis of the revised catchment areas.

2.6 The consultation period ran from 8 May 2015 to 22 June 2015. A copy of the consultation document was placed on The City of Edinburgh Council website. Public meetings were held in Towerbank Primary School on 21 May 2015, Brunstane Primary School on 25 May 2015, Duddingston Primary School on 1 June 2015 and The Royal High Primary School on 3 June 2015. Written responses could be made by email or through completion of an online response form, available on the council website.

2.7 The council received 406 responses to the online response form, 390 expressed a preference for one of the options and 307 people made further comment on why they selected a particular option. Option 1 was preferred by 28 (6.9%), Option 2 by 66 (16.3%), Option 3 by 28 (6.9%) and Option 4 by 268 (66%). Sixteen of those who responded (3.9%) favoured none of the four options. Twenty-two people also sent emails to the council, expressing their views. Option 1 was preferred by two of those who responded (9.1%), Option 2 by four (18.2%), Option 3 by two (9.1%) and Option 4 by ten (45.4%). Four of those who responded (18.2%) favoured none of the four options.

2.8 Council officers consulted groups of pupils at each of the four directly affected schools. None of the pupils favoured Options 1 or 2. 6.7% were in favour of Option 3, 86.7% were in favour of Option 4 and 6.7% were unsure.

3. Educational Aspects of Proposal

3.1 The council asserts that a reduction in the number of pupils eligible to attend Towerbank Primary School will improve the learning and teaching environment and outcomes for children. This assertion is reasonable as the school does not have the capacity to accommodate all children residing within its existing catchment area over the coming years. In addition, the school is currently very short of space, requiring classes of children to have differing arrival, departure and lunch times. Due to its current roll, the school does not have space to prepare school lunches on site, nor host a library or a digital learning area, despite recent extensions to the school.

3.2 The council acknowledges that children affected by the proposed catchment change are likely to have a longer walk to school and may follow a route which includes busier roads. It also notes that Options 1, 2 and 3 may result in some families having children who do not all attend the same primary school which could present logistical problems for parents.

3.3 The council has continued to discuss proposed routes to schools with parents potentially affected by proposed catchment changes. The route which still concerns some parents is along Milton Road East to Brunstane Primary School, although it is the opinion of the council that this is still a safe route. Council officers have walked this route with parents and discussed measures which could be taken to enhance the route for pedestrians. They have identified that one potential improvement is the introduction of a pedestrian crossing near the junction of Milton Road East and the A1.

3.4 This proposal has the potential to address the current capacity issue in Towerbank Primary School. To ensure this potential benefit is realised it will be

important for senior managers and staff to continue to discuss possible arrangements with children and their parents as plans for the reduction of the catchment area are developed.

3.5 The majority of staff, parents and children who spoke to HM Inspectors have a preference for Option 4, as they consider the 'sibling guarantee' to be the fairest solution to a difficult problem.

4. Summary

There is overall educational benefit to the proposal to reduce the size of the catchment area of Towerbank Primary School. Parents, staff, children and young people at all schools affected by the proposal realise the importance of addressing the issue of over-capacity which will affect Towerbank Primary School. Overall, Option 4 and its 'sibling guarantee' has most support. Parents and children feel that this is the fairest solution for families with children who currently attend the school. The council has indicated at all public meetings its intention to continue to involve all stakeholders as the proposal is being developed. In its final consultation report, scheduled for October 2015, the council should also ensure that concerns relating to safe routes to school are fully explored and addressed.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
August 2015**

Appendix 6 – Safe Routes to Schools

The issue of safe routes to schools was one of the major concerns expressed during the statutory consultation process and during the public consultation meetings. Whilst it was confirmed at every meeting that all the routes proposed were considered to be safe, officers from Children and Families committed to carry out further investigation of the routes proposed and consider if there was a potential for any further improvements.

A detailed description of all of the walking routes proposed in the statutory consultation is available [online](#); the four routes are as follows:

1	From the Baileyfield area to the Royal High School
2	From the Brighton Place/Rosefield area to Duddingston Primary School
3	From the Brunstane Road area to Brunstane Primary School
4	From the Eastfield/East Milton Road area to Brunstane Primary School

The greatest concern expressed was with regard to the route along Milton Road East to Brunstane Primary School (options 2, 3 and 4) and the proposed route from Brunstane Road to Brunstane Primary School (options 1, 2 and 4). Part of the further investigation included a commitment to walk these routes with parents and their children and a representative from the Council's Road Safety Team.

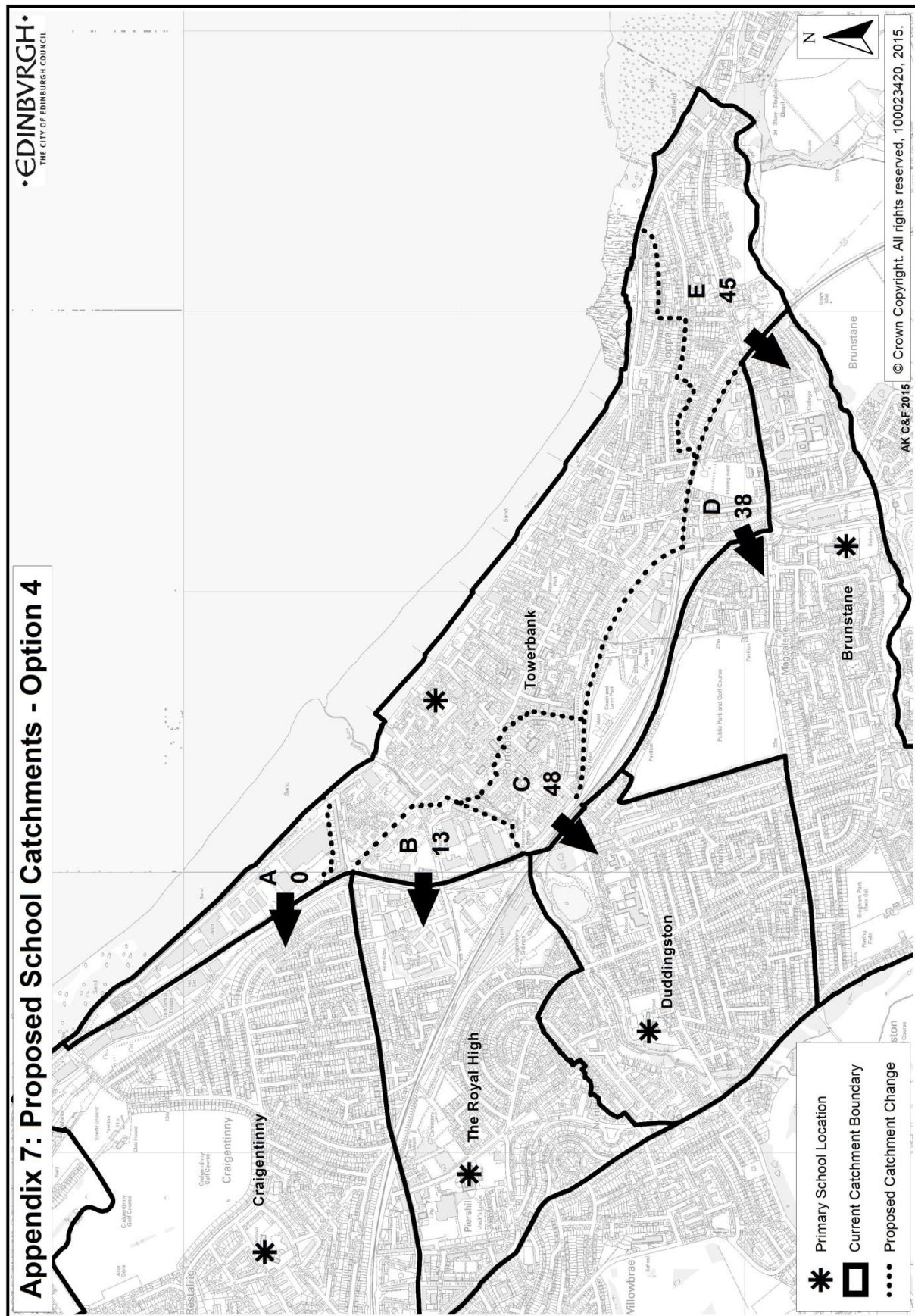
This walk was carried out on Friday, 19 June 2015 and several suggested issues were recorded as requiring further investigation. During a subsequent site visit a Children and Families representative discussed all the improvement opportunities identified with the Area Roads Manager and potential improvement actions were agreed. A summary of this process and the resulting outcomes is provided in the following table:

Issue identified	Outcome of discussion with Area Roads Manager	Recommendation
Junction between Eastfield and Milton Road East - sun filter at traffic lights (green man) requires to be fixed.	This will be repaired.	No further action required
Bus stop shelter adjacent to cemetery entrance – can it be changed to cantilever style in order to block less of the pavement?	This bus shelter is due to be replaced as part of the ongoing programme and a request will be made to the project manager for a cantilever style bus stop to be implemented at this location.	No further action required

Issue identified	Outcome of discussion with Area Roads Manager	Recommendation
Junction Crossing at Brunstane Bank – build out of pavement on east side of junction would improve visibility.	Drop kerbs have already been installed. Single yellow line will be progressed on Milton Road East (heading East) to improve visibility.	No further action required
Entrance to hotel – newest entrance created for the Gym requires cars to cross pavement with no proper drop kerb or demarcation.	Give way marking at hotel exit suggested.	Children and Families to discuss with hotel following Outcomes of Consultation report being considered by Council on 22 October 2015
Bus stop shelter to west of college entrance – can it be turned around?	Not possible at this location.	No further action required
Brunstane Drive crossing – recent work done, is crossing point in the correct location?	Yes. All lining will be refreshed this year.	No further action required
Brunstane Road South – can double yellow lines be extended on east side of junction? Crossing point needs repainted.	A Traffic Regulation Order for extension of double yellow lines already in progress. All lining will be repainted. Paint no longer used for crossing points but red chip surface will be put down. Brunstane Road South will become a 20 mph zone.	No further action required
Crossing of Milton Road East to the East of Brunstane Road junction – can this be improved?	This is a possibility but further technical analysis would be required. Controlled crossing (toucan), if it can be implemented, would also be of benefit for cyclists.	Following consideration of the Outcomes of Consultation report by Council on 22 October 2015 if required Children and Families will work with road colleagues to progress the required technical analysis and design.
Underpass – clean graffiti and cuts trees back.	Trees cut back annually. Graffiti will be cleaned up now and checked again in summer 2016.	No further action required

An assessment of the other routes proposed in the statutory consultation was also carried out with colleagues in the Road Safety Team. In terms of the routes proposed in the statutory consultation, the only other suggested improvements were minor signage upgrades on the route between Baileyfield and The Royal High Primary School. As this route is included in all options it is recommended that the proposed improvements are implemented where possible. Children and Families would work with colleagues in the Area Roads Team to determine how best to deliver the required infrastructure.

Appendix 7 - Proposed School Catchments under Option 4



Appendix 8 – List of Affected Addresses/Properties (including all flats and subdivisions) Under Option 4

Area B: To The Royal High Primary School

Baileyfield Crescent 1 to 12 (odd/even)

Baileyfield Road 2 to 25 (odd/even)

Fishwives Causeway 3 to 17 (odd)

Portobello High Street 1 to 21 (odd)

Area C: To Duddingston Primary School

Adelphi Place 31 to 57 (odd)

Adelphi Place 36 to 70 (even)

Brighton Place 3 to 37 (odd)

Brighton Place 6 to 52 (even)

East Brighton Crescent 1 to 14 (odd/even)

Lee Crescent 1 to 29 (odd /even)

Rosefield Avenue 7 to 19 (odd)

Rosefield Avenue 18 to 30 (even)

Rosefield Avenue Lane 1 to 10 (odd/even)

Rosefield Place 1 to 21 (odd)

Rosefield Place 2 to 16 (even)

Rosefield Street 1 to 16 (odd/even)

West Brighton Crescent 1 to 19 (odd)

West Brighton Crescent 2 to 12 (even)

Sandford Gardens 3 to 9 (odd/even)

Area D and Area E: To Brunstane Primary School

A1 Industrial Pk, Sir Harry Lauder Rd 200-248 (even)

Ashton Villas, Brunstane Road 1 to 2

Brunstane Road 45 to 83 (odd)

Brunstane Road 28 to 88 (even)

Brunstane Gardens 1 to 15 (odd)

Brunstane Gardens 2 to 20 (even)

Brunstane Garden Mews 1 to 2
Brunstane Mill Road 1 to 17 (odd/even)
Coillesdene Avenue 67 to 127 (odd)
Coillesdene Avenue 38 to 104 (odd)
Coillesdene Crescent 1 to 43 (odd)
Coillesdene Crescent 2 to 48 (even)
Coillesdene Gardens 1 to 15 (odd)
Coillesdene Gardens 2 to 14 (even)
Coillesdene Terrace 1 to 9 (odd)
Coillesdene Terrace 2 to 10 (even)
Coillesdene Loan 1 to 14 (odd/even)
Duddingston Crescent 59
Eastfield Place 1 to 13 (odd)
Eastfield Place 4 to 10 (even)
Eastfield Gardens 1 to 5 (odd)
Eastfield Gardens 2 to 12 (even)
Eastfield (Musselburgh Road) 1 to 55 (odd/even)
Milton Drive 1 to 17 (odd)
Milton Drive 12 to 24 (even)
Milton Grove 1 to 19 (odd)
Milton Grove 2 to 8 (even)
Milton Road East 1 to 307 (odd)
Milton Road East 200 to 318 (even)
Milton Terrace 1 to 15 (odd)
Milton Terrace 2 to 10 (even)
Queens Bay Crescent 1 to 21 (odd)
Queens Bay Crescent 2 to 12 (even)
Sea View Crescent 38 to 72 (even)
Seaview Terrace (Musselburgh Rd) 99 to 127 (odd/even)
South Morton Street 3 to 5 (odd)
South Morton Street 2 to 18 (even)

Appendix 9 - Existing and Proposed Secondary School Catchment Areas

